

**THE CHURCH A FAMILY: TWELVE
SERMONS ON THE OCCASIONAL
SERVICES OF THE PRAYER-BOOK.
PREACHED IN THE CHAPEL OF
LINCOLN'S INN**

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FREDERICK DENISON MAURICE

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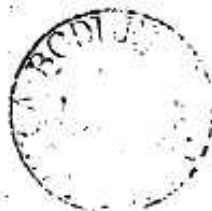
PREACHED IN THE

CHAPEL OF LINCOLN'S INN,

BY

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**CHAPLAIN OF LINCOLN'S INN, AND
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PREFACE.

THE first of these Sermons explains the object of the rest. They would have needed no other preface if I had not felt anxious to shew how they are connected with the question which is occupying us all at this moment.

There are some Clergymen who look upon the vehement excitement which has been produced by the late Papal movement with unmixed pleasure; there are some who regard it only with fear and suspicion. The first think that the English people are manifesting a greater enthusiasm for their own Episcopate than they have ever manifested before; or that they are awaking to a more keen sense of the radical evils of Popery; or that they are more strongly alive to the importance of the principles which were asserted at the Reformation. The others say that the only feeling really at work is a National feeling; that the Queen's Supremacy is the one watchword

which calls forth any response; that there is at least as much danger as benefit to the Church, and even to English liberty, in the loud proclamation of that watchword.

I agree with those who make these last statements, that the movement is entirely a national one; that neither the ecclesiastical nor the theological question occupies more than a very subordinate place indeed in the minds of those who are exclaiming against Papal aggression. But I apprehend, a national feeling may be a very noble and a very godly one. It seems to me that the godliness of England has always depended, and must always depend greatly, on the preservation of its nationality; that the moment we lose it, we shall become the most immoral and godless people on the face of the earth. Nor I think can this national godliness be separated from the assertion of the Sovereign's Supremacy. In so far as that Supremacy has been the protest of the nation against foreign jurisdiction and a mortal ruler, in so far has it been the witness that God is the real ruler of the land, and that the Sovereign has an actual, not a nominal, a direct, not an indirect, responsibility to him. Through all periods of our history