CIVILIZATION BEFORE AND AFTER CHRISTIANITY: TWO LECTURES DELIVERED IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, AT THE TUESDAY EVENING SERVICE, JANUARY 23D-30TH, 1872 Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

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# R. W. CHURCH

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Church, 2. 11.

# BEFORE AND AFTER CHRISTIANITY.

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January 23d 6+ 30th, 1872.

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# CIVILIZATION

BEFORE AND AFTER CHRISTIANITY.

jects of interest and importance which are often assumed to be out of place in the pulpit. The first set was delivered by Mr. Gregory, in answer to the question, "Are we better than our Fathers?" and in them he considered the comparative distribution of wealth among different ranks of English society, now and in the seventeenth century, the relative positions of rich and poor, and the ties by which various classes of the community are bound together, at the In the next course, Dr. Liddon examined the assumption, often boldly made, that Christianity is on the decline, in its political, intellectual, social, and moral aspects. The third was by Bishop Claughton, on the Ethics of Mahomedanism and Buddhism, as compared with the Ethics of Christianity. My interrupted set came next, and Professor Lightfoot was to have finished the series by some lectures on early Christian life. The attempt was thought by many

<sup>\*</sup> Published by J. Parker & Co., Oxford and London.

an over-bold one. It certainly met with a cordial response from those for whom it was undertaken; and the lectures, which were intended to be given in a small side chapel, had to be delivered to large audiences under the dome. I have reprinted these two Lectures as a remembrance of an occasion of great interest to us at St. Paul's; I have no other justification for publishing them.

R. W. C.

February 1872.

## LECTURE I.

## ROMAN CIVILIZATION.

I PROPOSE to bring before your thoughts, in fulfilment of my part in this series of lectures, the subject of Civilization—first, as it was, in probably its highest form before Christian times, in the Roman State; and next, as it has been since Christianity has influenced the course of history and the conditions of human life. In doing this, I have to remember several things. I have to remember the vastness of the field before us, the huge mass of materials, the number, difficulty, and importance of the questions which arise out of the subject, or hang on it. I have to remember that civilization is a thing of more or less, and that general statements about it are ever liable to be misunderstood or excepted to, because the speaker is thinking of