

**THE CHURCH AND ITS AMERICAN  
OPPORTUNITY: PAPERS BY  
VARIOUS WRITERS READ AT  
THE CHURCH CONGRESS IN 1919**

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The Church and Its American Opportunity: Papers by Various Writers Read at the Church Congress in 1919 by Various

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## INTRODUCTION

**T**HE papers in this volume were read at the thirty-fifth Church Congress in the United States, which was held in Synod Hall in the Close of the New York Cathedral on April 29 and 30, May 1 and 2, 1919. The Bishop of New York opened the Congress with an impressive address, and the Bishop of Erie preached a notable sermon. Within three weeks, the Bishop of New York had entered the new Life: his opening of the Church Congress was, therefore, one of his last official acts. With all others who knew him, we mourn him.

On the first Monday morning of each month during the Spring, Autumn, and Winter, the executive committee of the Congress have met in the study of Grace Church Rectory, New York, to prepare the programme and to elect the writers. Those who have been present (many of them at every meeting) are the Rev. C. Malcolm Douglas, the Rev. George William Douglas, D.D., the Rev. Milo H. Gates, D.D., the Rev. Robert Rogers, Ph.D., the Rev. Theodore Sedgwick, William C. Sturgis, Esq., Ph.D., the Rev. Selden P. Delany, D.D., the Very Rev. Dean Fosbroke, D.D., the Rev. John M. Ericsson, the Rev. William Austin Smith, D.D., the Rev. Floyd W. Tomkins, D.D., the Rev. C. F. J. Wrigley, D.D., the Rev. F. W. Crowder, D.D., the Rev. Charles L. Gompf, the Rev. Harry P. Nichols, D.D., the Rev. Charles E. Hutchison, the Rev. J. Townsend Russell, D.D., the Rev. George R. Van De Water, D.D., the General Secretary (the Rev. Gustav A. Carstensen, D.D.), and the General Chairman. These meetings have been happy occasions when men of differing churchmanship and differing temperament have sought to decide what are the most important problems before the Church, and what men are best qualified to bring out the convictions from the extreme right to the extreme left which are known to exist