

**THE TWENTY THOUSAND CLERGY  
AND THE PRESENT CRISIS;  
OR, THE PASTOR IN HIS PARISH  
DEALING WITH INFIDELITY**

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The twenty thousand clergy and the present crisis; or, The pastor in his parish dealing with infidelity by R. F. Hessey

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**R. F. HESSEY**

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THE  
**Twenty Thousand Clergy**  
AND THE  
**Present Crisis,**  
OR  
THE PASTOR IN HIS PARISH DEALING WITH  
INFIDELITY.

BY THE  
*REV. R. F. HESSEY, M.A.*  
VICAR OF BASING, HANTS,  
FORMERLY FELLOW AND TUTOR OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD.

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1883

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TO  
THE RIGHT REVEREND  
THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER,  
WHOSE DEEPLY-VALUED WORDS  
HAVE,  
WITH HIS KIND APPROBATION,  
BEEN PREFIXED,  
THIS LITTLE WORK  
IS DEDICATED,  
WITH THE SINCEREST RESPECT  
AND REGARD.





## PREFACE.

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## ERRATUM.

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MY attention has been drawn by my friend Canon L. Gregory Smith, at whose kind invitation I addressed the Clergy, to the fact that I have inadvertently described the address as delivered "to the Clergy of the Rural Deanery of Great Malvern," instead of "at an Ember Conference of Clergy in Great Malvern."



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## P R E F A C E.

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THE following is the substance of an Address delivered to the Clergy of the Rural Deanery of Great Malvern, and, since then, committed to paper, in an enlarged and more developed form.

The writer was encouraged by the kind attention which the thoughts then put forth received, to hope, that the attempt, however unworthily carried out, might, by God's blessing, do something to meet a need, which he may be mistaken in feeling is a real one.

In the same spirit in which, with a sincere sense of his shortcomings, he commended his effort to those who then heard him, he ventures to address the large and influential body, whose vast responsibilities he shares.