

**THE CHURCH-IDEA;
AN ESSAY TOWARD
UNITY**

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The church-idea; an essay toward unity by William Reed Huntington

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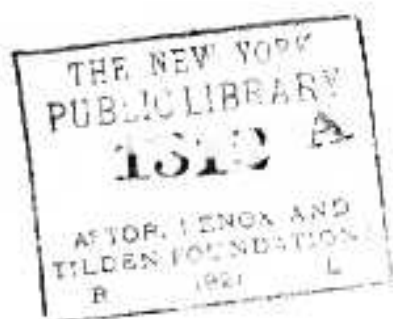
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WILLIAM REED HUNTINGTON

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TO THE FRIENDS OF
The Church of the Future,
AND THE BELIEVERS IN
The Church of the Past,
THIS ENDEAVOR
TO SKETCH IN OUTLINE
The Church of the Reconciliation
IS ADDRESSED.



PREFATORY NOTE.



THE following papers contain some things which in a purely theological treatise would be superfluous. But clergymen are not the only public the writer has had in mind. There is, in America, a constantly widening circle of educated and thoughtful people who take a keen interest in such subjects as are here discussed, but whom it would be unreasonable to credit with any extended knowledge either of Church History or of Systematic Divinity. The book is chiefly meant for readers of this class. Care has therefore been taken to free the argument, in its main drift, alike from technicalities of language and obscurities of allusion. Everything of an exclusively professional interest has been thrown into the foot-notes, and can be readily avoided.

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TO THE SECOND EDITION.



BEYOND correcting some misprints here and there, and adding a note or two, nothing has been done to this second edition to make it differ from the first. There are paragraphs to which the lapse of one eventful year has given a somewhat antiquated look; but there is nothing to retract in the way of unfulfilled prophecy, and that which time has verified need not be unsaid.

For the cordial appreciation with which his thoughts have been received by most of his critics, the author desires to express his hearty thanks. Those who have so far misunderstood the scope of the Essay as to see in it only an attempt to push forward denominational ends are kindly asked to re-read, if they will, pages 210 and 211. And of those who have found fault because the documentary evidence for the

antiquity of episcopal government is not given in full, the same penance is exacted with reference to page 200, where the necessary limits of the subject as here treated are defined.

MIDSUMMER, 1871.