

# **THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE**

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The Church of the Future by Archibald Campbell

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**ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL**

**THE CHURCH  
OF THE FUTURE**



THE  
CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. ITS CATHOLICITY                      | 5. ITS DOGMATIC TEACHING              |
| 2. ITS CONFLICT WITH<br>THE ATHEIST     | 6. PRACTICAL COUNSELS<br>FOR ITS WORK |
| 3. ITS CONFLICT WITH<br>THE DEIST       | 7. ITS CATHEDRALS                     |
| 4. ITS CONFLICT WITH<br>THE RATIONALIST | 8. APPENDICES                         |

BY  
ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL *Tait*  
Archbishop of Canterbury

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1881



## CONTENTS.

I.	PAGE
ITS CATHOLICITY . . . . .	I
II.	
ITS CONFLICT WITH THE ATHEIST . . . . .	31
III.	
ITS CONFLICT WITH THE DEIST . . . . .	57
IV.	
ITS CONFLICT WITH THE RATIONALIST . . . . .	87
V.	
ITS DOGMATIC TEACHING . . . . .	114
VI.	
PRACTICAL COUNSELS FOR ITS WORK . . . . .	139

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VIL	
	PAGE
ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CATHEDRAL BODY . . . . .	167

VIII	
APPENDICES . . . . .	203



THE  
CHURCH OF THE FUTURE.

L

ITS CATHOLICITY.

*(Delivered at Croydon, on August 31st, to the  
Rural Deaneries of Croydon, East Dartford, and  
West Dartford.)*     -

MY REVEREND BRETHREN, AND MY  
BRETHREN THE CHURCHWARDENS,—I have  
determined, under our peculiar circumstances,  
not to follow the usual arrangement of those  
episcopal charges which give special prominence  
to matters immediately concerning the diocese  
in which they are delivered. I have thought it  
best for several reasons to ask the clergy to send

in their returns to my visitation questions not before, but during the actual visitation; and I propose, according to my practice since I became Archbishop, to make the answers to these questions a subject of future private correspondence between myself and the clergy, rather than to incorporate the results of them in my charge.

The circumstances of this archiepiscopal diocese are altogether peculiar, and are becoming every year more so. I do not know how it will ever be possible hereafter for an Archbishop of Canterbury to dispense with such assistance as has now for many years been kindly and efficiently given both to you and to me by the Suffragan Bishop of Dover. Every year Lambeth is becoming more and more a centre to which the whole Anglican communion directly looks; and that communion seems to me to be more and more every year becoming itself a centre for all the Churches of Christendom which protest against Roman usurpation. The result is that the work of the Primacy, as

distinguished from the work of the Diocesan Bishop of Canterbury, is every year greatly increasing. There are at least 162 bishops of the English, or Anglican, communion with dioceses scattered throughout the world, and, with all of these, more or less, I find it necessary to be in communication. You are aware that two years ago one hundred of these fathers of the Church gathered at Lambeth for a month's deliberation; and you will remember the expressions of filial regard with which that great assembly of bishops met to worship in our metropolitan cathedral at Canterbury, and called to mind the associations which bound them to the birthplace of what we commonly call Anglo-Saxon Christianity. I shall have to mention to you hereafter some of the important results of that episcopal gathering, felt both here at home and in the remotest regions where our English tongue is spoken. These, you will readily believe, are not brought to accomplishment without much labour. There is necessarily much communication between the Bishops of India and the