A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND STATE OF ENGLAND IN CONFLICT WITH THE PAPACY DURING THE REIGN OF HENRY VIII

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A Concise History of the Church and State of England in Conflict with the Papacy During the Reign of Henry VIII by George Elwes Corrie

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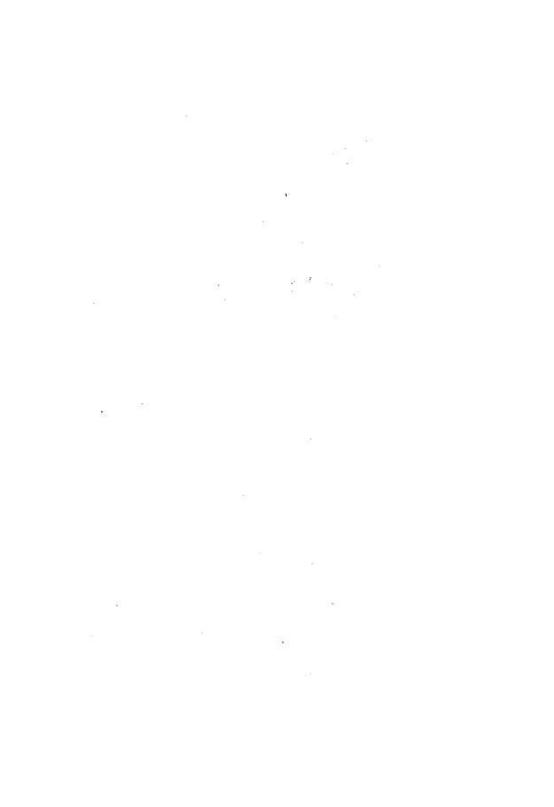
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PREFACE.

It has been announced on authority that there "exists in the Church of England a combined and organised party, the scarcely concealed object of which is a reversal of some, at least, of the leading principles of the Reformation, and a return to principles and usages either of pre-Reformation times, or, at the very least, of that period of transition which preceded the first Prayer-Book¹." On the supposition that such is the fact, a concise History of the Church and State in conflict with the Papacy, during the reign of Henry VIII., may perhaps not be regarded as unseasonable, considering that it was in the progress of that conflict that the "principles and usages" above-referred to formed the main sub-

¹ Letter of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol to the Dean of Gloucester, dated Aug. 13, 1873.

jects of dispute. A good deal, no doubt, has of late been written on this and kindred subjects, but I cannot help thinking that the conflict which it is the object of the following pages to consider, has not been treated of sufficiently apart from the personal character of the actors in it, to allow of so accurate an estimate of the importance of the great questions at issue, as it is desirable to acquire.

The object I have kept in view, therefore, has been to confine the attention of the reader, as much as practicable, to the facts of History, without regard to the persons by whose agency the affairs of the Church and State in England were, at the time, carried on.

G. E. C.

CONTENTS.

CHAP.	0.20							PAGE
	Introduction							1
I.	Proceedings of Parliament			3.				11
II.	Meeting of Parliament				÷		٠	19
m.	The Case of Appeals.						•	80
IV.	More Papal Exactions						•	43
V.	Suffragan Bishops .							58
VI.	Proceedings respecting Rel	igion					•:	75
VII.	The Bishops' Book .	•					٠	80
VIII.	Manual of Doctrine .						٠	99
IX.	Principles in Dispute			*		•	•	10
Appen	DIX I. Convocation .					•		12
,,	II. The Romish Sch	ism	٠					12
	III. History of the R	oman	Sep	aratis	ta			133