A STUDY OF MODERN ANGLICANISM

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A Study of Modern Anglicanism by Gordon Milburn

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BY

GORDON MILBURN, M.A.

Das Wesen der Kirche ist ja dieses, dass sie Gemeinschaft sein will.



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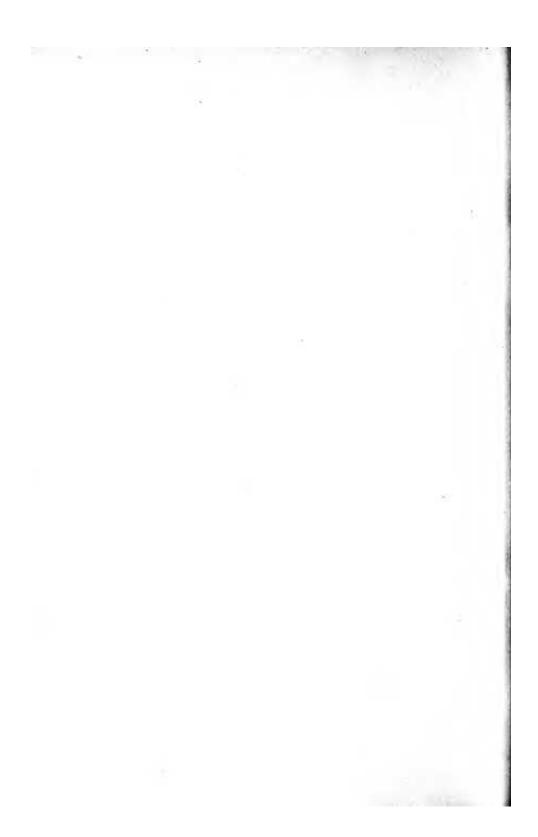
PREFACE

THIS book must not be regarded as the effort of a learned person to instruct the ignorant. Rather is it an attempt to appreciate the significance of certain things which the writer admits he understands very imperfectly himself. Yet I cannot but earnestly hope (though this seems very presumptuous) that, directly or indirectly, these pages may be of some real service, however small, in aiding the true development of the Church. A philosophy of Anglicanism is much to be desired. When it comes to be written may these chapters be of some little use, in spite of their popular character and many insufficiencies. I fear that the keener members of all the theological parties will strongly disapprove, some of some passages in them and others of others. I would ask such readers to think most about those points which may, perhaps, be profitable, and not too much about those which are more striking or unpardonable. Personally, I think I am quite open to conviction, and should be glad to receive criticism or instruction from any person who would like to communicate with mc.

HOLLYWOOD HOUSE, WIMBLEDON COMMON.

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CONTENTS

PREFACE.	
PART I. NOTES ON THE CHURCH PARTIES.	
INTRODUCTION. The methods and principles of amateur theological study, §§ 1-3 9	
CHAPTER I. The High Church party; the Catholic type; Catholic idealism; Ritualism; the methods of	
Catholicism; the Second Century, §§ 4-20 - 14 CHAPTER II. The Low Church party; Protestantism; the recent controversy, §§ 21-31	
CHAPTER III. The Broad Church party; the characteristics of theological Liberalism; Ritschlianism; the recon- struction of theology; the function of the Broad	
Church party, § § 32-53 64 Part. II. The Theory of Anglicanism.	
CHAPTER IV. The Theory of the Church. The teleological import of the Church; its place in Evolution; the Church as supernatural, § § 54-60 107	
CHAPTER V. The Theory of the Catholic Church. Noncon- formity; the Reformation, § § 61-69	
CHAPTER VI. The Theory of a National Church. Mediae- valism; Romanism; Ultramontanism; Erastianism; Church Reform; National ecclesiastical auto-	
CHAPTER VII. The Theory of a comprehensive Church. Faith; creeds; subscription; confirmation; practical	
authority, §§ 79-96	
definite scheme; relation to colonial Churches; facts the basis of the ideal. § \$ 07-106	



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PART I. CRITICAL

NOTES ON THE CHURCH PARTIES

INTRODUCTION

§ 1. There are few things which appear at first sight so inconsistent, few things that are outwardly so selfcontradictory, as the Church of England. The most opposite accounts are given of it by its own adherents. Its various schools of thought often show themselves bitterly hostile to one another. Why is it, then, that the majority of Anglicans have such a dogged faith in a unity supposed to be underlying all their differences? What vague conviction is it in the back of our minds that makes the appeal to logic and consistency often ring so hollow to us? It has been well remarked that "principles are wont to assert themselves, in thought as in action, before they are distinctly apprehended."¹ And

¹ J. B. Stallo, Concepts of Modern Physics, p. 16.