

**SUPPLEMENT TO "NOTES  
OF MY LIFE," 1879, AND  
"MR. GLADSTONE," 1886**

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Supplement to "Notes of my life," 1879, and "Mr. Gladstone," 1886 by George Anthony Denison

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**GEORGE ANTHONY DENISON**

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*From George Anthony Denison  
15 March 1872*

SUPPLEMENT

TO

“NOTES OF MY LIFE,” 1879,

AND

“MR. GLADSTONE,” 1886.

BY

GEORGE ANTHONY DENISON,

VICAR OF EAST BRENT, 1845;

ARCHDEACON OF TAUNTON, 1851.



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P R E F A C E.

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MY object in publishing this volume is to humbly request of my brethren and sisters of the Church of England the consideration of the three matters following.

1. The position and the prospects of the "Church" of England in its connection with the "State" of England at the close of Century XIX.

2. The delusion which lies at the root of "The New Criticism." *The delusion comes from within the Church.*

The delusion is this—

That the Authority of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, "Perfect GOD and Perfect Man;" The Divine Teacher, "Who hath brought life and immortality to life through the Gospel;" with its Mysteries unsearchable by the reasoning power; is, nevertheless, in order to the acceptance of such Authority by man, subject to concurrence therewith and approval thereof on the part of "the literary critic" of this and every successive generation: thus reducing belief in "Holy Scripture" to a perpetual flux to the end of time.

Upon this delusion I submit as follows—  
That the best and highest use of the reasoning power, *in matters of its province*, is to teach man not how much he knows, but how little. That the reasoning power of man fallen, though he be redeemed and regenerate in and by CHRIST, has to be humbled continually, that it may be exalted<sup>a</sup>.

That for the reasoning power to so much as attempt to enter into "The Secret Things of GOD," *which are not of its province*, is not only not reasonable: it is sinful. Of these "Secret Things" GOD has revealed so much as it is good for man to know by The Spirit, guiding His Church into all Truth."

Hear the Teaching of the Old Scriptures. I cite here Deut. xxix. 29, and the last five chapters of Job only. Hear the Teaching of our LORD in His Gospel. St. Matthew xviii. 1-6, St. Mark ix. 33, St. Luke ix. 46, and xxii. 24. Hear St. Paul, 1 Cor. xvii. 31.

"Little children keep yourselves from Idols," is the teaching "of the Apostle whom JESUS loved."

The Idol of the heathen is the stock and the stone. To him they represent a power *above his own*.

The Idol of the Christian is not the "stock" and the "stone:" it is his own reasoning power; and he worships it *above* THE GIVER OF IT.

<sup>a</sup> Prov. i. 7, xv. 33, xviii. 12.



3. Matters subordinate; but all of them of primary importance in connection with "The many coloured greatness of England."
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In 1879 I published "Notes of My Life," containing the record of what I had, so far, been principally concerned in for forty years up to that time.

I resume that record now by way of Supplement. Since 1879 I had, in 1886, been compelled to publish my "Mr. Gladstone." I supplement this also now. It requires no words of mine here to show the close connection between the above matters and Mr. Gladstone.

As I understand Mr. Gladstone, he holds what "The New Criticism" rejects.

On the other hand, he holds not as of Divine Authority, external to man, but as of the outcome of controversy among men. If so, he conforms to the principle of "The New Criticism," while rejecting its conclusions. Now this is not the simplicity and obedience of faith: it is the pride of reason. In St. John's language "the pride of life."

Let us have Grace not to waste our little life in "giving heed to fables, and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith." 1 Tim. i. 4, vi. 4; 2 Tim. xi. 23; Titus iii. 9.

It is not for us to build up in our "Vanity" a Church other than that "which is built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets—JESUS CHRIST Himself being The Head cornerstone."

Neale, of my most loving memory, was, with us, a great master of holy song.

He has left to ourselves and our children his song of faith; his Hymn for St. Thomas' Day. Among many beautiful Hymns, I know nothing more beautiful; more moving in its grand simplicity; in the faith which believes what it cannot see; in the hope, "an anchor of the soul<sup>h</sup>," which grasps and clings to what it cannot touch.

We have not seen, we cannot see,  
The happy land above,  
Where sin and death, and suffering flee  
And all is peace and love:

Its Sun that never goeth down,  
Its streets of pearl and gold,  
Its blessed saints that wear the crown  
That never groweth old.

We only see the path is long  
By which we have to go;  
We only feel the foes are strong  
That seek to work us woe.

We have not seen, we cannot see,  
The Cross our Master bore,  
With all its pains, that we might be  
The devil's slaves no more.

We only think it hard to part  
With very pleasant sin,  
And give to God a perfect heart,  
And make Him LORD within.

The SPIRIT'S grace we cannot see,  
That makes an infant whole;  
And gives the water power to free  
From sin a guilty soul.

<sup>h</sup> Hebr. vi. 19.

We only know that we have power  
 To do our FATHER'S will ;  
 Though every day and every hour,  
 We meet temptation still.

We walk by faith, and not by sight ;  
 And blessed Saint like thee  
 We sometimes doubt if faith tells right,  
 Because we cannot see.

Upon the promise we would lean  
 Thy doubting heart received ;—  
 ' Blessed are they that have not seen,  
 And that have yet believed !'

Wide as the Church's voice can spread,  
 To God all glory be ;  
 To HIM that is the Apostles' Head,  
 And, HOLY GHOST, to Thee ! Amen.

*Hymn 227, from the People's Hymnal.— MASTERS AND CO.*

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The Volume contains, besides Text, Papers, Speeches, Documents, inserted in their order of time and connection, concluding with Six Sermons preached in Wells Cathedral between May 10, 1891, and Nov. 13, 1892.

I am indebted to Messrs. Fradeile and Young for their kind permission to use the Photograph at the beginning of the Volume.

GEORGE ANTHONY DENISON.