

**THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE
MOVEMENT: ITS
ACHIEVEMENTS AND ITS
HOPE**

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The Catholic evidence movement: its achievements and its hope by Henry Browne

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HENRY BROWNE

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Preface by His Eminence CARDINAL BOURNE

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PREFACE

THE Catholic Evidence Guild is the most recent and, in some respects, the most interesting and hopeful of our missionary endeavours in England. Conceived towards the end of 1917 as the outcome of a new realization of the efforts, made in public places, to destroy the last vestiges of Christian tradition in the minds of the English people, it came into active being in the following year. Though in close touch with the clergy and under the guidance of ecclesiastical authority, it is a lay movement in which duly tested and accredited laymen must take the chief part. It is in reality the application to modern conditions in this country of the methods so long and so successfully adopted in the Foreign Mission field—namely, the employment of the lay catechist to do a work for which a priest cannot find time or, very often, opportunity. In many cases a layman gets a readier hearing than the officially constituted exponent of the truth. He can penetrate to districts, and he can raise his voice in places, which are sometimes closed to the missionary himself.

Fr. Henry Browne, S.J., has done a very valuable service in gathering together so much useful matter on the history, methods, and aspirations of the Guild, and by recalling the earlier similar attempts which have encouraged and inspired the bolder efforts which changed circumstances have now called forth. All who have the