

**THE PRESENT RELATIONS  
OF CHURCH AND STATE  
IN ENGLAND**

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The present relations of church and state in England by George G. Lawrence

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**GEORGE G. LAWRENCE**

**THE PRESENT RELATIONS  
OF CHURCH AND STATE  
IN ENGLAND**



THE  
PRESENT RELATIONS OF CHURCH  
AND STATE IN ENGLAND

IN ACCORDANCE WITH

The Teachings of Political Science.

BY THE

REV. GEORGE G. LAWRENCE, M.A., OXFORD,

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AUTHOR OF "LECTURES ON RITUALISM," "A TOUR IN THE  
SOUTHERN STATES OF AMERICA," ETC.



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## PREFACE.

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St. PIERRE tells us that Christians should be ready to give to every man that asks them a reason of the hope that is in them, a reason why they are Christians, why they hope to be saved through Christ. We Churchmen should also be ready to give a reason, not only why we are Christians, but also why we are Churchmen; why we still adhere to that form of Christianity which has been so long established in this our island; why we are not ashamed to walk in the old paths which our forefathers have trodden; why we still repeat their prayers and sing their songs of praise. This is an age of inquiry and discussion. It is not enough for a Christian to say, "I go to church because my parents brought me up to go there." He must be prepared with some better reason than this, if he would not lay himself open to the scoff and the sneer of the sectarian and the secularist. The object of the present Treatise will be to suggest to Churchmen reasons why they should firmly maintain the position which by God's grace they at present occupy, and to give to Nonconformists reasons why they should not make too sure of being able soon to sweep away a system of religion which has stood so long; which, like the flag of our country, has braved for many and many a year the battle and the breeze—the battle of controversy, the breeze of inquiry, examination, and discussion.

It is not the writer's intention to enter on the discussion of doctrinal or of purely theological topics, or to speak of any of those points as to which differences of opinion exist among sincere and attached members of the Church of England; his object will be to show in as clear and concise a manner as possible, that the relations which at present exist in this

country between the Church and the State, are in accordance with the Word of God, with the suggestions of practical common sense, and with the principles of political science; and in order to accomplish this object, he will endeavour, first to explain what is meant by an Established Church, and what advantages it brings to a nation; secondly, to show that what is commonly called Church property does really belong to the Church, and not to the nation, and is not, as some suppose, merely one form of national property; the subject of Church patronage will then come under review; and, in conclusion, attention will be drawn to some of the principal evils inherent in the systems of Dissent which so widely prevail, and more especially to the very dangerous and revolutionary tendency of the views and arguments brought forward by the Liberation Society and its advocates. The writer will thus have to deal with topics which are now exciting deep interest, and on which much angry feeling has been displayed. He has no desire to stir up the flames of strife, to impute improper motives to those who differ from him, or to say anything which may cause them unnecessary annoyance. He would rather give them credit, as far as possible, for wishing to do right even on those points on which he thinks them most thoroughly mistaken. To all, Churchmen or Dissenters, who may read the following pages, the writer would say, Do not take anything for granted simply because it is affirmed by this or that party leader, but rather follow the precept of the inspired Apostle, "*Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.*"

ST. PAUL'S PARSONAGE, HUDDERSFIELD,  
*August, 1867.*



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