THE EPISCOPATE AND THE REFORMATION: OUR OUTLOOK

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The Episcopate and the Reformation: our outlook by J. P. Whitney

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J. P. WHITNEY

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BY THE REV.

J. P. WHITNEY, B.D.

PROFESSOR OF ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON

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PREFACE

THIS little book goes back to my Hulsean Lectures (1906-7), which were not published at once, although they appeared later (December, 1915. to March, 1916) in the English Church Review. 1 had hoped to make them more complete, but some pressing questions have led me to publish them now, enlarged but still not so complete as 1 could wish. Some matters I have left aside or touched but slightly: yet the considerations and suggestions embodied in the book have, I hope, some value and interest. At the suggestion of the Editor, the Rev. Dr. Sparrow Simpson, I have reprinted as Appendix I. a paper read at the Cambridge Church Congress (1910). I wish to thank him for help and criticism, and I thank also my friends the Rev. Dr. Harold Hamilton and the Rev. Dr. H. M. Relton for kindly reading the proofs. Appendix II. is a recently written addition.

The stand taken by the Church of England at the Reformation, first on principle but with some timidity and then with growing confidence, has given to it the law of its life. It must work out its mission in obedience to that law, in the fullness of its life and in face of its many responsibilities, national and imperial. It refuses equally Papal tyranny and the anarchy of individualism. Episcopacy is, as we see from history past and present, alone able to guide the forces of a many-sided life and to inspire a Christian democracy. Some reasons for this belief I have tried to give with illustration from the past and with hope for the future

J. P. WHITNEY.

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