

**THE BISHOPS'
BLUE BOOK**

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The Bishops' Blue Book by J. Sanders Reed

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J. SANDERS REED

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BLUE BOOK**

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THE
BISHOPS' BLUE BOOK

BY THE
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PREFACE

Ever since I became a man I have been looking for a register of the prelates whose footprints have survived the centuries—to the guidance or inspiration of the Church. This *Blue Book* is the outcome of my quest. I have gleaned from almost every field; sometimes I have transferred landscape, figures, and all to my pages. Nothing is my own but the design and labor of construction.

I do not flatter myself that this book will find its way into the drawing-room or the railway-car: it is not literature. But, then, what *Blue Book* is literature? In the library of the curious, the serious, and the studious, however, I believe this skeleton will take on "solid flesh" and whisper of the existence of books long shut and

sealed. Its touch will open some graves, and in its presence one will apprehend

That the episcopate is coeval and co-extensive with the Church ;

That some of the best men in the world have been in the episcopate ;

That while each National Church has had its own peculiar usages, the bishop has always been there ;

That the Church is a veritable democracy ;

That the crozier is mightier than the sword ;

That the State was once carried by the Church, and nurtured and developed by it into the Christian Nation ;

That when the Church was carried by the State, the Church was muzzled, crippled, shorn, and infirm of purpose ;

That the Church stands for human liberty and progress ;

That the Church has been the real, ubiquitous pioneer ;

That the clergy degenerate into a *caste* when severed from the family ; that when

the bishops of Syria, Egypt, Italy, Gaul, Ireland, Britain, Constantinople, Iceland, *etc.*, were veritable fathers, the Church was holy as well as Catholic and Apostolic.

A cartulary of *all* the exceptional bishops of the Church, as I have discovered, would attain the bulk of a parish register.

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I

NOLO EPISCOPARI