

**RELIGIO LAICI: A SERIES  
OF STUDIES ADDRESSED  
TO LAYMEN**

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Religio laici: a series of studies addressed to laymen by H. C. Beeching

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# RELIGIO LAICI

A SERIES OF STUDIES ADDRESSED  
TO LAYMEN

BY THE REV.

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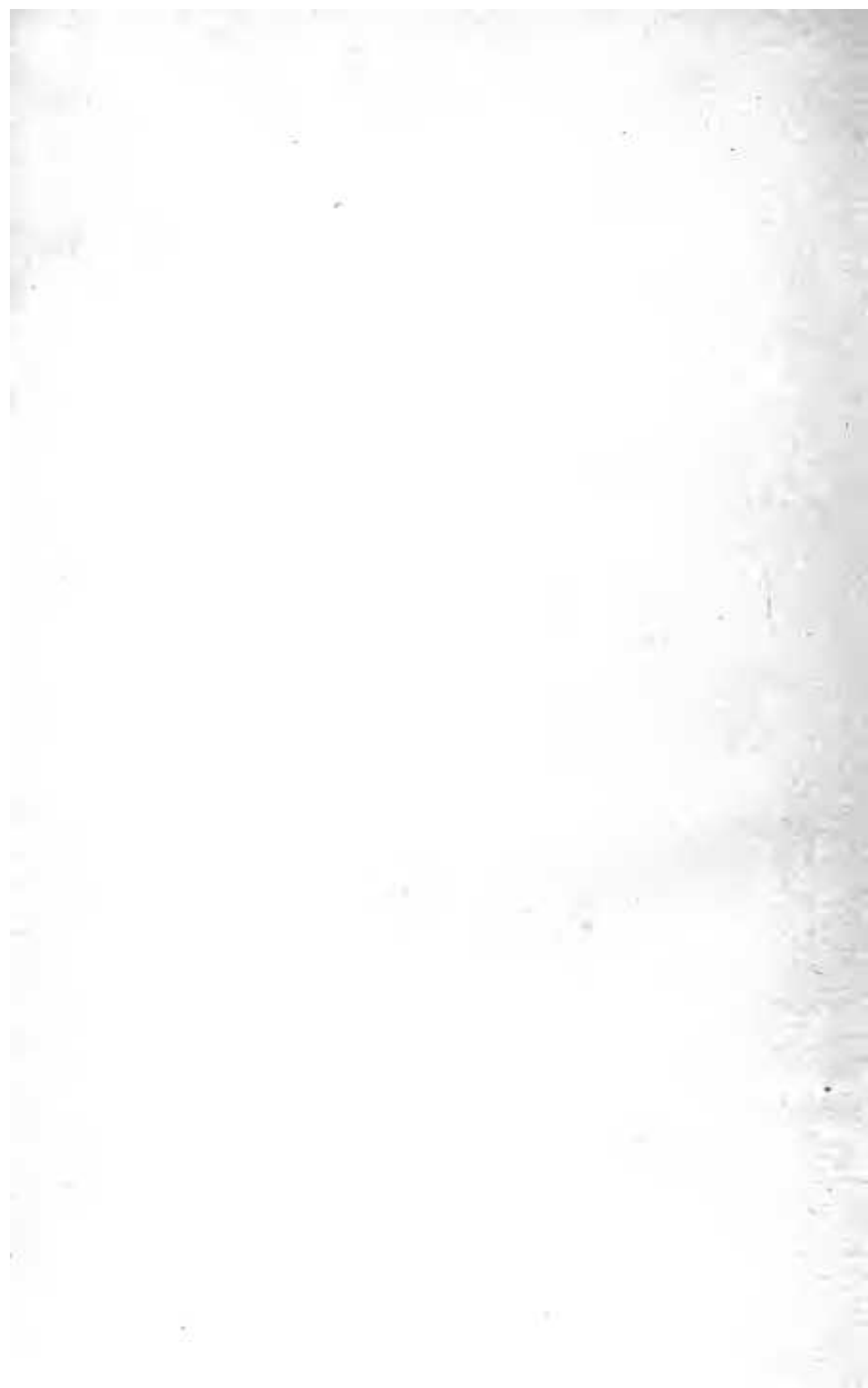
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## PREFACE.

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IN writing these papers at various times during the past five years, I have had in view not the trained thinker and theologian, but such persons of general intelligence and education as tend to create the main body of opinion about religious matters; in a word, the readers of the weekly and monthly reviews. The arguments they contain are aimed at certain prejudices that I have heard expressed in conversation, or that seem to be implied in the attitude of such persons to current views and controversies. Thus the first essay endeavours to meet the too prevalent idea that Christianity is nothing but a refined system of morals, a new Stoicism "touched with emotion," upon which the clergy have grafted an alien and unnecessary system of dogmas. The second attempts to define and defend the special characteristics of the Church of England among other religious bodies. As an appendix to that, I have added a paper written as a protest against an attack made—of course, in good faith—by two well-known men of letters upon the reputation of one of our most famous Jacobean divines and one of our best-loved and most typical seventeenth-century laymen.