

THE BISHOPS AS LEGISLATORS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649074716

The Bishops as Legislators by Joseph Clayton & Stewart D. Headlam

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JOSEPH CLAYTON & STEWART D. HEADLAM

THE BISHOPS AS LEGISLATORS

J. P. Buckell.

With all good wishes.

Al. T.

Dec 24. 1906

THE BISHOPS AS LEGISLATORS



BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

FATHER DOLLING. A MEMOIR.

GRACE MARLOW. A NOVEL.

**JOHN BLANKSET'S
BUSINESS. A NOVEL.**

BISHOP WESTCOTT. A BIOGRAPHY.

THE BISHOPS AS LEGISLATORS

A RECORD OF VOTES AND SPEECHES DELIVERED
BY THE BISHOPS OF THE ESTABLISHED
CHURCH IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS
DURING THE NINETEENTH
CENTURY

By

JOSEPH CLAYTON

Author of "Father Dolling: a Memoir," "Bishop Watson," etc

With a Preface by the

REV. STEWART D. HEADLAM

*First Edition, October 15, 1906
Reprinted, October 30, 1906*

LONDON

ARTHUR C. FIFIELD

44 FLEET STREET, E.C

1906

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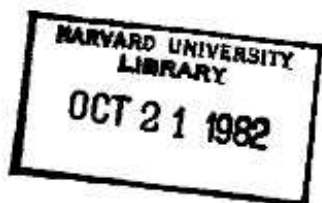
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THE SELWOOD PRINTING WORKS,
FROME AND LONDON.



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Preface

I HAVE been engaged for some twenty years in endeavouring to get the people to understand that the Church is intended to be the great instrument for Social Reform. This little book explains why I have failed. The whole witness of the Church's sacraments of Equality and Brotherhood, of the Church's emancipating literature, of the Church itself as a divine Society for the promotion of Social Justice, is spoilt by the action or inaction of the chief officers of the Church in the exalted position in which they have been placed in the great Council of the Nation. They have had a splendid opportunity—"if they had known"—and missed it.

Of course it is illogical on account of the crimes and follies of the Bishops to condemn the Church, which is essentially democratic and liberating in its doctrines and institutions, and which if the people were wise they would, in spite of this damning episcopal record, claim and use as their own Church.

An Archbishop being interviewed by one who was then a well-known labour leader, produced in answer to his hostile criticism a volume of mine from his shelves, to prove how the Church was in touch with the Democracy. But all the books of all the Christian Socialist Societies are as nothing when set against Mr. Clayton's terrible record.

What is to be done? whether the Bishops are to be taken away from the House of Lords or the House of Lords from the Bishops, at any rate a different kind of Bishop is wanted. To that end first of all the patron must be disestablished, and "the congregation of the Lord," the whole body of the Church in each parish put in his place: