THE CHURCH OF SWEDEN AND THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

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The Church of Sweden and the Anglican Communion by G. Mott Williams

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G. MOTT WILLIAMS

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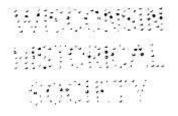
THE CHURCH OF SWEDEN

AND

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

BY G. MOTT WILLIAMS, D.D.

Bishop of Marquette, Member of the Angle-Swedish Commission of the Lambeth Conference of 1999



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INTRODUCTION

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The following papers are submitted to the Episcopate and others, as evidence bearing upon the Form, Intention, and Continuance of Holy Orders in the Swedish National Church. Opinions heretofore published seem to have been based upon one or another of the various forms, and never upon them all. I have tried to make all the actually material evidence accessible in fair English, having more regard, however, to accuracy than to elegance, and feeling that a double rendering of a phrase or word here or there would be no loss, if both renderings were fair. The Lambeth Commission which has visited Sweden may conclude its labors by a Report to the Archbishop of Canterbury within the near future. But as the Swedish Church has only just appointed a Standing Commission on the subject, it may be presumed that the Commission may continue in activity for some time to come, and report to the Lambeth Conference proposed for 1918.

Recent published letters having called attention to Roman concessions of Swedish Orders, it may perhaps be stated here that too much emphasis cannot be laid on these concessions by certain Bishops and theologians. Nor, as Anglicans, can we defer much to what Rome or Romanists have said of Swedish Orders, considering what they have said about ours. We have more actual evidence now before us than any one else ever had; the reader of these papers may be said to have more. With regard to Greek recognition, all that can now be definitely said is, that as long as the Swedish episcopate was maintained unimpaired in Finland, Russia sent none there. She was prompt to establish one when the Swedish line failed. This, if not Recognition, is Respect. It is hoped we can at least begin with Respect.

It may further be conceded to the opponents of Swedish Orders