

**APT AND MEET: COUNSELS TO
CANDIDATES FOR HOLY ORDERS
AT THE CHURCH DIVINITY
SCHOOL OF THE PACIFIC**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649488728

Apt and Meet: Counsels to Candidates for Holy Orders at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific by William F. Nichols

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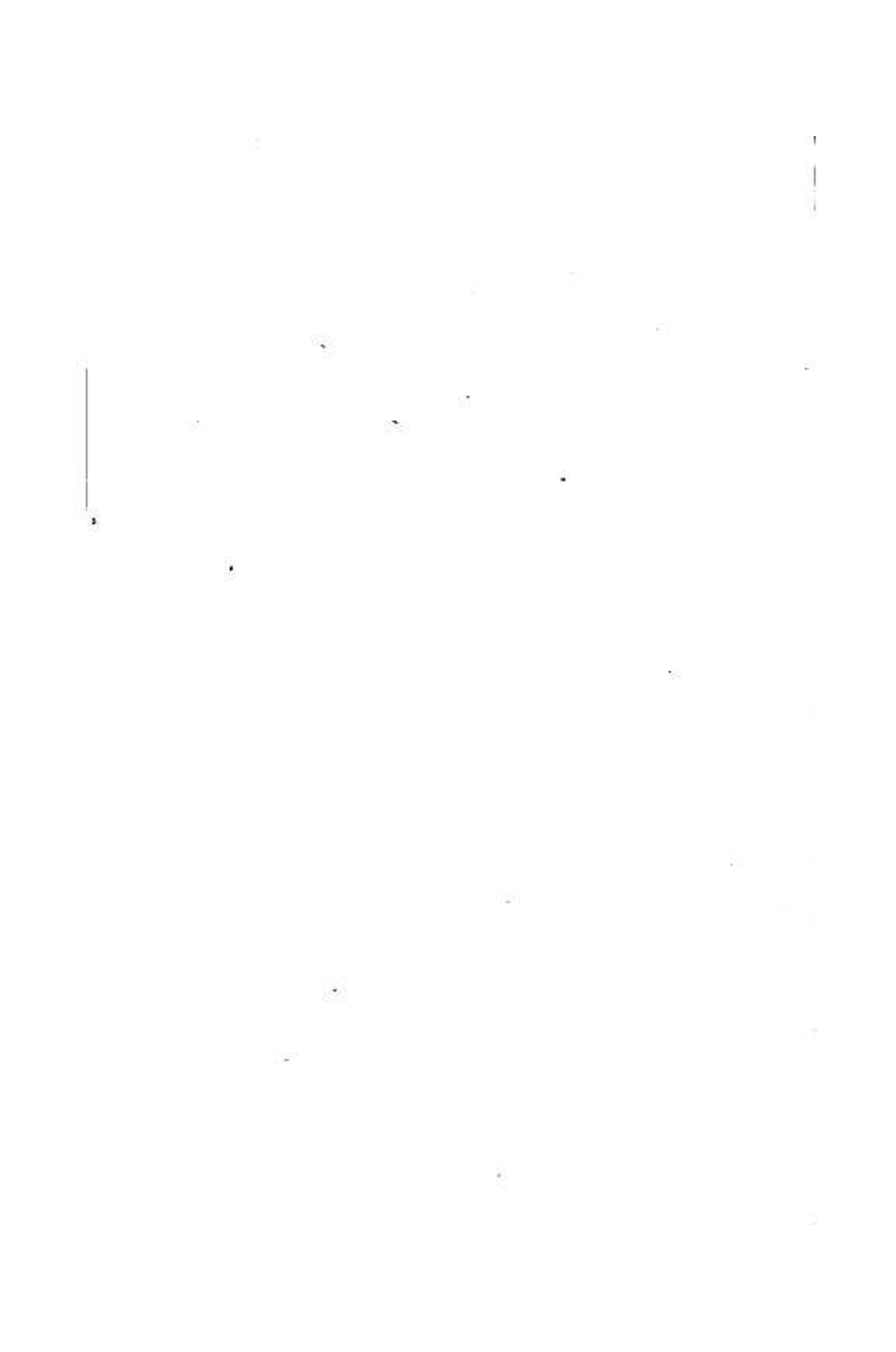
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WILLIAM F. NICHOLS

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Apt and Meet

Counsels to Candidates
For Holy Orders

At the
Church Divinity School
of the Pacific

By
WILLIAM F. NICHOLS
Dean

*"Take heed that the persons, whom ye
present unto us, be apt and meet"*



NEW YORK
THOMAS WHITTAKER, INC.
PUBLISHERS

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BELCHER

*To
her dearest
by my side
ever my Ideal Help-
Meet for the Ministry*

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PREFATORY NOTE

IT was the voice of a true Seer that said when asked, What is the greatest danger of the century? "I have no doubt what is the greatest danger—it is the absence of high aspirations." This was an estimate made in the first week of the first year of the twentieth century by one who singularly combined in himself the powers of the historian and the statesman, with the experience of a man of affairs over the Diocese which probably best of all samples the stir of the modern world, the Diocese of London. It was too his death-bed conviction, uttered, as it proved, at the end of his signal episcopate. The judgment is especially valuable because he knew so well the comparison with other centuries, like the thirteenth which he cited, and had so full and exact insight into the conditions of the century which was dawning. Bishop Creighton's own principle for meeting such conditions is well proven in his life, in what he called "Goethe's doctrine of *Entsagung*." For our present use his own working formula is happily and pointedly expressed in one of his letters. He writes: "To Goethe I apprehend *Entsagung* meant to do

honestly what was immediately before him, and then see if he was strengthened to do anything more." This outlook and this inlook of such a man are both of inestimable value at the threshold of the Ministry. They give a golden "precept of the Elders." They reflect the very *Vision* and *Service* in the Ordinal as they divine the signs of the times. From time to time these Divinity School Counsels have been given to help those looking to Holy Orders in justifying the confidence expressed in the Ordinal: "We have good hope that you have well weighed these matters with yourselves, long before this time." And the aim and prayer have been to turn the heart searchings upon that priestly character which must be so well-weighed long before, in seminary days, to a discernment of the state of the actual world to be served and of the higher aspirations with which alone the Minister of Jesus Christ can serve it.

Thirty-five years in the Ministry, more than half of which have laid upon the writer the responsibility, as bishop, of meeting pressing questions of ministerial supply on this "other Coast," and almost half of which have constantly brought close contacts with those feeling the vocation to Holy Orders,—through chairs held in two Divinity Schools—such years have seemed in the simple line of duty to dictate these Counsels, however inadequate and however many the points not touched upon. The hope in them has been to point—even though afar off—to such aspirations as that which