

**CHURCH AND
NO CHURCH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649049769

Church and No Church by A. H. Hore

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A. H. HORE

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CHURCH AND NO CHURCH.

BY
THE REV. A. H. HORE, M.A.,

CHAPLAIN TO THE FORCES, AND LATE SENIOR CHAPLAIN AT DOVER.

"When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find Faith on the earth?"
S. Luke. xviii. 8.



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LONDON:

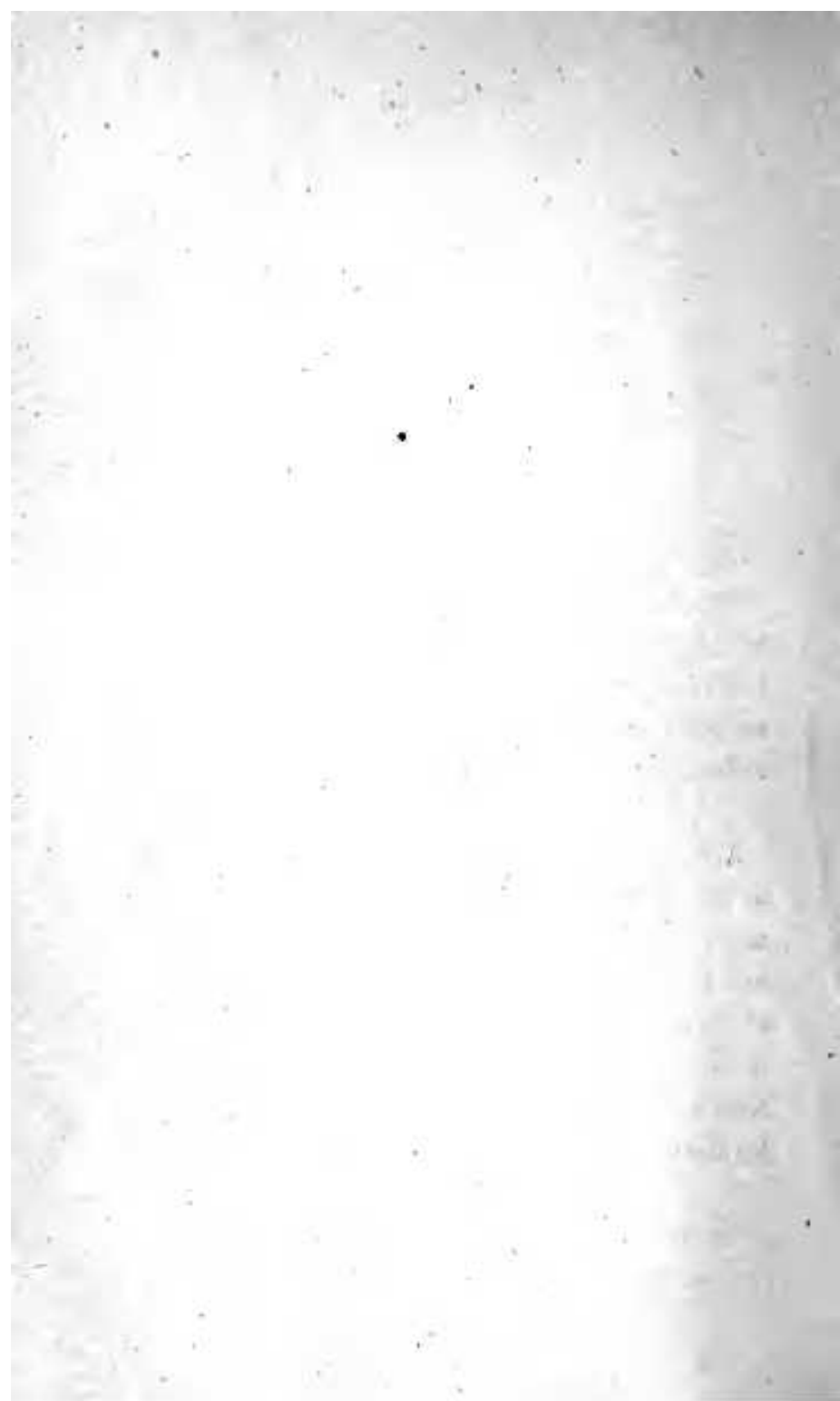
J. T. HAYES, LYALL PLACE, EATON SQUARE; AND
4, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1873.

LONDON:
SWIFT AND CO., REGENT PRESS, KING STREET,
REGENT STREET, W.

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PREFACE.

WE live in days of great social and scientific progress ; of increasing knowledge and mental activity ; when to be behind the age, or not to keep pace with the advance of the day, implies an ignorance of subjects which form part of the ordinary education of the English gentleman.

But with regard to religion, it is not too much to say that the great number of English Churchmen, although they talk much about the Church, and perhaps call themselves Protestants, understand but little what the Church really is, or what Protestantism means ; and can give no reason why they are Churchmen, and not Wesleyans or Independents.

To stand apart from Church Politics, and to profess not to be a " Party-man," is somewhat

unreasonable at a time when a Party has arisen within the Church which inculcates the free-handling and treatment of the Bible as an ordinary book ; which lays down an axiom that not faith but scepticism, not revelation but philosophy, is the foundation of Religion ; which demands the elimination of all Creeds and Dogma from the Church of the future.

The struggle is no longer now with respect to the right of private judgment and the authority of the Church ; but the most fundamental doctrines of the Bible and the very existence of the Church are openly threatened.

The good ship of the Church having parted from its old moorings of Catholicism, and tossed about on the stormy ocean of Protestantism, is in danger of being wrecked on the shoals of Infidelity.

The object of this little book is to give some account of the different schools of thought, which aid or impede the progress of religion ; and to show the necessity, never greater than at present, of holding to the one Catholic and

Apostolic Faith, at a time when people are doubtfully asking, not what will be the future religion of England, but whether there will be any religion at all.

Tunbridge Wells, 1878.

Since the following pages were sent to Press, Mr. Miall's motion for the Disestablishment of the Church has been rejected in Parliament by the great majority of nearly 300 votes, in an unusually full, but somewhat unsympathetic and impatient House. From this Division it is not unreasonable to infer that the question of Disestablishment has, for the present at least, diminished in interest, and that any immediate danger of Disestablishment is postponed. That it was not treated as a Party matter is clear; for whilst 280 Conservatives voted with the majority, the Liberal Party, who may be considered Mr. Miall's friends, also voted against him almost in the majority of two to one. Or if we take the Irish votes, we find a majority of twelve to one objecting to a similar process being applied