

A NATIONAL CHURCH

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A National Church by William Reed Huntington

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WILLIAM REED HUNTINGTON

**A NATIONAL
CHURCH**

A NATIONAL CHURCH

Habel F. Hapgood

THE BEDELL LECTURES FOR 1897

March 23rd. 1898.
A NATIONAL CHURCH

BY

WILLIAM REED HUNTINGTON

RECTOR OF GRACE CHURCH, NEW YORK

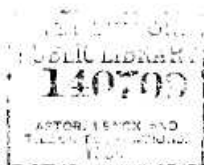
E Pluribus Unum

*With the compliments
of W. R. Huntington.*

*Grace Church Rectory,
801 Broadway.*


1898

W. R.



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TO THE
PRESIDENT AND FACULTY
OF
KENYON COLLEGE
WHAT WAS FIRST SPOKEN IN THEIR HOSPITABLE HEARING
IS NOW GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED.

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I.

THE THEORY.

A NATIONAL CHURCH.

I.

THE THEORY.

THE philosophy of national Churches deserves an ampler discussion than it has ever yet received. Books in plenty, and very able ones, have been written upon the doctrine of the Church as a whole. Special "Establishments" of religion, such as the Episcopal Church of England and the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, have also polemic and irenic literatures of their own. But for the national Church pure and simple, the national Church considered as an entity, existing within and yet in a sense apart from the Church universal, while at the same time wholly independent of the civil State, — for this we seem still to lack any lucid or self-consistent theory. In fact, a dispassionate inquirer might well be pardoned were he to raise the question, Is such an organism as a national Church expedient, even if possible?

What account did Jesus Christ take of "nations," in the ordering of his kingdom, that we should presume to parcel out his world-wide realm in accord-