

CHRIST AND DEMOCRACY

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Christ and Democracy by Charles William Stubbs

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CHARLES WILLIAM STUBBS

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DEMOCRACY**

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BY

CHARLES WILLIAM STUBBS, M.A.,

VICAR OF GRANBOROUGH,

Author of "Village Politics," "The Land and the Labourers," etc.

"τὰ πάντα καὶ ἐν πάντων χριστός."

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1884.

11. c. 38.

DEDICATED
TO
THOSE CHURCHMEN,
WHETHER CONFORMIST OR NONCONFORMIST,
WHO
SHARING THE BELIEF
THAT
OF THE UNSOLVED PROBLEMS OF SOCIETY AND THE INDIVIDUAL
CHRISTIANITY STILL HOLDS THE KEY,
FIND FOR THE PRESENT,
IN THE COMMON WORK OF SOCIAL REFORM,
THE TRUEST MISSION AND MOST SPLENDID DESTINY
OF
THE CHURCH AND DEMOCRACY.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial matters. The text notes that without clear records, it becomes difficult to track expenses, revenues, and other critical data points.

2. The second part of the document addresses the challenges associated with data management and storage. It highlights the need for secure and scalable solutions to handle large volumes of information. The author suggests that investing in robust IT infrastructure is crucial for ensuring the integrity and availability of data over time.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in streamlining operations. It discusses how automation and digital tools can significantly reduce manual errors and improve efficiency. The text also touches upon the importance of training staff to effectively utilize these technologies, as well as the need for regular updates and maintenance to keep systems running smoothly.

4. The fourth part of the document explores the impact of regulatory changes on business operations. It notes that staying up-to-date with the latest regulations is essential for compliance and avoiding legal penalties. The author suggests that businesses should establish a dedicated team or department to monitor and interpret these changes, ensuring that all operations remain within the required legal framework.

5. The fifth part of the document discusses the importance of risk management and contingency planning. It emphasizes that businesses should identify potential risks and develop strategies to mitigate them. This includes having a clear plan in place for handling emergencies and ensuring business continuity in the event of a crisis.

6. The sixth part of the document addresses the importance of communication and collaboration within an organization. It notes that effective communication is key to ensuring that all team members are aligned and working towards common goals. The author suggests that businesses should foster a culture of open communication and encourage collaboration between departments to improve overall performance.

7. The seventh part of the document discusses the importance of innovation and continuous improvement. It notes that businesses should regularly evaluate their processes and look for ways to optimize them. This includes investing in research and development to stay ahead of the competition and exploring new market opportunities.

8. The eighth part of the document addresses the importance of financial management and budgeting. It emphasizes that businesses should maintain a clear understanding of their financial health and create realistic budgets. The author suggests that businesses should regularly review their financial statements and adjust their budgets as needed to ensure they are on track to meet their financial goals.

9. The ninth part of the document discusses the importance of customer service and satisfaction. It notes that providing excellent customer service is essential for building a loyal customer base and driving business growth. The author suggests that businesses should invest in training for their customer service teams and implement feedback mechanisms to continuously improve the customer experience.

10. The tenth part of the document addresses the importance of sustainability and social responsibility. It notes that businesses should consider the environmental and social impacts of their operations and strive to minimize their footprint. The author suggests that businesses should adopt sustainable practices and engage with their communities to build a positive reputation and contribute to the well-being of society.

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NOTICE.

THE first two sermons in this volume were preached before the University of Cambridge, in the writer's turn as Select Preacher, in the October Term 1881; the third sermon was preached before the University of Oxford, on the invitation of the Vice-Chancellor. Of the addresses, three were delivered under the auspices of the Guild of S. Matthew, an association whose chief object is declared to be "to get rid by every possible means of the existing prejudices, especially on the part of 'Secularists,' against the Church, her sacraments, and doctrines, and to endeavour to 'justify God to the People.'" Of the remaining sermons, four have already appeared in a little book published in 1880, entitled "The Mythe of Life," which is now out of print. The addresses and sermons, though by no means intentionally forming a connected series, are in fact all bound together by one leading idea,—the duty of the Church of Christ, in the present democratic age, of declaring, by a somewhat wider range of Christian teaching, the Divine purpose, by which "in the dispensation of the fulness of times" all things shall be "gathered together in Christ," whether Politics or Morals; whether Art, or Poëtry, or Science; "whether things which are in heaven, or things which are in earth."

I.

CHRIST AND DEMOCRACY.*

"There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification."—I COR. xiv. 10.

WHAT has English Christianity to say to Democracy? Has the national Church "lost touch" with the people?

These are two questions which seem to demand an answer from any one who believes, as I do most firmly, that among the many "voices" of the present of which the Church is constrained to know the meaning, there is no voice more "significant" than that of the people. It is, at any rate, in the hope of suggesting some partial answer to these questions that I venture to invite you to consider with me, in the two sermons which it is my duty to deliver in this place, the character of that influence which the democratic movement of our day tends to exercise over the spirit of national religion.

It is obvious that within the limits to which I am confined I can treat so wide a subject only in the most general outline. Its importance, however, cannot, I think, well be exaggerated. The social forces of Democracy are forces with which in the future, both in their influence for good as well as evil, the English churchman, no less than the English politician, must of necessity reckon.

It is now fifty years since De Tocqueville described Democracy as a great tidal wave sweeping over Europe, and likened it in its overwhelming force, and the certainty of its onward movement, to one of those great geological changes which have taken place in the surface of the earth. Certainly there is no sign as yet of any ebb in that wave.

* Preached before the University of Cambridge.