

**CONGREGATIONAL
ADMINISTRATION: THE CAREW
LECTURES BEFORE THE
HARTFORD THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY 1908-1909**

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Congregational administration: The Carew lectures before the Hartford theological seminary
1908-1909 by Charles Sumner Nash

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CHARLES SUMNER NASH

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ADMINISTRATION: THE CAREW
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HARTFORD THEOLOGICAL
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CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

The Carew Lectures before the Hartford
Theological Seminary
1908-1909

BY CHARLES SUMNER NASH
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Pacific Theological Seminary



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PREFACE

The following lectures, published substantially as they were delivered, attempt to state sympathetically and constructively the principles of the Congregational polity with reference to present phases and problems. Attention is not turned upon the past. The Scriptural deduction of our principles and the story of our historic development have been given repeatedly. These lectures, while consistent with the past, desire to serve immediate conditions and emergencies in our church life. We are in no little confusion, such as always attends progress. There are earnest inquiries and disagreements among us respecting methods of procedure. Reorganizations in the interest of closer ranks and united action are proceeding in many parts of the land, and as well in oversea Congregationalism. We are feeling our way toward the better thing. That there is a better thing and that we can and must achieve it large numbers of us are convinced. The Congregational churches in large majority seem intent upon becoming the Congregational Church.

Our problem is that of an efficient democracy, how to organize an effective union without overriding or fettering personal and local liberty; or, in the words of Mr. John Fiske, "the task of combining indestructible union of the whole with indestructible life in the parts."¹ It is, moreover,

¹ Beginnings of New England, p. 48.

how to do this in our **Congregational** way, how to make our own peculiar contribution to modern development in both Church and State. With local independence we are perfectly familiar; of union of the whole we are still not a little ignorant and afraid. Upon that union, however, in some wise form, we are resolved, answering the charge of inefficiency and defeat, and responding to the call of modern organized life to unflagging zeal and grander enterprise. The mission of **Congregationalism** — whether in other hands or ours — to human progress is still great and long. The service of our own body of churches is believed to be far from complete. Our augmented resources, personal and material, have overtaxed the old methods of service, and are waiting half inactive to be marshaled afresh. The new ways, so far from being less than denominational, are taking interdenominational, national and international proportions. Many-voiced and sharp is the challenge to enlarged administration for mightier movements afield.

CHARLES SUMNER NASH.

Berkeley, California, August 1, 1909.

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TO MY WIFE

