

**A GOODLY
HERITAGE: A SIMPLE
CHURCH HISTORY**

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A Goodly Heritage: A Simple Church History by Georgiana M. Forde & Canon Benham

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GEORGIANA M. FORDE & CANON BENHAM

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A Goodly Heritage

A SIMPLE CHURCH HISTORY



BY

GEORGIANA M. FORDE

With Preface by the Rev.
CANON BENHAM, D.D.

Rector of St Edmund the King, London.

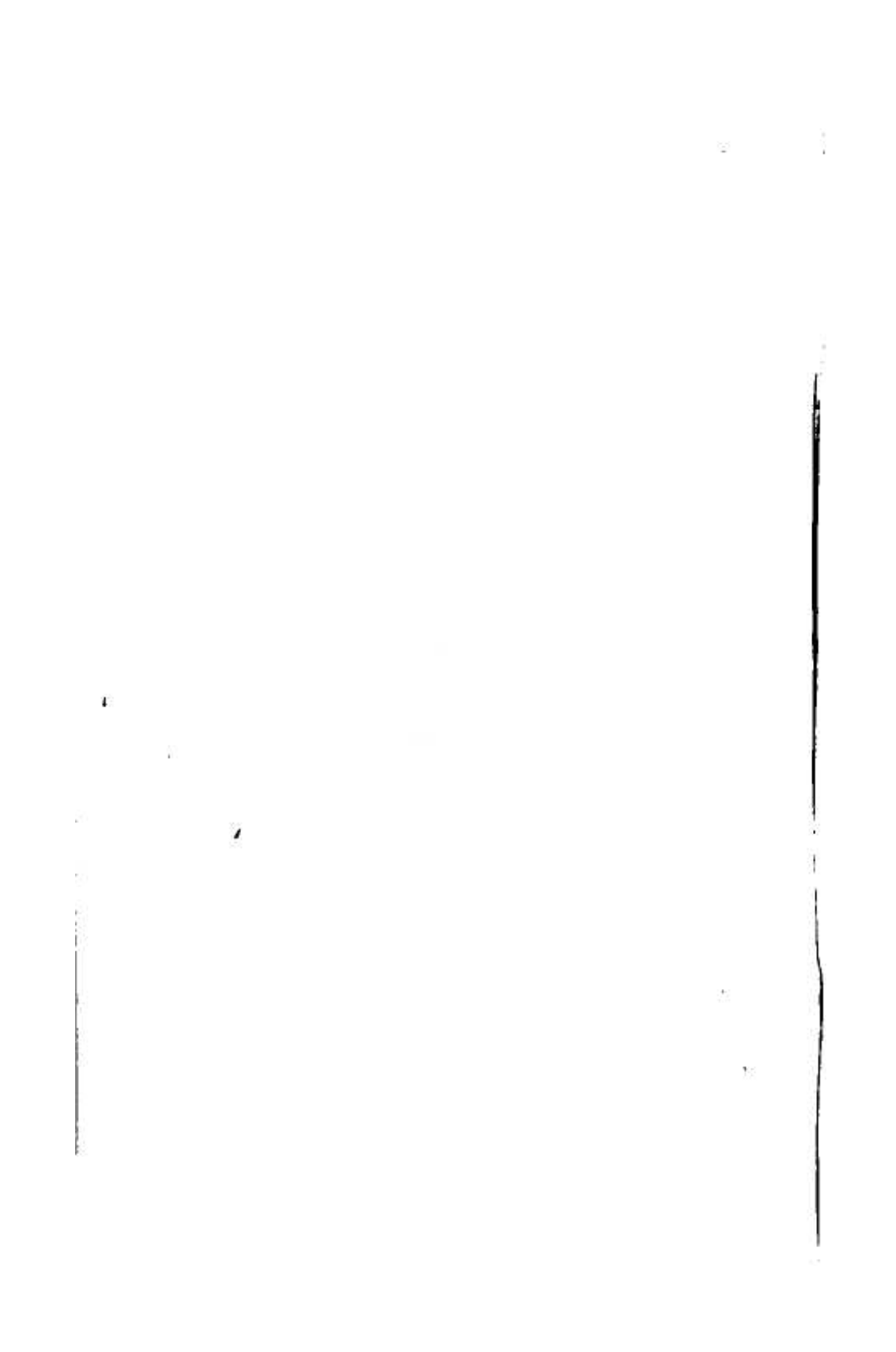
"I speak concerning Christ and the Church"—Eph. v. 32
that ye may
"Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you,
a reason of the hope that is in you."—1 S. Peter iii. 15.

NINTH TO ELEVENTH THOUSAND

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PREFACE

THE MS. of this little volume was put into my hands, on behalf of the Authoress, by the widow of one who still bears an honoured name in the Church. I read it through and entirely agree with her that it is well worthy of publication. For, indeed, I do not know another work which is so likely to win the attention of the young, or to give them a true notion of what the Catholic Church is, or what a bright future lies before the English branch of it, by the blessing of Almighty God. I should like to know that the book has been adopted in Sunday Schools, and that its successive heads are expanded by the teachers who are rising up, and who, according to my own experience, are showing ever more and more attachment to the faith of Christ Crucified. So much that I have seen of late has moved me to 'thank God and take courage.'

•s Preface

Here and there I have made a few suggestions which I have reason to hope have pleased her. But the book is her own, one clear definite idea, with which I am entirely in agreement with her, running through it. I have never seen her, but I delight in her book and thank her for it.

WILLIAM BENHAM.

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INTRODUCTION

WHO founded THE CHURCH?

Not a man, not an angel even.

It was Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who founded the Christian Church.

He has cared for her for nineteen hundred years, and He will watch over her, till the Church Militant on earth, and the Church Expectant in Paradise, shall be merged into the Church Triumphant in Heaven, that happy place where she shall be safe for ever.

Our Lord was forty days on earth between His rising from the dead on Easter Day and His going up to Heaven on Ascension Day—the Great Forty Days they are called : a most mysterious time.

Suddenly He would appear through closed doors, and as suddenly vanish. On the seashore, on a mountain, during a walk, while the disciples were sitting at a meal, He would miraculously show Himself, and miraculously disappear.