

UNDERCURRENTS OF CHURCH LIFE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

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Undercurrents of church life in the eighteenth century by T. T. Carter

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T. T. CARTER

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CHURCH LIFE IN THE
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY**

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~~HESE~~ [Carter, John Frances Mary]

UNDERCURRENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

IN THE

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"NICHOLAS FERRAR," AND "THE LIFE AND TIMES OF
JOHN KETTLEWELL"

EDITED BY THE

REV. T. T. CARTER, M.A.

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To

VISCOUNT HALIFAX

IN THE GRATEFUL ASSURANCE OF A COMMON INTEREST

IN THE CHURCH'S TRUTH AND WELFARE

THIS VOLUME

IS DEDICATED BY THE EDITOR

T. T. CARTER

CLEWER, *October*, 1899.

INTRODUCTION

THE object of this volume is to show that, notwithstanding the great changes which have taken place during the late centuries in the condition of the Church of England, its principles have remained the same, its doctrines and its general usages unchanged.

An immense crisis arose after the fall of the Stuarts, when a new condition of things accompanied the reign of the Georges. Its result was a lowering of the line of teaching, and consequently a decline of the general tenor of Church life. What are known as the Broad and Low Church lines then arose ; the higher school being steadily discountenanced by authority, and many being forced to withdraw, surrendering their cures, and continuing to minister, under the greatest possible difficulties, as Nonjurors.

This volume is intended to show how, during

the last century and the beginning of the now expiring century, the inner life was sustained, notwithstanding all discouragements, and all the hindrances caused by authority ever watchful and ready to suppress what the Government had resolved to supplant and overthrow.

It is often thought, and efforts have been made to show, that the movement of 1833 under Keble and Newman, which Pusey subsequently joined, came from without, and not from elements ever at work of true Church of England life. The movement was merely a revival, a rising up of the old order of things, which had never been lost, only overborne by the changed conditions of the time. Even at the worst, the seeds of life were ever germinating, living on under all varieties of outward circumstances, obscuring and depressing the truer view of things, while the power of the higher life remained unchanged, and, we trust, unchangeable.

The present volume tells of many conditions of individual life and many new ideas developed under a press of outward hindrances, while yet the root and groundwork of English belief in its adaptation to the English character never

failed. That this volume may tend, with other influences, to nourish the higher side of the Church of England life, and to strengthen the belief in the unfailing witness which it gives to its hold on primitive truth, is the desire of the undersigned.

T. T. CARTER.