

BISHOP LIGHTFOOT ON THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY.

MY former article on Bishop Lightfoot will be fitly supplemented by a brief discussion of his views in relation to the Christian Ministry. These views were fully elaborated by the great Bishop in the well-known *excursus* in his Commentary on the Epistle to the Philippians, the first edition of which appeared in 1868; and, notwithstanding frequent reports to the contrary, he has never departed from the position there assumed. In the preface to the sixth edition he explicitly disavows any change of opinion. The eighth edition, that of 1888, remains unchanged, and his publishers have stated that no alterations have ever been made in the Dissertation in question. The rumor of such a change originated in a bold statement made in the *Church Times*, an extreme Ritualistic paper, in July, 1875. When Dr. Lightfoot's attention was called to it he, not only very emphatically disowned it in a letter, made public since his death, but he also added this important statement:—"The opinions maintained in my Dissertation are, so far as I can see, the same as Hooker's."

This reference is invaluable, both because it adds another weighty testimony of a competent interpreter to the position occupied by our great jurist, and because it furnishes an additional proof, if such were necessary, that Lightfoot's views are no novelty, but in entire accord with those of the most eminent expounder of the polity of the Church of England. Hooker and Lightfoot are kindred minds, alike in their clear, strong, practical judgment, in their grasp of essential principles, and in their appeal to the broad and solid grounds of history and of reason, in which their conceptions of Church order were firmly rooted. And, strange to say, they have alike been subjected to the misjudgment of the school of Anglican traditionalists, who have attempted to draw from them some warrant for their own theories, while in truth nothing could be more radically opposed to their uncritical and unhistorical pretensions. Yet, as Pusey misquoted Hooker, and Keble feebly