

before heard the Church argument, and who were willing to sit and listen to it, patiently and respectfully. Shall this opportunity be improved? Shall the Church be heard in the heart of New England? To my mind, there never was the shadow of a doubt, as to the course which I ought to take. I believed it to be not only right, to accept the invitation and plead for the Church, but a bounden duty, which I was not at liberty to decline.

The results of that humble effort, which have already come to my knowledge, have confirmed the conviction, that in delivering this Lecture, I acted the part of a consistent Churchman, and a faithful soldier and servant of Christ.

This Lecture was first published in a volume, in connection with the other Lectures of the course. To such a publication, grave objections have been urged. On the other hand it is to be remembered, as a matter of compensation, that *thirteen thousand* copies of this book have already been published. At least ten thousand of these have gone into the hands of persons who are *not* Churchmen. On the supposition that each copy has been read by ten persons, we have this result: *one hundred thousand persons* have read the *Church argument* who never read it before, and who, but for this volume, might never have read it at all. Moreover, these volumes are still in circulation, and will be more or less read every day, for years to come, while new editions will undoubtedly be issued. There is surely some advantage in this, the fruits of which the Church will, no doubt, ultimately reap.

This Lecture is now issued by itself, in a tract form, in the hope that, with the blessing of God, it may be the means of some good.

G. M. R.

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