

with learning. There is danger of spoiling our historians and scholars by turning them into bishops; but though the world may be poorer by some volumes, no one can reasonably regret the course of events which brought Bishop Creighton to Peterborough and London, and made him for a few years the centre of life and vigorous action in the Church of England.

As was the man, so we see him in this volume. Few men are able to generalise widely and safely as Creighton did; but those are the writers who teach. To him the teaching of ecclesiastical history is not an inculcation of dogma nor the propagation of a view, but the study of the Church and the world together. "Theology," he says, "has become historical and does not demand that history should become theological." Ecclesiastical history is not politics nor biography nor the history of opinion alone, but all these, viewed in relation to the present, if it is to be more than a series of pigeon-holes stuffed with documents. Mediæval facts and primitive facts are here shown to resemble facts of later history; English history is compared with foreign history. The English character of Bishop Grosseteste or of Elizabeth and her bishops and statesmen is well brought out and illustrates the writer's own strongly national character. Indeed he seems almost to interpret the great Queen's ecclesiastical policy as little more than "a desire to express the wishes of the English people so far as it was possible to do so." This is brought out more fully in the Lecture on "The English National Character"; in reading which we are conscious that the bishop, like Ulysses, was helped to understand his own nation by having observed so many others. The same temper of mind appears in his preference of the continuity of national life to the sudden dramatic and picturesque incidents which enliven it. Yet, however scientific his treatment, we can hardly think that if Bishop Creighton had been choosing a book to feed his mind and elevate his imagination he would have preferred Seeley's *Life of Stein* to Froude's *History*.