

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The following lecture was delivered at the opening of Knox College, in October last, and was very cordially received by the large audience who heard it. Many who listened to it expressed the conviction that it was a valuable contribution towards the discussion of a living question, in which all Christians are deeply interested. The reports of the lecture published in the daily papers were widely read, and called forth very general expressions of satisfaction in Protestant circles. But these voices of approval were not universal. Rev. John Langtry, M.A., D.C.L., rector of St. Luke's in this city, published three letters in the *Mail* newspaper, in which from the High Church or Tractarian standpoint, he criticised the lecture somewhat sharply. To these strictures, Dr. MacLaren replied in three letters, which appeared also in the *Mail*. It is believed that these letters and the lecture have to some extent met a felt want. From distant parts of the country and from various sections of the Protestant Church, very cordial words of approval have come, and a strong desire has been expressed for the publication of the lecture and letters in a shape better fitted for future reference. To meet this wish, they are now issued by the Presbyterian News Company in pamphlet form. In the Appendix, it has been decided also to reprint Dr. Langtry's letters, so that the reader will have both sides of the question before him, as far as they have been presented in this discussion. The Lambeth Articles, to which reference is made in the lecture and letters, are also added.