

REVIEW.

THE GROWTH OF CHURCH INSTITUTIONS: EDWIN HATCH, M. A., D. D., READER IN ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, New York: Thomas Whitaker, 1887.

The above is not a new book, but it has recently come to my hands by the kindness of a friend—to which source I owe no small share of my somewhat limited library. When asked to furnish for the *THEOLOGUE* a review of some recent work, my ambition to see myself in the pages of so excellent and spirited a magazine overcame several objections—which should, perhaps, have prevailed. The chief objections are, that I have no time to write more than my two sermons weekly, and that I have access to no recent book suitable for the purpose. The book named is, however, new to me—and may possibly be so to some of the *THEOLOGUE*'s readers, and therefore my ambition won the day.

The death of Dr. Hatch has deprived the Church Catholic of a clear headed and courageous scholar, a man who studied hard—thought deeply and wrote boldly.

This work is a small one and the author promised in his preface to follow with a more elaborate treatise which in 1887, he had had for some time in preparation. Whether or not the large work even appeared I am unable to say.

"The growth of Church Institutions" is professedly designed more for general readers than for scholars, and is really "a summary of results rather than a detailed explanation of the facts upon which they are based." But "the work has the secondary aim of endeavouring to stimulate students who have leisure for historical study, to give more attention than hitherto to the wide field which lies before them in the ecclesiastical history of the centuries which lie between the fall of the Roman Empire and the political settlement of Mediæval Europe."

There are in the book, twelve chapters under the following titles. The Diocese; The Diocesan Bishop; The fixed tenure of the Parish Priest; The Benefice; The Parish; Tithes and their distribution; The Metropolitan; National Churches; The Canonical Rule; The Cathedral Chapter; The Chapter and the Diocese; The Chancel.

The Modern Diocese is shown to be not a primitive institution, but a result of "a series of historical changes." In the early days, even when the three orders of the ministry were recognized, each Christian community had its bishop, presbyters and deacons, even