# THE HARACTER AND LIFE-WORK OF DR. PUSEY, A SKETCH AND STUDY

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The haracter and Life-Work of Dr. Pusey, a Sketch and Study by James H. Rigg

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### **JAMES H. RIGG**

# THE HARACTER AND LIFE-WORK OF DR. PUSEY, A SKETCH AND STUDY



#### THE

## CHARACTER AND LIFE-WORK

OF

### DR. PUSEY

A Sketch and Study

BY THE REV. JAMES H. RIGG, D.D. AUTHOR OF 'MODERN ANDLICAN THROLOGY, ETC. ETC.

#### London

T. WOOLMER, 2 CASTLE STREET, CITY ROAD, E.C.; AND 66 PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1883

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#### PREFACE.

THE substance of the following pages was originally published in successive numbers of a monthly journal.

Numerous and pressing requests for the republication of the papers, strengthened by the official request of the Publishing Committee of the Wesleyan Conference, have led me to cast what I had written into a somewhat different form, and publish it, with a small addition, in the present volume.

The aim of the volume is to bring out into full light the distinctive characteristics of Dr. Pusey's life-work as a Church leader within the National Church. The nation is asked to raise a great memorial to him. Let the people of England clearly understand on what account such a memorial is to be raised. Let them know what have been Dr. Pusey's special merits, what has been his particular work, and

the peculiar influence which for forty years he wielded. In learning to know him better, they will also learn, in some measure, what is the present condition of a large section of the Church of England.

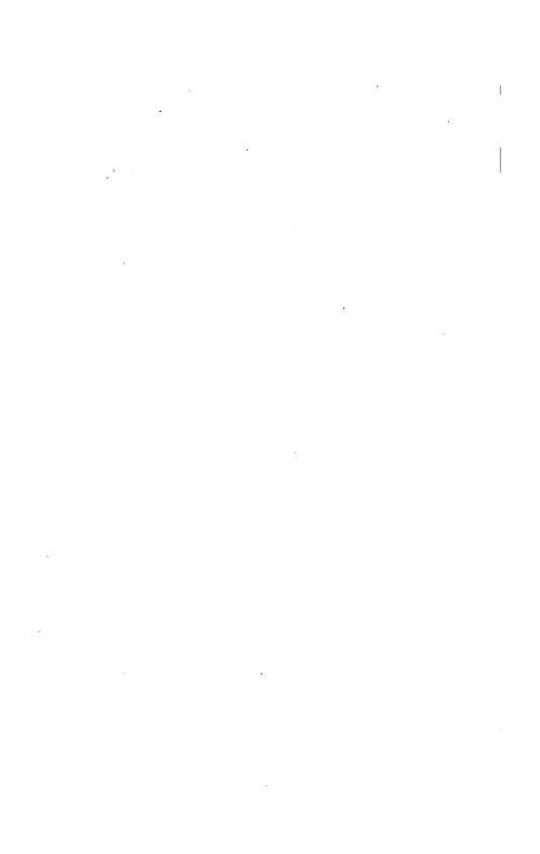
Dr. Pusey's Commentaries on the Minor Prophets are godly and edifying; they might have been written by a devout and enlightened Roman Catholic of the best school, or by a learned and devout Nonconformist. His Lectures on Daniel are learned and able. A German Catholic professor, or an Evangelical English Churchman of adequate ability and learning, might have written these. But the great mass of his voluminous writings, and the bent and influence of his entire personality, for forty years, were devoted to such ends as are shown in the following pages. His characteristic life-work was to Romanize the Church of England.

It is astonishing how little this fact has been realized during the last twenty years. In proportion as his work became pervasively influential, and although from his retirement he still presided over the whole Neo-Romanist movement, he himself in his relation to the movement was increasingly withdrawn from

public observation. He became a sort of mythical personage, his great age and his reputation for sanctity concurring to produce this impression. And when he at length left the precincts of this earthly scene, the world of newspaper readers was prepared to applaud the proposal to rear a memorial to one who had retired from human view to be numbered with the 'mighty dead.' This was natural in generous England. But the generosity of England should be discriminating. The great Romanizer of his age should not be canonized by a nation which still boasts itself Protestant. The writer of this volume is no enemy of the Church of England. He desires nothing more than to see it great and influential, so long as it be not made the medium of diffusing Romanizing superstition. Such superstition has deeply infected the Church of England. At present this is England's greatest calamity, and Dr. Pusey, more than any other man, has contributed to this result.

JAMES H. RIGG.

July 12, 1883.



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