

**THE OLD CHURCH;
WHAT SHALL WE
DO WITH IT?**

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The Old Church; What Shall We Do with It? by Thomas Hughes

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THOMAS HUGHES

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WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH IT?

BY

THOMAS HUGHES, Q.C.,

AUTHOR OF 'TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL DAYS.'

London:

MACMILLAN AND CO.

1878.

BX 5093

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1878

MAIN

TO
THE RIGHT HON. W. E. FORSTER, M.P.,

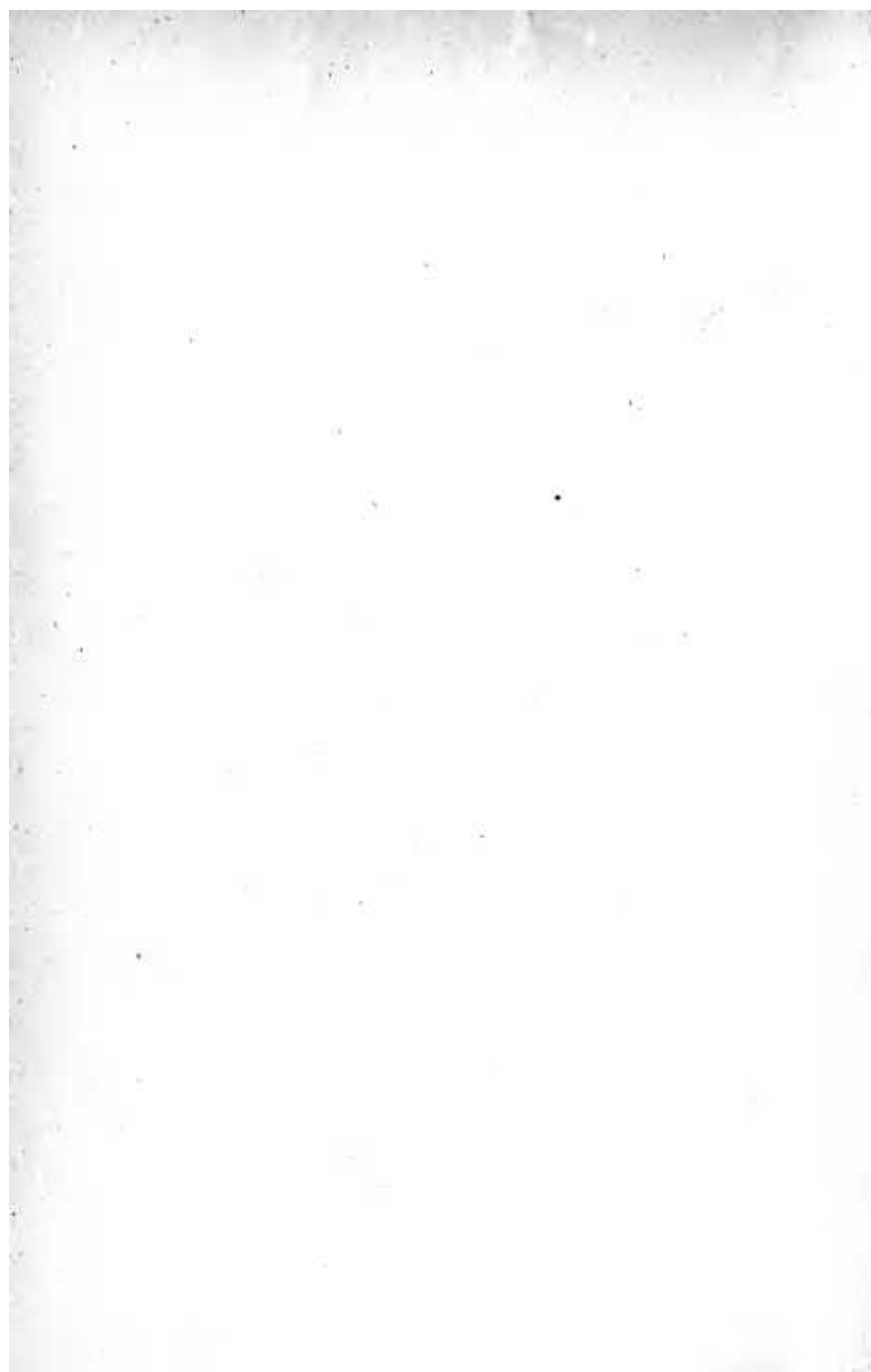
AND

TO ALL OTHER ENGLISHMEN AND WOMEN,
WHO, WHILE DISSENTING FROM THE PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF THE
NATIONAL FAITH AS EMBODIED IN THE
NATIONAL CHURCH,
ARE YET UNWILLING THAT ENGLAND SHALL, AS A NATION,
ABANDON THE MOST SACRED OF ALL THE MISSIONS
ENTRUSTED TO HER,

This Book is Dedicated,

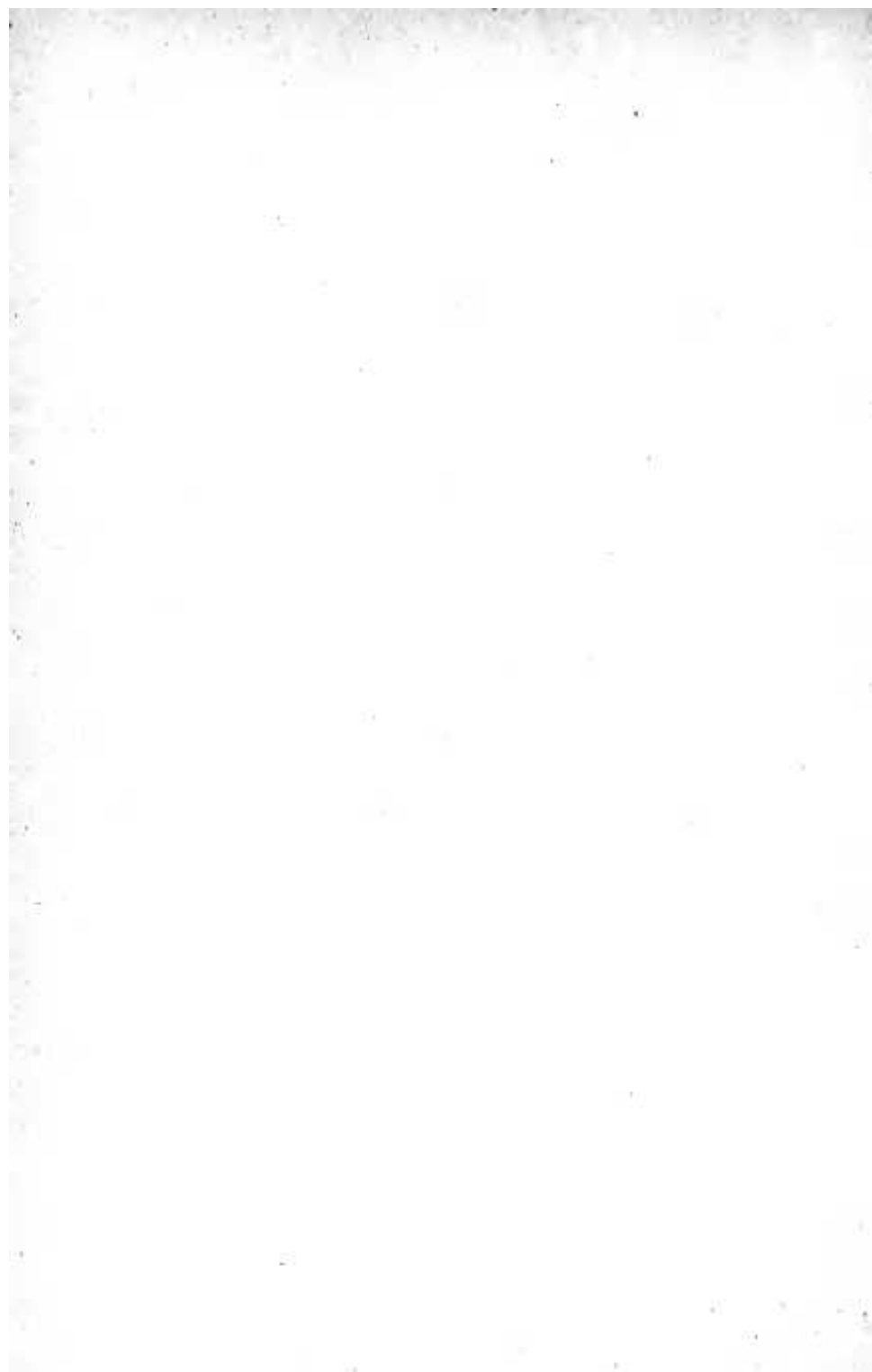
IN ALL GOODWILL AND MUCH SYMPATHY BY

THE AUTHOR.



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THE OLD CHURCH:

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH IT?

I.

HOW THE QUESTION STANDS.

WHAT shall be done with the Old Church? Any one who cares has no time to lose in making up his mind what he wants, and doing what he can to get it. For some answer will have to be given in the next Parliament to this question. True, many public men have been telling us of late that it does not press; that it is one for our children; that at any rate it is not to be made a test question at the next election. They should change their mood into the optative. What they really mean is, that they hope it won't be made a test; that whips, or influential persons of one kind or another, will be able to pull some other wire than this at the last moment, so that quiet folk may worry through with a silent bow to the established authorities over the right shoulder, and an aside to the Liberationists over the left—"that no one in his senses would think of establishing religion, or any-