

Dictated.

66, Gloucester Place, W.  
LONDON,  
ENGLAND.  
December 9.1904.

Dear Nat,

I have read your little book on the Articles with great interest and I have also sent a copy to a friend whose judgment I value and who has a good deal of knowledge of the publishing world. It is a curious thing that I have had in contemplation for some time the publication of a small Manual on the Articles, especially in view of the able and clever Manual from the extreme Anglican side which is found in that small but competent and very cheap series, the "Oxford Church Text Books". The idea of such an Evangelical Church Manual was put forth in connection with a proposed Evangelical series to meet ~~the~~ this extreme Ritualistic series now mentioned.

I am not at present sure that the proposal will come to anything but if it does it seems to me that your Manual, with certain alterations which I will presently specify, would do very well as one of the volumes. Let me now proceed to make some suggestions which are the result of my friend's and my own consideration of the whole matter.

1. The weak point of your book, judged from the standpoint of our needs over here, is the entire absence of history. I quite understand why this has been omitted, as you refer to the fact in your preface, but if the book were published over here it certainly ought to have a brief sketch of the history of the Articles in the light of similar Reformation documents, and also due consideration should be given to the history of particular points as they arise in each Article.

2. This would involve an entire resetting of the material and not a mere re-issue in England from the Australian plates of the present book.

3. In this connection I would also venture to suggest that the text of the Article should not be printed in black-faced type as at present, but rather in smaller type brought in. The present appearance of the pages is not as attractive as it might be.

I like the book very much from its own point of view. It is clear, convincing, and very helpful, and I am sure it must do good service to the cause of truth. I am sorry to say that Nisbet's handbooks proved a great failure owing to the want of due thought and enterprise on the part of the firm. They published the books at the ridiculous price of 2/-, and as I told them at the outset they were foredoomed to failure.

I do not think that there would be very much likelihood of your book being published in England in its present form with any real chance of a successful circulation. I could doubtless get a publisher to take it, but it would either be a publisher whose name would not carry too much weight, or else if it were an important publisher he would want his money down. If the proposed series of Evangelical Text books ever sees the light, and I very much hope it will, your book revised and added to as now suggested would exactly fit in to the



series, and I personally would be glad to feel free to give myself to other work even though I have a good deal of material ready for such a handbook.

I am afraid all this is not very definite and satisfying, but it is really the best that I can suggest at present. Perhaps you will think over the question of revising your book and providing the necessary historical matter, and we can then consider the matter afresh in the light of your new work.

In the course of another month I hope to have ready a Manual of Instruction entitled "The Catholic Faith". I will send you a copy and if you think well of it and can do anything to get it circulated in Australia I shall be very glad to make arrangements with you about it. The idea of it is to provide a positive guide to the true Church position, though ~~in~~ the ~~Third Part~~ of the book there are discussions of various points now in controversy between us and Ritualists and between us and Nonconformists. However, you will see for yourself what it is. I shall also be sending you a little handbook on the Holy Communion which is the expansion of my theses for the B.D., also a book of Outline Bible Readings on the Life and Epistles of St. Peter. Perhaps these may be found useful to your students.

Dear old Canon Christopher will be resigning next June. Although pretty vigorous still at 84½ the time has certainly come for a change. He proposes to remain in Oxford in rooms or in a small house and carry on his C.M.S. and Bible Society work.

I hope you and yours continue well. I have not been to Oswestry for several years though Redfern has asked me on two or three different occasions to go down and preach. It is very difficult for me to get away from home for a Sunday.

I rejoiced to learn that you were no longer a "pop-gun" but a real live Canon. God greatly prosper you in all your work out there. I read the Australian letters in the "Church Times" with interest and amusement. According to that gentleman the Sydney Church people from the Archbishop downwards are a sorry lot.

With brotherly love,

Ever your affectionate friend,

W H Griffith Thomas