



The Venerable T. C. Hammond, M.A., Th.D.

# Thomas Chatterton Hammond, M.A., Th.D.

Thomas Chatterton Hammond was born in Cork on 20th February, 1877. His father died when he was only five years old and he left school to begin work at the age of fourteen. He was converted in his boyhood and was deeply conscious of a call to the Christian Ministry. As soon as circumstances permitted, he enrolled at Trinity College, Dublin. An academic career of great distinction lay before him, and when he graduated, he was awarded a gold medal in Philosophy.

He was ordained in 1903 and served the Church of St. Kevin, Dublin, for nearly seventeen years. In 1919 he joined the Irish Church Missions and served this Society for another seventeen years. These were indeed years of strenuous activity. He carried on his ministry in the heart of Dublin throughout the Black and Tan Revolt, and sometimes found himself running the gauntlet of cross-fire from Sinn Fein rebels and British soldiers alike. He preached and wrote incessantly in the cause of Irish Protestants; he trained and sent out teams of Evangelists to country fairs and village markets; he fought lawsuits in the Courts to establish individual rights and freedom. He received nearly 500 Roman Catholic converts, including 25 Priests, into the Church of Ireland. He made himself a master of the Roman controversy, and by his gifts of scholarship and oratory, and above all as a man of warm human feeling, he won a new prestige for the Irish Church Missions in the eyes of Church and Country alike. Every Bishop in the Church of Ireland subscribed to present him with a magnificent piece of plate in recognition of his outstanding ministry when the time came to leave the Emerald Isle for Australia.

In 1935 in the Episcopate of the late Archbishop H. W. K. Mowll, he was appointed Principal of Moore Theological College, Newtown, Sydney, and Rector of St. Philip's, Church Hill. He arrived in Sydney in 1936 and devoted twenty-five years to the Church in Australia. He resigned from Moore College in 1953, but was still in office as Rector of St. Philip's at the close of his life.

He took his place from the outset in the forefront of Diocesan work, and he played a leading role in the negotiations which have culminated in the new Constitution for the Church of England in Australia. By his interstate travel and his interdenominational ministry, he touched a constantly widening circle of men. He was in constant demand as a



speaker at Conventions and Bible Study meetings. He proved a tower of strength to Christian students at the University who were faced with a materialistic and atheistic philosophy. By his lectures, pamphlets, sermons and broadcasts, and his willingness to accept invitations, he gave himself freely and fully to serve his own generation to the glory of God.

Archdeacon Hammond's great work was in Moore Theological College. When he came in 1936, there were only thirteen students; the College buildings were in disrepair; there was a debt of £6,000; he had only one junior Resident Tutor as an assistant. The late Archbishop Mowll and Archdeacon Hammond set out to retrieve this situation and to build up a strong College for the future. Students were trained for Matriculation as the standard of admission to the College; the curriculum in Theology had been lengthened from two to three years, and the Licentiate of Theology of the Australian College of Theology had become the normal standard for men seeking ordination. Three new wings were opened during his term of office, giving the College fifty-four new studies, two Tutors' flats and two common rooms; a new chapel, the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Cash, was built and consecrated; the staff doubled in strength; and the student enrolment increased with the years.

Upwards of two hundred students were ordained in his period of service, representing almost one-third of the total number of more than seven hundred ordinands trained at the College since its inception. Fifty students had obtained University degrees, two had taken doctorates, and one had been raised to the Episcopate.

Thomas Chatterton Hammond's unrivalled scholarship as a theologian and his powers as an original thinker were invaluable assets. He wrote works of major significance as well as more ephemeral volumes; at least ten such books were published in these years. His handbook on Christian Doctrine, "In Understanding Be Men" was widely used in Bible Colleges, Theological Colleges, and by Christian students in Universities to increase their knowledge and strengthen their faith. He contributed without ceasing to the Church Press.

He was a man of massive intellect, and a capacity to understand the problems of everyday life; he was ever ready to listen sympathetically to the problems of any individual; he had a broad sense of humour, and a strong love for humanity; he was, indeed, a great man whose like we may not see again.

# THE T. C. HAMMOND MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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A good library, adequately and safely housed, and readily accessible for use, is essential to the work of a theological college. It is a centre around which students can work and from which the lecturers can lead them on to further knowledge. Moore College is fortunate in inheriting from the early days of its foundation a valuable collection of theological books which it would be difficult to replace to-day. The library is one of the most interesting libraries in Australia because of the historical association of many of the books which form it. It has in recent years received some notable acquisitions by way of gift, such as the gift of the library of the late Archdeacon T. C. Hammond, which the College received through the generosity of Mrs. Hammond. Nevertheless the library has suffered from two grave difficulties: it has been most inadequately housed and to a large extent inaccessible, and it also has some large gaps amongst the books that should be on its shelves. In recent months considerable progress has been made towards making the library more accessible, but a large part still remains uncatalogued and difficult of access. Its pressing need is for a modern fireproof building in which all the books can be housed so that they are readily available for use.

The Committee of Moore College has decided to establish the T. C. Hammond Memorial Library Fund. It is planned to erect in due course a building to be known as "The T. C. Hammond Memorial Library" to house the College library; and to purchase equipment and furnishings.

The Committee believes that there are many who would like the opportunity of paying a fitting tribute to a great Christian and Churchman, and invites such to share in this Memorial Appeal.

Enquiries and donations to the Fund may be made to the Rev. R. H. Palmer, Diocesan Church House, George Street, Sydney, Australia, or to Rev. Dr. P. E. Hughes, c/o The Churchman, 41 Kensington Square, London, W.8.