Turning Points Of General Church History

Cutts Edward Lewes
Title: Turning Points Of General Church History

Author: Cutts Edward Lewes

This is an exact replica of a book. The book reprint was manually improved by a team of professionals, as opposed to automatic/OCR processes used by some companies. However, the book may still have imperfections such as missing pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were a part of the original text. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections which can not be improved, and hope you will enjoy reading this book.
TURNING POINTS
OF
GENERAL CHURCH HISTORY.

BY THE

REV. EDWARD L. CUTTS, B.A.,
Hon. D.D. University of the South, U.S.A.,
Author of "Turning Points of English Church History";
"Constantine"; "Charlemagne"; "St. Jerome"; "St. Augustine";
"Some Chief Truths of Religion"; "Pastoral Counsels"; &c.

NINTH THOUSAND.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE TRACT COMMITTEE.

LONDON:
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, CHARING CROSS, W.C.;
97, WESTBOURNE GROVE, W.; 43, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.
BRIGHTON: 135, NORTH STREET.
NEW YORK: E. & J. B. YOUNG & CO.

1890.
PREFACE.

This is an attempt to give, within the limits of a small book, some adequate idea of the history of the Church of Christ to the thousands of intelligent Church-people who have little previous acquaintance with the subject. The special features of the plan are these:—Pains have been taken to show what the Church is—viz., the Body of Christ informed by the Holy Spirit; the salient points of the history have been selected with a special view to our present ecclesiastical condition; instead of referring the reader to other books, to which he may not have ready access, for that sketch of secular history which is indispensable to an intelligent grasp of Church history, such a sketch is included.
CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

THE WORLD PREPARED FOR THE CHURCH.

The three great races—Greek, Jewish, Roman; Greek philosophy—Epicureanism, Stoicism, Platonism, Eclecticism; Greek philosophy widely spread by the conquests of Alexander; The diffusion of the Jews—they bear witness to the unity of God and the promise of a Saviour; The Roman empire throws down the barriers which divided the nations, and prepares the world for the planting of the Church .............................................. .................

CHAPTER II.

THE CHURCH IN THE GOSPELS.

The Church called in the Gospels the kingdom of heaven or of God; This kingdom foretold in prophecy and type; The Magi came to worship the king; The charge on which He was put to death was that He claimed to be a king; John Baptist proclaimed the kingdom at hand; The parables of the kingdom; Christ anointed King—begins to call His subjects—lays the foundation of His ministry; On the confession of His divinity by the apostles, He foretells the foundation of His Church; The last parable illustrates the profoundest truth concerning the Church—its incorporation with Christ; During the forty days He is speaking to the apostles of the things pertaining to the kingdom; The ideal of this kingdom......

CHAPTER III.

THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH.

The beginning of the Church on the day of Pentecost; Its spread among Jews, Samaritans, Proselytes, Gentiles; Antioch the centre of missions to the Gentiles; The Church founded in Asia Minor
CONTENTS.

Greece; St. Paul visits Rome; Internal history of individual churches in St. Paul's epistles; The Seven Churches of Asia; The principles of Church organisation found in the New Testament; A visible organisation; The Sacraments—Baptism, the Eucharist; The unity of the Church hinged on the ministry; A general council the centre of unity; A spiritual kingdom; The threefold ministry—apostles, deacons, elders; The three orders permanent; The apostles succeeded in their office by bishops; A bird's-eye view of the Apostolic Church ...................................................... 13

CHAPTER IV

SKETCH OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO THE CONVERSION OF CONSTANTINE.

The Roman conquests; Transfer of power from the senate to the emperor; Julius Caesar (B.C. 46); Augustus (B.C. 27)—Christ born; Tiberius (A.D. 14)—Christ crucified; Caligula (37); Claudius (41); Nero (54)—St. Paul visits Rome—persecution of Christians at Rome; Galba (68); Otho (69); Vitellius (69); Vespasian (69)—the Judean war—destruction of the Temple; Titus (79); Domitian (81)—Christians persecuted; Nerva (96); Trajan (98)—St. John still living—Pliny's letter—martyrdom of Polycarp; Hadrian (117)—rebuilt Jerusalem; Antoninus (138); Marcus Aurelius (161)—the first persecution by order of the emperor; Commodus (180); Pertinax (193); Julius Didianus (193); Septimius Severus (193); Caracalla and Geta (211)—Roman citizenship extended to the whole empire; Macrinus (217); Elagabalus (218), Priest of the Sun; Alexander Severus (222)—favoured Christianity; Maximin (235); The Gordians (238); Philip the Arabian (244); Decius (249)—general persecution ordered by the emperor; Gallus (251); Æmilianus (253); Valerian (253)—a reign of calamities; Gallienus (260); Claudius Gothicus (268); Aurelian (270); Probus (276); Carus (282); Carinus and Numerian (283); Diocletian reorganises the government—associates with himself Maximian as emperor, and then Galerius and Constantius as Caesars; Galerius and Constantius (305)—discord and civil wars for eighteen years; Constantine the Great becomes emperor (306), with Licinius and Maximin as associates in the empire; Constantine sole emperor (323).............................................................. 34

CHAPTER V.

NERO'S PERSECUTION OF THE CHRISTIANS AT ROME.

Great fire at Rome; Nero suspected—diverts public suspicion upon the Christians; Causes which led to the popular odium ............. 53
CHAPTER VI.

PLINY’S LETTER TO TRAJAN.

The prevalence of the Church in Pontus and Bithynia; Its persecution by Pliny the Pro-Consul; Trajan’s rescript; The martyrdom of Ignatius; Trajan’s journey through Antioch; The people clamour for the death of the bishop—his examination before the emperor—condemned to the wild beasts at Rome—his journey to Rome—his letters................................................................. 53

CHAPTER VII.

THE RESCRPT OF HADRIAN AND MARTYRDOM OF POLYCARP.

Persecution during the first centuries partial and occasional; Examples; Letter of the Pro-Consul of Asia to the emperor as to the treatment of Christians; Hadrian’s reply; Apologies of Quadratus and Aristides; Hadrian’s account of religion in Egypt; Marcus Aurelius; Spread of philosophy; Decay of ancient Roman religion; Public calamities—attributed to anger of the gods; The emperor orders revival of ancient worship, and issues persecuting edicts against the Christians; Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, accused and tried by the Prefect—condemned to be burnt—his prayer at his death........... 65

CHAPTER VIII.

THE MERCHANTMAN SEEKING GOODLY PEARLS.

Contemporary sketch of the growth of Christianity in the Recognitions of Clement; Actual example in the case of Justin Martyr.............. 74

CHAPTER IX.

THE MARTYRS OF VIENNE.

The Church in Gaul—Lyons and Vienne; Outburst of popular rage against Christians; The story of their sufferings and death.............. 85

CHAPTER X

THE CHURCHES OF EGYPT AND AFRICA.

Severus favoured Christianity till towards the close of his reign, when persecution happened in Egypt and Africa; Account of the Church
of Alexandria—that city a famous school of philosophy; Neo-Platonism; The Catechetical school; Clement; The persecution; Origen; Church of Pro-Consular Africa derived from Rome—flourishing in the second century; Tertullian; His Apology

CHAPTER XI.
The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicitas.
Continuation of Severus’ persecution in Africa; The story of the sufferings and death of Perpetua and Felicitas

CHAPTER XII.
Progress of the Church—Martyrdom of Cyprian
Close of Severus’ persecution; Alexander Severus favours Christianity; Churches built; Bishops at the imperial court; Decius aims at a restoration of the ancient Roman religion and manners—endeavours to extirpate Christianity; A general and severe persecution; The Libellatici and Lapsi; Valerian issues an edict for the destruction of the churches and persecution of the bishops; Cyprian—Bishop of Carthage; The plague of Carthage; The bishop arrested under the Valerian edict—his trial by the Pro-Consul—execution

CHAPTER XIII.
The Diocletian Persecution—the Conversion of Constantine.
The Church has peace, and prospers in the early part of Diocletian’s reign; In 202 and 203 a series of persecuting edicts issued, and put into force throughout the empire; Constantius discountenances cruelty in his provinces; After two years persecution relaxes in the West—continues in the East; In 311 Galerius, on his death bed, issues edict of toleration; Christians rebuild their churches, and freely exercise their religion; Maximin continues to harass Christians in his dominions, and revives the pagan worship; The rivalry between the emperors assumes a religious character; Constantine is the hope of Christianity—his rivals seek to conciliate the old heathen party; A.D. 323 Constantine sole emperor, and Christianity triumphs with him; Issues edict of general toleration, inviting his subjects to embrace Christianity; Embraces Christianity; Builds churches; Founds a new capital on the Bosphorus; The empress-mother, Helena, not a British princess—a zealous Christian—took special interest in the holy places of Judea and in relics of saints.
CHAPTER XIV.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRIMITIVE CHURCH.

Three theories of Church constitution—the Congregational, Presbyterian, Episcopalian; The Congregational argument examined; The Presbyterian argument examined; Evidence that Episcopacy was the permanent constitution of the Church contemplated and initiated by the apostles; Evidence that Episcopacy was universal in the primitive Church, from Ignatius, Irenæus, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Cyprian, Firmilian, Eusebius; All bishops equal; Organised into provinces with metropolitan; Patriarchs; Rights of bishops, metropolitan, patriarchs; This constitution recognised by the whole Church represented in the Council of Nicaea ...................... 115

CHAPTER XV.

RELATIONS OF CHURCH AND STATE.

The emperor sole legislator and governor, as a Christian bound to legislate and govern on Christian principles, and to promote the spread of the Gospel among his subjects; The Church welcomed his support without any formal concordat; Provinces of secular and spiritual power very early distinguished................................. 127

CHAPTER XVI.

THE CHURCH BUILDINGS—THE CATACOMBS.

The first places of public worship were in the houses of converts; The upper room of Jerusalem; Other examples; The first Church in the house of Pudens; Churches built earlier than is popularly supposed; Existing churches of early date in Africa and Syria; The basilicas at Rome which Constantine gave for churches; The churches built in the time of Constantine and subsequently; Exterior of churches plain, interior adorned with marbles, sculpture, mosaics, &c., and costly furniture; Eusebius' description of the new church at Tyre ................................................................. 130

CHAPTER XVII.

THE WORSHIP OF THE PRIMITIVE CHURCH.

Justin Martyr's sketch of Church worship, A.D. 140. The ancient Liturgies traced up to the age immediately succeeding the apostles;
CONTENTS.

Probably represent an unwritten apostolic Liturgy; Primitive vestments of the clergy; Tunic and pallium; Sketch of a primitive church, its congregation and service ........................................... 140

CHAPTER XVIII.

EARLY HERESIES AND SCHISMS.

The early heresies the result of an eclectic combination of Christianity with the Oriental and Greek philosophies—Gnosticism, Manicheism, Neo-Platonism; Early schisms—Montanism, Novatianism, Donatism 147

CHAPTER XIX.

SKETCH OF THE EMPIRE FROM THE DEATH OF CONSTANTINE TO THAT OF THEodosius.

Division of the empire among the sons of Constantine (A.D. 337); Constantine II. makes war against Constans—is defeated and slain; Constans slain by the usurper Maxentius; Maxentius defeated, dies, and Constantius is sole emperor; His character feeble; An Arian; Makes Gallus Caesar—executes him; Appoints Julian to be Caesar; Constantius dies (A.D. 361), and Julian succeeds—his character and reign—tries to restore the ancient heathenism—tries to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem; Jovian (A.D. 363); Valentinian and Valens (A.D. 364); Persecution of the Pagans in Rome; Election of Damascus Bishop of Rome; Gratian (A.D. 375); Defeat of Valens by the Goths at Hadrianople; Theodosius raised to the purple (A.D. 379); Triumph of the Church ........................................... 156

CHAPTER XX.

THE ARIAN CONTROVERSY.

Arius—his heresy—condemned by his bishop—excommunicated—his heresy spreads; Constantine summons the first general council at Nicea, A.D. 325; The Nicene Fathers declare the ancient faith; Ariusism condemned; Ariusism continues to spread—favoured by the court; On the death of Constantine I. Constantius sustains Ariusism with all the power of the State; The Catholics persecuted; Ariusism predominant; Constantius succeeds to the empire of the West and tries to force Ariusism upon it also; Council of Milan adopts an Arian Creed; Hosius and Liberius refuse it—are exiled—succeed; Council of Rimini adopts an Arian Creed; Constantius dies; The Catholic bishops return from exile ........................................... 162
CHAPTER XXI.

THE TRIUMPH OF THE CHURCH.

Theodosius (A.D. 380) issues edict declaring it the will of the emperors that their subjects should embrace the Catholic faith; Visits Constantinople—ejects the Arian bishops and clergy and replaces the Catholics; Arianism gradually withers (A.D. 391); Edict forbidding pagan sacrifices; Destruction of temples—of Serapis at Alexandria; Ancient religion still predominant in Rome; The heathen party petition the emperor for toleration—refused; Pagan worship occasionally performed in secret, but slowly dies out, leaving superstitious notions as its legacy.......................... 170

CHAPTER XXII.

THE EXTENSION OF THE CHURCH OUTSIDE THE EMPIRE.

Armenia the first Christian kingdom; Gregory the Illuminator its apostle; Christianity adopted as the national religion; Armed resistance put down by force; Subsequent history of the Armenian Church; Conversion of the Goths; Ulphilas introduces the Arian heresy from the Eastern Church among the Goths; Foundation of the Abyssinian Church; Frumentius consecrated bishop by Athanasius; Conversion of the Georgians—receive hierarchy from Constantinople—subsequent history ........................................ 175

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH.

The majority of the Great Fathers, both Greek and Latin, flourished within a brief period (A.D. 330—461); Their various origin and character—their work; Athanasius—his character—before the Council of Tyre—excommunicated and deposed by the council—he appeals to the emperor—is banished to Trèves—on the death of Constantine returns to his see—Council of Antioch condemns him; Gregory of Cappadocia intruded into his see; Treatment of the Catholics; Athanasius retires to Rome; Constantius replaces him in his see; The Council of Milan condemns him; the prefect surrounds his church with troops, but Athanasius escapes; George of Cappadocia intruded into his see; Treatment of the Catholics; Death of Constantius; George murdered; Athanasius resumes his see; Julian excepts Athanasius from the amnesty—he takes refuge among the monks of the desert; Jovian invites his return—edict of Valens—takes refuge in the tomb of his family—returns and dies
CONTENTS.

in his see ; Chrysostom—birth and education—asceticism—ordained—appointed preacher at Antioch—the sermons on the statues—appointed Bishop of Constantinople—unpopular—the court hostile to him—the Synod of the Oak—he is banished—brought back—banished again to Cucusus—to Petyus—dies ; Ambrose—Prefect of Liguria—elected Bishop of Milan—his influence with Gratian—opposed by Eudoxia—goes as ambassador to Maximinus ; The massacre at Thessalonica ; Ambrose prohibits the emperor's entry into church till he has given evidence of repentance ........ 179

CHAPTER XXIV.

MONASTICISM.

Antony (born A.D. 251) the Father of the Hermits—sells all and follows Christ—takes up his abode in a tomb ; In a ruined castle near the Red Sea—disciples people the desert—visits Alexandria during the persecution of Maximin—returns to desert—revisits Alexandria during the Arian disturbances—dies 105 years old ; Pachomius draws up a monastic rule of life ; Community life ; Solitaries and cenobites in hills of the Nile valley ; Ammon founds communities in Nitria, Macarius in Scetis ; Monk-town of Tebenn ; Hilarion introduces monasticism into Syria—a disciple of Antony—builds a cell near Gaza—disciples multiply ; St. Sabas visits the Egyptian desert—sails to Sicily—dies there ; St. Basil (born A.D. 329) introduces monkish life into Asia Minor—birth and education—ascetic life—draws up a monastic rule—returns to Cæsarea—ordained—appointed bishop ; Jerome—birth and education—visits Rome—the East—adopts hermit life—his praise of solitude—returns to Antioch—goes to the synod at Rome, A.D. 381—appointed secretary to the synod—secretary to the Pope, Damasus ; Roman ladies adopt the ascetic life ; On the Pope's death Jerome retires to Bethlehem—Paula and Eustochium also—they found monasteries there—description of their life there ; Jerome's literary labours—the Vulgate, &c. ; St. Martin of Tours, a soldier, turns hermit—evangelises Gaul—introduces monastic life into Gaul .......................... 195

CHAPTER XXV.

THE DISRUPTION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND CONVERSION OF THE BARBARIANS.

Permanent division of the empire into East and West—its causes ; Slavery ; The revolt of Alaric, A.D. 395—he ravages Greece and Italy—is defeated by Stilicho ; Rhagasis invades the empire ; Defence of Florence ; Stilicho starves the barbarians into surrender ; Alaric takes and sacks Rome, A.D. 410—spares the people and the