

THE OXFORD COUNTER-REFORMATION.¹

[GOOD WORDS. 1881.]

LETTER I.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIFTY YEARS AGO.

MY DEAR ——. You remind me of a promise which I have left too long unfulfilled. We had been looking over some of your old family papers, and we had found among them a copy of the once famous Tract 90, scored over with pencil marks and interjections. The rocket which had flamed across the sky was now a burnt-out case. It was hard to believe that the whole mind of England could have been so agitated by expressions and ideas which had since become so familiar. We were made to feel how times had changed in the last forty years; we had been travelling on a spiritual railroad,

¹ These letters were originally published before the appearance of Mr. Mozley's *Reminiscences of* the Oxford Movement. I have not found it necessary to make any alterations.