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Bro. PROFESSOR KENNETH JOHN CABLE, AM, MA.

Born in Sydney, the young Kenneth Cable demonstrated extraordinary intellectual talents both at high school and university. He was dux of Sydney Boys High School and graduated with first class honours at the University Medal in History from Sydney University in 1950. He then completed an MA in history, writing a thesis on the role of the Anglican Church in colonial New South Wales.

While a post-graduate student he was appointed as a temporary lecturer in history, a position he resigned to take up a travelling scholarship at Cambridge. At King's College he enrolled for Part II of the Historical Tripos, graduating with a First. He then enrolled for a PhD at King's, researching the history of colonial universities of the British Empire.

He came back to a lectureship at the NSW University of Technology (now the University of NSW) but John Ward, the head of the history department at the University of Sydney, soon recruited him "home".

Perhaps what made Cable more comfortable at Sydney University was not only the fact its administration was more congenial towards humanities subjects, but that he also joined a generation of colleagues educated at Sydney. The history department at Sydney made few attempts to recruit from other Australian universities, or, for that matter to engage in intellectual dialogue with them. Rather it sought to ally itself with the universities at Oxford, Cambridge and London.

Cable was a complex character. He was extraordinarily knowledgeable about a huge range of historical subjects extending across Europe, Australia and into north Asia. His mastery of the history of cricket and its statistics was well known and spoken of with awe both within and without academic circles. He liked to display his learning, too, and had a tendency to lecture students and colleagues.

Yet at the same time his character was marked by shyness.

In 1961 Cable seems to have suffered some form of breakdown, one that tempered his self-confidence and perhaps deepened his shyness. Perhaps it also had an impact on his scholarship. From the time he returned to Australia, Cable had published regularly. He had contributed articles on Australian religious history to the *Journal of Religious History* and the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*. He had also begun a series of immaculately researched and wittily written pieces on Australian Anglicans for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

But he never managed to complete and publish a sole-authored, sustained book-length piece of historical research. The Cambridge PhD remained incomplete. He set out to write a history of the Church of England in Australia and by 1967 the first volume was complete. But this project was abandoned in favour of a biographical

