“THE KING OF KINGS”
THE LATE CHAS. E. BUTLER’S REVELATION

This divinely inspired work is intended to convey the idea that Kings and Rulers of all times are seen acknowledging the sovereignty of Christ. This wonderful work was commenced in 1912 and completed in 3 years, it then appeared the following year in the Royal Academy. There are 156 actual portraits of past monarchs and rulers in the picture, but no living monarch is included.

The outstanding feature is, that whilst the artist was, by profession, a portrait painter, his hobby was the Church organ, he having been an organist and choirmaster in a London Church for nearly half a century, up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1939. So with that knowledge, we are better able to appreciate the fact that when painting this work no model was used by him for the Central Figure, which is acknowledged to be, not only wonderful, but very beautiful. Observe the halo, so radiant, and so realistic, as to cause enquiries during our travels, as to whether a light is used behind; quite reasonable to imagine, but there is nothing shining there, not only no light but no luminous paint used, but simply the outcome of a Divine inspiration. Again observe the robe, its purity and transparency and the light seen coming from within, The Light of the World, shedding its rays over these monarchs, who are seen doing homage and offering their crown, and acknowledging our Lord to be “The King of Kings.”

Those who served our Lord best on earth are represented in attitudes of adoration, some kneeling before Him, others offering their crowns, and the figure kicking the hand of Christ is that of St. Edward the Confessor.

There are still others, particularly Napoleon, Barbarossa and Nero, who are standing aloof and who seem to give the impression of disputing the sovereignty of Christ.

Behind the Cross, and in terror of it is Lucifer, the Prince of Darkness, forming a sharp contrast to the figure of Our Lord, the dark wings serving as a background to the head of the “King of Kings.”

The white robe representing the power of the Spirit upon Him.

Now when Christ enters any human heart, He bears with Him a two-fold light; first, the light of conscience, which displays part sin, and afterwards the light of peace, the hope of salvation.

The light which proceeds from the head of the figure, is that of the hope of salvation; which shows the most exquisite mystery of colour; becoming reality at its true distance, and giving it mysterious value and lustre.