

**BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR
OF THE HON. HENRY
EDWARD DORMER, LATE
OF THE 60TH RIFLES**

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Biographical Memoir of the Hon. Henry Edward Dormer, Late of the 60th RIFLES by H. E. Dormer

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H. E. DORMER

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R. I. P.



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A FEW copies of the following little Memoir were printed soon after the decease of its lamented subject, for private distribution among friends. It is now published, with a few additions, in compliance with the wishes of several persons who believed it calculated to edify general readers, and to encourage many souls surrounded by the difficulties and hindrances of social position to enter on the practices of an earnest Christian life. It will, of course, be understood that the word *Saint*, which occurs in some of the letters and

notices quoted in the Memoir, has been retained only as expressing the high esteem felt for the departed by all among whom his last days had been spent ; and the same explanation will apply to the allusion to other marks of respect evinced by the poor, by whom he was so much beloved.

BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR.

THE Honourable HENRY EDWARD DORMER, youngest son of Joseph Thaddeus, eleventh Baron Dormer, and of his wife, Eliza Anne Tichborne, daughter of Sir Henry Joseph Tichborne, Bart., was born at Grove Park, in the county of Warwick, November 29th, 1844. His early school-days were passed at St. Mary's College, Oscott, where he made his first Communion, and where he remained till his twelfth year, when being obliged to leave in consequence of severe illness, he joined his family, and continued his education under private tutors in Belgium and Germany, at Grove Park, and London, until the year 1861, when he returned for a second time to Oscott. At a later period

of his life he expressed his sense of gratitude for the blessing of having passed so long a period of his youth in his own family, which strengthened domestic ties, and introduced him into society under restraints which would not otherwise have been felt, and where at the same time he had the happiness of being under the same roof with the Blessed Sacrament.* He had a great taste for study, and much musical talent, and was fond of natural history, and other kindred pursuits. In his boyhood he was considered high-spirited, but always charitable and warm-hearted, and disposed to be religious. His early inclinations pointed to the sea, but he finally decided on studying for the army, and on leaving Oscott in 1862, he prepared for the necessary examination under a tutor in London.

* MS. Notes.

The impression left on the minds of his superiors by their intercourse with him at Oscott, was that his real vocation was for the priesthood. He did not appear to be in any way conscious of this, and his humble judgment of himself, joined to a very strong sense of the responsibility of the priestly office, probably prevented him from entertaining such a thought. Nevertheless, the secret bias of his soul was very clearly manifested on the occasion of his sister embracing the religious state in the Convent of St. Dominic, at Stone; an event, which far from causing him any regrets, elicited from him repeated expressions of pleasure and sympathy, indicating how thoroughly he appreciated the privilege and happiness of a religious vocation. By this event also, he was brought into closer relations with the Dominican order, which was afterwards to

exercise so important an influence over his life. His first acquaintance with that order, and one which, as he writes, "laid in his heart a foundation of love for it,"* must be dated from the Retreat which was given at Oscott in the summer of 1862, by the Rev. Father Rodolph Suffield, O. S. D. It was renewed and strengthened by his visits to the convent, and the regular correspondence which he maintained with his sister up to the time of his death.

On the 17th November, 1863, he was gazetted to a commission in the 60th Regiment (Rifles), and a little later joined the Depôt at Winchester. During the period that elapsed before his departure for Canada, he more than once visited Ireland, and entered heartily into the amusements of the society among which he was thrown. In fact, whatever may

* MS. Notes.