

**THE LIFE OF DENIS M.
BRADLEY FIRST BISHOP
OF MANCHESTER**

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The life of Denis M. Bradley first bishop of Manchester by M. H. D.

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*Dennis M. Bradley
Bishop of Manchester*

The Life of
Denis M. Bradley

First Bishop of Manchester

By

M. H. D.

*A. W. Simard
8 Nov.
1905*



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PREFACE.

At the time of the death of Bishop Bradley, it was my intention to write his biography. All my priestly life had been spent in his service; six years had been passed in his household as his secretary and chancellor. Few had the opportunity of knowing him so well, and no one appreciated or loved him more than I. The work of gathering material for the "Life" had begun, when it pleased the Holy See to name me his successor in office. The tasks his dying hands relaxed fell to me to take up again, and this left little time for the compiling of a biography, however congenial that work would be.

Fortunately, another was found to tell this life story, one who had had exceptional opportunities for knowing the subject, and who undertook the work in a spirit of grateful recognition to the bishop passed away. How successfully the work has been done, the reader must judge; but I feel that the presentation of such a book must accomplish two things. It will perpetuate the memory of one whom the world can ill afford to forget, especially that little portion of it, the diocese of Manchester, for which he lived and died. It will prove a source of edification and inspiration for the spiritual children he has left behind.

The biographies of many distinguished churchmen, and of holy men and women, often leave a disappointing impression upon us. They seem to portray im-

Bishop Bradley

possible personages by reason of the very perfections attributed to them. This does not mean that the story told is not true. No, the defect comes from a distorted view presented to us. One side of the character is developed and enlarged, while the rest remains entirely hidden or is barely touched upon, and the consequence is that we feel these great ones have little in common with us of ordinary mold. While we admire them, they fail to move us; while they edify us for the moment, they exert no lasting influence on our lives. They never awake in us the desire to emulate their example. Whatever the defects of this sketch, we feel such will not be found its fault. This life story of Bishop Bradley is told in simple, straightforward fashion. All sides are touched upon, lovingly and truthfully. Where it is possible, he himself is made to speak. The result portrays the well-rounded character of a man of God wherein nature is perfected by grace.

For more than twenty years he walked among us. The world looked upon him as a devoted priest of God, an able, zealous bishop of Holy Church. We knew him as a father and a friend. He shared all things with us save our weaknesses, and these he pitied, and remedied where he could. Such a life does not cease with the living. It goes on after death to be an inspiration to those who follow.

In the office of the breviary it is said of a great and holy pontiff, "*Admirabilia sunt quae dixit, fecit, scripsit, decrevit.*" So may we summarize the life of Bishop Bradley. Admirable, indeed, were the words

Bishop Bradley

he spoke, whether as preacher, counsellor, or friend; admirable the works he accomplished for God's greater glory and for the betterment of man; admirable the writings he has left us; admirable the wise and prudent decrees by which he established and governed the diocese committed to his care. But more admirable than all these were the holy life and death of the saintly first bishop of Manchester.

✠ JOHN B. DELANY,
Bishop of Manchester.

Feast of St. Rose of Lima,
August 30, 1905.