

**THE ANGLO-SAXON
EPISCOPATE OF CORNWALL:
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF
THE BISHOPS OF CREDITON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649055197

The Anglo-Saxon Episcopate of Cornwall: With Some Account of the Bishops of Crediton by E. H. Pedler

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

E. H. PEDLER

**THE ANGLO-SAXON
EPISCOPATE OF CORNWALL:
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF
THE BISHOPS OF CREDITON**

THE

Anglo-Saxon

EPISCOPATE OF CORNWALL.

THE

Anglo-Saxon

EPISCOPATE OF CORNWALL;

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE

BISHOPS OF CREDITON.

BY

E. H. PEDLER, Esq.

LONDON:

JOHN PETHERAM, 94, HIGH HOLBORN.

MDCCLVI.

Br 3804.5



Secret fund

LONDON:
F. PICKTON, PRINTER,
FERRY'S PLACE, 29, OXFORD STREET.

3349
49134
7

P R E F A C E.

THE following work was commenced with little expectation of its being submitted to the public, especially in its present form. The Cornish Episcopate did not appear to possess sufficient interest for a separate publication. It happened, however, whilst the subject was undergoing investigation, that a proposition was advanced, and seriously entertained, of reviving this ancient Bishoprick, which induced the Author to believe that some curiosity would naturally arise to ascertain what is known of the See, as it existed in remote times. In the hope of supplying this information, he completed the work, and has committed it to the press. He is not, however, without apprehension that, by detaching the subject from a more general view of the County History, during the cotemporaneous period, and by presenting it only as a mere *torso*, an imperfect fragment of an age long since passed away, he has incurred the risk of

weakening the evidences, and of rendering the arguments arising out of them, less convincing and conclusive than they would otherwise have appeared. He has only to add, that from a desire that the work should be easily intelligible to the general reader, he has thought it right to introduce translations as well as explanatory matter, which, for the purposes of the professed antiquary, would be deemed unnecessary and out of place.

LISKEARD, *31st July*, 1856.

INTRODUCTION.

THE existence of a Bishoprick of Cornwall is a fact of so ancient a date as to be little known, excepting to the student of antiquity. It belongs exclusively to the Anglo-Saxon times. We may remember that our Anglo-Saxon progenitors crossed the German Ocean and colonized this country in the fifth and sixth centuries of our era. The circumstances attending this event, although of the greatest interest to us as Englishmen, are very imperfectly known; and the little information we possess respecting them, is derived only through the untrustworthy channels of tradition. If we may believe the accounts transmitted to us, the colonists arrived in this island, in separate bodies, and at different periods of time, each band of adventurers having its own leader or chieftain, to whom, when they had settled down upon their newly acquired territories, they gave the title of "cyning," or king. It was thus that several independent principalities, or petty kingdoms, became established in the southern half of the island of Britain, and the destinies of the English nation may be said to have commenced.

The colonists who obtained the possession of the south-western districts of Britain, first located themselves on the part of the country which now nearly corresponds with the county of Southampton. They were designated by the name of "The Gewissi,"¹ and afterwards by that of "The West Saxons." Their colony was confined on the east and north by other settlements of their countrymen; but on the west there intervened no obstacle to a further extension of their territory but the despised and pusillanimous Briton. On this side, by slow but sure steps, and not without many conflicts with the natives, the West Saxons continually advanced their settlements, until they finally extended their dominion to the farthest extremity of the Cornish peninsula. It was also the good fortune or the merit of this state, to acquire an ascendancy over all the others, and, by fusing them together, to establish a single sovereignty over the whole of England.

At the time of their first arrival in the island, these German immigrants were rude and unpolished barbarians, ignorant alike of the arts of civilised life and of the truths of the Christian religion. In all these respects the inhabitants of Britain, whom they invaded and despoiled of their lands, enjoyed a striking superiority: an advantage which they had acquired from the teach-

¹ "Ge" is generally redundant in the Anglo-Saxon; "wisi" or "visi" is identical with "west." Thus the Ostrogothi and Visigothi are the Eastern and Western Goths.