

**LIFE OF BISHOP
BASS, OF
MASSACHUSETTS**

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Life of Bishop Bass, of Massachusetts by John N. Norton

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JOHN N. NORTON

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MASSACHUSETTS**

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LIFE
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BISHOP BASS,
OF
MASSACHUSETTS.

BY
JOHN N. NORTON,

RECTOR OF ABENESION CHURCH, FRANKFORD, KY.

AUTHOR OF "THE BOY WHO WAS TRAINED UP TO BE A CLERGYMAN;"
"SHORT SERMONS;" "LIFE OF BISHOP HERRIOT," ETC.

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"Bishop Bass was a good scholar, a sound divine, a true Christian, a practical and evangelical preacher, a conscientious pastor and Bishop; and one who showed himself to be the true man of God, by the habitual humility, meekness, and gentleness of his character, through many trials, amid constant tokens of honor, respect, and love, and under the high dignity of office."—*Chatham's Magazine*.  
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NEW YORK:
General Protestant Episcopal Sunday School Union
and Church Book Society,
762 BROADWAY.
1859.

TO

THE HON. EDWARD A. NEWTON,
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

MY DEAR SIR:

Various reasons suggest themselves why this volume should be dedicated to you.

One of your ancestors was among the founders of King's Chapel, Boston, and a vestryman, as early as 1699; you knew good Bishop Bass, and loved him; you are the oldest lay member of our General Convention now living; and your liberality to all objects pertaining to the Church is proverbial. And while, as a native American, your name is thus intimately associated with the Church in the New World, you are no stranger to our brethren of the same household of faith on the other side of the Atlantic. A resident of India, for more than twenty years, you enjoyed the friendship of Middleton and Heber, and, indeed, of Wilson, too, when he was a parish priest in England.

No layman in the United States has been so long and so devotedly engaged in aiding the cause of missions to the heathen as yourself.

For these reasons, my dear sir, I trust that you will not be offended that I have ventured to make this use of your honored name.

Very truly yours,

THE AUTHOR.

"There is no branch of literature which does more good or communicates more pleasure than Biography; for there is none that so completely appeals to the two passions which make literature popular—the love of knowledge and the love of amusement. The modern biographer, we fear, has many defects. He is almost invariably too long; he is deficient in perspective—in giving harmony to his proportions; he is negligent of reality, disinclined to conceive of past life as of something that once lived and breathed as surely and earnestly as anything we see now. But it must be admitted, after all that his task is a hard one."—*London Quarterly Review*.

"It is probably known to most of our readers that the great Genevan reformer, Calvin, at one stage of his career, was very desirous of having Bishops consecrated for the Church of Geneva at the hands of English Bishops. He actually made overtures to that effect to the British Government, which were defeated by Popish intrigues. The fact afterwards came to light, but too late for remedy, and a most significant fact it is. It furnishes us, on the one hand, with the testimony of the great Presbyterian reformer to the scriptural and primitive authority for Episcopacy, and shows, on the other hand, how much Rome dreads a Church which has an Episcopal government in connection with Evangelical truth."—*Christian Witness*.

PREFACE.

It was not without some misgivings that the writer began, some months ago, to collect materials for this life of Bishop Bass. Most of the sketches which had appeared were so dry and meagre, that he feared that, even if he succeeded in making a book which grown persons might read, it would prove rather uninteresting for children.

He is most happy to believe that his anticipations were quite unfounded. After much time and trouble spent in getting facts together from every available source, he has been able to frame a narrative which certainly will not fall behind any volumes of this series in interest and importance. The chapter on the history of King's Chapel, Boston, it is thought, will be especially valuable.

And here the writer would return his best thanks to the Rev. George M. Randall, D.D., of Boston, the Rev. Benjamin Hale, D.D., late President of Hobart College, and the Hon. Edward S. Rand, of Newburyport, for the kind assistance rendered him, in this attempt to sketch the early history of the Diocese of Massachusetts, and to draw the portrait of its first Bishop.

EPHRAIM, 1859.

Though private prayer be a brave design,
Yet public hath more promises, more love.
And love's a weight to hearts; to eyes, a sign.
We all are but cold suitors; let us move
Where it is warmest; leave thy six and seven;
Pray with the most; for where most pray is heaven.

When once thy foot enters the church, be bare;
God is more there than thou; for thou art there
Only by His permission. Then beware,
And make thyself all reverence and fear.
Kneeling ne'er spotted silk stocking. Quit thy state—
All equal are within the church's gate.

Esort to sermons; but to prayers most:
Praying's the end of preaching. Oh, be drest!
Stay not for th' other pin. Why, thou hast lost
A joy for it worth worlds. Thus hell doth jest
Away thy blessings, and extremely flout thee.

In time of service, seal up both thine eyes,
And send them to thy heart; that, spying sin,
They may weep out the stains by them did rise.
Those doors being shut, all by the ear comes in.
Who marks in church-time others' symmetry,
Makes all their beauty his deformity.

GEORGE HERBERT.

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