

**THE LIFE OF BISHOP  
HENSHAW OF  
RHODE ISLAND**

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The Life of Bishop Henshaw of Rhode Island by John N. Norton

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**JOHN N. NORTON**

**THE LIFE OF BISHOP  
HENSHAW OF  
RHODE ISLAND**



THE LIFE  
OF  
BISHOP HENSLAW,  
OF  
RHODE ISLAND.

BY  
JOHN N. NORTON, A. M.

RECTOR OF ASCENSION CHURCH, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY; AUTHOR  
OF "THE BOY WHO WAS TRAINED UP TO BE A CLERGY-  
MAN," "HICKYARD FAIRY," "LIFE OF  
BISHOP GADSDEN," ETC., ETC.

"Endowed with talents of a superior order, cultivated by an early and careful education, and blessed with a disposition of great amiability, all sanctified and consecrated to the work of the Christian ministry, Bishop Henshaw was happily qualified for the office of a Bishop in the Church of Christ."

CHRISTIAN WITNESS.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE author will not venture to deny that he has been more than gratified by the kind reception which these little volumes have met with, from all parties in the Church. He would fain hope, therefore, that he occupies the true ground for a biographer. Had he merely succeeded in pleasing *one* class of Churchmen, he would most signally have failed in his purpose.

Taking sides with no party, he flatters himself that not a shadow of partiality will be discovered in his attempts to delineate the characters of those good men who have adorned the Episcopate of our beloved Church.

Many thanks are due to the Rev. Dr. Coleman, of Philadelphia, the Rev. Dr. M'Jilton and the Rev. Ethan Allen, of Baltimore, the Rev. Daniel Henshaw, of Providence, the Rev. J. A. Merriok, of Paris, Ky., and others, for the assistance which they have rendered, in furnishing materials for this work.



Any one at all acquainted with mankind, will at once understand that no man who is certain of possessing any particular advantage, ever manifests much sensibility because another lays claim to it also. If it be answered to this that the pretension of "the Church" is exclusive, I shall admit it is, and "conclusive," too. It is not exclusive, however, in the sense urged, since no one denies that there are many branches to "the Church," although these branches do not embrace every thing. I would advise those who take offence at "our" styling "ourselves" "the Church," to style themselves "the Church," just as they call all their parsons bishops, and see who will care about it. That is a touchstone which will soon separate the true metal from the alloy.

*Fannimore Cooper's REMARKS.*

THE  
LIFE OF BISHOP HENSHAW.

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Chapter First.

A GLIMPSE OF BISHOP HENSHAW—HIS PECULIARITIES AS A PREACHER—BIRTH—AN ARISTOCRATIC PEDIGREE—A LARGE FAMILY UNBAPTIZED—THE LITTLE TRUANT AT CHURCH—AN AUGURY WHICH PROVED TRUE—APT REPLY—BOYHOOD FAIRLY PORTRAYED—REMOVAL TO VERMONT—ONE EPISCOPAL CLERGYMAN—THE YOUNG COLLEGIAN—"HUSH! I AM CATCHING MICE!"—THE BOY-BACHELOR.



ALTHOUGH the name of Dr. Henshaw had been familiar to the writer from his boyhood, it was never his privilege to see him but once.

On the afternoon of an October day, 1844, I went, with a fellow-student from the General Theological Seminary, to the Church of the Ascension, where an able and eloquent sermon was delivered by the Bishop of Rhode

Island, who had been consecrated to that office about a year before.

According to his usual custom, it was delivered without notes, having been carefully committed to memory; and thus, while securing all the advantages of an extemporaneous speaker, the improprieties of undigested thought and crude expressions were most happily avoided. His dignified manner, his earnest tones and graceful gesticulation, and above all, the pure and unadulterated truths of the Gospel which he proclaimed, left a deep impression on every heart.

Since his admission to the sacred ministry, the writer has derived much satisfaction from the perusal of the Bishop's "Theology for the People," and other minor works, and it is with the profoundest feelings of respect and veneration that he now enters upon the pleasing task of making known to others the particulars of his life.

JOHN PRENTISS KEWLEY HENSHAW was the