

# **THE LIFE OF BISHOP RAVENSCROFT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649633234

The Life of Bishop Ravenscroft by John N. Norton

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
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**JOHN N. NORTON**

**THE LIFE OF BISHOP  
RAVENSCROFT**



PUBLISHED  
BY  
THE DIOCESE  
OF  
North Carolina.

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SECRET

TO  
JOSIAH COLLINS, ESQ.,  
OF  
SOMERSET PLACE, SCUPPERNONG, NORTH CAROLINA.  
AS A  
Tribute of Respect  
FOR  
HIS DISTINGUISHED ABILITIES,  
AND  
FOR HIS DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE  
OF  
The Church.

"Every Christian may, and should be, ready, in matters of indifference, to sacrifice mere opinions on the altar of peace and good order, and to yield a prompt obedience to lawful ecclesiastical authority. Such principles lead to the maintenance of the Church in her integrity. They forbid us to attempt amalgamation with surrounding brethren, separate, alike, in doctrine, polity, and institutions. Such views and conduct are often stigmatized with opprobrious epithets. It is under such circumstances that a determined spirit of obedience to God, in all things, is required of us."—BISHOP DE LAUNCEY'S *Sermon*, published by request of the Wardens and Vestry of St. Luke's Church, Rochester, N. Y., 1844.

## P R E F A C E .

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THE materials out of which the biographer must construct his work, are oftentimes much more scanty than would be generally supposed.

It is but seven-and-twenty years since Bishop Ravenscroft's decease, and yet, when the attempt is made (and that, too, with no little diligence and zeal) to discover his surviving friends, and to note down their remembrances of him, the task is found to be almost as difficult as in the case of Bishop Seabury, who has been dead for more than sixty years.

The truth is that we are living in a busy, bustling age, and one generation treads so closely upon the heels of the next, that the departed are too soon forgotten, and the benefit of their example, in many cases, is lost to the Church.

This consideration, among others, has prompted the writer to prosecute his task of preparing this series of biographies, with all the expedition which so serious an undertaking will permit him to use.



"STAND AS AN ANVIL, WHEN IT IS BEATEN UPON."—

*St. Ignace to St. Polycarp & both Martyrs.*

"Stand, like an anvil," when the stroke  
Of stalwart men falls fierce and fast;  
Storms but more deeply root the oak,  
Whose brawny arms embrace the blast.

"Stand, like an anvil," when the bar  
Lies, red and glowing, on its breast;  
Duty shall be life's leading star,  
And conscious innocence, its rest.

"Stand, like an anvil," when the sound  
Of ponderous hammers pains the ear;  
Thine, but the still and stern rebound  
Of the great heart that cannot fear.

BENNET DOANE.

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