

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

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The Anglo-Saxon Episcopate of Cornwall; with some account of the Bishops of Crediton by E. H. Pedler

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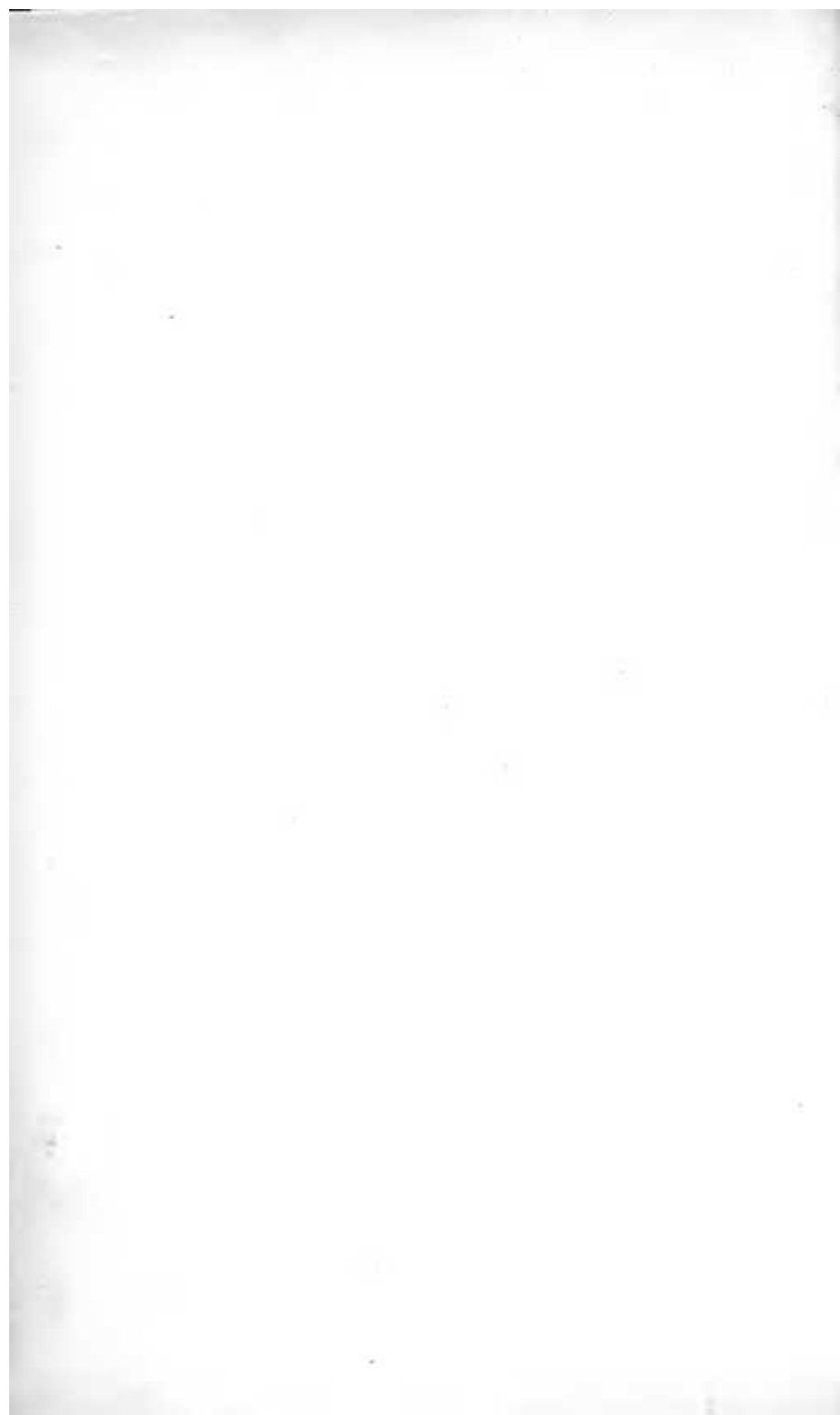
E. H. PEDLER

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Percy Douglas

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BY

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LONDON:

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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.