REGISTRUM SACRUM ANGLICANUM: AN ATTEMPT TO EXHIBIT THE COURSE OF EPISCOPAL SUCCESION IN ENGLAND, FROM THE RECORDS AND CHRONICLES OF THE CHURCH Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

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WILLIAM STUBBS

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Geofoth Rectory

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COURSE OF EPISCOPAL SUCCESSION

IN ENGLAND,

FROM THE

RECORDS AND CHRONICLES

OF

THE CHURCH.

BY

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PREFACE.

THIS Book is offered as a contribution to Ecclesiastical History in the departments of Biography and exact Chronology. Its position in relation to the first of these, though humble, is sufficiently obvious: in regard to the latter it seems to require some apology. This must be found in the fact that it occupies and confines itself to a distinct ground not solely or exclusively appropriated by any similar work, and so is not intended to supersede the labour or to disparage the arrangement of any former collectors. A short notice of the sources of the information contained in it will suffice.

And, first, with regard to the Saxon period. This portion of the Record has been constructed from a comparison of the Ancient Lists of Bishops, with the scanty memoranda of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Simeon of Durham, Florence of Worcester, and the Annotators. The results of this comparison have been carefully tested by the signatures of the Charters printed in Kemble's Codex Diplomaticus, and additional light has been thrown on them by the Profession Rolls at Canterbury: these valuable evidences, which are available up to the end of the 14th century, are the written declarations of obedience to the Metropolitical Church which were made by each Bishop at his consecration.

The later portion of the Record, from the consecration of Parker downwards, is an abstract of the records of the provinces of Canterbury and York, which are lodged at Lambeth, the Vicar General's office in Doctors' Commons, and at York.

The second or medieval portion is a careful compilation, now for the first time attempted, from all the accessible sources. Of these sources a list will be given. A few general remarks on them may not be out of place or useless to students of the same subjects.

And first, as most accessible, stand the Collections towards English Church History, in which class the "Antiquitates" of Parker and Josselin, Godwin "de Præsulibus," Wharton's "Anglia Sacra," and Le Neve's "Fasti," are text books.

Next, and indispensably necessary to one who would refer to original records, are the unrivalled Manuscript Collections of Henry Wharton at Lambeth. This wonderful man died in 1695, at the age of 30, having done for the elucidation of English Church History (itself but one of the branches of study in which he was the most eminent scholar of his time) more than any one before or since. Contemporary and apparently in frequent communication with him was Matthew Hutton of Aynho, (he died in 1711,) whose valuable Collections are in the Harleian Library. They contain, among other transcripts, copies of several volumes of Wharton's MSS.

Bishop Kennett seems to have transcribed and digested the Collections of both these on ecclesiastical subjects, with additions from his own reading. These are in the Lansdowne Collection.

It was at first attempted to construct a Chronological Table from the above authorities, in conjunction with the printed Chronicles. But the many discrepancies of the latter, and the imperfect notes of the Collectors, who not collecting for this branch of the subject in particular, seldom exhausted their authorities or quoted them exactly, determined the editor to have recourse to original documentary evidence, and nowhere, if possible, to commit himself to a statement on second-hand testimony. With this view he has consulted a large number of the Registers and Records of various sees, and as many of the Chronicles preserved in Manuscript in our National and Academic libraries, as seemed likely to afford any information. With respect to the Chronicles, a list of those from which information

was actually gained, will be enough. Of the Episcopal Registers to be found in the several Cathedrals, which are of course less accessible, the chief features are these:

Every Bishop kept (and still keeps) a register of all his official acts. The first page generally contains the account of his consecration or appointment; then follow the bulls and other privileges which he received from the Popes. The bulk of each volume is occupied with the records of institutions to benefices, acts of consistory courts, and lists of persons ordained; to which in many instances important wills are annexed. This may be considered as an adequate description of the general run of registers. There are however frequent exceptions. Those of Canterbury and York contain proceedings with the Suffragans, records of Convocations and Councils, and a vast number of letters on public business. gister of William of Wykeham is the model of the record of a statesman Bishop, and a most valuable storehouse of notices of public interest, summonses to Parliament, and miscellaneous official and personal acts. Others contain copies of more ancient documents, which were perishing when transcribed, and are now lost. Nor are the materials only worthy of remark; the arrangement also is various; some are patterns of neatness, especially the early ones of York, and those of Winchester generally; others are confused and scanty, the Canterbury ones being by no means the best, which is very unfortunate, considering their importance. Several are lost, among them the larger portion of Cardinal Beaufort's, which seems to have come after his death into the King's hands and may possibly be found some day. It must have contained very much of historical importance at a period not much illustrated by historians, and especially on the subject before us. The condition however of the existing ones is very good, and altogether they form a curious and by no means exhausted mine of information to a careful inquirer.

From these and similar sources the following tables are framed: in most cases the evidence they afford is direct and particular, in some few the date and circumstances have to be derived from indirect indications. These (which are in the text printed in Italies) will be found chiefly during the troubled times of Richard II, when, notwithstanding the statute of

Provisors, each appointment of a Bishop received its confirmation at Rome, where most, if not all, of the unrecorded consecrations probably took place: others during the wars of the Roses, and up to the close of the 15th century. For the latter period the dates have been fixed with reference, 1st, to the time at which the licences for consecration were issued by the Convent of Canterbury, which in most cases was during the week preceding the appointed Sunday: 2nd, to such scattered notices of the filling up of preferments vacated by consecration as could be found in various Registers; and 3rd, to the computation of the pontifical years of the several Bishops as given in existing Instruments. It is hoped that in all these cases the dates given will be found correct when examined by the light of further evidence. Similar historical and chronological tests have been applied to every date in this portion of the Record, and if the results in some instances are different from those given by older authorities, no particular has been set down without careful calculation and consideration.

The thanks of the Editor are offered to all who have kindly procured him access to Records, especially to Felix Knyvett, Esq. of Lambeth, the Rev. A. P. Stanley and the Hon. D. Finch of Canterbury, the authorities at the Vicar General's office and S. Paul's, Mr. Wooldridge of Winchester, Chancellors Harrington of Exeter and Melvill of S. David's, Egorton V. Harcourt, Esq., and the Rev. W. V. Harcourt of York, the Rev. J. Raine, Junior, of Durham, the Rev. Geo. Gilbert of Grantham, the Bishop of Carlisle, W. T. Alchin, Esq., and the Deputy Registrars of Worcester, Hereford, Lichfield, Chichester, Rochester, Norwich, Wells, and Salisbury.

It is perhaps necessary to add, that throughout the work the beginning of the year is placed on the first of January.

NAVESTOCK, January 25, 1858.

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