

**THE TRUE CHURCH OF
ENGLAND-MAN'S
COMPANION IN THE
CLOSET**

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The True Church of England-man's companion in the closet by Mr. Nathaniel Spinckes

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MR. NATHANIEL SPINCKES

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COMPANION
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THE
TRUE CHURCH OF ENGLAND-MAN'S
COMPANION IN THE CLOSET.

With a Preface,

BY THE
REV. NATHANAEL SPINCKES, M.A.

A NEW EDITION.

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The True Church of England-Man's
COMPANION
IN THE CLOSET :

OR, A COMPLETE

Manual of Private Devotions ;

Collected from the Writings of

Archbishop LAUD,
Bishop ANDREWES,
Bishop KEN,

Dr. HICKES,
Mr. KETTLEWELL,
Mr. SPINCKES,

And other Eminent DIVINES of the
CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

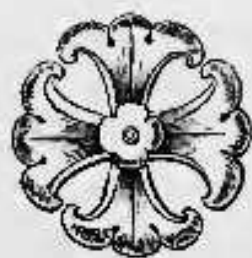
With a Preface

By the Reverend Mr. SPINCKES.

The SIXTEENTH EDITION, corrected.

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MEMOIR.

NATHANAEL SPINCKES was the eldest surviving son of the Rev. Edmund Spinckes, M.A., Rector of Castor, Northamptonshire, and of Orton Longville, Hunts. His father came from New England with Patrick, afterwards Bishop of Ely, was admitted at Emanuel College, Cambridge, in 1627, and proceeded to the degree of B.A. in 1631, and to that of M.A. in 1635. He became acquainted with his future wife (Martha, daughter of Thomas Elmes, of Lilford, Hunts) during his residence as chaplain in her father's house: and by his marriage succeeded to a considerable estate at Warmington, besides other property. He was ejected from both his livings at the Restoration, and died at Warmington in 1671^a. His wife survived him twenty-one years, and died in 1692. Nathanael was born at Castor late in the year 1653, or early in 1654. He received a classical education under Mr. Samuel Morton, Rector of Haddon; and was admitted at Trinity College, Cambridge, under Mr. Bainbrigg, March 22, 1670, and matriculated July 9 of the same year. By the death of his father in 1671, he suc-

^a "Edmund lived in troublous times, and warped so far in the Great Rebellion, that he took the solemn league and covenant, and was possessed of the Rectory of Castor annexed to the Bishopric of Peterborough, the See being vacant 1648; but I have this to say for him, *plene ore*, that, when he was removed soon after the Restoration, even before the Bartholomew Act took place, he constantly conformed to the Church of England, and seemed only to decline his ministerial function, because a man, who took opposite oaths, had the sentence of *guiltiness* proceeding against him."—Life of the R. Reverend Nathanael Spinckes, by the Reverend Mr. John Blackburne, M.A. London. Printed in the year MDCC.XXXI. page v. Also prefixed to the 6th Edition of 'The Sick Man Visited.' London, 1775.

ceeded to a considerable fortune, and to a valuable library^b. He was induced by the prospect of a Rustat scholarship, to enter at Jesus College, Oct. 12, 1672, and nine days after, Oct. 21, was admitted a probationer; and May 20, 1673, sworn a scholar on the Rustat foundation. He took the degree of B.A. early in 1674, and that of M.A. in 1677. He was ordained deacon, by Henry [Compton] Bishop of London, in the Chapel of London House, on Trinity Sunday [May 21] 1676, and priest by Thomas [Barlow] Bishop of Lincoln, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, Dec. 22, 1678. He resided some time as chaplain with Sir Richard Edgecombe, of Mount Edgecombe, in the county of Devon. In 1679 he was resident at Petersham, where in 1681 he was associated with Hickes, as chaplain to the Duke of Lauderdale. In 1683, (the year after the Duke's death,) he removed to St. Stephen's, Walbrook, London, where he continued two years, as Curate and Lecturer. In Sept., 1685, he was presented by the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough to the rectory of Peakirk, or Peaking, c. Glynton, Northamptonshire. About this time he married Dorothy, daughter of William Rutland, citizen of London, "a sensible, obliging, industrious wife," who survived him only seven days.

On July 21, 1687, he was made prebendary of Salisbury, his prebend being that called Major Pars Altaris. On Sep. 24, of the same year, he was made rector of St. Martin's, Salisbury, and Sep. 27, was

^b "A passage out of the father's codicil to his will, signed before his son's admission to the University.

^c *Item*, I give all my books to my eldest son, Nathanael, if he live, and be a Master of Arts, and a Minister. Provided, that, tho' Nathanael be Master of Arts, and a Minister, yet, if another be, he the said Nathanael shall give to any that shall be a minister, of his three brothers, either books to the value of £20, or £20 in money, to buy him books, at the choice of him who is to receive them or it."—*Life*, p. vii.

licensed to preach at Stratford-subter-Castrum^c, or Miden-Castle.

In 1690, he was deprived of all his preferments, for refusing to take the oaths to William and Mary. From this time to his death he appears to have been in low circumstances, supported by benefactions of the more wealthy of the non-jurors.

On Ascension Day, [June 3,] 1713, he was consecrated bishop^d, together with Jer. Collier, and Sam. Hawes, by Bp. Hiekes, and the Scotch Bishops Campbell and Gadderar.

He died July 28, 1727, and was buried in the cemetery of the parish of St. Faith, on the north side of St. Paul's, London.

His wife, as stated above, survived him only seven days. He left two children, a son, William, and a daughter, Ann, wife of Anthony Cope, Esq.

The particulars which follow have been compiled chiefly from his 'Life' by Blackbourne, who seems to have known him intimately during his later years, and to have contemplated his character with singular love and reverence. They are usually given in the writer's own words. It would appear that Spinckes had been in the habit of keeping an account of such instances in his life as he considered peculiarly providential, extracts from which are given by Blackbourne, as "*Memoranda* under his own hand, or 'An account of remarkable passages, wherein the good providence of God has more signally shewn itself, towards me and mine, and for which I most heartily bless and praise His Holy Name.'" Some of these occurred

^c "And I am told was permitted to reap the profits of this curacy, [£80 per ann.] till the year 1702."—Life, p. xvi.

^d "Happy would it have been for the interests of any diocese, had he been legally appointed to it."—Noble, Biog. Hist. of England, vol. iii. p. 149.