# RICHARD BAXTER

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Richard Baxter by G. D. Boyle

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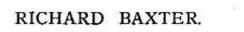
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### G. D. BOYLE

## RICHARD BAXTER





## RICHARD BAXTER.

BY

G. D. BOYLE, M.A., Dean of Salisbury.

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THOSE who are well acquainted with the life and times of Baxter will soon perceive how greatly the writer of this sketch is indebted to Mr. Orme, Principal Tulloch, and the impartial historian of the period, Dr. Stoughton. The untimely death of Dean Stanley, who had promised to write an estimate of Baxter's Review of his own life, has deprived the reader of these pages of what would have been a true distinction.



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#### CHAPTER I.

#### EARLY DAYS.

"HERE is no figure among the eminent Englishmen of the seventeenth century more interesting than that of Richard Baxter. To some be appears to occupy the foremost position in the ranks of Puritan divines. To others he seems to recall many of the characteristics of the great schoolmen of the Middle Ages. Whatever opinions may be held as to the part he played in the political struggles of his time, his conduct as a pastor and his renown as the author of some of the best-known devotional and hortatory works in the English language have secured for him a lasting place in the religious annals of England. He was born at the village of Eaton Constantine, in Shropshire, on the 12th of November, 1615. His father had originally possessed some fortune, but had squandered his means in gambling. The name of his mother was Beatrice, a daughter of Richard Adeny, of Rowton, near High Ercall, the seat of Lord Newport.

The first ten years of Baxter's life were spent in his grandfather's house. Not long before his birth his father had experienced a remarkable religious change. He gave much of his time to reading the Bible, and seems