

**THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF EDMUND GESTE,  
S. T. P.: THE PRINCIPAL COMPILER OF THE  
LITURGY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND,  
ESTABLISHED AT THE TIME OF THE  
REFORMATION, AND NOW IN USE AMONGST  
US AS THE ONLY ENGLISH CHURCH SERVICE,  
LEGALLY ESTABLISHED IN THIS KINGDO**

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**HENRY GEAST DUGDALE**

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*Robert V. G. —*

THE *H. W. S. Dugdale*  
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OF *1840*  
EDMUND GESTE, S. T. P.

THE PRINCIPAL COMPILER OF

*The* Liturgy of the Church of England,

ESTABLISHED AT THE TIME OF THE REFORMATION, AND NOW IN USE

AMONGST US AS THE ONLY

ENGLISH CHURCH SERVICE,

LEGALLY ESTABLISHED IN THIS KINGDOM;

THE FIRST PROTESTANT BISHOP OF ROCHESTER,

AFTERWARDS

BISHOP OF SALISBURY,

BY APPOINTMENT OF

AND

ALMONER TO

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

BY

HENRY GEAST DUGDALE, ESQ.

BARRISTER AT LAW,

M. A. OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,

AND A BENCHER OF THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE.

*" Palmam qui meruit ferat."*

LONDON:  
WILLIAM PICKERING.  
1840.

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1840

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## TO THE PUBLIC.

THE contents of the following pages were collected and thrown together for private use and personal information, not intended for public inspection. But, considering that the person to whom they relate was the principal labourer in the vineyard of the Reformation (the blessings of which are bestowed upon us all); that he was mainly instrumental in planting and cultivating that tree whose branches have so happily flourished, and have so successfully extended themselves and their fruits to the remotest corners of this habitable world; under whose benign influence our ancestors as well as ourselves have been (and it is to be hoped for generations yet to come will continue to be) so effectually sheltered from the baneful effects of religious error and of Popish ascendancy; considering also that every thing relating to so eminent and meritorious a cha-



racter cannot fail to be interesting to every true Christian, and to every Protestant in particular,—it has been deemed advisable to communicate this short memoir to the world ; at the same time hoping, and indeed earnestly calling upon the literary world at large, but more especially those seats of learning of which he was a member, as well as those ecclesiastical establishments over which, for so many years, to the honour and glory of God, to the fruitful edification of his Church, and to his own excellent and meritorious commendation he presided, (“ ad Dei gloriam honorifice, ad ecclesiæ edificationem fructuosè, et ad suam commendationem egregie præferisset”) they will search with diligence and avidity the arcana of their respective depositaries ; examine their munimental manuscripts ; and, should their labours be attended with success, communicate their contents to the world,

Every document accessible to the inquirer, has been sedulously explored, and faithfully made use of. It is devoutly to be wished, that the hitherto inaccessible and unexplored may be carefully examined, and liberally developed, in justice to the claims of departed merit, in grateful remembrance for that form of Church

Service which we are taught publicly, in offering up our daily prayers, and for the temporal and spiritual blessings which, by the goodness of Divine Mercy, may have been, by our petitions (through this medium perhaps), collectively and individually conferred upon us. Let us not leave to posterity to unfold that information which our ancestors may have neglected to unfold, or to do that which they, as well as ourselves, may have left undone, and which ought to have been done; and let us not despair of success in the undertaking.

“ Cuncta aperit secreta dies, ex tempore verum  
Nascitur, et veniens ætas abscondita pandit.”

