

**WELLS CATHEDRAL: ITS MONUMENTAL
INSCRIPTIONS AND HERALDRY.
TOGETHER WITH THE HERALDRY
OF THE PALACE, DEANERY, AND
VICAR'S CLOSE. WITH ANNOTATIONS
FROM WILLS, REGISTERS, ETC.**

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Wells Cathedral: Its Monumental Inscriptions and Heraldry. Together with the Heraldry of the Palace, Deanery, and Vicar's Close. With Annotations from Wills, Registers, Etc. by Arthur J. Jewers

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ARTHUR J. JEWERS

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Arms of the Bishopric.

Arms of the Deanery.



Arms of Lord Arthur C. Hervey,
Bishop of Bath and Wells.

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WITH ANNOTATIONS FROM WILLS, REGISTERS, ETC.,

AND

Illustrations of Arms.

BY

ARTHUR J. JEWERS, F.S.A.



LONDON :

MITCHELL AND HUGHES, 140 WARDOUR STREET, W.

1892.

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W4. J4
1892
MAIN

Dedication.

TO THE
RIGHT HON. AND RIGHT REV. LORD ARTHUR C. HERVEY, D.D.,
LORD BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS.

MY LORD,

It would have been meet and fit that a Work on the Cathedral Church should be dedicated to the Bishop of the Diocese, while the universal affection and esteem in which you are held by Clergy and People make it still more fitting; to say nothing of the personal obligations I am under to your Lordship's kindness and help.

I am painfully aware of the imperfections of the Work, but can only regret that circumstances prevented my making it more worthy of the Cathedral and of your Lordship's support, so kindly and readily rendered.

I am,

MY LORD BISHOP,

Your very obedient servant,

ARTHUR J. JEWERS.

Introduction.

IN submitting these pages to the Subscribers it will be well, in order to mitigate to some degree adverse criticism, to point out the original intention and object with which the Work was undertaken.

These were in the first place to preserve and render more generally accessible such memorial inscriptions and heraldry as still remain in the Cathedral and the Cloisters, the latter containing a large proportion of the inscriptions, for when the Cathedral underwent a general restoration, or, more correctly, renovation, the monuments underwent a promiscuous removal; the recumbent effigies were moved into what were considered more seemly or convenient positions; the mural tablets, more or less bereft of their surrounding ornaments, of pillar and pediment, shields and figures, were moved into the cold shelter of the Cloisters, where some bear ample testimony to their mutilated condition, while some we know have perished altogether.

Some will perhaps say, This is a small loss; they were seventeenth, some eighteenth century work. Quite true; but while we preserve with care all examples of earlier art, independently of their actual merits, have we any right or reason for destroying or neglecting these examples of a later age? We anathematize the iconoclasm of past generations, and develop an iconoclastic spirit in our own, with this difference, instead of getting rid of all that is old, we select according to an arbitrary rule; we preserve the history in stone of the earlier periods, and destroy the marble records of a later one—only, it would seem, because it is nearer to our own time.

Probably no church is renovated—restored is the common phrase—without some memorials being wantonly destroyed or mutilated; they are half covered by a pew or placed high up, so that they cannot be read, look as unsightly as may be, and hold the worshippers in fear of being crushed by their fall.

The inscriptions are given as they now stand, without attempting to correct inaccuracies or supply what is now illegible, except what had been already copied by Mr. FIELDER, whose MS. has been freely used. At the same time it appeared advisable, as likely to add both to the

general interest and permanent value of the Work, if some notes were added from such original sources as parish registers and wills, and other sources not generally accessible, avoiding what has already appeared in print, unless for the purpose of clearness or completeness, and then as briefly as possible, such being confined almost entirely to a few extracts from the volumes of "Somerset Wills" collected by the late Rev. Frederick Brown and the Rev. F. W. Weaver's "Somerset Incumbents"—both essentially works of reference. In no sense do these notes profess to be a history or even a complete genealogical account of the families of all those who are in any way commemorated, for such is altogether beyond what was intended. These notes are of necessity very irregular, for, although it is believed that when descendants of the families could be found, and have been applied to for additional information, they have often neglected to respond; and, again, it has been found impossible to trace the representatives of many of the people commemorated.

In going over the ground, it became apparent that much of great interest would be lost if the Vicar's Close was not included; but if that was included, why should the Bishop's Palace be left out? Finally, it seemed to be the most satisfactory course to include what may be rightly considered the Cathedral Precincts; and this has been carried out, rendering the Work more complete. Nothing, it is believed, has been omitted within the limits laid down, while valuable corroborative evidence has been supplied by this extension.

As regards the monuments of the Bishops, they were all duly inscribed with the name of the prelate they were supposed to commemorate at the time the Cathedral was renovated, now nearly half a century since; but the value of the authority for the identifications may be judged from the remarks on the tombs inscribed to Bishop Bytton II. and Bishop Drokensford. There is ample evidence as to the arms and family of Bishop William Bytton I. and II. and of Bishop Drokensford to put the matter quite beyond a doubt. At the same time, there does not appear to be any reason to hope that most of the early effigies can ever be with certainty appropriated. Several are of much later date than that at which the persons they are supposed to commemorate died; consequently they are only mentioned as displaying certain inscriptions of modern date, without any attempt to prove or disprove the statements they set forth. To do more would be to trespass on the good work begun by the Sub-Dean, Canon CHURCH, who has already given to the world most careful and exhaustive histories of Bishops Jocelyn and Severicus, supported step by step by reference to indisputable authorities; histories which we have reason to hope he will follow up by others.

Thanks are due to the BISHOP and the late DEAN for access to the heraldry of the Palace and Deanery; to the Rev. A. COODE, Chaplain, and the Rev. Prebendary GIBSON, the President, for access to the Chapel,

Library over it, and Common Hall of the Vicars, then the home of the Theological College, and since to their new Library; to Canon Church for the opportunities of making extracts from the Cathedral manuscripts; to Mr. FIELDER for the use of his MS. copy of the inscriptions, which has supplied several portions of inscriptions now quite illegible; to Mr. LOWNDES GLEAVES, Chief Clerk of the Probate Registry, for his courteous attention and assistance in the long searches in that office, only a small part of the result of which appears here. Finally, but not least, we must thank the DEAN and CHAPTER for permission to copy and print the inscriptions.

Many interesting additions might have been made from the Registers of Shepton Mallet and Bridgwater, but although a courteous request for permission to make extracts from these Registers, with full explanation of the literary purpose for which such were wanted, was made to Rev. Mr. JONES of the former and the Rev. Mr. FITZGERALD of the latter place, they practically refused to allow this to be done. For the numerous extracts from the Registers of St. Cuthbert, Wells, we are indebted to the Vicar, the Rev. Prebendary BERESFORD, who afforded every facility for transcribing the entries.

Messrs. MITCHELL AND HUGHES have executed the printing in their usual praiseworthy manner, and by the way they have entered into his design for the arrangement of the Work have saved the Author much trouble; while the Photographs in the large-paper copies speak for themselves of the skill and care of Mr. PHILLIPS, of the Market Place, Wells, who has produced exceptionally good results under great difficulties regarding light.

WELLS.

25th February 1892.



