

**THE RATIONALE OF CEREMONIAL 1540-  
1543: WITH NOTES AND APPENDICES  
AND AN ESSAY ON THE  
REGULATION OF CEREMONIAL DURING  
THE REIGN OF KING HENRY VIII WITH  
FOUR FACSIMILES OF HANDWRITINGS**

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The Rationale of Ceremonial 1540-1543: With Notes and Appendices and an Essay on the Regulation of Ceremonial during the Reign of King Henry VIII with Four Facsimiles of Handwritings by Cyril S. Cobb

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**CYRIL S. COBB**

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Church of England

Alcuin Club Collections

XVIII

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1540—1543

*with Notes and Appendices*

AND AN

*Essay on the Regulation of Ceremonial  
during the reign of King Henry VIII*

*with four facsimiles of handwritings*

BY

CYRIL S. COBB M.A., B.C.L.

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\*.\* For a description of our photographic *facsimiles*, see p. lxxix, below.



## PREFACE

THE TRACT here presented to the ALCUIN CLUB was undertaken, and in the main prepared, some years ago. The writer then derived much valuable assistance from Dr. W. E. Collins, now the Bishop of Gibraltar. Press of other work however prevented its production; and it was not until the writer happily was able to open up communications with the Rev. Christopher Wordsworth that the necessary finishing work was able to be done upon a rather rough original draft; indeed, without his help, counsel and advice, it would never have seen the light.

The writer wishes to acknowledge with much gratitude the very valuable notes which have been supplied for the most part by the Rev. Christopher Wordsworth to illustrate the text; many other suggestions have also been made for the improvement of the introduction and appendices by the same learned writer, who has also been indefatigable in the monotonous but necessary work of the revision of the proofs. The Rev. F. E. Brightman has kindly read through the proofs of some parts of the tract and has made several valuable suggestions, but he must not be held responsible for any inaccuracies which may be detected.

Thanks are specially due to his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury for permission to make free use of the MS. (no. 1107) in the Lambeth Library, and to Mr. S. W. Kershaw, F.S.A., for his kind help, particularly in relation to the facsimiles reproduced from that MS. The authorities of the British Museum have kindly allowed photographs to be taken of portions of the Cottonian MS. (Cleopatra, E. v). Sir G. F. Warner, the Keeper of the

MSS., has given much help in assisting towards the attempt to identify some of the various handwritings of the scribes employed on the different parts of the Lambeth MS. as well as that of the fair copy (Cleop. E. v) made presumably for King Henry's use. Mr. C. W. Moule, Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, has been so good as to compare some photographic specimens of the handwritings in the two MSS. with certain pages in the Parker Collection in his charge, and also to consult Dr. M. R. James, King's College, Cambridge, upon questions which arise concerning them. Mrs. S. C. Lomas has been indefatigable in the use of her expert knowledge towards the same end, as well as in the collation of the MSS. On the question of the handwritings, however, we must rest content with the negative result, that whatever part any of the Bishops, who formed the Committee mentioned on page xlix of the Introduction, may have taken in its compilation, none of them have left their own handwriting upon the paper of either of the two MSS. of the *Rationale* which survive.

This short title, "RATIONALE," does not occur in either of the MSS. of the *Book Concerning Ceremonies to be used in the Church [of England]*; but it has been generally adopted by modern writers. It was perhaps suggested by the title of the famous work of Durandus, or possibly by the phrase "*discrimen et rationem ceremoniarum*" in a passage in the *Journal of the House of Lords* (21 Aug. 1538) cited in a note to the Introduction (p. xlix) where its more recent paraphrase in English is given higher up on the same page.

16th June, 1910.

C. S. C.

# RATIONALE

OR

## BOOK OF CEREMONIES

*CIRCA 1540*

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### INTRODUCTION

#### I.

#### THE DIFFERENCE IN THE IMMEDIATE PRETEXTS FOR THE REFORMATION ON THE CONTINENT AND IN ENGLAND.

GREAT religious, political or social movements are in the popular mind frequently connected with, and attributed to, some more or less striking incident, which heralds the beginning of active operations. It is not, therefore, surprising to find the "king's business" in the matter of his divorce from Queen Katherine of Aragon, and the question of indulgences, frequently regarded as the causes of the Reformation in England and on the Continent respectively.

In all such cases, however, the real causes lie far deeper. There is a latent power working through many avenues, and the more or less trivial circumstance, that calls this deep-seated motive power into activity, is really but an appropriate instrument or pretext found ready to the hand of the individual leader, or the reforming organization. That instrument however which is able to call such powers into activity, apart from the interest which it possesses in itself, may well attract our attention as furnishing an indication of the particular drift of thought, and the special direction of movement, along which activity, when once called into being, will most successfully develop.

(a) This difference in the External Pretext helps us in the