

**THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THOMAS  
JOHN CLAGGETT, FIRST BISHOP  
OF MARYLAND AND THE FIRST  
BISHOP CONSECRATED IN  
AMERICA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649376773

The life and times of Thomas John Claggett, first bishop of Maryland and the first bishop consecrated in America by George B. Utleý

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**GEORGE B. UTLEY**

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*Thos. Ke. Plaggett*

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*The Lakeside Press*  
R. R. DONNELLEY & SONS CO.  
CHICAGO  
1913

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## PREFACE

No apology is necessary perhaps for attempting this brief sketch of the life and times of the first bishop consecrated in the New World. The events in Bishop Claggett's life were not extraordinary nor did they effect any very marked influence upon the later history of the Church which he served for so many years. But the pictures, although fragmentary and ill-connected, which we find in his letters and journals of contemporary life and thought in Maryland a century and a quarter ago, are, we believe, of sufficient interest to be worth preserving.

As librarian of the Maryland Diocesan Library, at Baltimore, some years since, the author had ready access to the original sources in the way of letters, diaries and journals which are preserved in the archives of that institution and which he has freely drawn from in the preparation of this work. Stress of other duties has, however, delayed for several years the recasting of this gathered material into its present form. All documents quoted from, unless otherwise indicated, are in the Maryland Diocesan Library.

The author is not a theologian and is not, be it confessed, particularly interested in the theological doctrines and discussions of Claggett's day. He has, therefore, touched but lightly upon these features, being content in the endeavor to reproduce a more material picture of the life and times of the Maryland bishop and old-time Southern gentleman.

Acknowledgments are gratefully made to Mr. Lawrence C. Wroth, my successor at the Diocesan Library, for his very great kindness in verifying certain quotations and dates and for making many helpful suggestions; to Bernard C. Steiner, Ph. D., librarian of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, of Balti-