

**CUTHBERT OF
LINDISFARNE:
HIS LIFE AND TIMES**

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Cuthberht of Lindisfarne: His Life and Times by Alfred C. Fryer

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ALFRED C. FRYER

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CUTHBERT OF LINDISFARNE

His Life and Times

BY

ALFRED C. FRYER, F.R.Hist.Soc.

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"How beautiful your presence, how benign,
Servant of God! who not a thought will share
With the vain world; who, outwardly as bare
As winter trees, yield no fallacious sign
That the firm soul is clothed with fruit divine!
Such priest, when service worthy of his care
Has called him forth to breathe the common air,
Might seem a saintly image from the shrine
Descended:—happy are the eyes that meet
The apparition; evil thoughts are stayed
At his approach, and low-bowed necks entreat
A benediction from his voice or hand;
Whence grace, through which the heart can understand
And vows, that bind the will, in silence made."

—WORDSWORTH.

P R E F A C E.

IN these pages is presented a concise account of Cuthberht, the saintly apostle of Northumbria, with some sketches of those associated in his mission. The times in which Cuthberht lived have been described somewhat fully. In obtaining some of his materials, the author has been indebted to Dr Greenwood and the other Trustees of Owen's College. From the Rev. Professor Bright, of Oxford, and the Rev. Dr Charles Rogers, of the Royal Historical Society, he has received help and encouragement. To the Rev. J. F.

Fowler he is indebted for permission to make free use of his work on St Cuthberht's Window in York Minster. Finally, he has to acknowledge his obligations to Mr J. D. Crichton, of London, for verifying references, and other useful assistance.

ELM HIRST, NEAR WILMSLOW,
CHESHIRE, *November* 1880.

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CUTHBERT OF LINDISFARNE.

CHAPTER I.

THE BIOGRAPHERS OF CUTHBERT—BÆDA.

"O Venerable Bede!

The saint, the scholar, from a circle freed
Of toil stupendous, in a hallowed seat
Of learning, where thou heard'st the billows beat
On a wild coast—rough monitors to feed
Perpetual industry. Sublime recluse!
The recreant soul, that dares to shun the debt
Imposed on human kind, must first forget
Thy diligence, thy unrelaxing use
Of a long life, and in the hour of death
The last dear service of thy passing breath."

—WORDSWORTH.

RESPECTING the two biographers of St Cuthbert, from whose works the materials presented in the following pages are chiefly derived, little is known. Of the earlier, a monk of Lindisfarne, not even the name has been preserved; but by