

**THE ENGLISH POEMS OF
HENRY KING, D. D.,
1592-1669, SOMETIME
BISHOP OF CHICHESTER**

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The English Poems of Henry King, D. D., 1592-1669, Sometime Bishop of Chichester by Henry King & Lawrence Mason

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HENRY KING & LAWRENCE MASON

**THE ENGLISH POEMS OF
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1592-1669, SOMETIME
BISHOP OF CHICHESTER**

THE UNIVERSITY
OF OXFORD
ABINGDON



PORTRAIT OF BISHOP HENRY KING

PAINTED IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH, 1642, AND NOW HANGING
IN THE OLD LECTURE ROOM, CHRIST CHURCH,
OXFORD. ARTIST UNKNOWN

(From a photograph taken for this edition by the Clarendon Press, Oxford)

THE ENGLISH POEMS
OF
HENRY KING, D.D.

1592-1633

SOMETIME BISHOP OF CHICHESTER

NOW FIRST COLLECTED FROM VARIOUS
SOURCES AND EDITED BY
LAWRENCE MASON, Ph.D.



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PREFACE

This work aims to present a complete edition of Bishop Henry King's English poems.

The *editio princeps* of the poems, a modest and exceedingly rare little octavo, is dated 1657; but the unsold copies of that printing were re-issued in 1664 and again in 1700, with a new title-page upon each occasion, and to those copies bearing the earlier date were affixed thirty-eight additional pages of Elegies. After 1700 no edition appeared until 1843, when the Rev. J. Hannah republished more than half of King's poetry in an elaborately annotated form which has long been out of print.

The present edition includes the twenty-nine poems omitted by Hannah as well as the fifty selected by him, and in addition another considerable elegy that has not been reprinted since 1649; while four of King's hitherto uncollected poems or parts of poems are here for the first time printed, from various MSS., together with five other pieces whereof his authorship cannot be so definitely proved, but of which four are almost certainly his work. Hannah printed a somewhat inaccurate reading of his text, and also thought it best "to revise the punctuation," often unnecessarily and not seldom quite unhappily; the present edition offers an exact reproduction of the *editio princeps* except for the numbering of the lines and the natural differences in fonts of type, with a faithful

PREFACE

transcript of the new material hitherto uncollected. The Notes at the end of this volume have been reduced to the smallest compass consistent with the elucidation of all real difficulties presented by the text; and variant readings resulting from the collation of numerous MSS. or early printed versions of the poems have been recorded only where the meaning of the line is materially affected.

It has seemed best to include in this edition no excerpts from Henry King's version of the Psalms in metre, published in 1651, because that work possesses little merit or interest, to modern eyes, and may well be left for the specialist to consult intact. Selections from that work, however, as well as an exhaustive biography and bibliography, a critical essay, much related material, and a full *apparatus criticus* will be found in a Thesis by the present writer deposited in the Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn. Of this Thesis the Biography and Bibliography have been printed in full among the *Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences*, Vol. XVIII.¹

It now remains only to acknowledge my indebtedness for assistance received in preparing this work. Professor Edward Bliss Reed suggested the subject to me, and has advised and guided me throughout. Hannah's scholarly edition has been an invaluable help. My thanks are also due to the Very Reverend the Dean and the Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford; the authorities of the Bodleian, British Museum, and Lambeth Palace Libraries; Professor

¹ Cf. Bibliographical Note, pp. 187-9, *inf.*