

**THE LIFE OF THOMAS
CRANMER, ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649289950

The life of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury by William Gilpin

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM GILPIN

**THE LIFE OF THOMAS
CRANMER, ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY**

THE
L I F E
O F
THOMAS CRANMER,
A R C H B I S H O P
O F
C A N T E R B U R Y.

By WILLIAM GILPIN, M. A.
PREBENDARY OF SALISBURY;
A N D
VICAR OF BOLDRE, IN NEW-FOREST, NEAR LYMINGTON.

L O N D O N :
P R I N T E D F O R
R. BLAMIRE, IN THE STRAND.

M.DCC.LXXXIV.

P R E F A C E.

THE character of archbishop Cranmer hath been equally the subject of exaggerated praise; and of undeserved censure. The protestant is as little inclined to acknowledge, that he had any failing; as the papist is to allow him any virtue. The historian therefore, who means to be impartial, will often of course, give offence to the warmer advocates of both sides.

At the hazard however of this I have endeavoured to do justice as well to the failings, as virtues of this celebrated re-

former. Every cause, in which truth is concerned, is the better, I should think, for having all things but truth sifted from it. And in discriminating the lights and shades of a character, the greater the character is, the nicer should be the discrimination: for the very foibles of an amiable man are fascinating. Queen Elizabeth used to tell the artists, who drew her picture, that she did not like shade: it was a mere accident.—It may be so: but, it is such an accident, that the truth of portrait cannot be had without it.—Besides, by impartial treatment, you add respect to the character you represent. General applause is always suspected: while just censure gives weight to praise.

But the question recurs, Is your censure just?

In censuring some parts of the archbishop's conduct, particularly his intolerant principles, I have little doubt of
having

having the general sense of good men on my side.

As to the indelicacies, and improprieties of his behaviour, I can only appeal to my own feelings. What I should not wish to approve in myself, I cannot but censure in another. I always however give my reasons; and if they have no weight, they must be dismissed. Archbishop Cranmer certainly filled one of the most difficult stations, considering all its circumstances, in which a man could be placed; and the only matter of surprize is, that the false steps he made were so few.

One thing more let me add, we shall not easily find a character, that can allow deductions so well. His virtues so far outweigh his failings; that, on the whole, we may esteem him one of the first persons of the age, in which he lived. His public life contains an important part of ecclesiastical history; and his private life, an admirable lesson of

clerical instruction.—To this let the ministers of the gospel chiefly attend; and instead of thinking too harshly of his failings; let us endeavour to bring as much seriousness, and real concern for christianity, as he did, into all the duties, and offices of religion.

In composing the following work, I claim little merit, but that of digesting, and reducing within a narrower compass, the labours of others. I have had little assistance except from common printed accounts. The works of Mr. Strype, an historian of great integrity, have been my principal guide: whose authority, in doubtful points, I have generally preferred.

In gratitude also I must acknowledge particular obligation to the late Mr. Jones of Welwin; the learned friend, and, (I believe,) the executor, of the celebrated author of the Night-thoughts.—But I
never

never was personally acquainted with him.

This gentleman had once entertained the design of writing the life of archbishop Cranmer; and with this intention had made considerable collections: but laying his design aside, he was so obliging as to put his papers, near twenty years ago, into my hands.

We had both, I found, drawn from the same authorities; only I had the mortification to observe, that he had been much the more industrious compiler. He had also, through the means of several of his learned friends at Cambridge, particularly the late Dr. Baker, gained access to many sources of information, less obvious to common inquirers.

Our plans too rather differed. His was chiefly to explain the opinions of the archbishop: mine attempts rather to illustrate his character. Notwithstanding
how-