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978-0-521-08764-3 - The Cardinal Protectors of England: Rome and the Tudors
Before the Reformation

William E. Wilkie

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PREFACE

The period with which this book deals actually runs from 1485 to 1539, that is, from the accession of Henry VII until the death of Campeggio, the last of the cardinal protectors nominated by the crown. However, the chief object has been to study the personal relationship of Giulio de' Medici (after 1523 called Clement VII) and Lorenzo Campeggio with Henry VIII and Wolsey. Everything else is meant to provide a context broad enough to make the full implications of this main story clear.

The treatment is for the most part severely chronological, but an effort has been made to gather into Chapters 2 and 5 some of the more tedious matters connected with provisions to English and Irish bishoprics. The chief source available has been the extensive surviving diplomatic correspondence of the period. It is folly to impose a sense of immediacy and urgency on letters most often received more than a month after they were written, and in an age with a much different sense of time from our own. While the point of view taken here is essentially new, most of the people and events discussed have long been familiar to historians. More recently, the solid and complete research of D. S. Chambers into the career of Cardinal Bainbridge has permanently linked their names; and whatever is sound in my own interpretation of Bainbridge's relations with the official cardinal protectors owes very much to Chambers' very careful and balanced assessment. Any historian working with the period of Henry VIII is constantly grateful to the editors who calendared the *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*. In most cases the English summaries there have been compared with the printed or manuscript sources, but the originals are cited in the notes generally only when they amplify or correct the summary. Emphasis has been placed instead upon archival material less readily accessible to historians in England.

Great numbers of archivists, librarians and fellow scholars have

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offered kind assistance, often far beyond what could normally be hoped for, even from very generous persons. In a most personal way I should like to thank Professor G. R. Elton of Clare College, Cambridge, and Professor Heinrich Schmidinger, formerly of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, and at present director of the Istituto Austriaco di Cultura in Rome.

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To the Master and Fellows
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