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978-0-521-64318-4 - The Reconstruction of the Church of Ireland: Bishop Bramhall and the Laudian Reforms, 1633-1641

John McCafferty

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The Reconstruction of the Church of Ireland

Thomas Wentworth landed in Ireland in 1633 – almost 100 years after Henry VIII had begun his break with Rome. The majority of the people were still Catholic. William Laud had just been elevated to Canterbury. A Yorkshire cleric, John Bramhall, followed the new viceroy and became, in less than one year, Bishop of Derry. This study, which is centred on Bramhall, examines how these three men embarked on a policy for the established church which not only represented a break with a century of reforming tradition but which also sought to make the tiny Irish church a model for the other Stuart kingdoms. Dr McCafferty shows how accompanying canonical changes were explicitly implemented for notice and eventual adoption in England and Scotland. However, within eight years the experiment was blown apart and reconstruction denounced as subversive. Wentworth, Laud and Bramhall faced consequent disgrace, trial, death or exile.

JOHN McCAFFERTY is Director of the Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute at University College Dublin. He has recently edited, with Alan Ford, *The Origins of Sectarianism in Early Modern Ireland* (2005).

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521643184

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First published 2007

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-64318-4 hardback

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In memoriam Pádraic McCafferty, 10 September 2006

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When a book has been as long in the making as this one there are many people to thank. Very many things have come between this work and its completion over the years. Some of those things were wonderful and some banal but now it is finished. It has its flaws but it is less flawed than it would have been had not several friends read drafts. There is a custom which calls upon authors to thank the readers by name. I am not going to follow it because I do not wish to implicate my friends in any mistakes or enlist them in my stubbornness. You know who you are. Thank you so much.

I started researching John Bramhall in St John's College, Cambridge. Its fellows awarded me a Benefactors' scholarship, they even paid for micro-filming through the Harry Hinsley memorial fund, and then they elected me to a title 'A' fellowship. All of which leaves me indebted to that society for some of the happiest years I have spent. John Morrill took care of me in Cambridge and never stopped believing in this project. He has been, and is, a wonderful and generous adviser and friend. He is a great advocate for Irish history in Britain and he delighted many people when he incorporated it into the title of his chair. I have been both medievalist and early modernist but the fact I have spent so much time on Stuart history is due to Brian Sommers, and to his brilliant seminars and endless support. James McGuire is the best of friends and he has shown how to keep to true scholarly values in all the storms and stresses of university affairs. Ciaran Brady is one of the best people I know to talk about history. Our meetings are always happy. Art Cosgrove was my first postgraduate supervisor and I am still grateful to him. Any ability I have to read historical documents thoroughly is due to the excellent training I received from Charlie Doherty.

There are others to thank. Gerald Bray for his remarkable generosity, Brendan Bradshaw for his insight and encouragement and Seán Hughes for patient theological advice and friendship over many years. A lot of other people helped in various ways and I thank them for it, especially Brian Jackson, Kate Breslin, Ivar McGrath, Eamon Ó Ciardha, Peter Gray,

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Acknowledgements

Mícheál Mac Craith, Marc Caball, Brian Mac Cuarta, Mark Empey, Robert Armstrong, Patrick Little, Patrick Geoghegan, Alan Ford, Oliver Rafferty, Eamon Duffy, Fergus D'Arcy, Harry White, Rena Lohan, Elva Johnston, Andrew Carpenter, Alun Carr, Jane Ohlmeyer, Peter Marshall, James Murray, Arnold Hunt, Julia Merritt, David Smith, Richard Nolan, Howard Hughes, Peter Linehan, Nial Osborough, Maurice Bric, Bernadette Cunningham, Dave Edwards, Jebu Rajan, Liam Smith, Aishling Begley and Michael Clarke. Vincent Morley gave me some excellent advice which helped me overcome a block and move to finishing the book. Richard Aldous, Ronan Fanning and Michael Laffan have done me many favours at UCD, with some convivial times along the way. Pádraic Conway has been a good friend and helped me sharpen my understanding of ecclesiastical politics greatly. Mary Daly showed me great kindness and patience and forgave many disappearances from other duties. Máire Ní Mhaonaigh and Torsten Meissner gave me a home from home in Cambridge. Patrick Collinson and Anthony Milton helped this work develop from its earlier incarnation as did the late Conrad Russell. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.*

I would also like to record my thanks to the British Academy for funding me as a PhD student. Librarians and archivists in many places have made much of what follows possible. If it had not been for a generous donor there would be no Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute, of which I have the great honour of being director. I want to thank very warmly all those who work with me in this happy project, especially Edel Bhreatnach, Colmán Ó Clabaigh, Emmett O'Byrne and Malgorzata Krasnodebska-D'Aughton, as well as our friends and partners, the Irish Franciscans.

Bill Davies has been a great friend to Irish historians and to me. Michael Watson has been more than patient and understanding. Isabelle Dambricourt has been unfailingly helpful and kind throughout all stages of this and another project.

Work on this 'dead bishop', as she once called him, commenced before I married Pádraicín and went on and on after the births of Máire, Aoife and Séamus. My debt to her and to them is just incalculable. My parents, Jim and Ann, and my sisters, Rachel and Audrey, never thought they would see the end but out of the goodness of their hearts they kept faith. I am more grateful to them than I can say. Máire and Aoife, with Séamus consenting, wanted this book to be called *Century after century of Irish history*. I am sorry it has not been possible (as it would violate description of goods legislation) but it is a worthy title to be saved for another time. The best is kept till last. So I dedicate this book to Pádraicín with great love.

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NOTE ON THE TEXT

In the text, dates are Old Style but the year is taken to begin on 1 January. Of the printed works cited below, the place of publication is London unless otherwise stated. Spellings have been silently modernised. Unless otherwise stated, all references to statutes are to those passed by the Irish parliament.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bodl.	Bodleian Library, Oxford
BL	British Library
BW	A. W. Haddan (ed.), <i>The works of. . . Bramhall</i> , 5 vols. (Oxford, 1842–5)
<i>Cal. SP Ire.</i>	<i>Calendar of state papers relating to Ireland</i>
Clarke, <i>Old English</i>	Aidan Clarke, <i>The Old English in Ireland</i> (1966)
<i>Commons' jn. Ire.</i>	<i>Journals of the House of Commons of the kingdom of Ireland</i> , vol. I, 1613–66 (Dublin, 1796)
Cotton, <i>Fasti</i>	Henry Cotton, <i>Fasti ecclesiae Hibernicae</i> , 6 vols. (Dublin, 1848–78)
DOC	Duchy of Cornwall Office, Buckingham Gate, London
EC	English canons of 1603
Ford, <i>Protestant</i>	Alan Ford, <i>The Protestant reformation in Ireland, 1590–1641</i> (Frankfurt, 1985)
HA	Hastings manuscripts, Huntington Library, California
<i>HJ</i>	<i>Historical Journal</i>
HMC	Historical Manuscripts Commission
IC	Irish canons of 1634
<i>IHS</i>	<i>Irish Historical Studies</i>
<i>JEH</i>	<i>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</i>
Kearney, <i>Strafford</i>	Hugh Kearney, <i>Strafford in Ireland</i> (Cambridge, repr. 1989)
Knowler	W. Knowler (ed.), <i>The earl of Strafford's letters and despatches</i> , 2 vols. (1799)
<i>Lib. mun Hib.</i>	Rowney Lascelles (ed.), <i>Liber munerum publicorum Hiberniae</i> , 2 vols. (1824–30)

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<i>Lismore papers</i>	A. B. Grosart (ed.), <i>Lismore papers</i> , 1st series 5 vols., 2nd series 5 vols. (1886–8)
<i>Lords' jn. Ire.</i>	<i>Journals of the House of Lords of the kingdom of Ireland</i> , vol. I, 1634–99 (Dublin, 1779)
NAI	National Archives of Ireland
NHI III	T. W. Moody, F. X. Martin and F. J. Byrne (eds.), <i>A new history of Ireland</i> , vol. III, 1534–1691 (Oxford, repr. 1991)
NLI	National Library of Ireland
ODNB	<i>Oxford dictionary of national biography</i> (Oxford, 2004)
<i>Pe&P</i>	<i>Past and Present</i>
PRONI	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
<i>Rawdon</i>	E. Berwick, <i>The Rawdon papers</i> (1819)
RCB	Representative Church Body, Dublin
RIA	Royal Irish Academy
Rushworth	J. Rushworth (ed.), <i>The trial of Thomas, Earl of Strafford</i> (1680)
Shirley	E. P. Shirley (ed.), <i>Papers relating to the Church of Ireland, 1631–9</i> (1874)
Shuckburgh, <i>Two lives</i>	E. S. Shuckburgh (ed.), <i>Two lives of William Bedell</i> (Cambridge, 1902)
SO	Signet Office
SP	State Papers, Public Record Office, London
STC	W. A. Jackson, F. S. Ferguson and K. F. Panzer (eds.), <i>A short-title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland and Ireland and of English books printed abroad, 1475–1640</i> , 3 vols. (1976–86)
Str P	Strafford Papers, Sheffield City Libraries
<i>Tanner letters</i>	C. McNeill (ed.), <i>The Tanner letters</i> (Dublin, 1943)
TCD	Trinity College Dublin
UWW	C. E. Elrington (ed.), <i>The whole works of. . . James Ussher</i> , 17 vols. (Dublin, 1847–64)
Vesey, <i>Athanasius Hibernicus</i>	John Vesey, <i>Athanasius Hibernicus</i> (1676)
WL	W. Scott and J. Bliss (eds.), <i>The works of. . . William Laud</i> , 7 vols. (Oxford, 1847–60)

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Church of Ireland dioceses, c.1636