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978-1-107-45068-4 - Bartholomew of Exeter Bishop and Canonist:
A Study in the Twelfth Century
Dom Adrian Morey
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BARTHOLOMEW OF EXETER
BISHOP AND CANONIST
A Study in the Twelfth Century

BY

DOM ADRIAN MOREY
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WITH THE TEXT OF
BARTHOLOMEW'S PENITENTIAL
FROM THE COTTON MS. VITELLIUS A. XII



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To
A. R. B.

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PREFACE

THE following study owes its existence primarily to a suggestion which Professor Walther Holtzmann of Halle University made to me during my stay in Berlin some years ago. The Professor had then recently published his *Papsturkunden in England*¹ in the first volume of which he had described the Penitential of Bartholomew of Exeter as: “ein bisher völlig unbekanntes theologisch-kanonistisches Werk dieses von Alexander III sehr oft zu richterlichen Entscheidungen herangezogenen Bischofs. Das Werk... sollte von einem Kanonisten einmal genauer untersucht und analysiert werden”. Already Dr Z. N. Brooke had directed my attention and interest to the twelfth century, and had himself recognised the significance of bishop Bartholomew’s work when preparing the Birkbeck Lectures² for 1929–1931. It was naturally a great encouragement to find the importance of my subject thus emphasised by two leading authorities on the period.

The history of England during the twelfth century has been increasingly studied in recent times, especially the years which were dominated by the struggle between Henry II and St Thomas of Canterbury. Much has been written about the archbishop but it is somewhat surprising that the English episcopate of his time has been almost entirely neglected, despite the fact that it numbered among its members men of outstanding importance in many ways. I think then that it may be claimed for this study of the Exeter bishop that it is the first English attempt to give a full account of one of Becket’s bishops from a study of the sources.

The limitations of the materials which survive, from a period for which no episcopal registers are available, have necessarily set bounds to the work itself. Yet, if the central figure must inevitably lack substance and reality, it is my hope that I have succeeded in some slight measure in presenting a picture of certain important aspects of English church life during the

¹ *Papsturkunden in England*, W. Holtzmann. 2 vols. Berlin, 1930–1.

² *The English Church and the Papacy*, Z.N. Brooke. Cambridge, 1931.

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latter part of the century, notably of the working of the papal system of judges-delegate as seen in a single bishop's administration of the canon law. I also hope that the charters of Appendix II will be useful as illustrating, not only the judge-delegate system, but also the diocesan administration of a twelfth-century bishop. In the second part of the volume a text of the bishop's Penitential has been printed, together with an Anglo-Saxon version of the Our Father which may be of interest to linguists. I am well aware that some scholars may be disappointed that no final attempt has been made to criticise the sources of this penitential; other and exacting work of a different nature has engaged my attention since this book was begun and it has proved impossible to delay publication any longer. I hope that some one may be found who will carry my researches further.

In the course of my work I have met with great kindness and assistance from many scholars and friends. In the first place I must acknowledge my great debt to Professor Holtzmann who not only suggested the subject but helped me with frequent advice; I am especially indebted to him for his collation of the decretals of Alexander III which will be found in Appendix II. I have also to thank Dr Z. N. Brooke, of Gonville and Caius College, who has assisted me with unfailing kindness throughout. Both he and Professor Holtzmann read the whole book in manuscript and made many valuable suggestions, as did Professor Powicke who read the central chapters. A part of this book was accepted some years ago by the University of Munich for the degree of doctor of philosophy and I wish to thank the professors of the Historical Faculty, especially my two *Referenten*, Professor Dr H. Günter and Prof. Dr A. O. Meyer, for many kindnesses.

To many others also are my thanks due, especially to Mrs Rose-Troup of Ottery St Mary whose help in matters of local history saved me from many mistakes; also to Mrs Stenton, Dom André Wilmart, Père Amédée Teetaert of Assisi, the Rev. H. E. Salter, Professor Tolkien of Pembroke College, and Mr W. A. Pantin of Oriel College, Oxford. I have worked at manuscript material from many libraries: the British Museum, the university and college libraries of Oxford and Cambridge,

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the Chapter Libraries of Exeter and Worcester, the Vatican Library, the Staatsbibliothek at Munich, the Bibliothèque Nationale, and the Archives of St Lô; to the kindness of the authorities of all of these I am greatly indebted. Finally I should like to thank those members of the Downside Community who have helped to prepare this book for the Press, and my pupil, Mr John Hunt of Downside School, who assisted in the preparation of the Index.

ADRIAN MOREY

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Coll. Brug.</i>	<i>Collectio Brugensis</i> in Friedberg, <i>Die Canones-Sammlungen zwischen Gratian u. Bernhard v. Pavia</i> . Leipzig, 1897.
<i>B.M.</i>	<i>Materials for the History of Thomas Becket</i> . Ed. Robertson, J. C. Rolls Series.
<i>EHR.</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i> .
<i>Eyton, Itin.</i>	<i>The Court, Household, and Itinerary of Henry II</i> , R.W. Eyton.
<i>J-L.</i>	Jaffé-Löwenfeld, <i>Regesta Pontificum Romanorum</i> , 2nd edition.
<i>J. of S.</i>	John of Salisbury, <i>Epistolae</i> .
<i>K.C.C. Mun. R.</i>	King's College, Cambridge, Muniment Room.
<i>Mansi</i>	<i>Sacrorum Conciliorum Amplissima Collectio</i> .
<i>Mon. Exon.</i>	<i>Monasticon Diocesis Exoniensis</i> , ed. Oliver.
<i>Quinque Comp.</i>	<i>Quinque Compilationes Antiquae</i> , ed. Friedberg.
<i>R.S.</i>	Rolls Series.
<i>Zt. d. S. S.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte</i> .