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978-1-107-64316-1 - The Precedence of English Bishops: And the Provincial Chapter

Chr. Wordsworth

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THE
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BY

CHR. WORDSWORTH, M.A.,

PREBENDARY OF LIDDINGTON IN LINCOLN CATHEDRAL CHURCH

CAMBRIDGE :
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PREFACE.

IN November 1905, the Bishop of Lincoln did me the honour to pass on to me a question about the official position of certain English Prelates of the Southern Province in the Episcopal College ; an enquiry in which the Bishop of Bristol was interested at the time.

Recollecting that Archbishop Benson had long ago written to me on a kindred subject, I looked up his letter, and such notes as I have preserved indicating the grounds of my reply to him.

The present Primate of all England (hearing, as it appears, that I had been writing upon the subject) in very kind terms has suggested that I should put the result on record.

I have thought accordingly, that I could best comply with his Grace's desire by offering the following notes in print to the consideration of such readers as may care to examine them.

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Preface

It remains for me to express my thanks to the Reverend Edward S. Dewick, F.S.A., Dr J. Wickham Legg, F.S.A., Leopold G. Wickham Legg, Esq., M.A., and Arthur Russell Malden, Esq., M.A., for their kind help while these pages were passing through the Press: as well as to Mr John Clay and his assistants at Cambridge.

CHR. W.

ST PETER'S RECTORY,
MARLBOROUGH.

Ἀπόδοτε πᾶσιν τὰς ὀφειλάς,
...τῶι τὴν τιμὴν τὴν τιμὴν.

Ad Rom. xiii. 7.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

A reference to the fact that the Bishop of London held the position of Dean among the English Bishops as early as 1162¹ suggests the idea that the origin of a PROVINCIAL CHAPTER consisting of members of the COLLEGE OF BISHOPS is of remote antiquity.

Whether or not it was an institution imported from Normandy or elsewhere we are unable to determine.

An attempt is made in the following pamphlet to ascertain the office and position of certain Bishops in the Provincial Chapter of Canterbury, and likewise to trace the history of the Precedence of certain English Prelates.

The following letter, addressed by the late Archbishop Benson to the writer, is printed as introductory to the two-fold enquiry.

¹ See Appendix (*B***), p. 81, below.