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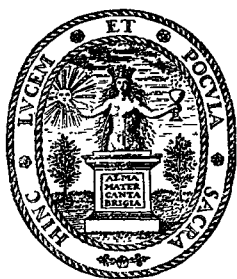
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LATER VICTORIAN CAMBRIDGE

By
D. A. WINSTANLEY
VICE-MASTER OF TRINITY COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE



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D. A. W. *A Memorial Note*

Denys Arthur Winstanley was born in December 1877, the son of Howard Winstanley. He was educated at Merchant Taylors and came up to Trinity as a Sub-Sizar on Verrall's side in 1897. He got firsts in the History Tripos in 1899 and 1900, and in 1901 was Lightfoot Scholar. From 1903 to 1906 he was in north England as a school inspector and then returned to Trinity as Fellow and Lecturer. In the first World War he did intelligence work in Egypt. In 1919 he became Tutor, and in 1925 Senior Tutor. In 1935 he succeeded Parry as Vice-Master. His work as school inspector and intelligence officer gave him that experience of the outside world that helps to make the right sort of don and the right sort of historian. As Lecturer and as Tutor he won the affection of successive generations of undergraduates. As teacher of history he had an extraordinary power of interesting young men in the subject, and filling them with his own infectious enthusiasm. Handled by him the death of Charles Yorke in 1770 became once more a matter of living concern.

The present volume is, in effect, the last instalment of his history of the University of Cambridge, carried down from the middle of the eighteenth century to the goal of the Statutes of 1882, beyond which point in time he never intended to proceed. He has thus completed his life's work, and the publication of *Later Victorian Cambridge* leaves the University he loved in possession of a full and worthy record of the period that is perhaps the most important in her annals.

The two former volumes—*Unreformed Cambridge* (1935) and *Early Victorian Cambridge* (1940) were of a piece with this last volume, and with it form a single work. The still earlier volume, *Cambridge in the Eighteenth Century* (1922) had a different scope and character. The introduction to that volume contains indeed an essay on the peculiarities of the mid-eighteenth-century University and Colleges, but the main part of the book was confined to a record of the Duke of Newcastle's exploitation of his position as Chancellor of the University for political purposes. That record, however, serves to connect Winstanley's earlier works on the national politics of the mid-eighteenth century with the history of the University which occupied the later years of his life. The earlier works, excellent in themselves, were

Personal and Party Government 1760–66 (1910) and *Lord Chatham and the Whig Opposition* (1912). Clearly he was led on from those purely political studies to undertake the history of the University by his intermediate study of the Duke of Newcastle's proceedings here, a virus in the diseased body of un-reformed Cambridge. All the books I have mentioned have been published by the Cambridge Press.

His work is based on profound and accurate scholarship; it is eminently just and it is enlightened by insight into the men of the past, Whewell and Adam Sedgwick for example, as shrewd and humorous as his insight into his own contemporaries. It is true that his wit came out more strongly in his conversation than in his writings. The history of the University must to a large extent be a record of institutions and statutes; but whenever there is a story to be told of personal controversy he always tells it most interestingly, most fully and most justly, as in the cases of the Peterhouse Mastership in 1787; Christopher Wordsworth and Thirlwall; and Robinson's vote in this last volume. Happy is the University that has such an historian.

Cambridge is much indebted to Winstanley for supplying it with a full and scholarly record of its growth. For all time to come reference may be made to this work with confidence in its fairness, wisdom, and accuracy. Incidentally, lovers of the immortal Gunning will be able to test and correct his statements, many of which were only hearsay recollected in old age. Winstanley's volume is all the more needed because Mullinger's massive work only carried down the history of the University from the earliest times to the middle of the seventeenth century. The gap between Mullinger and Winstanley is to some extent filled by Monk's *Life of Bentley*, one of the greatest of British biographies.

Winstanley was peculiarly fitted by temperament and opinion to write the history of 'Unreformed Cambridge' and its gradual adaptation to modern requirements. He was by nature a Liberal and a reformer, but he had a great love of the past and a reverence for all tradition and custom that could reasonably be revered. He could understand the feelings of the academic Conservatives of the past while dissenting from the policies for which they had contended. He usually agreed with the reformers whose efforts he chronicled, but was quite capable of criticising their particular actions.

Both as a historian dealing with the past, and as a friend and colleague in actual life, he could be severe, not on opinions, which he could always

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tolerate, but on manners and character of which he was always a shrewd and dispassionate judge. As his many friends will always remember, but as posterity alas can never experience, his conversation was enlivened by a pungent wit which fastened on the foibles of human nature and held them up gently to ridicule. He was not a loud or continuous talker, but in the Combination Room or by his own fireside he kept the ball of conversation moving with quiet skill, and his own incursions into the talk were the best part of it.

His hospitable and social instincts found full play as Vice-Master of Trinity, especially during the War of 1939–45, when he worked indefatigably and with great success at entertaining the American and other military visitors of the College. He died on 21 March, 1947. His life and work both as an historian and as a member of the University and of the College were singularly complete and perfect.

G. M. TREVELYAN

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P R E F A C E

I complete with this volume the task I set myself of telling the story of the University of Cambridge in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, for the time has not yet come to continue that story after 1882, when the statutes, framed by the Commissioners, became operative. I have, however, exceeded this limit in describing the events which led up to the Cambridge University and Corporation Act of 1894; but as the conflict between Town and Gown, from which that Act emerged, was, happily, the final stage of an ancient feud which I discussed in an earlier book, it seemed fitting to include it. It seemed equally fitting to exclude from this survey the University Extension Movement and the admission of women to University education; for any account of these important developments would be very imperfect unless carried well into the twentieth century.

I must also explain that after this book was in type I found among the University Papers in the University Library a printed copy of Dr Butler's letter of 19 May 1890, which is referred to in a footnote on page 95. It confirms the opinion I expressed that Dr Butler wished the Proctors to be more active; but it should be added that he emphatically advised them to make sure, before arresting a woman, that she was a 'known prostitute on the list kept by the police'. It is also clear that he had consulted the Proctors before writing the letter, and that they were in agreement with him.

The authorities I have used are indicated in the footnotes. Until October 1870, when the first number of the *University Reporter* was published, the large collection of University Papers in the University Library is invaluable, and, as it is admirably classified, it can easily be used. I have also found the documents in the University Registry equally indispensable, particularly the minutes of the meetings of the Council of the Senate and the Statutory Commissioners; and I am greatly indebted to the Council of the Senate for permitting me to see these and other papers. I wish, further, to express my gratitude to the Council of my College for allowing me to use the College documents, and to the Borough Council of Cambridge for giving me access to the minutes of their meetings.

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PREFACE

I am also deeply indebted to some of my friends for generous assistance. My account of the reform of the Classical Tripos owes much to Professor D. S. Robertson; and I owe to Lord Wright the interesting statement of the law about the hearing of cases in private, which appears in a lengthy footnote on p. 140. And I am under a very heavy obligation to Professor Winfield, for he read the greater part of my book in typescript, and saved me from many errors and inaccuracies, particularly in matters of law. It is a great pleasure gratefully to acknowledge assistance so kindly given.

D. A. W.

August, 1946