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James Bass Mullinger

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James Bass Mullinger (1834-1917) was a University Lecturer in History and Librarian at St. John's College, Cambridge. His monumental three-volume history of the university was the standard one at the turn of the twentieth century. For most of his career Mullinger worked on the project alongside his academic duties and his writing for periodicals, the first volume appearing in 1873 and the last in 1911. His extraordinary range of knowledge and the sheer scale of the work make this ambitious project a landmark in the history of universities in Britain. Volume 1 covers the beginnings of the university and the foundation of the early colleges, up to the death of Erasmus. Mullinger compares medieval Cambridge with the universities of Bologna and Oxford, and always keeps in view the university's influence on the country as a whole through the education of its political and social elites.

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The University of Cambridge

*1. From the Earliest Times to the Royal
Injunctions of 1535*

VOLUME 1

JAMES BASS MULLINGER



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge New York Melbourne Madrid Cape Town Singapore São Paulo Delhi

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

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108003506

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1873

This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00350-6

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

FROM THE ROYAL INJUNCTIONS OF 1535

TO THE ACCESSION OF CHARLES THE FIRST.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00350-6 - The University of Cambridge: 1. From the Earliest Times to
the Royal Injunctions of 1535, Volume 1

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London : C. J. CLAY, M.A. & SON,
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS WAREHOUSE,
AVE MARIA LANE.



Cambridge: DEIGHTON, BELL, AND CO.

Leipzig: F. A. BROCKHAUS.

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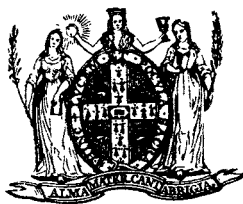
FROM THE ROYAL INJUNCTIONS OF 1535

TO THE ACCESSION OF CHARLES THE FIRST.

BY

JAMES BASS MULLINGER, M.A.

LECTURER ON HISTORY AND LIBRARIAN OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE.



CAMBRIDGE :
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

1884

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Cambridge:

PRINTED BY C. J. CLAY, M.A. AND SON,
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

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TO

JOHN EDWIN SANDYS, ESQUIRE, M.A.

Public Orator in the University of Cambridge.

MY DEAR SANDYS,

The period devoted to the production of this volume has been coincident, for the most part, with your tenure of the office of Public Orator. During the last eight years it has, from time to time, devolved upon you to recall to our recollection the achievements of not a few of our illustrious living, while it has been my endeavour to illustrate the careers of many of our memorable dead. I can scarcely venture to hope that my efforts will appear to have been attended with success in any degree comparable to your own; but when I remember that I was, in the first instance, encouraged and aided in the prosecution of my task by one of your many distinguished predecessors,—the Orator of our undergraduate days,—I feel that there is no one to whom I can more fitly dedicate the following pages than to one who, while ably filling the same office, has constantly aided me with like sympathy and encouragement.

Believe me,

Very truly yours,

J. BASS MULLINGER.

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE,
3 Sept. 1884.

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ERRATA, ETC.

p. 119, l. 2, *for* 'professor' *read* 'reader.'

p. 119, l. 10, *for* '*senis*' *read* '*senex*.'

pp. 151 and 177. I have omitted to notice that on the death of bishop Gardiner, in 1555, Dr Mowse was a *second time* elected to the mastership of Trinity Hall, a fact which becomes necessary to explain his second expulsion from the office.

p. 257, n. 1, *for* '1833' *read* '1633.'

p. 293, l. 11, *for* '1582' *read* '1583.'

p. 347, n. 2, 'found no corroboration,'—see however p. 505, n. 5.

p. 349. To references here given with respect to proceedings against Peter Baro, add Heywood and Wright, *Cambridge Proceedings during the Puritan Period*, II 89—100.

p. 470. 'Tho. Morton (bishop of Peterborough),' *for* 'Peterborough' *read* 'Durham.'

p. 498. Cowell's original manuscript of the *Interpreter*, interleaved for additions, is in the Library of St John's College, MS. I. 32.

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P R E F A C E.

THE period comprised within the present volume, although somewhat less than a hundred years, can hardly but be regarded as the most important in Cambridge university history prior to the present century. It was the time when the code by which, with little modification, the university was governed for nearly three centuries, was, notwithstanding strenuous opposition, first introduced, and the ancient constitution of the academic community thereby almost subverted. It was the time of the foundation of four of the colleges, among them the most considerable of the entire number. And it was the time when those trammels were thrown over our higher national education from which it has but lately been set free.

While such was the internal history of the university, the influence which it exercised on the nation at large was not less notable,—far greater, indeed, than most writers on this period seem to be aware. In a former volume I have attempted to show the extent to which the Reformation in England derived its inspiration from Cambridge; in the following pages it has been no small portion of my task to endeavour to shew the manner in which the great Puritan party was here formed and educated. In dealing with the career and influence of some of the chief leaders of that party,—Thomas Cartwright, Walter Travers, Whitaker, Laurence Chaderton, and Preston,—I have sought to be

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strictly impartial ; a matter of some difficulty where the motives and the actions of the characters under consideration often excite very different sentiments. I would fain hope, on the other hand, that I have done something towards bringing out more clearly the real character of Whitgift and the services which he unquestionably rendered to the university. The slur cast upon his memory by one of the most distinguished ornaments of that society which he ruled so ably, must always be a matter of regret to those who have at heart the cause of historic truth.

The difficulty in dealing with my whole subject has certainly not diminished as the materials have multiplied. It has been truly observed by a very careful investigator of university history, that an adequate treatment of the subject postulates not merely due attention to the organisation and the code, the general discipline and the privileges, of an academic corporation, but also frequent reference to contemporary events and to the influences, whether favorable or restrictive, resulting from the policy of the civil and ecclesiastical powers ; while the developement of the intellectual and scientific life of the whole university and the corresponding achievements of its most conspicuous members, are obviously of primary importance¹. If I admit that it has been my endeavour to realise, in some degree, the high ideal indicated by professor Aschbach, it will be conceded that the labour involved has been considerably beyond that of a mere registration of facts ; in no respect, perhaps,

¹ 'Eine alle Beziehungen erschöpfende Universitäts-Geschichte welche den gegenwärtigen Anforderungen an eine wissenschaftliche Darstellung ganz entsprechen soll, darf das auf die Organisation, die Statuten, die sonstigen Einrichtungen und Privilegien Bezügliche nicht übergehen ; sie kann auch die äusseren Ereignisse der Zeit und die fördernden oder hemmenden Verhältnisse zur Landesregierung und zur Kirche nicht unbeachtet lassen ; sie muss aber vor allen Dingen die Entwicklung des wissenschaftlichen Lebens in seinen manchfachen Richtungen verfolgen, und die Ergebnisse der vorzüglichsten Leistungen der namhaftesten Universitäts-Mitglieder in eingehender Weise darlegen.' *Gesch. d. Wiener Universität im Ersten Jahrhunderte ihres Bestehens.* Von Joseph Aschbach. *Introd.* p. viii.

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have I been more conscious of the difficulties of my task than when endeavouring to discriminate (as I have continually been under the necessity of doing) between the incidents and features in college history which properly belong to such a treatment of the subject, and those which must be considered as appertaining rather to the special history of each separate foundation.

For the encouragement and practical aid which I have received in every quarter, I here take the opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks. To the Masters of Magdalene, Trinity, Emmanuel, and Sidney Colleges, my acknowledgements are especially due for access to documents, and for advice and corrections in my accounts of those several foundations. To the Rev. John E. B. Mayor, M.A., professor of Latin and senior fellow of St John's College,—to J. E. Sandys, esquire, M.A., fellow and tutor of St John's College and public orator to the university,—and to the Rev. Christopher Wordsworth, M.A., formerly fellow of Peterhouse, I am, as in connexion with my former volume, under no small measure of obligation for continuous help in the revision of my proof-sheets and other valuable assistance. To no one, however, is my indebtedness in this respect greater than to the late E. R. Horton, esquire, M.A., fellow of Peterhouse and vice-master of University College School, London, who, until within a few weeks of his lamented death, aided me with a careful and suggestive criticism which I shall always gratefully remember. To the Rev. H. R. Luard, D.D., senior fellow of Trinity College and registrar of the university, I am indebted for access to the original documents in the registry; to Henry Bradshaw, esquire, M.A., senior fellow of King's College and university librarian, for information relating to the history of the Library and other matters of literary interest; to J. Willis Clark, esquire, M.A., auditor and late fellow of Trinity College, for the loan of transcripts of the original statutes of the college and other help; to W. Aldis Wright, esquire, M.A., fellow of Trinity College, for information and valuable guidance on points connected with the history of

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the college; to the Rev. Robert Sinker, B.D., librarian of Trinity College, for like assistance and for access to the library of the foundation. I have also to thank E. J. L. Scott, esquire, of the manuscript department of the British Museum, for the loan of his transcript of Gabriel Harvey's *Note Book*, prior to its publication by the Camden Society; and Robert Bowes, esquire, of the firm of Macmillan and Bowes, for the loan of his copy of Cooper's *Additions and Corrections to the Annals* (a volume now of great rarity), and also for permission to consult the manuscript of his paper read before the *Cambridge Antiquarian Society* on the printers to the university. To the trustees of the Williams Library, Grafton Street, London, my thanks are due for frequent access to the library, a collection of special value for students of our seventeenth century history.

For information and assistance on various points, I would venture to express my obligations to H. Maxwell Lyte, esquire, M.A., of Christchurch, Oxford; to T. W. Jackson, esquire, M.A., tutor and dean of Worcester College, Oxford; to the Rev. J. W. Hicks, M.A., fellow and librarian of Sidney College; to the Rev. W. A. Cox, M.A., fellow and junior dean, to W. F. Smith, esquire, M.A., fellow and lecturer, and to R. F. Scott, esquire, M.A., fellow and bursar,—of St John's College.

Lastly my acknowledgements are due to the Syndics of the University Press, during the last seven years, for the assistance rendered me in the production of this volume and their kind consideration of the delay which has attended its publication.

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE,
Sept. 1884.

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