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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 2 covers 1535-1625, a century that saw the most turbulent changes in the university as in the country as a whole. In particular, Mullinger shows how the Reformation was enthusiastically supported by Cambridge men, and how it affected education in the period, ending with an assessment of the divisions that were to lead to the Civil War.

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*2. From the Royal Injunctions of 1535 to the
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VOLUME 2

JAMES BASS MULLINGER



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FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES

TO THE ROYAL INJUNCTIONS OF 1535

BY

JAMES BASS MULLINGER, M.A.

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE



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TO

JOHN EDWIN SANDYS, Esq., M. A.,

FELLOW AND TUTOR OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,

This Volume

IS DEDICATED.

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P R E F A C E.

THE large amount of attention that has, during the last few years, been attracted to all questions bearing upon the higher education of this country, and the increasing public interest in all that is connected with the two older English universities, might alone seem sufficiently to justify the appearance of the present volume. It may not however be undesirable to offer some explanation with regard to the method of treatment which, in researches extending over nearly seven years, the author has chiefly kept before him.

A very cursory inspection of the Table of Contents will suffice to shew that the subject of university history has here been approached from a somewhat different point of view to that of previous labourers in the same field. The volume is neither a collection of antiquities nor a collection of biographies; nor is it a series of detached essays on questions of special interest or episodes of exceptional importance. It is rather an endeavour to trace out the continuous history of a great national institution, as that history presents itself, not only in successive systems and various forms of mental culture, but also in relation to the experiences of the country at large; and at the same time to point out in how great a degree the universities have influenced the whole thought

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of the educated classes, and have in turn reflected the political and social changes in progress both at home and abroad.

To those who best understand how important and numerous are the relations of university culture to the history of the people, such a method of treatment will probably appear most arduous and the qualifications necessary to its competent execution most varied; it may consequently be desirable also to explain how greatly the author has been aided by the researches of previous investigators.

It is now more than thirty years ago since the late Mr. C. H. Cooper¹ published the first instalment of that valuable series,—the *Annals of Cambridge*, the *Memorials of Cambridge*, and the *Athenæ Cantabrigienses*,—with respect to which it has been truly said that ‘no other town in England has three such records.’ To extraordinary powers of minute investigation he united great attainments as an antiquarian, a fidelity and fairness beyond reproach, and a rare judicial faculty in assessing the comparative value of conflicting evidence. It need hardly be added that more than a quarter of a century of research on the part of so able and trustworthy a guide, has materially diminished and in some respects altogether forestalled the labours of subsequent explorers in the same field. But valuable as were Mr. Cooper’s services, his aim was entirely restricted to one object,—the accurate investigation and chronological arrangement of facts; he never sought to establish any general results by the aid of a legitimate induction; and in the nine volumes that attest his labours it may be questioned whether as many observa-

¹ For the information of readers who may have no personal knowledge of Cambridge, I may state that Mr Cooper was not a member of the university, but filled for many years the offices of town coroner and town clerk.

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tions can be found, that tend to shew the connexion of one fact with another, or the relevancy of any one isolated event to the greater movements in progress beyond the university walls; while to the all-important subject of the character and effects of the different studies successively dominant in the university, he did not attempt to supply any elucidation beyond what might be incidentally afforded in his own department of enquiry.

The aid however which he did not profess to give has been to a great extent supplied by other writers. During the same period contributions to literature, both at home and abroad, have given aid in this latter direction scarcely less valuable than that which he rendered in the province which he made so peculiarly his own. The literatures of both Germany and France have been richly productive of works of sterling value illustrative of mediæval thought and mediæval institutions; and have furnished a succession of standard histories, elaborate essays, and careful monographs, which have shed a new light on the subject of the present volume, in common with all that relates to the education and learning of the Middle Ages. Among these it is sufficient to name the works of Geiger, Huber, Kleutgen, Lechler, Prantl, Ranke, Von Räumler, Schaarschmidt, Ueberweg, and Ullmann in Germany; those of Victor Le Clerc, Cousin, Hauréau, the younger Jourdain, Rémusat, Renan, and Thurot in France; and to these may be added the histories of single universities,—like that of Basel by Vischer, of Erfurt by Kampschulte, of Leipsic by Zarncke, and of Louvain by Felix Nève; while at home, the valuable series that has appeared under the sanction of the Master of the Rolls, and the able prefaces to different volumes of that collection from the pens of Mr. Anstey, professor Brewer, the late

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professor Shirley, Mr. Luard, professor Mayor, and professor Stubbs,—the ‘Documents’ published by the Royal Commission,—the papers relating to points of minuter interest in the publications of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society,—and the histories of separate colleges, especially Baker’s History of St. John’s College in the exhaustive and admirable edition by professor Mayor,—have afforded not less valuable aid in connexion with the corresponding periods in England.

But contributions thus varied and voluminous to the literature of the subject, while forestalling labour in one direction have also not a little augmented the necessity for patient enquiry and careful deliberation in arriving at conclusions; and the responsibility involved might have altogether deterred the author from the attempt, had he not at the same time been able to have recourse to assistance of another but not less valuable kind. From the time that he was able to make his design known to those most able to advise in the prosecution of such a work, he has been under constant obligations to different members of the university for direction with respect to sources of information, for access to records, and for much helpful criticism. Among those who have evinced a kindly interest in the work he may be permitted to name Henry Bradshaw, Esq., M.A., fellow of King’s College and university librarian; William George Clark, Esq., M.A., senior fellow of Trinity College and late public orator; the Rev. John Eyton Bickersteth Mayor, M.A., senior fellow of St. John’s College, and professor of Latin; John Edwin Sandys, Esq., M.A., fellow and tutor of St. John’s College; and Isaac Todhunter, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., late fellow of St. John’s College; as gentlemen to whom he is indebted not only for the revision and correction

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of large portions of the work, either in manuscript or when passing through the press, but also for numerous suggestions and a general guidance which have served to render the volume much less faulty and defective than it would otherwise have been.

For facilities afforded, or for information and assistance in matters of detail, his acknowledgements are also due to the authorities of Peterhouse, and of Pembroke, Corpus Christi, and Queens' Colleges; to J. Willis Clark, Esq., M.A., late fellow of Trinity College; to W. A. Cox, Esq., M.A., fellow of St. John's College; to the late professor De Morgan; to E. A. Freeman, Esq., D.C.L.; to the Rev. E. L. Hicks, M.A., fellow and librarian of Corpus Christi College, Oxford; to the Rev. S. S. Lewis, M.A., fellow and librarian of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; to the Rev. H. R. Luard, M.A., registry of the university; to the Rev. P. H. Mason, M.A., senior fellow and Hebrew lecturer of St. John's College; to M. Paul Meyer, formerly editor of the *Revue Critique*; to the Rev. W. G. Searle, M.A., historian and late fellow of Queens' College; to professor Stubbs; to the Rev. C. Wordsworth, M.A., fellow of Peterhouse; and to W. Aldis Wright, Esq., M.A., senior bursar and late librarian of Trinity College.

Finally his grateful acknowledgements are due to the Syndics of the University Press, during the last three years, for encouragement and assistance most liberally extended in relation to the publication of the present volume.

In conclusion, the author cannot but express his sense that his work, notwithstanding these advantages, must still appear very far from being a complete and satisfactory treatment of the subject, even within the period it comprises. He can only hope that, with all its defects, it may yet be recognised as partially supplying a long existing want; and at

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a time when those few restrictions that have been supposed to hinder a perfectly free intercourse between the university and the country at large either have been entirely removed or seem likely soon to disappear, it will be no small reward if his efforts should conduce, in however slight a degree, to a more accurate knowledge of the past history, and a livelier interest in the future prospects, of one of the most ancient, most important, and most widely useful of the nation's institutions.

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