

Mr. Cooper

THE

# COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

"BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE."

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## BIOGRAPHY.

**BIOGRAPHY OF THE RIGHT REVEREND RICHARD MANT, D.D., LORD BISHOP OF DOWN AND CONNOR.**

The Right Reverend Prelate who is the subject of this Memoir, is the eldest son of the Rev. Richard Mant, D. D., late Rector of the Parish of All-saints, Southampton: in which place the Bishop was born, on the 12th of February, 1776. He is also lineally descended from the Rev. Joseph Bingham, author of "Origines Ecclesiasticæ," or "Antiquities of the Christian Church;" his grandmother having been a daughter of that deeply-learned divine.

The Bishop received his education on the foundation of Winchester College, to which he was admitted in 1789. From this he was removed, in 1793, to the University of Oxford, where he obtained a Scholarship of Trinity College. Having graduated in Divinity, he was, in 1798, elected a Fellow of Oriel College; and the following year obtained the Chancellor's prize for an English Essay on Commerce. He took the degree of M. A. in 1801, and in 1802 was admitted to Holy Orders by the Right Reverend John North, Bishop of Winchester. Shortly afterwards, during the Peace of Amiens, he went to the Continent, on which occasion he narrowly escaped being among the number of unfortunate Englishmen detained by the tyranny and breach of faith committed by Bonaparte. On his return, he was ordained Priest by the Right Reverend Thomas Raab, Bishop of London; and continued some years afterwards in the cure of the small parish in the county of Hants, where he married, in 1804, Miss Elizabeth Woods, the daughter of a gentleman of Sussex. He was removed in 1810 to the Vicarage of Great Cogenhoe, in Essex, on the presentation of Peter Bane, Esq. of Braxted, at the recommendation of Rev. H. H. Norris, now Rector of South Hackney, whose friendship he has long enjoyed.

During the time of Mr. Mant's holding this preferment he was elected to the honourable distinction of reading the annual Lectures before the University of Oxford, on the foundation of Canon Bampton. The Lectures he delivered in the year 1812. He has for his subject on this occasion, "An Appeal to the Gospel, or an Inquiry into the justice of the charges alleged by Methodists and other objectors, that the Gospel is not preached by the National Clergy, and the Sermons which he delivered on this subject have justly been considered a most triumphant vindication of the doctrine and preaching of the Church of England, as well as a refutation of the errors of the Dissenters. The volume, printed according to the directions of the founder of the Lecture, has gone through several editions, and is likely to continue a standard book in the library of consistent members of the Church. Although this was the first theological work of any considerable length which Mr. Mant had hitherto published, the parochial Clergy had become indebted to him for some smaller contributions; in particular for the "Step in the Temple: Familiar and Easy Guide to the Understanding the Church Catechism," a tract of great utility to those country parsons who, like George Hervey, value catechising highly;" and Two Discourses on the Neglect of the Holy Scriptures, produced by the neglect of that Holy Book in the parish of Coggeshall, of which he was Rector. He also published, during his residence in that parish, three volumes of "Sermons for Parochial and Domestic Use," on the leading doctrines

in the Church Magazine.

of the Gospel, the Sacraments, and Ministry of the Church, and other subjects connected with the faithful and duty of Christians.

In the year 1813, Mr. Mant was removed from the Vicarage of Coggeshall, by his appointment as Domestic Chaplain to the Most Reverend Charles Manners Sutton, then Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, for which appointment he was indebted to the high character he had acquired by his Bampton Lectures: and the duties of this office he continued to discharge till the year 1820. In 1814 he was appointed one of the select Preachers of the University of Oxford: in which capacity he delivered before the University, in the course of that and the two following years, several very powerful sermons in defence of the Catholic Doctrines of the Divinity and Atonement of our Lord, and of the Divinity and Personal Agency of the Holy Spirit, against the Socinian preachers, who at that time were labouring with unwearied energy to impugn the truth and propagate their pernicious heresy. These sermons were printed in the year 1816, under the title of "Academical Discourses."

Shortly after Mr. Mant's appointment as Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge having determined to publish an edition of the Holy Bible, with Notes explanatory, illustrative, doctrinal, and practical, selected from the best commentators of the Church of England, for the use of families; an application was made to him to undertake the conduct of the work, in conjunction with his colleague in the Chaplaincy, the Rev. George D'Oyley, of Christ Church, Cambridge. They immediately undertook the task, which occupied them with great labour for above four years, the last part of the edition having been published in the year 1817. And on Tuesday, 5th May, 1818, an unanimous resolution was passed at a General Meeting of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, directing a handsomely bound copy of this edition of the Holy Bible to be presented to him, as one of the Editors, "in testimony of the grateful sense entertained by the Board of the ability and judgment displayed by him in the discharge of a trust of such importance."

In the meantime, in 1815, Mr. Mant had been promoted by the then Lord Bishop of London, now Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Rectory of Saint Botolph, Bishopsgate; and in the same year proceeded to the degree of D. D. in the University of Oxford. And in 1818 he was appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the small Rectory of East Horsley, in Surrey, which he held with St. Botolph's till 1820. The publication of the Family Bible for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge being completed, Dr. Mant undertook, as a companion to it, an edition of the Book of Common Prayer, with Notes, illustrative, explanatory, and practical; which was completed in 1820, and is justly considered as a most valuable and compendious Commentary on the Liturgy of the Church of England and Ireland.

In February 1820, Dr. Mant was nominated by the Earl of Liverpool to the King, and received His Majesty's appointment to the See of Killaloe and Killfenora, then vacant by the translation of Lord Robert Tottenham to the See of Ferns. He was consecrated to the high office of the Episcopate at the Cathedral of Cashel, on the 30th of April, by the Honourable and Most Reverend Charles Brodrick, Lord Archbishop of that Province. He immediately commenced a strict examination, both personally and by queriers, into the state of the different parishes in the

United Diocese of Killaloe and Killfenora: and the result of these inquiries led him, on the three successive annual Visitations which he held in the Cathedral of Killaloe, to embody in his charges observations on the duties of the Ministers of the Church in their public and private ministrations; which, together with other charges on other parts of the same subject afterwards delivered to the Clergy of Down and Connor, have since been collected by his Lordship into one volume, and modified, under the title of "The Clergyman's Obligations considered;" forming an admirable manual for the guidance of Clergymen in every branch of their duty, and in every particular of their conduct.

In April 1823, by the translation of the Right Rev. Nathaniel Alexander to the See of Meath, the See of Down and Connor became vacant, and the Bishop of Killaloe was translated to it—a removal extremely agreeable to him, from the annoyance and uneasiness he had suffered in the then very distracted state of that part of Ireland in which Killaloe is situated. Of his conduct in the superintendance of the See of Down and Connor, one circumstance in particular deserves to be noticed, as a sufficient memorial, if there were no other, of his earnest care for the spiritual benefit of those committed to his charge. On his translation to this bishoprick he found, in one of the united dioceses, two sinecure dignities, to which were appropriated the rectorial tithes of eleven parishes; and a third dignity, to which were appropriated the tithes of another, the cure of which was discharged by a vicar, as were also the cures of the other eleven parishes. The vicarial emoluments of these twelve parishes were so small, that it had been found necessary in several instances to form them into parochial unions, so that there were only eight incumbents with care of souls in the twelve parishes; and even thus, each was possessed of but a miserable pittance. The Bishop who was also patron of the dignities, procured an Act of Parliament to be passed (5 Geo. 4, c. 80), by means of which the sinecures were abolished, and each of the twelve parishes was placed under the care of a separate incumbent, with incomes of different amount, but of which the lowest was 120l. and the others varied from 240l. to 515l.

In another particular also, the Bishop evinced his care for the proper execution of the duties of his office; for there having been no Episcopal residence in the diocese of Down and Connor from time immemorial, he, soon after his translation, set himself to supply the defect, and succeeded, after great exertions and with great personal inconvenience and injury.

In the year 1830, the Bishop was appointed one of the Commissioners under the Great Seal, for inquiring into the state of Ecclesiastical Unions in Ireland. The inquiry was conducted with great labour and diligence the following winter and spring, chiefly by His Grace the Lord Primate of Ireland, assisted by the Bishops of Down and Connor, and of Cloyne; and the Report of the Commissioners was presented to His Majesty King William IV. in April 1831, and ordered by the House of Commons to be printed in July.

His Lordship's publications since his translation to the see of Down and Connor have been very numerous. In 1823, a Translation of the Psalms from the original Hebrew into English Verse: in 1828, a volume on the Minor Festivals of the Church, entitled, "Biographical Notices of the Apostles, Evangelists, and other Saints;" which was followed, in 1830, by another on the greater Festivals, called "Scriptural Notices of our blessed Lord's Life and