

Mr. H.'s parish contains about 11000 acres and 4060 inhabitants. The great tithes, on grain of all sorts, hay, &c. are valued at £5000 a year; but they are in the hands of Lord George Cavendish, Lord Selsey and the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's. The latter farm their's to a Mr. G. on favourable terms to him: he gets a composition of 7s. an acre.—The small tithes, of milk, cheese, butter, pigs, calves, &c. which go to the vicar, should be about £1500 a-year; but Mr. H. gets little more than £400, and that with difficulty. For what is worth 2s6d. he only gets a composition of 7d or 8d.—The church will hold about 1200 people, well packed. It is, in its present state, one of the neatest parish churches that I have yet seen; and I have found my way into not a few in the three kingdoms and Wales. Five years ago, about which time I think Mr. H. came here, it was in a very bad state. The mouldings of the columns, and other ornamental work, was almost entirely defaced;—the columns were painted in stripes; the brick floor much broken; the two main side windows and the end window of the chancel, half blocked up with masonry; against which, within, was placed an altar-piece in the *doric* order; and an entrance was made through the brick work under one of the windows. The great end window over the main entrance was half boarded up, to keep the sun from the organ: no regularity in the pews; a gallery on one side only, and the ceiling all broken and stained.

These deficiencies and damages have been entirely repaired, at an expense of about £5000, in the five years—of which £3000 has been borne by the parish, and two grants of about £2000 in all have been made from the church building fund. A Baronet in the parish, of medical celebrity,—who though unhappily, '*parcus deorum cultor et infrequens*,' has some reverence for the sanctuary of his national church,—has put up a noble painted window, representing the parable of the good Samaritan, at a cost of £400; and there is another painted window which cost about £300, representing our Saviour with a figure of the Virgin Mary on either side, one with and one without the holy Infant. The pulpit ornaments cost about £70.—These expenditures may appear large and even extravagant; but when Mr. H. at one of the vestry meetings, expressed his regret that they had been so heavy on the parishioners, and his willingness to charge himself any part of the expense that they should not wish to bear;—one of them, a man in easy circumstances answered, 'that they knew the value of time and talents, and that if he bestowed these, they should furnish him the necessary funds, as far as they were able.' On another occasion, a rich farmer who came to see the church undergoing these repairs and improvements, expressed a desire of contributing to the expense, and gave as a reason, that he knew Mr. H. might have made the parish pay, upon the church rate, for the ornamental work, if he had chosen to do so,—though in his opinion it would have been a stretch of the law; but as he had not done so, when according to the practice, he might, he (the farmer) thought the whole parish should come forward and contribute liberally.

A dissenter in the parish, who was a mat-maker, went into Oxfordshire to get a pattern for a mat to put under the Brussels carpet round the communion table (which also was the present of a tradesman) and actually gave one for the purpose, of the value of £5 or £6, though he never came to church himself, saying that 'though he was bred a dissenter, he respected the church, and looked upon the improvements which were making, as a benefit and credit to the parish.'

The steeple is now repairing by the parish, at an expense of about £300.

In five years Mr. H. has been the means of reducing the parish poor-rates from £4000 to £1000, without stinting the poor. At first he took no part in the vestry meetings, but sat silent until he had made himself master of the subject; in the management of which he saw that there was something wrong. Having got a view of the abuses, he proposed to the vestry to remedy them; which he effected by cutting up the jobs of contracting overseers, whose custom was to throw in a supply of provisions under their contract when they knew the price was falling in London; and by devising a plan for making work at 1s6d. a day, for some 70 or 80 paupers, who used to get 2s6d. or 3s6d. a week from the parish, under the pretence that they could not get work, and to enable them to find employment. Of 80, all but 17 made default at the time and place of work; and they only remained about a fortnight.

Great assistance is also given by his plan for a new survey and valuation of the parish, the parish rate having been unchanged for 50 years; the new valuation was to be made by two farmers, two tradesmen, and a chairman, an independent and neutral person. The people insisted that Mr. H. should be the chairman. The valuation gave universal satisfaction,—except to the surveyors, who used formerly to be employed at the rate of 2s6d per acre, to make surveys,—which were generally contested, and another and another survey and valuation ordered by the court, to the great profit of lawyers and surveyors, and damage of the parish. The surveyors foresaw, like Demetrius the silversmith, that their craft was in danger, since the neighbouring counties would be taking the same way of avoiding the expense of 2s6d, an acre, often repeated,—by a

uniform and consentaneous valuation. The only cost of this mode of valuation was that of the dinners of the board when they happened to be kept late on the business, away from their homes. Mr. H. was on one occasion nine hours in the chair at once.

I could mention other particulars of this useful clergyman's management of the affairs of his parish, but I will not venture to occupy more of your space, than to add, that shortly after he assumed his charge, he established a benevolent society,—open to all subscribers of even a penny a week, upon a plan and under regulations which I conceive must have materially aided in reducing the poor's rate—and which might, (if you thought it worth publishing) furnish useful hints to townships and parishes even in Nova Scotia, where, though the support of the poor be not as yet a heavy burden, it is nevertheless an increasing one, and undoubtedly susceptible of improvement, by voluntary associations, which shall at once make the poor in part their own helpers and providers, and maintain in them that feeling of independence which will most surely tend to save them from the necessity of resorting to parochial relief.

I will only further add that my friend was a sound and well read divine, and as careful of the spiritual as of the temporal concerns of his parish; that he was at the same time a useful magistrate;—that with all these occupations, he contrived to mingle both in the general society of the neighbourhood, (being highly considered by men of the highest rank and station in the country,) and joined also occasionally in the manly amusements of English Gentlemen; and at the same time obtained a reputation in literature not only by the publication of some admirable volumes of sermons, but by contributions to the *Encyclopædia*, *Metropolitana*, in its theological departments, and by other occasional works.

## VINDESORIENSIS.

For the Colonial Churchman.

## RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW.

*The Life and Times of WILLIAM LAUD, D. D. and Archbishop of Canterbury.* By John P. Lawson, M.A. published in 1829.

Continued.

Our limits will not permit us to follow Mr. Lawson in his minute and circumstantial accounts of the different steps by which Laud had ascended to the very pinnacle of church preferment. These are detailed with much minuteness, and such close reference to the transaction which then principally occupied the public mind, that they reflect the greatest credit on the diligence and industry of the author. But we will content ourselves with giving a mere outline of the remarkable career, which may be traced in the volume before us.

It has been already stated that Laud was admitted into Priest's orders in 1601 by Dr. Young, Bishop of Rochester. Two years afterwards he was chosen Proctor of his College, at which time he had a controversy with Abbot, who was subsequently Archbishop of Canterbury, and who had already conceived a peculiar enmity against the man who was yet destined by Providence to succeed him in the Primacy. Laud took his Doctor's degree in Divinity in 1608,—was appointed Chaplain the same year to Neile, who had succeeded Young in the see of Rochester, and in whose diocese he obtained a living in 1610, when he resigned his fellowship. Notwithstanding the opposition of Abbot and others of his party, Laud was appointed President of St. John's College in May 1611. At this time the complaints and accusations of Abbot became so clamorous that the King resolved to hear the merits of the case in person. The complaint against Laud was, that he was too much attached to Popery: but so convinced was his Majesty of his innocence in this particular, that he was appointed one of the Royal Chaplains the same year. In 1614 he got from his patron Dr. Neile, now promoted to the see of Lincoln, the prebend of Bugden, and in 1615 the archdeaconry of Huntingdon. In November 1616, the King made him Dean of Gloucester, which he subsequently remarked—'was he well knew, a shell without a kernel.' He was installed prebendary of Westminster in January 1620; and on the 29th of June 1621, he was advanced to the Bishoprick of St. David's, with express permission on the part of the King to hold the presidency of St. John's in commendam.

King James died the 27th of March 1625:—Laud increased in favour with the new king. He was appointed to supply the place of the Dean of Westminster at the coronation; for his majesty would not have the Bishop of Lincoln, then dean, to be present at the ceremony, which was celebrated July 2d 1626. Dr. Lake, Bishop of Bath and Wells, died in the May fol-

lowing, and in July, Laud was appointed to succeed him. In April the year after—1627—he was made a privy Councillor. On the 17th of June 1628, he was advanced to the see of London,—the favour of the king and the malice of his enemies generally keeping pace with each other in regard to his character. This last promotion he obtained on the removal of Dr. Mountain, whom the king considered inactive, and as Heylin expresses it, "addicted to voluptuousness; and one that loved his ease too well to disturb himself in the concerns of the church."

The Earl of Pembroke, Lord Steward of his Majesty's household, and Chancellor of the University of Oxford, died suddenly in April 1630. A convocation was held a day or two after this event, by which Bishop Laud was most unexpectedly elected to that high and honourable office, and the duties of which he discharged in a manner equally creditable to himself and useful to the University,—"which was" he says in his history, "extremely sunk from all discipline and fallen into all licentiousness."

Archbishop Abbot's death on the 4th of August 1633, was announced at court the same day, and two days after the vacant primacy was confirmed on Laud. On the 19th of September he was translated to the see of Canterbury; and under that date in his private diary he appears to have earnestly prayed to God to grant him, ability to execute the high trust committed to him, which was not likely to be, and which he was not disposed to make, a sinecure.—On the 14th of the same month he was chosen Chancellor of the University of Dublin; a step which that learned Seminary was probably induced to take, by his active attention to the interests of knowledge and sound erudition in the University of Oxford.

Thus Dr. Laud attained by a regular and rapid course of preferment to the highest office which the Church of England has to bestow. Still the measure of his greatness was not yet full. On the 5th of February 1635, he was appointed a member of the Committee of Trade, and for the improvement of the King's revenue; and on the 14th of March following, he was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Treasury, after the death of Richard Weston, Earl of Portland, Lord High Treasurer. On this occasion the management of the Treasury was, by letters under the broad seal, committed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Cottington, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and two Secretaries of State.

'The promotion of the Archbishop,' Mr. Lawson informs us, 'to the arduous office of Prime Minister of England, was not altogether agreeable to him, and though he engaged in the duties of that office with his accustomed earnestness, yet he found many obstacles in his way which he had not contemplated.' He soon became tired of the accumulation of secular matters which his exalted station continually pressed upon his attention, and after discharging faithfully, and to the best of his ability, the trust committed to him by the King, during one year, he resigned, and fell back upon his Ecclesiastical preferments.

During the whole of Charles the I.'s reign, the opposition of the Papists and Puritans to all the proceedings of his Ministers, not only continued without abatement, but gained strength and confidence every year. At the time of Laud's resignation of the premiership, it became extremely violent, and began to exhibit itself in acts of the most daring character. It daily increased in importance; until, gathering courage from the clamour of party, and from the blind fury of religious zealots, it at length acquired an undue ascendancy in the public affairs of the nation. The first illegal exertion of its power was to expel the English Bishop from the House of Peers. This spirit of demolition identified itself with the House of Commons, who made no scruple to trample under foot, every obstacle and every object which seemed to oppose their progress to universal dominion, and the sole management and government of the nation.

The archbishop who had spent a most laborious and useful life in the service of his king and country, was denounced by the self-constituted House of Commons as a traitor who deserved not to live. He was brought to trial on this charge in 1640, and so partial were the proceedings into which we cannot at present enter, that his own private diary was produced and admitted as evidence against him: the trial lasted twenty days; but the charge of treason could not be proved. The Commons determined upon his destruction,