

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

LITTLE excuse is needed for writing a new life of Archbishop Parker. Strype's work, while preserving a vast number of documents to which every student must refer, is not such as would appeal to the general reader, and in addition is frequently inaccurate. Parker's primacy was perhaps the most important in the history of the English Church, and yet it has received little recognition in comparison with its importance.

The method which I have tried to follow in this book is twofold. First, an effort has been made to work through the various manuscript and printed sources of the period, and to approach the subject as it were first hand. Thus I have tried to arrive at accurate facts. Second, I have endeavoured to eliminate prejudice and to deal fairly with all parties. I have, as it were, attempted to throw myself back into the period, and to look out on the complicated problems with Parker's eyes. When he became primate there lay before him a very ambiguous future. On the one hand was the Marian party, which was pledged heart and soul to the see of Rome and mediæval theology. On the other was the extreme reforming party, which desired to make the English Church more and more like the extreme Continental churches in ceremonial and theology. It required tact and wisdom to steer between these extremes, and at the same time to preserve the catholicity of