

[An account of the life of John Williams] / [John Williams].

Contributors

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Our Readers have here an elegantly engraved HEAD, with an Account of the LIFE of JOHN WILLIAMS, a Welsh Divine of a very distinguished Character, being Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, and Archbishop of York. His History will throw great Light on that of the Times he lived in, in which he seems to have borne a great Part.

JOHNS WILLIAMS was born March 25, 1582, at Aberconway, in the county of Caernarvon in Wales, and was the son of Edward Williams, Esq; whose father, William Williams, Esq; of Coghwillane, derived his pedigree from the Princes of North-Wales, in the time of King Stephen, and continued his coat of arms without any alteration from Ednevet Vischan, Lord Steward of Wales in the 25th year of Henry II. Mr. Williams, being youngest of five sons, his education fell to the share of his grandmother, who was daughter of Sir William Griffyth, Knt. late of Penryn; and this Gentlewoman very gladly embraced the opportunity that offered of sending her grandson to Ruthyn in Denbighshire, to a grammar-school founded that year by Dr. Gabriel Goodman, Dean of Westminster, who had likewise appointed her kinsman, Mr. Robert Griffyth, the first master. Mr. Williams could not be less than thirteen years of age when he came to this school; however, he retrieved that disadvantage by the quick progress he made through it. For though his spirit could not be confined to a constant regular attendance; and, indeed, no boy played truant so often as he; yet, when he returned to his book, he plied it so much to the purpose, and made such swift advances, that no boy was able to keep pace with him. He was head scholar when Dr. Richard Vaughan, then lately made Bishop of Bangor, happened to make a visit to this new foundation, and, finding his young kinsman ripe for the university, presently sent him to St. John's college in Cambridge, where he was admitted in 1598, under the tuition of Mr. Owen Gwyn, another of his relations; and he became a scholar of the house the 5th of November, in the following year. It was observed, that he brought with him hither more Latin and Greek than good English; and the shame of his Welsh dialect proved a lucky check upon the sociableness of his temper; for, avoiding company on that account, he kept close to his studies, and, being happy in a constitution that required no more than three hours sleep in the twenty-four to keep him in perfect health, he read over the best authors in several sciences, together with the most considerable historians and poets,

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Greek and Latin, while he was yet undergraduate; and his genius was likewise soon observed to be above the ordinary level; but he was most of all distinguished by a ready and retentive memory. He proceeded bachelor of arts the latter end of the year 1602, and in less than a month, viz. on the 14th of April, 1603, was elected into a foundation fellowship for the diocese of Bangor, and nominated senior of his election by the favour of King James I. In 1604, his patron, Dr. Richard Vaughan, being promoted to the see of London, gave his kinsman an invitation to his palace there in vacation-times. This kindness proved of great service to our student, who thereby began to shake off the awkward address of the collegian, and to acquire a more courtly manner. Here he likewise became known to John, Lord Lumley, who received him as a relation, and never dismissed him without a present of ten pieces, and afterwards gave him several valuable books, both printed and manuscripts, out of his curious library. By this means, when Mr. Williams commenced Master of Arts in 1605, he indulged his natural humour, and treated his friends at the commencement in a splendid manner, above the common practice. As soon as he had completed this degree, he entered seriously upon the study of divinity, and, having employed two years in reading the Bible with the best commentators, he undertook the schoolmen, the ecclesiastical historians, and the fathers. In the study of which his manner was to allot one month to each, whereby he found variety almost as much refreshing as cessation from labour: In such a method he was likewise sure to return to none of these courses of learning as a stranger, making his spaces of absence from none of them any longer than those monthly revolutions: However, as he observed, "*viam sibi reperit usus*;" and he liked his own method so well, that he was constant to it for 13 years, until he was called off by his secular employments, and, when he was discharged of them, he fell again to run round with his former courses. But, though he made divinity his chief study, yet he did not neglect other acquisitions and accomplishments. He had been early instructed in mathematics by the cele-

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brated Mr. Edward Briggs, then fellow of his college. He was particularly fond of metaphysics, and remarkably well versed in that science. Besides these, he acquired some skill in music, both vocal and instrumental, and a tolerable knowledge of the French language. These several attainments, accompanied with a more polite address than is usually seen in close academical students, and joined to the advantage of being known to some people of high station, to whom he had been occasionally introduced by the Bishop of London, brought him into considerable repute and esteem in his society; insomuch, that in 1607, being not above 25 years of age, he was pitched upon as the fittest person to carry a message upon some college affairs to the Earl of Salisbury, then Chancellor of that University.

In 1609, having lost three of his principal friends, Bishop Vaughan, Lord Lumley, and Dr. Thomas Playfere, he entered into holy orders, and to improve himself in the gift of preaching took a small living. In the meantime he had succeeded so well with his late message to Lord Salisbury, that he was frequently delegated by the college on the like occasions to other great personages, as to the Lord Chancellor Egerton, and Archbishop Bancroft; and his prudent address in discharge of these trusts proved not more serviceable to the college than to himself. In 1610, he preached on Luke xvi. 22. before the University at St. Mary's church, with great applause, as he did eight months after at Royston before the King, when Prince Henry being present, was so much pleased with his sermon, that he promised to prefer him. Another time being deputed by the society for their Agent to the Court, to petition the King for a mortmain, his Majesty not only granted the suit, but was struck with something he observed very pleasing in the suitor, and some time after gave him the rectory of Grafton Regis, in Northamptonshire, to which he was instituted May 3, 1611. At Midsummer the same year, he was recommended to be chaplain to the Lord Chancellor Egerton, who likewise at his request excused his attendance at York-house for the first year, that he might not lose the benefit of the proctor's place in the University, which office regularly devolved upon him at Michaelmas following, as senior of his election in the college; an advantage that he owed to the King's letter sent to the society in his favour. Soon after Christmas, the Duke of Wirtemberg, making a visit to the University, was entertained by the King's orders with an

academical disputation, wherein our proctor, presiding as moderator, artfully took care to make his decisions in the words and upon the authority of the German authors in logic, which induced the Duke to take him in his coach to Newmarket, and there present him to the King, with a particular encomium of his courtly address in those disputations. The Earl of Salisbury, Chancellor of Cambridge, dying May 4, this year, the succeeding election furnished Mr. Williams with an opportunity of serving the University by the share he then had in the King's favour; which he likewise greatly improved by unriddling one of his Majesty's ænigmatical expressions. The Earl of Northampton having declined the offer of the Chancellorship, in respect, as he said, to Prince Charles; the University, in this message, applied to his Majesty to nominate a fit person for their choice; in return to which, he sent orders for them to proceed in a new election, declaring 'he would make the person elected to hold it.' Here being no explicit designation of any particular person, the University were still much perplexed how to proceed, till Mr. Williams luckily conjectured that the words 'he would make him hold it,' must needs be pointed to the Earl of Northampton, who had just before refused to hold it; this interpretation was approved; that Earl was accordingly re-elected; and his Majesty, as soon as he had notice of it, was greatly satisfied, and acknowledged that was his meaning in the words. Afterwards being, though junior proctor, elected father of the act, which was honoured with the presence of many Noblemen and Gentry, he gave so sumptuous an entertainment, that the Prevaricator, in the humour of these days, styled him 'Titus Largius Primus Dictator Romanorum;' and the act was scarce well over, when he was instituted to the rectory of Grafton Underwood, in Northamptonshire, at the presentation of Edward, Earl of Worcester. Soon after the commencement he went to London, to perform his duty at York house; but in seven months time was recalled by the particular request of the University to Lord Ellesmere, occasioned by a letter received from his Majesty, giving them notice to prepare for the reception of the Prince Palatine in a fortnight's time. Notwithstanding this short warning, Mr. Williams performed his exercise, and took his degree of B. D. before the arrival of that Prince, that he might appear more regularly as first opponent

ponent in the divinity disputations performed for the entertainment of his Electoral Highness; in which he executed his part so well, as to gain thereby the friendship and patronage of Dr. James Mountague, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who happened to be present; and before the expiration of the year he was admitted into the archdeaconry of Caermarthen, February 11th.

He had not been long with the Lord Ellesmere before he became his principal favourite, to whom he made himself in a manner necessary, by an indefatigable industry, conducted with the most artful address in procuring the best and earliest intelligence for his service from the Court, both of the King and also of Prince Henry, whose death happening within four months after Mr. Williams entered upon this office, proved a loss, which in that view was more sensibly felt by him; yet his ready wit suggested other ways to supply these useful expedients, the fruits of which were seen in the following preferments. December 29, 1613, he was installed by proxy Precentor of the cathedral of Lincoln; and May 14, 1614, was instituted to the rectory of Waldgrave, in Northamptonshire, at the presentation of Dr. Richard Neile, Bishop of Lincoln. The same year, before the 3d of January, he resigned the archdeaconry of Caermarthen, and was collated to a prebend and residentiaryship in the church of Lincoln, and to a prebend in those of Peterborough, Hereford, and St. David's; and, besides all these, had a sine-cure in Wales, equal in point of profit to any of his other preferments, being the gift of the Lord Chancellor, by whose munificence in the space of five years he likewise raised himself an ample fortune in cash. Neither was he wanting to his friends while he lived in this station; we are assured by Bishop Hacket, that he procured from the Chancellor livings for several Clergymen of merit in the University of Cambridge, to whom he likewise opened his purse freely, if wanted. To these, as also to all others in general that applied to him, he was always ready to give his assistance in any difficulties of law; insomuch that many Bishops and Chapters of cathedral churches employed him to manage their law suits, being very expert in bringing them to a final termination with the least expence. His situation gave him an opportunity of informing himself in the business of his master's office, and he improved it by reading books upon that subject; in which study he had the assis-

tance of John Walker, afterwards Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer. In the midst of all these employments, he still kept on his rounds in the study of the fathers, and ecclesiastical history and antiquities; and, in this last branch especially, he had now the advantage of discoursing often with three of the most learned men that England ever bred, Sir Henry Spelman, Sir Robert Cotton, and Mr. Selden. Toward the latter end of the year 1615, the Lord Chancellor being, through age and infirmities, wholly confined to his house, Mr. Williams was intrusted by him in carrying messages upon business to the King, who on these occasions took notice, that the chaplain was principled by his master to be a Statesman and a pillar of the kingdom; and his Lordship, a very little before the day of his death, called Mr. Williams to him, and told him, "If he wanted money, he would leave him such a legacy in his will, as would furnish him to live in the world like a Gentleman. Sir, said the chaplain, I kiss your hands; you have filled my cap full. I am far from want, unless it be of your Lordship's directions how to live in the world if I survive you. Well, says his Lordship, I know you are an expert workman: Take these tools to work with; they are the best I have." So he gave him some books and papers written all with his own hand. Nor did the chaplain fall short of the presage of his noble Lord and patron in the use of them. However, when his successor to the Great Seal, Sir Francis Bacon, who knew Mr. Williams's merit, made him an offer to continue him in his former station at York-house, he declined it, but accepted the office of a Justice of Peace of the quorum in Northamptonshire, which was given him by the new Keeper. He was preparing for his journey, when his friend Dr. Montague, now Bishop of Winchester, presented him to his Majesty, who appointed him his chaplain in ordinary, with a command to attend upon him in his northern progress, to begin in April following; and the King told him pleasantly, 'That he might expect the labourer's penny as soon as they who had served him longer.' But the Bishop obtained of his Majesty that Mr. Williams might stay to take his Doctor's degree, and give entertainment to Marco Antonio de Dominis, Archbishop of Spalato, who was newly come to England, and designed to be at Cambridge commencement the next July, 1617; when Mr. Williams accordingly commenced D.D. and immediately after went to reside at the

rectory of Waldgrave, which, by building, gardening, and planting before he came, he had made a very pleasant situation. Here he lived in the greatest hospitality, without neglecting to discharge faithfully the duties of a good parish-priest. However, his chaplain's place requiring him to take the course of his attendance at Court, he preached a sermon before the King, at Theobald's, which was printed by order of his Majesty, who collated him to the deanery of Salisbury, void by the death of Dr. Gordon. This was the first step to which no hand helped him but the King's; for he had hitherto judged it imprudent to make his court to the Marquis of Buckingham, both on account of the unlikelihood there was that so great a favourite should hold his situation long without a fall, in which case he should think himself obliged in honour to follow his fortune; and likewise by reason of the fickleness of that favourite's temper in particular. But he had not been long possessed of this deanery, when being in waiting upon his Majesty, then at Royston, in the absence of the Marquis, the King abruptly, without any relation to the subject then in discourse, asked him, 'When he was with Buckingham? Sir, said the Doctor, I have had no business to resort to his Lordship. But, replied the King, wheresoever he is, you must presently go to him on my message.' On the delivery of this message the Doctor, being graciously received by the Marquis, determined to comply with the King's pleasure thus intimated to him; and soon engaged the Marquis's best regards by smoothing a rub, which the Marquis had met with, in soliciting his match with the Earl of Rutland's daughter. For by his engaging wit, and decent behaviour, he presently reconciled the Earl to the favourite, which was the easier effected as the Lady's affections were already secured; and he likewise removed another obstacle which stuck with his Majesty on account of her religion, having brought her Ladyship from the Church of Rome to that of England. After such service, can it be surprising to find Dr. Williams making a very quick progress to the height of all that could be in his utmost ambition? Accordingly the deanery of Westminster becoming void, he easily obtained it of his new patron, and, gladly quitting Salisbury, was installed into this, July 12, 1620. This place was very agreeable to his humour, and he greatly improved both the church, the college, and the school.

While he was thus employed, Chancellor Bacon being deprived of the Great

Seal, for corruption, in May 1621, the Marquis, a few days after, desired the Dean to draw up in writing a state of the just profits of that place; which being readily complied with, when the account was perused by his Majesty, he presently concluded the author of it to be the fittest person to execute that great trust; and accordingly the Dean was sworn, June 10 following, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal; and, before the end of that month, was nominated to the bishopric of Lincoln; to which he was consecrated, Novem. 11; and he afterwards prevailed, though not without some difficulty, to hold the deanery of Westminster in commendam, to which was also joined his rectory of Waldgrave, together with the residentiaryship of Lincoln, and the prebend of Atgarvey in that church. In accepting the Keeper's office, he requested and obtained of the King, that the Seal should not be taken from the Commissioners and put into his hands before ten months were over, that he might have time to study and weigh the trust of his office; to which purpose he kept Sir Henry Finch, a most profound lawyer, in his lodgings from May to October, to advise with him upon all occasions. By that means he had time to look out for honest and able servants to fill the chief places of trust under him. He requested his Majesty likewise, that he should be in the nature of a probationer for one year and a half; that in the Court of Chancery he might have a Master of the Rolls of great knowledge to sit with him; and, lastly, the constant attendance of two Judges. He did not appear in Court till the end of Michaelmas term, when he made a speech, wherein he laid down several rules which he resolved to observe in the discharge of that office. And, after some time that passed in obtaining experience, the Court of Chancery was never better ordered, his decrees were generally approved, and his dispatch was so extraordinary, that his enemies made it an objection to him. He had not been above two months in this post, when he redeemed an estate belonging to his family from William, Earl of Pembroke, at the price of 10,000 l. The same year, at the instance of Buckingham, his present patron, whose suit for the purpose had been rejected, he petitioned and prevailed with his Majesty to promote Dr. Laud, then one of his prebendaries at Westminster, to the bishopric of St. David's. This year he likewise procured Mr. Selden's release from prison, and afterwards gave him the registry of Westminster-college. He secured the rights of the Bishops against the

attempts of the Earl of Essex. He did not approve of Prince Charles's going to Spain for the Infanta; and during that negotiation ventured to give the Marquis a piece of advice which that favourite never forgave: This was, that he would not be haughty to the Spanish Court, nor behave disrespectfully to the Prince. From this time the Keeper was narrowly watched, notwithstanding which, all the power of that absolute minion was foiled in attempting to displace him, after his return from Spain; for the King was so well satisfied with his conduct in that affair, that, during the Christmas holidays in 1623-4, he entered him into the Council-book to succeed upon the next vacancy to the archbishopric of York. While the Prince was in Spain, the King told the Earl of Carlisle, that "If he had sent Williams into Spain with his son, he had kept heart's ease and honour, both which he lacked at that time." And the first time Williams came into the King's presence after the Prince's return into England, which was a little before Christmas, his Majesty, looking intently upon him, said to the Prince, "There's the man that makes us keep a merry Christmas." And his Highness looking as if he understood not his father, "Why it is he, said the King, that laboured more than all my servants besides to bring you safe home to keep Christmas with me; and I hope you are sensible of it." After the match had miscarried, the King, being cooler to the Spaniard, might, probably, recollect some of the Keeper's honest arts practised upon himself during the heat of that affair in favour of his subjects. Upon his Majesty's declaration to restrain the preachers, the Keeper once procured the delivery of one, who was imprisoned for that offence, by a merry tale thus: Such a man's wife, upon reading her husband's imprisonment, fell presently into labour; and the midwife is come to deliver her, but says, it will not be effected till she can see her husband again; for which the women that assist her revile you, that your Highness would stick out such a declaration. "Now weal away, says the King, send a warrant presently to release him, lest the woman perish." Another time, being ordered by his Majesty to draw up directions to preachers against the King's ecclesiastical Supremacy, he proposed it to the King, that in those directions none might be suffered to preach under 30 years of age, nor over 60, while men were in full possession of their reason and judgment, otherwise it would be impossible to prevent such offences. For

instance, proceeds he, Kitchen, an offender, is a beardless boy, from whom exactness of judgment could not be expected; and Dr. White, a decrepid old man, that is spent, having not a fee simple, but a lease only of reason, and it is expired. Upon this pleasant and good-natured representation, his Majesty was moved to release them both.

Not long afterwards, the Keeper by an artful stratagem luckily discovered the intrigues of the Spanish Ambassador against the Marquis. A paper of informations or complaints against the Parliament and Buckingham was put into the King's pocket unobserved; and in the postscript it was prayed, That Don Francisco Carondolet, Secretary to the Marquis Iniofa, might be brought to the King to satisfy such doubts as his Majesty might raise. The design was to persuade his Majesty to break thoroughly with the Parliament, and upon their dissolution to send the Marquis to the Tower. The Keeper, who spared no cost in procuring intelligence, had notice of the matter, and immediately disclosed it to the Marquis, and then to the Prince. Your Highness, said he to the Prince, hath often seen Don Francisco Carondolet; he loves me because he is a scholar, for he is Archdeacon of Cambray, and sometimes we are pleasant together, for he is a Walloon by birth, and not a Castilian. I have discovered him to be a wanton, and an humble servant to some of our English beauties, but, above all, to one of that gentle craft in Mark-Lane; a wit she is, and one that must be courted with news and occurrences at home and abroad, as well as with gifts. I have a friend that bribed her in my name to send me a faithful account of such tidings as her paramour brings to her. All that I intrusted the Marquis with came out of her chamber, and she hath well earned a piece of plate or two from me, and shall not go unrecompensed for these secrets about which your Highness does use me, if the drab can help me in it; truly, Sir, this is my dark lanthorn, and I am not ashamed to inquire of a Dalilah to resolve a riddle, for in my studies of divinity I have gleaned up this maxim, 'licet uti altero peccato.' Though the Devil make her a sinner, I may make a good use of her sin. Yea, says the Prince, merrily, do you deal in such ware? "In good faith, replied the Keeper, I never saw her face." He then left the Prince, and got Carondolet's Under-secretary seized as a Romish Priest. This brought Carondolet to him to beg his Secretary's discharge, which

which he shewing great reluctance against for fear of the Parliament: My Lord, said Francisco, let not the dread of this Parliament trouble you; I can tell you, if you have not heard it, that it is upon expiration'. He afterwards fished out of the Secretary the heads of all the articles in the paper slipt into the King's pocket. He did not stay for the copy of them which was brought to him four days after, but immediately drew the heads then discovered to him into such a form as it should appear to be copied from the original, and gave all to the Prince, of whom he desired secrecy, having put his life into the hands of his Highness; first, for searching into the King's councils, and then discovering them; and, for further security, he ordered Carondolet out of the kingdom immediately, that he might not be produced to confront him, if the matter should come to be questioned. Dr. Hacket observes, that this story accounts for the King's reconciliation to the Parliament, as well as why his Majesty never offered afterwards to retrieve the Spanish match, and furnishes a reason why King Charles the following year readily entered into a war with Spain.

In 1624, the Keeper prevented Buckingham from executing his design of selling the crown and church lands. In negotiating the match with France, he advised the French Ambassador not to insist upon an absolute and general dispensation with the penal laws against the Papists, and afterwards he drew up the marriage articles. In 1625, March 22, when the danger of the King's illness reached his ears, he hastened to Theobald's, and there finding the report confirmed by the physicians, he acquainted his Majesty with it, and constantly attended him till his death; after which he preached his funeral sermon, and printed it by the command of King Charles I. who likewise gave him orders to prepare another against his coronation. But that mark of his Majesty's favour was intercepted by the new Duke of Buckingham, the effects of whose displeasure soon began to fall heavy on him. As no man kept a better watch upon the Court, so he was presently acquainted with the Duke's threats, and immediately apprehended the consequence. When the King's coronation drew near, he received orders from his Majesty not to appear in his office as Dean of Westminster at that solemnity, and his place was then supplied by Bishop Laud, a person for whom he had not the least affection. He was likewise denied to do his homage to the King with the rest of the spiritual Lords on that oc-

casione. Before the opening of the second Parliament in this reign, which was four days after the coronation, the Lord Coventry was put into the Keeper's office, and the Bishop had now no parliamentary summons sent to him; and when upon a motion in Parliament, where his friends were numerous, he did receive it, he received likewise a particular charge from the new Keeper not to appear in person, and had even some difficulty to obtain that his proxy might be left with the Bishop of Winchester. He struggled hard to secure his reputation before he parted with the savings of the Great Seal, and at last, on the surrendry, made a sort of a capitulation for that and his other preferments before he delivered it up, which was on the 25th of Oct. 1626, at Foxley, a seat of the Lord Sandys, near Windsor, after which he removed to Bugden. When the writ was sent to him for the meeting of the third Parliament, he had the like intimation, as before, of his Majesty's pleasure that he should forbear being present in it; but he now refused to submit to his Majesty's directions, resolved to stand upon his privilege, and sat in the House of Lords himself, and not by proxy, as before: And, the petition of right being set on foot in this Parliament, the Bishop promoted it with great zeal, but at the same time proposed a clause to be added in favour of the Crown, and moved likewise for an act to explain the bill of rights, so as thereby his Majesty's claim to the duties of tonnage and poundage might be fully confirmed.

His behaviour at this time seems to have reconciled him to the Duke of Buckingham, and the King was so well satisfied with it, that he consulted him in a point of the utmost importance concerning his own conduct, and expressly approved of his advice. But the incautious use he afterwards made of the King's freedom in communicating his thoughts to him drew the royal displeasure upon him again; and in 1629 his name was actually struck out of the Council-books. And, though he obtained his Majesty's pardon for that offence, yet the next year upon the christening of Prince Charles, when all the rest of the Lords, both spiritual and temporal, were invited, the Bishop of Lincoln was excepted. This year he fell under the examination of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into exacted fees, which terminated greatly to the advantage of his reputation. About this time being told that the King was offended with his magnificent way of living at Bugden, and with his holding the deanery

of Westminster, he refused to comply with his Majesty's pleasure in either of these propositions. He afterwards disputed the Metropolitan's right to visit his diocese. In 1636, a complaint was lodged against him by the High Sheriff of Huntingdonshire for refusing to pay the ship-money, and presently after, upon some informations being brought against him in the Star-Chamber for scandalous words spoken of the King and his Ministers, he was sentenced to pay a fine of 10,000*l.* and to suffer imprisonment during his Majesty's pleasure, and to be suspended by the High Commission-court from all his dignities, offices, and functions. Accordingly, he was sent to the Tower of London, where some hard terms of accommodation being offered him, he absolutely refused to submit to them, and thereupon seizure was made of his goods at Bugden and Lincoln, to the value of that fine.

When the Parliament met in Nov. 1640, he petitioned the King for his enlargement, and to have his writ of summons to Parliament; but notwithstanding he procured the mediation of the Queen, who had always preserved a kindness for him, yet the Lord Keeper Finch and Archbishop Laud opposing, brought the King to refuse it; so that about a fortnight after, viz. about the 16th of November, the House of Lords sent the Usher of the Black Rod to demand him of the Lieutenant of the Tower; upon which he was brought to the Parliament-House, and took his place among his brethren. Hereupon his Majesty was pleased to be reconciled to him, so far as to command that all orders kept in any court or registry upon the former hearings and informations against him should be taken off, razed, and cancelled, that nothing might stand upon record to his disadvantage. However, in the House of Lords he seconded the Lord Say's famous speech against Archbishop Laud, but at the same time applied himself to the King, and made the greatest professions of duty to his Majesty, and zeal to the church. And shortly after, in a sermon preached before the King, as Dean of Westminster, mentioned the Presbyterian discipline with great contempt, and, in the prosecution of the Earl of Strafford, he defended the right of the Bishops to vote in cases of blood in a very pertinent learned speech, but declared his opinion at the same time, that they ought not to be present at that trial, and offered, not only in his own name, but for the rest of his brethren, to withdraw always when that business was entered upon. However,

when the bill of attainder had passed both Houses, he persuaded his Majesty against his private conscience to give the royal assent to it. In May 1641, he defended in a long speech, very considerable for the learning and strength of argument it contained, the right of the Bishops to sit in the House of Peers, which had this effect, that the bill for depriving them of that right was then thrown out by the House. He was advanced to the see of York, December 4th following, and when upon the revival of the lately rejected bill the mob being gathered about the Parliament-House to prevent the Bishops from entering therein, insolently tore his gown from his back, he returned to the Deanery, and convened hither all his brethren that were in town, and proposed to them as absolutely necessary that they should unanimously and presently prepare a protestation to send to the House against the force that was used upon them, and against all the acts which were or should be done during that time that they should be kept by force from doing their duties in the House, and immediately having pen and ink ready, he prepared a protestation, which, being read to them, they all approved, and, being engrossed, they set their hands to it Dec. 27, when the Archbishop went to Whitehall, and presenting it to his Majesty, to whom it was directed, humbly desired that he would send it to the House of Peers, since they could not present it themselves, and command that it should be entered in the journal of the House: He obtained his suit, but the consequence was the commitment of himself with the rest of the petitioners by the Parliament, on an accusation of high treason to the Tower, where they all remained till the bill for putting them out of the House was passed, when on May 5th, 1642, they were released, and, June 27 following, our Archbishop in person was enthroned in his own cathedral at York, where the King then was, but his Majesty left it in July, and the Archbishop was forced away soon after. Being at Cawood one night very late, Dr. Ferne, whom he had formerly made Archdeacon of Leicester, came in with a solicitous countenance, and begged him to leave the house and the country immediately, for that the younger Hotham was coming with his forces to seize and kill him, having solemnly vowed it in revenge for some opprobrious words the Archbishop had given him for his base usage of the King at Hull, and that he would be there by 5 o'clock in the morning. Upon this warning, the Archbishop made his escape,

and from that time never came into Yorkshire, the wars then breaking out all over England. After this he retired into Wales, to his estate at Aber Conway, where he repaired and fortified Conway castle for the King, which so much pleased his Majesty, that by a letter dated from Oxford, August 1, 1643, "He heartily desires him to go on with that work; assuring him, that whatever money he should lay out upon the fortifications of the said castle, should be repaid unto him, before the custody thereof should be put into any other hands than his own, or such as he should recommend." By virtue of this warrant, the Archbishop, on the 2d of January this year, deputed his nephew William Hook, to have the custody of the castle, and gave the country people leave to lay up their plate, jewels, money, writings, and other valuable goods in it, each person having an inventory of his own share. Some time after, being sent for to attend the King at Oxford, he gave his Majesty the best advice that his knowledge and experience furnished him with; and among other things declared, that Cromwell, taken into the rebels army, by his cousin Hampden, was the most dangerous enemy that his Majesty had: For, though he were at that time of mean rank and use among them, yet he would climb higher. And then proceeding to give Cromwell his true character, he concludes, "In short, every beast hath some evil properties, but Cromwell hath the properties of all evil beasts." My humble motion is, either that you would win him to you by promises of fair treatment, or catch him by some stratagem, and cut him off.

After some stay at Oxford, the Archbishop returned to his own country, having received a fresh charge from his Majesty to take care of all North Wales, but especially of Conway castle. But, being dispossessed of it about a year afterwards by the King's party, he assisted a Colonel of the Parliament to retake it, who possessed himself of it. Dr. Hacket gives the particulars of this fact: That Sir John Owen, a Colonel of the King's, coming that way after a defeat in 1645, obtained of Prince Rupert to be under him Commander of the castle; and so, surprising it by force, entered it, notwithstanding the King's promise, and the expence laid out not being refunded. Thereupon the Archbishop, after several remonstrances made to the Court without any success, he being joined by the country people, whose properties were detained in the castle; and assisted by one Colonel Milton,

who was really a violent man against the King; they forced open the gates, entered the castle, which Colonel Milton possessed himself of; but that was agreed to by the Archbishop on condition that every proprietor might obtain his own, which the Colonel saw performed.

After this time he lived in a very private manner at Llandegay in that neighbourhood till the King's death, whom he did not survive much above a year, when time he spent in sorrow, and study, devotions, rising constantly every night out of his bed at midnight, and praying for a quarter of an hour on his bare knees, having nothing upon him but his shirt and waistcoat. At last he was seized with a quinsy, which put an end to his life, the 25th of March, 1650, on his birth-day being exactly 68 years of age. He is interred in Landegay church, where, 50 years after, his nephew and heir Sir Griffith Williams erected on the north side a very handsome monument, with an effigy of the Archbishop kneeling on white marble; and under it an inscription, composed by Dr. Hacket his chaplain, who describes him as an eminent patron of munificent hospitality and charity, which in another place he explains to point to his generosity, especially to Gentlemen of narrow fortunes, and poor scholars in both Universities; his disbursements every year amounting to a thousand and sometimes to twelve hundred pounds. His epitaph likewise informs us, that he laid out no less than 20,000*l.* in good benefactions.

It is universally agreed, that his person was handsome, and his presence states his gesture magnificent, and his looks generous, the whole exterior being animated with a great mind and a high spirit, which raised him to aim at great things and effect them. His temper was hot and hasty in resenting, and as ready in forgiving, the characteristic of his country. He entertained a favourable opinion of Puritans, but was against shewing them any indulgence, which did not perfectly consist with the legal establishment of the church. To this he firmly adhered, and continued to the last to testify his dislike of any alterations or innovations whatsoever therein, either to enlarge or contract the settled forms. He was possessed of a good share of learning, had a ready wit and strong memory, but in his writings fell into the exploded pedantry, which was the vice of his time. Besides other sermons he published one under the title of '*Pemverantia Sanctorum, &c.*' He had re-
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ved upon publishing the works of his predecessor in Lincoln diocese, the famous Robert Grossthead, which were scattered in several libraries at home and abroad; and he digested what he could procure of them, and wrote arguments upon diverse parts of them. He likewise undertook a Latin commentary upon the Bible, and the notes, collected from all good authors by his own hand, were once in the custody of

Mr. Gowland, Keeper of Westminster-college library. His Lordship, knowing well that to perform such a task completely was above the abilities of any one man, intended to leave it to be finished by twelve or more of the best scholars in the nation, whom he had in his eye, and was willing to give them 20,000*l.* rather than it should be unfinished.

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said fund, commonly called the Sinking Fund, towards making good the payment of the said annuities, and of the annuities after the rate of 3 l. per centum, intended to be granted in respect of the said 1,900,000l.

That, towards raising the supply granted to his Majesty, the sum of 1,800,000l. be raised by loans, or Exchequer bills, to be charged upon the first aids to be granted in the next session of Parliament; and such

time, by the East India Company, in respect of the territorial acquisitions and revenues lately obtained in the East-Indies, be applied towards making good the supply granted to his Majesty.

That the charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia, in that part of Great Britain called England, for one year, beginning the 25th day of March, 1768, be defrayed out of the monies arising by the land-tax, granted for the service of the