

PUBLIC MEN AND THEIR WORK

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.

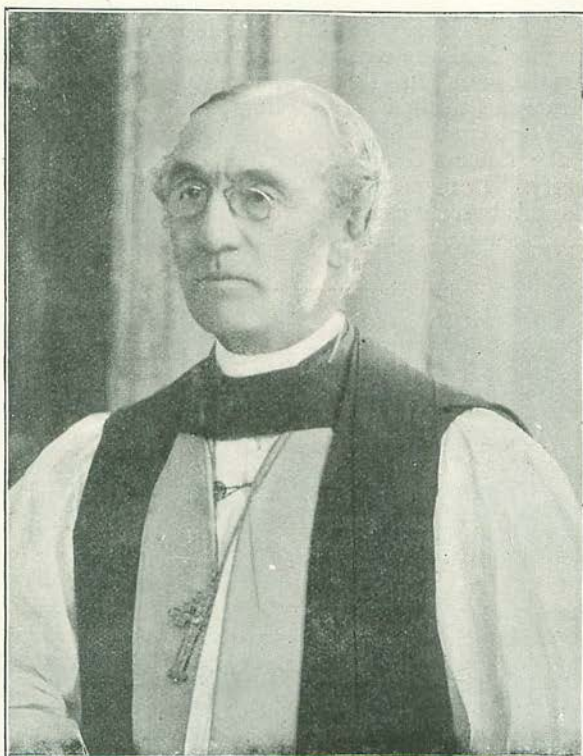
BY DAYRELL TRELAWNEY.

THE Archbishop of York is one of the most remarkable prelates of the day. In his life he has shown that originality which is so forcible a trait in his grace's character, for it is given to few men to break off the career of a soldier, take orders, and, in spite of the heavy handicap of valuable time lost, to rise by rapid, steady, yet well-earned promotion to the high position of Archbishop of York.

William Dalrymple Maclagan is the fifth son of the late Dr. David Maclagan, physician to the forces. His mother was a daughter of the late Dr. Whiteside. He was

born in Edinburgh, and there received his early education. It was not surprising that,

with the military associations arising from his father's profession, Mr. Maclagan should have commenced life as a soldier. After, however, serving for some years in the Madras Native Infantry he retired from the army in 1852 with the rank of lieutenant, having decided to study at Cambridge with a view to taking holy orders. He matriculated in the following year at St. Peter's College (the oldest foundation in Cambridge, dating as far back as 1257 A.D.).



From a photo by

[Russell.]

DR. MACLAGAN, ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.

Having graduated B.A. in the mathematical tripos of 1856, Mr. Maclagan was ordained in the same year by the Bishop of Winchester—for the Bishop of London (Dr.

order, and when, after a few years, he returned to parochial work it was to take up, at the desire of the Bishop of London, the important and arduous post of curate-in-charge of the parish of Enfield. From Enfield he was promoted to St. Mary's, Newington, and when the important and valuable living of St. Mary Abbot's became vacant through the death of the Venerable Archdeacon Sinclair (uncle of the present Archdeacon of London), it occasioned little surprise that Bishop Jackson's choice of a successor should fall on Mr. Maclagan, whose ability as a competent organiser would be especially valuable in his new sphere of work. Within three years the Vicar of Kensington was raised to the episcopal bench by his appointment to the bishopric of Lichfield, a position offered to him by the late Lord Beaconsfield.



From a photo by]

THE GATEWAY TO BISHOPTHORPE.

[Glaisbury, York.

Tait)—to the curacy of St. Saviour's, Paddington. He subsequently held the curacy of St. Stephen's, Marylebone. In 1860, having taken his M.A. degree, his first piece of important promotion came in the form of the secretaryship to the London Diocesan Church Building Society. It now became evident that Mr. Maclagan's business capacity and powers of organisation were of no mean

To become a worthy successor of Bishop Selwyn was in itself no easy task. The new bishop not only succeeded in doing so, but in addition he gave to the work of the diocese the impress of his own striking personality. Not content with carrying out in every detail his predecessor's scheme of raising £100,000 of capital to endow a new bishopric of Southwell, he inaugurated such unlimited additional diocesan organisations as to make



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BISHOPTHORPE, THE HOUSE OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.

[Glaisbury, York.

it imperative that he should claim the services of a suffragan.

One of the most interesting reforms made by Dr. Maclagan at Lichfield was that in regard to the preaching of newly-ordained clergy. He laid down a rule that the deacons of his diocese were not to preach a sermon of their own composition more often than once in each month. On the intervening Sundays they were to read a sermon by some good divine. The Archbishop of York lays great stress on the importance of preaching, and in this he follows in the steps of his predecessor, Archbishop Lee, who, in 1536, issued, through his vicar-general, distinct injunctions on the subject, which however appear to have met with a poor reception in the diocese, for the vicar-general states in a letter to his grace that he had done his best to restrain "the preaching of novelties," but "yet they preach," said he, "and some were contumacious enough to say that they would get the king's licence to preach," and what was a still more grave offence, "some allege that they have the licence of My Lord of Canterbury." It is amusing to see the anger which this impudent statement aroused in

the northern primate's official, who adds, "If they *have*, none shall be obeyed here but onlie the kinge's and your's."

Thus the old feud between the North and South was ready, as it always has been, to come to life at the slightest provocation. And lest unwittingly I should foster such a spirit, I shall here glance at some of the abuses in the northern diocese—as in a former article I showed the weak spots which existed in the southern one—to prove that it was not in the province of

Canterbury alone where reformation was urgently needed.

A visitation in 1502 gives an astounding glimpse of the state into which the great diocese had fallen. We are told that "certain vicars . . . pay no attention when the Bible is read in their common hall, but sit gossiping over the fire all the time the reading is going on." Not even the bitter climate of Yorkshire can be urged as an excuse, and it is no surprise to learn that the "inferior ministers," following this example, "chattered with the choir." "Jangling and talking" is com-



From a photo by

THE DINING-ROOM AT BISHOPTHORPE.

[Glaisby, York.

plained of as having spread to the congregations. Pedlars are said to crowd round the porch and press their wares; boys and girls have "tumultuous gatherings" in the churchyard, where young men play football during divine service. After reading these enlivening accounts of the service, I confess to a feeling of sympathy with the congregation when I learn from a historian of the times that "the most part of them cummeth not at all." In other parishes no services are held at all, for the people complain that



[Glaisby, York.]

THE ARCHBISHOP'S STUDY AT BISHOPTHORPE.

From a photo by]

"Mr. Vicar abydes not emang us, as a curette awght to doe."

Insubordination to both archbishop and sovereign was not unknown during the reign of Charles I, in a letter to whom the northern primate, Neile, states that one Rogers, who had held a living worth £240 per annum, had tried in vain for two years to get the archbishop to accept his resignation, and that at last that long-suffering clergyman took ship to New England and wrote that his resignation "must now be definite." The king endorses his grace's letter with the following phlegmatic, if somewhat undeserved, stricture on the conduct of his fugitive subject: "An honest man must be put in his place."

The clergy of the northern province were always capable of appreciating good horseflesh. The monks of Jervaulx Abbey were specially famous for their breed of horses. Sir Arthur Darcy wrote to Cromwell that the abbey stood "in the midst of rich and beautiful meadows," with the waters of the Ure gliding by and a "grett demayne" around. There was a wide extent of common land on high ground singularly suitable for the summer run of brood mares and foals, and unequalled grazing in the shelter of lower grounds for winter. Little wonder that the monastery was despoiled and the monks sent adrift to make place for the royal stud of "his Highness the Kinge."

In the sixteenth century the Bishop of Sodor and Man was suffragan to the see of York, which reminds me of the friendly and affectionate relations which existed between Archbishop Thomson and that popular and beloved prelate, Dr. Rowley Hill, Bishop of Sodor and Man, who, bound only by the tie of friendship, followed the traditions of his see by constituting himself voluntarily a kind of honorary suffragan to Dr. Thomson.

A very amusing anecdote occurs to me in this connection. I had, during a visit to Bishopthorpe, the pleasure of meeting Dr. Rowley Hill, who was assisting Dr. Thomson in certain diocesan work. As I have said the relations between them were intimate and unofficial, but the presence of

Dr. Rowley Hill, who was apparently ready to undertake unlimited confirmations for a brother prelate, soon caused him to be inundated with letters from over-burdened diocesans begging him to assist them in their duties. At the lunch table one day Dr. Thomson, referring to these invitations, suggested that perhaps the Bishop of Sodor and Man would like to accept some of them. "If that is so, don't feel bound to consider me," he added kindly. "No, no," responded Dr. Rowley Hill, with that peculiarly concise enunciation which lent additional humour to all his utterances—"oh, no, I can't do a day's work for any diocese that wants me. Because I help you as a friend, they musn't look upon me as a kind of—er—char-bishop, you know!"



From a photo by]

THE CHAPEL.

[Glaisby, York.

The days, however, when a "char-bishop" was necessary to an overworked northern primate are passed for ever. The Bishops of Hull and Beverley now assist the Archbishop of York as suffragans; but although they have their hands full, such is the development of church work and organisation that the day when an archbishop ceases to be overworked seems farther removed than ever.

Dr. Maclagan has taken a keen personal interest in improving the beautiful old house at Bishopthorpe. The chapel has been carefully and thoroughly restored. The heavy panelling has disappeared, and the plastering, when stripped away, disclosed some pure thirteenth century architecture. The glaring designs of the windows have been replaced by stained glass, the work being carried out with Mr. Kempe's unerring taste. Dr.

Maclagan's study at Bishopthorpe is not the one to the right of the entrance-hall used by his predecessors, but the large apartment known formerly as the morning room. It presents a most businesslike appearance, and is lined with bookcases. From the writing-table a glimpse is caught of the picturesque entrance gateway, and this, as well as the additional light, is due to the removal of a jutting wing which greatly curtailed the view in former times. The time spent by the archbishop in his study since his advent to York has not been great, for his untiring visitation of his entire diocese has made his absences from home very frequent.

The archbishop has many admirers and



From a photo by

ENTRANCE HALL.

[Glaesby, York.

friends among the members of the American episcopate, and in his study hang portraits of the late Bishop Wilmer, of Louisiana, Bishop Whipple, and other American prelates, who presented them to Dr. Maclagan, and on a shelf may be noted a copy of the American prayer-book.

I had just begun, on account of its exceptionally varied nature, to despair of giving any adequate description of his grace's work, when the following account of the archbishop's movements was given me in conversation by a friend. It will prove that the duties of the northern primate are no

less arduous than those of his brother in the South.

"I have just seen the archbishop," said my informant; "he is very busy. Starting from Bishopthorpe early in the morning, his grace was continuously occupied with confirmations, arriving home at midnight. The next morning was occupied with interviews and business. In the afternoon his grace took part in a service at the minster and gave an address at the unveiling of the memorial tablet to his predecessor. The following morning he left home early to fulfil an engagement in the diocese, returning in time to give one of a course of afternoon addresses in the Lady Chapel of the minster. With just time to catch his train he started off again to a different part of the diocese, where a group of episcopal appointments occupied his time until late the following night." And yet we are asked to believe that our bishops have an easy and leisurely time of it!

In addition to all this the inpouring of letters both private and official never ceases for a day. The archbishop writes many himself in a clear, graceful hand, and legibility and brevity are characteristic of all his letters, and no communication is ignored, however unimportant. No words were truer than those spoken by the late Archbishop Benson when he said that "the penny post was an invention of man to which we must submit for the Lord's sake." The magnitude of a prelate's daily epistolary duties threatens to wreck the church of the future. I give the following extract from a private letter, which throws a remarkable light on archiepiscopal correspondence. The extract refers to the late Dr. Thomson. "The archbishop," states the writer, "has lost a portmanteau containing 2000 unanswered letters." Such a piece of good fortune does not usually fall to the lot of ordinary mortals, but remarkable as is the statement, still more extraordinary was the sequel. The archbishop deliberately advertised for his missing property!

An American interviewer on a visit to Bishopthorpe referred to the fact that he had heard that riding was the favourite diversion of Archbishop Benson. "It is mine too," said Dr. Maclagan promptly. "I am going for a ride this afternoon." It is possible that the concluding sentence touched the conscience of his listener, who subsequently said, "With compunction I confess that my visit delayed, perhaps curtailed, the archiepiscopal ride that day."

Dr. Maclagan is a good whip and frequently drives a pair, while another recreation in which he indulges in the winter, when opportunity offers, is curling on the ice. He doubtless inherits his predilection for this pastime with his Scotch descent. He has a great love of birds and animals, and possesses that marvellous interest in the small things of life which seems to be more especially the prerogative of great minds. It is not generally known that his grace is an artist and paints cleverly in water-colours. The inhabitants of Keswick became, during the past summer, quite accustomed to the sight of the archbishop seated sketching on the private landing-stage of the beautiful estate of Fawe Park, which borders the Derwent-water, and was rented by Dr. Maclagan for his holiday.

The archbishop is, in his social intercourse, singularly accessible and pleasant. It is impossible not to be immediately struck with the entire absence of anything approaching to reserve in his conversations with one.

Very genially and frankly he converses on any topic, however official or important. I have never heard him place restrictions on his hearers or caution them that reticence is necessary. He has the most unequalled talent for making people realise that he is trusting them and their discretion—which however has its drawbacks for humble journalists such as myself, and manifestly places upon them restrictions from which they would otherwise be exempt.

In his work for the diocese, as well as in the restoration and beautifying of Bishopthorpe, the archbishop has a most willing and competent helper in his wife. Mrs. Maclagan has taken a particular interest for many years in young women, and has spoken at not a few congresses held in connection with the interests of women.

In his relations with his clergy Dr. Maclagan is straightforward, direct and, when necessary, frankly autocratic. And yet combined with this he possesses a rare tact and discretion which is the secret of his success



YORK MINSTER.