PREFACE AND DEDICATION.

THE true Relation of the Life and Death of Bishop Bedell, of Kilmore, here printed, is contained in Volume cclxxviii. of the Tanner Collection of MSS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. The Manuscript was formerly in the possession of Archbishop Sancroft, and bears marks of his Grace's revision. How it came into the Archbishop's hands appears from the following correspondence:—

DR. WILLIAM PALLISER TO CAPTAIN AMBROSE BEDELL.*

Trinity College, Dublin,
Oct. 5, 1680.

SIR,

The great motive of my writing to you is the great honour I bear to your most worthy Father's memory, and that I hope will make it more kindly received. It seems the present Archbishop of Canterbury was of the same College with your Father in Cambridge, and most highly esteems him an eminent Ornament of the Place; and therefore designs as soon as may be to print whatever he can procure of your Father's in writing. Some excellent letters of your Father's while he was Chaplain to the Ambassador at Venice † I have sent over, and am now sending a large discourse of your Father's against one Alabaster, a Papist,‡ and a very

* Tanner MS. xxxvii. 147,³Bodleian Library.

† These appear to be the letters from Venice to Mr. Adam Newton, mentioned and quoted from in Supplementary Chapter iii. pages 103-4.

‡ In the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth there is a MS. (Codex 772), entitled "A Defence of the Answer to Mr. Alabaster's four Demands against a Treatise entituled 'The Catholic's Reply upon Bedel's (afterwards Bishop of Kilmore) Answer to Mr. Alabaster's four Demands.'" This is perhaps the Discourse here referred to. "Alabaster was a pervert, but returned afterwards to the Church of England.

learned Sermon he preached here in Christchurch * when he was Bishop. But possibly, Sir, you may help me to many other excellent Pieces of his. If you can, I am confident you will not be so so much wanting in your duty to his memory as to deny me a transcript of them. The term is now near, and I believe you may safely send them to me, and I do faithfully promise you that after I have transcribed them, which I shall do immediately upon the receipt of them, I will be careful to restore them unto you. You see I am very bold with you, but the zeal I have that Bishop Bedell's name and work may be better known to the world canseeth this boldness, and I hope will excuse it too. The remarkable passages of your Father's life and the circumstances of his death I desire to be very particularly informed in, that the most excellent Archbishop may be able to give your Father his due character in the account that he intends of his life to be printed before his works.† Your answer is desired by the first convenience, that I may be sure you have received my letter; and if you contribute what you can towards the satisfying this just request of mine you will much oblige, Sir,

Your reall friend and servant,

WM. PALLISER.‡

For Captain Bedell, to be left at Mr. Franches
house in Bal-Turbet, Ulster.

Indorsed:—To Capt. Ambr. Bedel at Carnhill
in y^e county of Cavan.

To be left at y^e Post Office in Dublin, and thence
directed to y^e Post Office in Bell-Turbut (a great
market town).

* Before the Lord Deputy and Parliament in 1634, on the text, "Come out of her my people," Revelation xviii. 4. This sermon Dr. Nicholas Bernard has printed in his "Certain Discourses," &c. (Chapter VII. p. 147,) and tells us that he heard it preached.

† Archbishop Sancroft never carried out his intention of publishing the *Life and Works of Bishop Bedell*, probably on account of being anticipated by Burnet in 1685. The political troubles in which the Archbishop became soon after involved may have finally banished the subject from his mind.

‡ William Palliser, D.D., was born in Yorkshire about 1641, but received his University education in Dublin, and became Fellow of Trinity College in 1668. He was admitted to Holy Orders in 1670, appointed Professor of Divinity in Trinity College, Dublin, in 1681, consecrated Bishop of Cloyne March 5, 1692-3, and translated to the Archbishopric of Cashel in 1694. He died January 1, 1726-7, in the 85th year of his age.

DR. HENRY DODWELL TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

I understand by a late letter from Mr. Took that your Grace has received a parcel designed for you by Dr. Palliser. I am glad it is come safe to your hands. By the letter which came with it I guess it to be the Life of Bishop Bedel, written by his son Mr. Ambrose Bedel. Dr. Palliser does further proffer to get those letters of Bishop Bedel from Venice † anew transcribed which I had transcribed for your Grace's use, but have since lost my copy. If your Grace be resolved to go through with the design of publishing the works of that excellent Prelate, your Grace will be pleased to let me know your pleasure concerning it. No more, but that I beg your Grace's Prayers and Blessing for

Your Grace's, as in duty bound,

HENRY DODWELL.‡

Cookham, Sept. 16, 1682.

CAPT. AMBROSE BEDELL TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.§

The first of 9^{ber}, 1682.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

As in all Gratitude I am oblidged, I return to your Grace my humble and hearty Thanks for your Grace's last favour, of which (I bless God for it) I enjoy the Benefit|| in a large measure, having my health fully restored. In obedience to your Grace's Command, I have made a search for the Life and Death of my Father, and have had an account from one Mr. Palliser (in whose hands it was left to be sent to your Grace) that he had it transcribed and sent it to one Mr. Dodwell, to be delivered to your Grace, who hath given a return that he hath sent it to your Grace. If otherwise I humbly beg that your Grace will be pleased to let me know, and I shall not fail to send it over with all expedition; and what else your Grace shall

* Tanner MS. xxxv. 94, Bodleian Library.

† See Supplementary Chapter III. p. 104.

‡ Dr. Henry Dodwell, born of English parents in Dublin in October 1641, was admitted of Trinity College in 1656, and obtained a Fellowship in 1662. This he resigned in 1666. He did not enter into Holy Orders, but in 1688 was elected Camdenian Professor of History in the University of Oxford; refusing, however, to take the oaths to William and Mary, he was deprived three years after. He died at Shottisbrooke, June 7, 1711.

§ Tanner MS. xxxv. 121, Bodleian Library.

|| The explanation of the allusion here made by Captain Ambrose Bedell to his health will be found in Supplementary Chapter XVIII. p. 226.

impose I shall esteem it both my honour and happiness to obey, as I am ready, may it please your Grace,

Your Grace's most Obleadged and most humble Servt.

 A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ambrose Bedell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Bedell".

Dr. Henry Dodwell in his letter to Archbishop Sancroft, it is seen, speaks of Captain Ambrose Bedell as the author of the work before us. This, however, appears to have been a mere inference on the part of Dr. Dodwell, from the fact that it was Captain Ambrose Bedell from whom the manuscript was obtained for transcription. It was not Captain Ambrose Bedell, but his eldest brother the Rev. William Bedell, Vicar of Kinawley, in the Diocese of Kilmore, from 1634 until the Rebellion in 1641, and afterwards Rector of Rattlesden in Suffolk from 1644 till his death in 1670, who was, there is every reason to believe, the author of the "Relation of the Life and Death" of the Bishop their father.

In William Bedell's letter to his Godfather, Dr. Samuel Warde, given in Supplementary Chapter XIX. may be recognised the quiet, subdued, and scholarly style which characterises the "Relation" under notice. Amongst other things, the expression in the letter, "had courteous usage, in comparison of what other Englishmen found" (p. 230), may be instanced as very similar to one which occurs in the Relation, viz. "the courtesy of the Irish, which (in comparison to what others met withall) was very much" (p. 68). It need scarcely be observed that Ambrose Bedell's letter to Archbishop Sancroft presents little resemblance in style either to the Relation or to his brother Wil-

liam's letter. Besides this, the account given of the Bishop's incumbency of Horningshearth in the "Relation" is evidently the composition of one who had a personal knowledge and vivid remembrance of the occurrences he was writing about. Now, Ambrose, being only ten years old when the family left for Ireland, could scarcely have had much knowledge and remembrance of their residence at Horningshearth; whereas William, who was fifteen years of age at the time, must have had his experiences of the parish well fixed in his mind, to say nothing of his renewed acquaintance with the place when he came to reside close by at Whepsted and Rattlesden.

The "Relation," in short, is altogether such as might have been expected from William, the English Rector, but scarcely from Ambrose, the soldier and country gentleman in Ireland.

The place where the "Relation" was written^{*} is not directly mentioned, but that it was in some part of England is proved by the following passage at page 62: "The only considerable Town in the whole County was Belterbert, which yet was but as one of our ordinary Market Towns here in England." This of itself might, indeed, be also taken as decisive of the question of authorship between William and Ambrose, for it was William only who was resident in England.

As to the time when the work was written. This no doubt comprised many of the earlier years of the Rev. William Bedell's incumbency of Rattlesden, when he probably had little else to occupy his leisure but literary composition, and when he enjoyed the advantage of near neighbourhood to Dr. Despotine,^{*} his father's old Venetian

^{*} In the eleventh Classical Presbytery of Suffolk, meeting at Bury, the name of Mr. William Beadle of Ratlesden occurs among the Ministers, and that of Dr. Jasper Despotine of Bury among the elders. See a 4to. Pamphlet published in London, 1647, entitled, "Novr. 5, 1645. The County of Suffolke divided into 14

friend, from whom so much information was derived. Dr. Samuel Warde, of Sydney College, Cambridge, William Bedell's godfather, who could have supplied still more information from the Bishop's numerous letters to him, was dead before William's settlement at Rattlesden. This accounts for the absence of any mention of Dr. Warde or contributions from him in the text of the Relation.* The reference at page 40 to Dr. N. Bernard's book shows, as remarked in the note, that the passage was written subsequently to 1659. Altogether, there is reason to believe that the materials for the work were collected and arranged in the course of the years from 1645 to 1660, but that the Relation was not finally written off in the form in which it now stands until after the latter date.

From the preceding correspondence it is seen that the MS. of the Relation of the Life and Death of Bishop Bedell in the Bodleian Library is a transcript from one which was in the possession of Captain Ambrose Bedell. What became of the original manuscript does not appear. A transcript of the Bodleian MS. has been used as copy to print our text from. In revising it for the press the spelling† has not been interfered with, but some alteration has been made in the employment of capital letters, and the numbering of the paragraphs into which the text is divided has been omitted. A few verbal alterations have been ventured on, such as the Author himself

Precincts for Classical Presbyteries," &c. to be found in the British Museum Catalogue under the heading of "Suffolk."

* Bedell's letters to Warde, now in the Bodleian Library, Tanner MSS., it will be found, have been made use of in the compilation of some of the Supplementary Chapters.

† The spelling as it stands may not, however, be exactly the same as it was in the original.

no doubt would have made in correcting the press, and explanatory footnotes have been added here and there.

Whilst the Relation of the Life and Death of Bishop Bedell here printed appears to have been, for the most part, a sketch from memory, the Supplementary Chapters which I have added comprise recorded facts of Bishop Bedell's history, gathered from parish registers ; wills ; manuscripts and books in the British Museum ; manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, Oxford ; State Papers, Venetian and Irish, in the Public Record Office ; entries at the Colleges of Arms in London and Dublin ; a manuscript in the Diocesan Registry of Norwich ; and last, though not least, documents in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, and in the Archiepiscopal Library of Armagh.

For special contributions I am indebted to that distinguished ecclesiastical archæologist the Rev. William Reeves, D.D., LL.D., Rector of Tynan, Prebendary of Armagh, and Chaplain to His Grace the Archbishop of Armagh ; and to William Stokes, M.D., D.C.L. Oxon., F.R.S, the eminent Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Dublin.

In acknowledgment of which assistance, and of the sympathy shown by them in the object of my Editorial labours, I beg these gentlemen to accept the Dedication of this Volume with my best thanks and sincerest respect.

T. WHARTON JONES.

35, George Street, Hanover Square, London.

*August 1, 1871, being the three-hundredth year
since Bishop Bedell's birth.*