

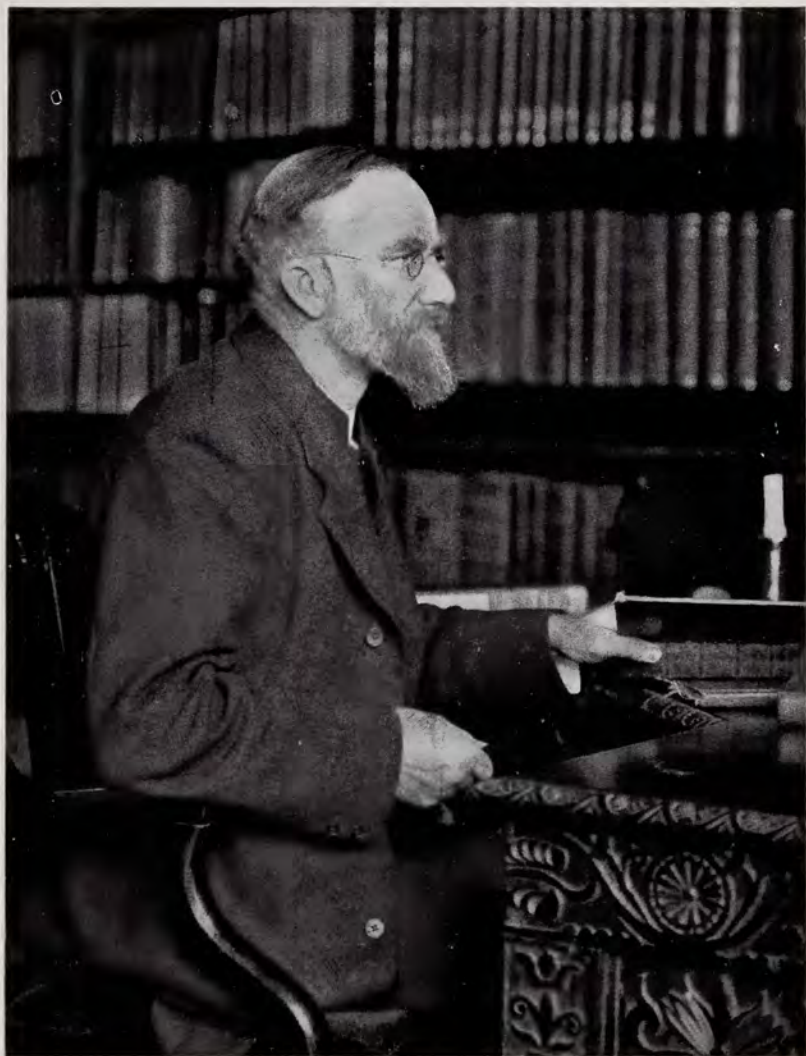
The Rev. E. H. Bates Harbin, V.P.,

*Prebendary of Wells Cathedral.*

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EDWARD HARBIN BATES was the eldest son of Thomas Bates of Heddonbanks in Northumberland by his second wife, Matilda Jane daughter of the Rev. Edward Harbin, Rector of Kingweston and East Lydford. Born on the 27th of August, 1862, he was educated at Eton and at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he took his degree as B.A. in 1884 and as M.A. in 1890. After preparation at Lichfield Theological College, he was ordained deacon in 1889, and priest in the following year. His first assistant curacy was at Claybrooke in Leicestershire, whence he removed to Cucklington in 1894. From that date onwards, he resided continuously in Somerset, as Rector of Puckington from 1898 to 1909, and afterwards as a landed proprietor.

On the death of Col. Henry Edward Harbin in April, 1909, the ancestral estate of Newton Surmaville near Yeovil, with its fine Jacobean house and family treasures, tapestries, furniture, plate and china, passed to his nephew Edward Harbin Bates, who subsequently assumed the surname and arms of Harbin. Without fixed parochial duties, the new squire was able to render assistance to his clerical brethren in the neighbourhood, and, in 1915, he was installed Prebendary of Wanstrow in the cathedral church of Wells. In the later years of his life, he took an active part in local affairs as a justice of the peace and in other capacities. He married at Cricket St. Thomas, in January, 1908, Hilda Geraldine third daughter of Sir Theodore Fry, Bart., of Darlington, by whom he had issue a daughter, and a son who died in infancy.



THE REV. PREBENDARY E. H. BATES HARBIN, M.A.,  
an Honorary Secretary of the Som. Archæol. and Nat. Hist. Society,  
1905—18; President of the Yeovil Meeting, 1910; V. P., 1911—18;  
Trustee, 1911—18.

From a Photograph by Mr. J. Reginald H. Weaver.



He died, after a few days' illness, on the 14th of September, 1918, and was buried at Yeovil on the 17th.

In this place it is natural to dwell mainly upon Mr. Bates Harbin's zealous work in the domain of local history. Joining the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society in 1886, some eight years before coming to reside in the county, he was a regular and conspicuous attendant at its annual meetings. From 1905 to 1918, he was one of its Honorary Secretaries, and, as such, he organized some of the Society's excursions to places of interest, often acting himself as guide and expositor of their historical and architectural features. Full of enthusiasm on such subjects, he strove to arouse similar enthusiasm in others. It was appropriate that he should have been elected President of the Society for the year 1910, when it met at Yeovil and visited his own home. As Honorary Secretary, he was one of those responsible for the issue of the volumes of *Proceedings*. Much of his work for the Society is known only to those who have sat on committees with him.

Mr. Bates Harbin, however, made many and varied contributions to the history of Somerset, distinguished by accuracy and clearness of vision. The volume of *Proceedings* for 1887 shows his first attempt, the collection of the scattered notes of John Leland, the antiquary, relating to two tours in Somerset. The volume for 1896 contains a more constructive piece of work in an account of the family of Lorty, called in Latin *De Urtiaco*. In the following year, Mr. Bates began to print a detailed and critical Inventory of Plate remaining in the churches of Somerset, which was eventually completed, with some local assistance, in eight parts. While this Inventory was in course of publication, the compiler of it read a remarkable paper, in 1899, on "The five-hide unit in the Somerset Domesday," which obtained attention and approval far beyond the limits of the county. In spite of a few misidentifications, it remains a lasting memorial of his ingenuity and industry.

The volume of *Proceedings* for 1904 contains a paper from the same pen on a very different subject, that of Pen Selwood, and a short one on Stavordale Priory, to which the author

made some additions eleven years later. In 1905, he wrote an elaborate paper on the Dedications of the Churches of Somerset. Five years later, the owner of Newton Surmaville gave a detailed history of that manor from the earliest times. In 1916, he produced a paper on the Priory of St. Michael on the Steep Holme, and, in 1917, two papers, one on John Botreaux and his Chantry, and the other, more statistical, on the Black Death in Somerset. The present volume contains a posthumous paper by Mr. Bates Harbin on Walter Fichet's Grant of Lands to Simon Michel, and he left behind him various notes, some of which may be published from time to time.

A list of the original members of the Somerset Record Society, which was founded in 1886, shows the name of Edward Harbin Bates. From 1898 until his death, he was its Secretary and its chief animating spirit. For it he edited the *Cartularies of Muchelney and Athelney Abbeys*, Gerard's *Particular Description of Somerset*, and three volumes of the records of the local Quarter Sessions in the seventeenth century, in the arrangement of which he had afforded valuable assistance to the Records Committee of the County Council. He was also a frequent contributor on various subjects to *Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset*. He edited two volumes of Phillimore's Extracts from the Parish Registers of Somerset, and seven successive volumes of the *Bath and Wells Diocesan Calendar*. In conjunction with the Rev. F. W. Weaver, he, in 1898, produced an excellent index to Collinson's *History of Somerset*.

Mr. Bates Harbin's own library was well stored with books on local history, genealogy, and economics, and he was very keen about the development of the Library at Taunton Castle, devoting much time and trouble to the preparation of a catalogue of the books accumulated there.

When the projectors of the *Victoria County Histories* were making arrangements for dealing with the county of Somerset, they invited Mr. Bates Harbin to undertake the largest section of the work, the detailed history of the different parishes and manors. As a necessary preliminary thereto, he made a translation of the Domesday Survey of the county, based upon

the Exchequer version, minutely collated with the Exeter version, and enriched by him with identifications of the localities and critical notes. This was published in 1911 in the first volume of the series.

This is hardly the place in which to dwell upon personal characteristics, but, in strict connexion with literary work, two may be mentioned. In the first place, Mr. Bates Harbin was always willing to give unselfish and generous help to other seekers after historical truth. In the second place, there was in him a spring of ready wit and joyousness which came bubbling up in letters and in conversations about the distant past no less than about the ordinary affairs of life. In him the county of Somerset has lost a very notable antiquary ; his untimely death is deplored by a wide circle of friends.

H. C. MAXWELL LYTE.

## The Rev. T. Scott Holmes, D.D.,

*Canon Residentiary and Chancellor of Wells Cathedral.*

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THOMAS SCOTT HOLMES, D.D., Canon Residentiary and Chancellor of Wells Cathedral, rendered such permanent service to the history and antiquities of our county that it is fitting that some record of his work should appear in these pages. He was the son of a Liverpool clergyman and was born on 20th August, 1852. He was educated under that strangely gifted master, Dawson Turner, at the Royal Institution School at Liverpool, and went up to Cambridge as a scholar of Sidney Sussex College in 1871. He came into this diocese in 1877 as Vice-Principal of the Wells Theological College. He was Vicar of Wookey from 1879 to 1900. In 1880 he married Katharine, the daughter of E. A. Freeman, Professor of Modern History at Oxford; and it is natural to suppose that it was under Freeman's stimulating influence that he devoted much labour to his "History of Wookey," which appeared in 1885. In that year he became a member of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, and a local secretary in 1887. When the Society met at Wells in 1888, he gave an account of the churches and the history of Wookey and of Pilton. To the 39th volume of the *Proceedings* he contributed an obituary notice of Bishop Clifford. At the Glastonbury meeting in 1902, as President of the Glastonbury Antiquarian Society, he described the Abbey and St. John's Church. And again at the Wells meeting in 1909 he gave considerable assistance.

The work by which he will be more especially remembered was done in connection with the Somerset Record Society. On the sudden and lamented death of the first secretary, the



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Dawkes & Partridge, Photographers, Wells.





Reverend J. A. Bennett in 1890, he succeeded to the vacancy and for eight years filled the office. He edited the series of Episcopal Registers commenced by Bishop Hobhouse. In 1896-97 appeared the Register of Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury in two volumes; in 1899 the Registers of Bishop Gifford (a fragment) and Bishop Bowett; in 1914 that of Bishop Bubwith in two volumes; and his latest working days were devoted to the Register of Bishop Stafford, which he was able to bring practically to completion. The Customary of Glastonbury Abbey and the Chartularies of Bruton and Montacute were also in part edited by him.

In this connexion we may appropriately mention a work of considerable importance which cost him much time and labour, namely, the Report on the Ecclesiastical Records of the Diocese. Out of a committee of three the task of collecting the returns and drawing up the Report fell upon him, and the work was finally issued in 1914.

In 1908 he wrote the History of Wells and Glastonbury for the series of "Ancient Cities" issued by Methuen and Co. In this work the civil life of both places, so closely knit up with the ecclesiastical, was dealt with at some length. His wide knowledge is further shewn in the large contribution which he made to the second volume of the *Victoria County History of Somerset*, which contains two long sections from his pen, dealing with the "Ecclesiastical History" and the "Religious Houses" of the County. At an earlier period he had written an article on the Conversion of Wessex in the *English Historical Review* for July, 1892.

This large and solid contribution to our local history by no means exhausted the literary activities of Dr. Holmes. He travelled much both in France and in Germany, and made friends among the foreign ecclesiastics. With the Canons of Rouen he was on the best of terms, and two of them were on one occasion his guests at Wells. Always he was on the lookout for historical and antiquarian information, and he gradually collected a valuable library of foreign ecclesiastical history.

His wider interests are illustrated by an article in the *Journal of Theological Studies* for April, 1904, entitled "The Austin Canons in England in the Twelfth Century." The

results of his studies in the earlier history of the Church were gathered up in the Birkbeck Lectures which he delivered at Trinity College, Cambridge, and which in 1911 were published in a substantial book entitled "The Origin and Development of the Christian Church in Gaul during the first six centuries." The book fell into the hands of an able reviewer, notorious for his scathing denunciation of misprints and minor errors, such as would have been eliminated beforehand if the author had found some one to read his proof-sheets; but the friend on whom he had relied was unable to carry out the task, and the book met with undeserved harshness of treatment in England. The French scholars however at once recognised its merits and welcomed it with eager warmth. The Glastonbury legend had already come under his criticism in a dissertation on "Historical Legendary Glastonbury," and naturally it was further exposed in connexion with the parallel stories of the earliest history of the Gallican Church.

This is not the place to speak of the man himself, his forcible personality and independent outlook, his pastoral zeal and his conspicuously loyal service to the Cathedral Church. He was a very true friend, always ready to take burdens on himself. When he passed away in his house at Wells on 10th February, 1918, his loss was widely mourned. Some of his personal friends, under the leadership of the Right Honourable Henry Hobhouse, speedily secured his historical and theological library for the Wells Theological College with which he had been so closely connected: some of the books, not needed there, will find a suitable resting-place in the Chapter Library, the Library of our Society, or other such institutions.

J. ARMITAGE ROBINSON.