

The Rev. S. J. M. Price, D.D., F.S.A.

SALISBURY JAMES MURRAY PRICE, second son of Cambell Knollys Price, of Westbury Manor, Bucks, was born in Scotland in 1858. From his maternal uncle, Major-General Henry Hope Crealock, a distinguished Crimean officer, he inherited a competence which made him independent of exertion for the greater part of his life. His school was Dulwich College; after leaving, he gained business experience by spending a year or two in a city office. During this period he became conscious of a vocation to the priesthood, and at the age of twenty-one was entered at Pembroke College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1884, and proceeded to his M.A. degree in 1886. Thence he passed to the Theological College at Ely, and was ordained deacon by Bishop Woodford to a title at Holy Trinity in the same city: he was advanced to the priesthood in 1885.

During 1887-88 he was in Syria as chaplain at Beyrout and to Bishop Blyth. Returning to England, he joined in an ineffectual attempt to found a religious community of priests at Coveney in the Isle of Ely.

He enjoyed the complete confidence of Lord Alwyne Compton, the second Bishop of Ely, under whom he served, and received from him successively the benefices of Kingston, Cambs, 1893, and St. Ives, Hunts, in the year following.

Five years later, a serious breakdown in health, from which he never fully recovered, compelled his resignation, and he retired to Discove, near Bruton, in Somerset. In less than three years, contrary to medical advice, he was at work again in charge of Stratton Strawless, a parish near Norwich, of which his friend the late John Birkbeck, F.S.A., was squire and patron. After a few months, he realized that he must accept the inevitable and give up all idea of parochial responsibility, and he again retired to Somerset, first to Kingston Manor, Taunton, and afterwards to the small estate and delightful seventeenth century house at Tintinhull, which he purchased in 1907, and where the remainder of his life was spent.

After his retirement, Dr. Price wrote his theses for divinity

degrees at Oxford, proceeding to the B.D. and D.D. in 1905. Later he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He now devoted his enlarged leisure to the study of medieval antiquity, more particularly in the field of ecclesiology and liturgiology, and turned his studies to practical account as principal editor of the "Altar Book" and the "Ceremonial of the Altar" (new edition). The former work, sumptuously printed and in wide use by the clergy, he printed at his own expense, and for it was cast the first fount of type to be cast in England of the received Benedictine notation.

He was an original member of the Henry Bradshaw Society, the Alcuin Club, and the Plainsong and Medieval Music Society. He was at one time Secretary of the Eastern Church Association, and a member of the Bath and Wells Advisory Committee for the Protection of Ancient Churches. He was also interested in the Woodard Schools, and a Fellow of the Society of St. Mary and St. Andrew, Taunton.

Dr. Price was a benefactor to his University, College, and many parishes. To the first he gave a valuable piece of tapestry, to the second a collection of relics of King Charles I. He restored the church at Kingston: erected at St. Peter's, Ely, the first rood and screen designed by Mr. Comper: enriched the church at St. Ives with an organ screen and statuary, and was a continual benefactor to the church at Tintinhull, and to the parish church of St. Mary, Wellingborough. The foundation of the last named afforded to him the chief interest of his later life.

Dr. Price joined the Somersetshire Archæological Society in 1900, and, from the first, enthusiastically interested himself in all its proceedings. To its funds he was ever a generous subscriber, and from time to time the donor of desirable books and specimens. He became a member of the Council in 1904, and was its chairman from 1918 to 1924. He represented the Society upon the Ilchester Town Trust from 1919-1924.

After two-and-a-half years of intermittent illness, Dr. Price passed to his rest, at Malvern, on Feb. 10th, 1926. He was buried at Littleham, North Devon, where many of his relatives, on his mother's side, are already interred.

T. J. WATTS.