



W. G. Collinson & Co.

*William Stubbs D.D.
Bishop of Oxford,
Chancellor of the Order of the Garter.
(1896)*

LETTERS OF WILLIAM STUBBS

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WILLIAM STUBBS

Bishop of Oxford

1825-1901

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PREFACE

THIS volume is to be regarded as primarily a collection of letters. It was felt that later times might well have cause to complain if they should be able to learn as little about the life of the great English historian of the Nineteenth Century as we are able to know of Bishop Butler. It was thought that the letters of Bishop Stubbs, and the letters to him, that have been preserved, would do something to show what he was and what part he played in the literary and ecclesiastical history of his day. I was asked to collect them and to add such an account of his life as should make them intelligible to those who did not know him.

Such work as I have had to do involves thanks at every stage of it. If I were to say now to whom I am grateful I should but give a list of all those to whom I owe letters, or reminiscences, or advice ; and their names will be found, page by page, in the book. I ask them all to accept my sincere thanks for their kindness and help.

Without the confidence of Mrs. Stubbs and the Bishop's children I should not have been able to undertake the work : without the assistance of Miss Hunter and of Mr. Capes and his family I should not have been able to recover the facts of the Bishop's early life. To the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Oxford, the Dean of Chester, and Canon E. E. Holmes I owe very much. But throughout I owe thanks to the many who have helped me at every stage, and to those, and most of all to the representatives of the Bishop's oldest friends, who have placed their letters in my hands, and happily to one survivor of the historic Oxford friendships, Mr. Bryce, who has expressed the greatest interest in this work and by the reminiscences he has contributed has given it most valuable assistance. No one, however, of all those