

THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF THE
ANGLO-SAXON CHURCH

VOL. I.

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THE

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

OF THE

ANGLO-SAXON CHURCH;

CONTAINING

AN ACCOUNT OF ITS ORIGIN,
GOVERNMENT, DOCTRINES, WORSHIP, REVENUES,

AND

CLERICAL AND MONASTIC INSTITUTIONS.

BY JOHN LINGARD, D.D.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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P R E F A C E .



IN 1806 I published, at Newcastle, a work in two volumes, with the title of “Antiquities of the Anglo-Saxon Church;” which four years later was reprinted at the same place, in one volume of a larger size. Both editions, being small, were speedily exhausted. More than thirty years have since elapsed; during which time the labours of several distinguished scholars, natives and foreigners, have done much to elucidate the Anglo-Saxon portion of our history. The treasures of our libraries have been explored; and documents, previously unknown, have been brought to light: new and improved editions of the works of our ancient writers have been given both in the Latin and the vernacular language; and the laws civil and ecclesiastical of our Anglo-Saxon ancestors, their charters, poems, homilies and correspondence, have been collected and published, some for the

first time, and others in a new and more correct form. When, therefore, I lately turned my thoughts to a third edition of the "Antiquities," it immediately occurred to me, to avail myself of the additional helps offered by the present improved state of Anglo-Saxon literature; and the consequence has been, that I have enlarged the original plan, and recast the entire work: so that these volumes, while they include the substance of the former, will also contain a very large portion of new, and I trust, interesting matter. With the same view I have added to each volume a collection of notes, some of them of considerable length, appertaining to subjects, which I was unwilling on the one hand to pass by without notice, and which on the other I could not conveniently treat in the context, with that minuteness which their importance demanded.

The Anglo-Saxons, when they first landed on our shores, were hordes of ferocious pirates: by religion they were reclaimed from savage life, and taught to admire and practise the virtues of the Gospel. It is the object of these pages to exhibit that religion before the eyes of the reader; to describe to him the Anglo-Saxon church, its constitution, laws, and polity; its doctrines, sacraments, and daily service; the sources from which it derived its revenues, and the duties which it required from its prelates and working clergy; the