

**THE CLAIMS OF EPISCOPACY  
REFUTED: IN A REVIEW OF THE ESSAYS  
OF THE RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP  
HOBART, AND OTHER ADVOCATES OF  
DIOCESAN EPISCOPACY**

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The claims of episcopacy refuted: in a review of the essays of the Right Reverend Bishop Hobart, and other advocates of diocesan episcopacy by John M. Mason

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**JOHN M. MASON**

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**Refuted,**

IN A REVIEW OF THE ESSAYS OF  
THE RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP HOBART, AND OTHER  
ADVOCATES OF DIOCESAN EPISCOPACY.

BY THE LATE  
REV. JOHN M. MASON, D.D.  
OF NEW YORK.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND APPENDIX,

BY THE  
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MINISTER OF CLAREMONT CHAPEL, PENTONVILLE.

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## ERRATA.

The following errors escaped notice till the work was printed; the reader is respectfully requested to correct the same.

Page 8, note, for "ιβλιβη" read "ιβλαβη."

Page 79, line 5, for "ΠΟΙΜΕΝΑ" read "ΠΟΙΜΕΝΙ."

Page 79, line 6, for "βασιλης" read "βασιλης."

Page 89, line 27, for "κασκευασματα" read "κατασκευασματα."

Page 178, note, for "regulum" read "regulam."

————— for "Galliæ, Britanniæ" read "Gallia,  
Britannia."



## INTRODUCTION.

THE history of the following tract may be told in a few words. It first appeared at the beginning of the present century, as an article of review, in an American periodical published in New York, under the able superintendence of the late Rev. J. M. Mason, D.D.

Few readers familiar with the compositions of that splendid writer could fail, on perusing it in the pages of the Christian Magazine, to attribute it to his learned and able pen; but the question of authorship has since been placed beyond dispute, by its insertion amongst the other productions of that gifted divine, in a uniform edition of his works, published by the members of his own family.

A gentleman of London obtained from the United States a copy of this edition of Dr. Mason's works, and thus became acquainted with the following article in its pages. Having found its arguments upon the great question of Diocesan Episcopacy most satisfactory to his own mind, he became anxious to see it reprinted in a cheap form for circulation in this country, because at the present time the lofty claims of an exclusive apostolical succession are put forth with a dogmatism which deserves to be exposed and condemned.

While the Editor concurs in the opinion of his friend respecting the great excellence of this trac-

tate, yet he is not unconscious that, having retained its original form as a review, its acceptability may probably be thereby lessened with many readers. Its opening pages are necessarily occupied with the details of a local controversy, which may appear uninteresting and tiresome. He therefore wishes to bespeak the patience of the reader while travelling through the narrative of a temporary dispute, which occupies only the first chapter, as he can assure him, that the succeeding pages are filled with eloquent and masterly discussions of those topics which involve the whole subject of Diocesan Episcopacy.

Another circumstance may be supposed to lessen the value of this Essay in the Episcopal controversy of Britain, namely, that Dr. Mason replies to the arguments of American writers—arguments, it may be said, which Anglo-Episcopalians are neither bound to adopt nor defend. It should, however, be remembered, that the Rev. J. H. Hobart, afterwards Bishop of New York, conducted the controversy under review, and associated with him several other gifted members of the Anglo-American church. The reputation and authority which that able divine has obtained amongst his brethren in this country will not be disputed, and it may therefore be very fairly assumed, that he and his allies in the controversy brought forward the best arguments they could collect in support of Episcopacy, from their standard writers in both countries.

Respecting the competency of Dr. Mason to engage in the discussion of that subject, it is scarcely necessary to adduce a proof, for his character has long been familiar to English theologians, and his American opponents have acknowledged, that he was "an ac-

completed scholar, an eloquent preacher, and a learned divine;" who brought to the controversy "a vigorous mind, a forcible style, and the confidence which a consciousness of genius usually inspires."\*

The late Rev. Robert Hall, who united in his own person the qualities attributed to his friend, in a higher degree than most of his contemporaries, and who enjoyed a long and personal acquaintance with Dr. Mason, has described him "as one of the brightest ornaments of the western hemisphere."

The reader, therefore, who wishes to examine the claims of Diocesan Episcopacy, will not, it is hoped, permit the somewhat inconvenient form of this tract to deprive him of the assistance which the learned and powerful mind of Dr. Mason cannot fail to afford; for he brought all his energies to the investigation, long before his fine powers were enfeebled by affliction and decay.

The Editor is aware, that some pious readers will regret the publication of another polemical book, which may contribute to prolong that ecclesiastical agitation, of which, perhaps, they are already weary. It is a source of satisfaction to his own mind, to know that he cherishes a warm regard for good men of every communion, and desires to live in peace with all. But truth must be more valuable than peace, or else the fathers of the Reformation, yea, our Lord and his apostles themselves, were guilty of needlessly exciting the minds of men.

At the present moment there are myriads of our countrymen who attend the ministry of pastors who

\* Memoirs of Bishop Hobar, by Dr. Berrian, vol. i. p. 118—121.