

AMONG THE VICARS

from

St. Ann's: The Church in the Heart of the City

By S.G. Poyntz 1976



ST. ANN'S VICARS 1902-1922

Back row: Right Rev. Hon B. J. Plunket, D.D. (1907-1913), Right Rev. J. W. Crozier, D.D. (1921-1939); *Front row:* Most Rev. J. Godfrey Day, D.D. (1913-1920), Ven. J. Paterson-Smyth, LL.D. (1902-1907).

John Paterson-Smyth was the eldest son of George Smyth of Killarney. After a distinguished career at Trinity College, Dublin he graduated with a Senior Moderatorship in Mental and Moral Philosophy and a 1st Class Divinity Testimonium. He gained the degree of B.D. 1888, LL.D. c1893 and Litt.D. 1901. His curacies between 1880 and 1888 were spent in Lisburn Cathedral and Harold's Cross. After a brief but very wonderful incumbency 1888-1902 at Christ Church, Kingstown (as it was called in those days) he came to St. Ann's Parish as Vicar. While Vicar in Dawson St. from 1902-1907, he was also Professor of Pastoral Theology at Trinity College, Dublin. He was further honored with a Canonry in Christ Church Cathedral in 1906.

Emigrating to Canada in 1907, he became Rector of St. George's, Montreal and subsequently Archdeacon of St. Andrew's, Montreal. He died in 1932. Paterson-Smyth was an innovator. Greatly beloved and trusted by his brother clergy, he was the founder of "Ham and Eggs" - a clerical society which still meets in Dublin on the first Monday of every month for breakfast in the home of a member. After breakfast there was held a devotional meeting until 11 o'clock and then a walk - sometimes a more ambitious expedition. He was much concerned about the fate of elderly ladies with very limited means. In 1900 while at Christ Church, Kingstown, he inaugurated the Old Age Pension Scheme whereby bursaries of £26 per annum were raised - in two moieties, one half by friends of the applicant and the other by the parish. The idea took root. Later he

inaugurated a similar scheme at St. Ann's for eleven people and subsequently a similar number was adopted in a scheme at Alexandra College. At the General Synod he became a champion for high ideals of Social Service and of Home Reunion, as it was called in those days. In 1898, with some kindred spirits, he started the Social Service Union with the motto -"Educate - Agitate – Operate." On the 25th April he read a paper on the subject at the Annual General Meeting of the Church of Ireland Temperance Society, when it was agreed to establish machinery within the Church to bring social problems under the influence of Christian thought. The work of Social Service has gone on ever since. Dr. Paterson-Smyth has been called the Charles Kingsley of the Church of Ireland. Again while in Christ Church, he inaugurated for Dubliners living in unsuitable circumstances summer outings so that some 50 or so people got a whole day at the seaside, entertained royally by the parishioners of Kingstown - a scheme which continues to this day. Perhaps he is best known as a prolific writer. He published How We Got Our Bible, How God Inspired the Bible, How to Read the Bible - and The Old Documents and the New Bible. Book review after book review hailed his scholarship as wise and liberal. It was as teacher and interpreter of the Bible that Dr. Paterson-Smyth stood facile princeps. Here one discovers the real secret of people's love and admiration for him. He was very fond of children. He had a son and two daughters. The boy was in later years his father's pride and joy, especially when his poetical talents were noticed. Then came the crushing blow, when he was drowned at Dunganstown 20th Aug. 1901. The East Window in Christ Church is a memorial from friends to the boy poet, William Hugh Ferrar Smyth. No doubt it was this personal bereavement which stimulated him to think long and deeply about Eternity, culminating in the publication The Gospel of the Hereafter which ran to some forty-one editions. Archdeacon Paterson-Smyth has been summed up as "spiritually-minded, sympathetic, unselfish, and enthusiastic."

VICARS OF ST. ANN'S

- 1707 ROBERT HOWARD**
Bishop of Killala and Achonry 1726-30, translated to Elphin 1730-40.
- 1721 JOHN MADDEN**
Dean of Kilmore 1734-51.
- 1751 THOMAS SMYTH**
Archdeacon of Glendalough 1723-51.
- 1764 RICHARD CHALONER COBBE**
- 1767 HUGH HAMILTON**
Bishop of Clonfert 1796; translated to Ossory 1799.
- 1768 BENJAMIN DOMVILE** (*formerly Benjamin Barrington*)
- 1773 THOMAS LELAND**
- 1785 HENRY LOMAX WALSH**
- 1789 ROBERT FOWLER (Dean of St. Patrick's)**
Archdeacon of Dublin 1794; Bishop of Ossory 1835.
- 1794 (The Hon.) JOHN POMEROY**
4th Lord Harberton.
- 1833 CHARLES DICKINSON**
Bishop of Meath 1840-2.

- 1840 JOHN WEST**
Dean of St. Patrick's and Christ Church 1864- 71
Dean of St. Patrick's 1864-89.
- 1851 WILLIAM FITZGERALD**
Bishop of Cork 1857; translated to Killaloe 1862.
- 1855 HERCULES HENRY DICKINSON**
Dean of the Chapel Royal 1858-1902.
- 1902 JOHN PATERSON-SMYTH**
Archdeacon of St. Andrew's, Montreal 1913.
- 1907 (The Hon.) BENJAMIN JOHN PLUNKET**
Bishop of Tuam 1910-19; translated to Meath 1919-25.
- 1913 JOHN GODFREY FITZMALRICE DAY**
Bishop of Ossory 1920; Archbishop of Armagh 1938.
- 1921 JOHN WINTHROP CROZIER**
Bishop of Tuam 1939-57.
- 1939 EDWARD GODFREY SULLIVAN**
Archdeacon of Dublin 1939-53.
- 1953 ERNEST GEORGE DAUNT**
Dean of Cork 1962-66.
- 1962 THOMAS NOEL DESMOND CORNWALL SALMON**
Dean of Christ Church 1962-
- 1967 SAMUEL GREENFIELD POYNTZ**
Archdeacon of Dublin 1974-