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A Thorpe. York

THE LIFE OF *William Bedell*, D.D. BISHOP OF KILMORE IN IRELAND.

LONDON,
Printed for *John Southby*, at the *Harrow* in *Cornhil*. MDCLXXXV.

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THE PREFACE.

THe Conteſts that have been raiſed in this Age concerning the lawfulneſs and the uſefulneſs of the Epiſcopal Government, have engaged ſo many learned Men to treat that Argument ſo fully, that as there is very little excuſe left for the Ignorance or obſtinacy of thoſe who ſtill ſtand out againſt the Evidence of a Cauſe made out ſo clearly, ſo there is ſcarce any thing left to be ſaid by any, whoſe zeal may ſet him on to

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on as an Engine of Government, and no Synods of Clergymen gathered to assume that Authority to themselves by joynt designs and endeavours. And can it be imagined that in all that glorious Cloud of Witnesses to the truth of the Christian Religion, who as they planted it with their Labours, so watered it with their Blood, there should not so much as one single person be found, on whom either a love to truth, or an envy at the advancement of others prevailed so far as to declare against such an early and universal corruption (if it is to be esteemed one.) When all this is complicated together, it is really of so great Authority, that I love not to give the proper name to that temper that can withstand so plain a demonstration. For

what

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ported againſt it: And I ſuppoſe the Reader will not be ill pleaſed if I make a ſecond digreſſion to entertain him with ſome paſſages concerning them, but will bear with it perhaps better than with the former.

And ſince my Education and the courſe of my Life has led me moſt to know the Affairs of *Scotland*, I will not enter upon a Province that is Foreign to me, and therefore ſhall leave to others the giving an account of the great Glories of the Church of *England*, and will content my ſelf with telling ſome more eminent things of ſome of our Scottiſh Biſhops: In which I will ſay nothing upon flying Reports, but upon very credible, if not certain Information. There was one *Patrick Forbes* of *Aberdeenſhire*,

a Gentleman of Quality and Estate, but much more eminent by his Learning and Piety, than his Birth or Fortune could make him. He had a most terrible Calamity on him in his Family, which needs not be named: I do not know whether that or a more early principle determined him to enter into Orders: He undertook the labour of a private Cure in the Country, upon the most earnest invitations of his Bishop, when he was Forty Eight Years old, and discharged his Duty there so worthily, that within a few Years he was promoted to be Bishop of *Aberdeen*; in which See he sat about Seventeen Years. It was not easie for King *James* to perswade him to accept of that Dignity, and many Months past before he could be induced to it, for he had intended

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