

Lincolnshire Parish Correspondence of John Kaye, Bishop of Lincoln 1827-53

LINCOLNSHIRE PARISH CORRESPONDENCE OF JOHN KAYE, BISHOP OF LINCOLN, 1827-53

Edited by
R. W. Ambler



LINCOLN RECORD SOCIETY
94

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出版者:Boydell & Brewer Inc

出版时间:2006-11

装帧:HRD

isbn:9780901503794

The 532 letters that are published in this volume come from the extensive correspondence that was received from people in Lincolnshire parishes by John Kaye, Bishop of Lincoln between 1827 and 1853. They are important because they express the opinions and reflect the attitudes of lay people as well as clergymen: Kaye's correspondents ranged from members of the landed gentry to people who would usually have little direct contact with the bishop. They included a 'troublesome', 'deceptive' and 'pugnacious' village carrier disputing the fees charged for burial in his local churchyard, as well as the farmer who complained of the 'hill usige' that he had 'ricivid from the viker' of his parish. The correspondence reflects Kaye's work as a Church reformer, but it is also important for the way that it demonstrates the changing significance of the Church in the lives of local communities. The extent to which the Church and its affairs were the means through which the social relations of parishes were articulated and sustained was a measure of the continuing importance of the establishment. Rod Ambler is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Hull.

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