1931

(The) influence of the cathedral setting on the characters in the novels of Anthony Trollope and Hugh Walpole ..

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THE INFLUENCE OF THE CATHEDRAL SETTING ON THE CHARACTERS IN THE NOVELS OF ANTHONY TROLLOPE AND HUGH WALPOLE

Submitted by

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I. Introduction
THE INFLUENCE OF THE CATHEDRAL SETTING ON THE CHARACTERS IN THE NOVELS OF ANTHONY TROLLOPE AND HUGH WALPOLE

I. Introduction

A. Books in which the Cathedral setting is used

When a study of this sort is to be made and an author has written as many novels as Anthony Trollope, or even as many as Hugh Walpole, it is necessary first of all to decide which of the novels are to be considered. The obvious ones, of course, are those written by both authors which make use of the cathedral setting. However, the cathedral novels in both cases are only parts of larger series, all of the novels of which do not use the cathedral setting. We must, therefore, consider also the novels which, although the cathedral setting is not used in them, contain characters which are influenced by this setting used in other novels of the series. We may look first at the novels of Trollope, and here our task has been made easier by the custom of publishing certain ones of his novels as his cathedral series. Trollope himself seems never to have spoken of a cathedral series, but says that he wished to see a combined publication during his lifetime of those novels which are occupied with the fictitious county of Barsetshire.¹ These would be The Warden, Barchester Towers, Doctor Thorne, Framley Parsonage, and The Last Chronicle of Barset. Of these novels only three use the cathedral setting. These are The Warden, Barchester Towers, and The Last Chronicle of Barset.

In the other two, Doctor Thorne and Framley Parsonage, the action almost entirely takes place out in the county, away from the cathedral town. However, people from the cathedral town, and men, members of the cathedral chapter itself, enter these books, and so a number of the characters we meet here come into direct contact with a cathedral setting which is not actually visited by the reader; and through these characters a number of others come into contact with this setting. There is another book which is not one of the Barsetshire novels, but which has practically always been published as one of the cathedral series. This is The Small House at Allington. Here the cathedral people seldom enter the story, but on the other hand one small scene is laid in the cathedral itself. A few other novels, especially the Claverings, mention Barsetshire, but have never been included in the cathedral series; and do not use the cathedral setting. Therefore we may decide here to consider the novels of Trollope which are usually published as his cathedral series: The Warden, Barchester Towers, Doctor Thorne, Framley Parsonage, The Small House at Allington, and The Last Chronicle of Barset.

Hugh Walpole With Walpole it is different, for there has never been published a list of novels for a cathedral series. Opposite the title pages of most of his books we find lists of his works grouped under a variety of headings such as London Novels, Scenes from Provincial Life, Books about Children, and finally just Novels; presumably including all which will fit nowhere else. None of these groupings (and I haven't mentioned near all of them) satisfy. To me three of his novels always seem to belong together—
the three, which always using the cathedral setting in a greater or less degree, carry on the stories of Polchester through the years, starting first with The Old Ladies, and then The Cathedral, and finally Harmer John. We can't leave it here though, because there is Jeremy, the little boy who was in constant contact with the cathedral during his childhood, and who, if we find that he has been influenced by this contact, will probably continue to carry that influence with him during the years that he is away from Polchester.

Then last there is Hans Frost, with Natalie who was brought up in the family of one of the canons of Polchester; and where Hans Frost himself visited the cathedral. Therefore, we finally have the novels of Walpole to be considered standing thus as they occur in the history of the town: The Old Ladies, Jeremy, Jeremy and Hamlet, The Cathedral, Jeremy at Cral, Harmer John, and Hans Frost.

B. Origin of the idea How did these novelists each happen of the cathedral setting with: to create a cathedral setting, an entire

Anthony Trollope town, and finally a surrounding county?

Others have told tales of cathedrals, and others have created communities, but no one, other than these two, has done precisely this thing. Trollope seems not to have planned such an elaborate creation and such a series of novels; but as he himself says, "In the course of my Post Office job, I visited Salisbury, and while wandering there one midsummer evening around the purlieus of the cathedral I conceived the story of The Warden--from whence came that series of novels of which Barchester, with its bishops, deans, and archdeacons was the central site.....On the 29th of July, 1853.....I began The Warden at Tenbury in Worcestershire. It was then more than twelve
months since I had stood for an hour on the little bridge in Salisbury, and had made out to my own satisfaction the spot in which Hiram's Hospital should stand."¹ From this start the cathedral, the town, the county, and their well-known company of inhabitants grew. Individual books in the series were suggested by different things. Doubtless the plot of The Warden was in part suggested by several well-known investigations of ecclesiastical charities in that day, and Doctor Thorne is known as the only one of his books for which Trollope did not invent the plot, his brother having given it to him. So it continued until that ill-fated day when he overheard two clergymen at the Athenaeum Club saying that they were tired of the whole thing and if they could not invent new characters they would not write at all. Whereupon Trollope went home and killed Mrs. Proudie and ended the series with the Last Chronicle.²

Hugh Walpole Again, it is different with Hugh Walpole, for of course, in the first place, he knew Barsetshire before he began to write; and then he spent part of his childhood in three different English cathedral towns, Truro, Durham, and Canterbury, and was associated through many years with the clergy as Trollope was not. He must have early thought of a cathedral setting as background for a story, for during his first year out of college he began a cathedral novel, The Abbey, which he later tore up, having decided that it was very bad indeed.³ Later he did write a cathedral novel and other tales of the town of Polchester; and there still may be more to come, since as yet, as far as the public knows, no club conversation

². Ibid, p. 240.
has had a killing effect on the population of Glebeshire.

C. General comparison of settings

Lay-out of places

What kind of places are these imaginary communities, the hearts of which are the cathedral towns and their cathedrals? The first thing which stands out about them is the kinds of places emphasized. The majority of the events of the Trollope novels take place in the country, while practically all of the events of the Walpole novels take place in the town. The maps we have of these places show this difference. There are three maps of Barsetshire in existence; Trollope's own, the delightfully illustrated map planned originally by Spencer Nichols but painted in its present form by his friend George F. Muendel, and Father Ronald Knox's. All of these show the town of Barchester itself as only a small dot on the map, among many other equally small dots, marking the settlements and country residences of importance throughout the shire. The only map we have of Walpole's country is of the town of Polchester. It has been possible to name the streets, and many of the residences, and an equal number of the shops. A map of the entire shire could add nothing much more than Rafiel; Garth in Roselands, the home of the Trenchards; and the rectory and church of Maggie Cardinal's father. The last two places are mentioned in books centering around the Trilogy of the Rising City.

General Description

Barsetshire seems to be an average sort of place traversed by a railroad on its way to London.

There are a few hills, no rivers and lakes, ample roads, a number of

1. Nichols, Spencer V., The Significance of Anthony Trollope, frontispiece.
delightful country places, and, of course, opportunities for hunting. With Glebeshire it is different. Placed between Cornwall and Devonshire, it is part of that narrow neck of country leading to Land's End. Storms sweep across it from the sea on both sides, with the great breakers threatening to engulf the land, and often there is the salty smell of the sea in the air. On bright summer days when the sea is blue, people go down to Rafeil to picnic on the cliffs, or spend a few weeks of vacation there. Then there is the Pol, sweeping past the town, with the high, cliff-like rock beside it crowned with the cathedral. We know practically nothing of the surrounding country and families. Lord St. Leath's castle is on a hill quite near by, and whether there be hunting or no we are not told.

Visibility Besides the people, what is visible to the reader in these communities? First, their cathedrals. What does Barchester look like? We know a few things about it, but it has never been described. Hugh Walpole has said that no illustrator has ever tried to make a picture of Trollope's cathedral because no one knows what it looks like. With Polchester it is different. It is easy to visualize the cathedral atop its rock, and the armed men scaling the pathway to attack the Black Bishop. Also, there are other marvellous views of it. We like to look at it from the Arden Gate, or from the top floor of St. James' rectory, as well as from the river. Then, inside, there is the St. Margaret's Chapel, and Big Tom, and the Black Bishop's tomb, and the Brytte Monument. Surely there must be innumerable bishops and representatives of great families, besides a

a crusader or two, buried at Barchester, but all we know is that there is a modest tablet commemorating Mr. Harding. Otherwise, in Barchester we get some good views of the country houses. Framley Court is admirably described from the outside, as is also Gatherum Castle; and the comfortable things inside Plumstead Episcopi really come to life. But no one ever admires Glorious views of the cathedral as they do in Polchester. There are no great houses of Glebeshire described. Lord St. Leath's castle is very shadowy indeed. Small houses of the town are more often definite and visible: Ronder's house, the rickety old place in Pontippy Square where the Fortified Christians and the three old ladies rented, the book store, the market place, and Mrs. Penethen's house. Here we would be at once at home in the cathedral, and be able to find our way easily about the town and recognize the small dwellings, and even know that probably the librarian would be sitting on the new novels to keep them for the present Lady St. Leath, but behind her to the left we could always amuse ourselves with the dusty classics. Now in Barsetshire we should not know what to expect when we entered the great nave, but when we began to journey through the country we would know which way to go, and soon we would recognize Framley Court, and later the huge pagans at the gates of Greshamsbury.

Atmosphere

The atmosphere of these places is entirely different. Numbers of people have called to our attention the fact that there are no poets in Barsetshire, neither are there any artists. No wonder, for there are no vistas of the cathedral, and no sunsets to sing about or paint. There is never even a mist to soften the outlines of the landscape. It has also been said that there is no religion in Barsetshire. We will say
more about that when we discuss the characters, but at present we can say that Barsetshire is a matter-of-fact sort of place where no one is much more or less than average; where life is healthy and on the whole happy; and where there are no temperaments or neuroses. Now once more Polchester is quite different. There was a splendid artist there once who fashioned the Brytte Monument and the fountain Harmer John found; and there was the poor, drunken artist who hung around the cathedral in Archdeacon Brandon's day. And then there was a ghost or two also. Jeremy Cole was sure that he saw the Black Bishop in the cathedral, and weren't people always seeing Harmer John after he was drowned? And nerves! If poor Archdeacon Brandon had his obsessions back in the days of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, what must they be having now in these post war days!

Closely connected with these I have been speaking of which deal with the same time as these stories, but with happenings elsewhere, often in London. These are Trollope's Parliamentary series, and the novels which group themselves around Walpole's trilogy of the Rising City. The connection between Trollope's two groups of books comes mostly through three characters who appear in the cathedral series, and become more important in the Parliamentary books; Lady Glencora, Plantagenet Palisser, and Burgo Fitzgerald. With Walpole the connection is a little stronger. The Trenchards from the Rising City group have a summer home, Garth in Roselands, in Glebeshire, where some of the action of the Green Mirror takes place. Maggie Cardinal in The Captives comes from her father's rectory near Polchester, and part of the action takes place there. Even in
Wintersmoon we meet the Bishop of Polchester when we attend the reception given by the Duke of Romney for Janet Grandison. It is more that we are conscious of the life back in the cathedral towns when we are among the city people than that we are conscious of the city people when we are in the country.
II. The Influence of the Cathedral Setting on the Characters in the Novels of Anthony Trollope
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A. Occupations

We may first inquire how far the occupations of the people of Barsetshire are influenced by their living in or near a cathedral city. The most noticeable group of people in the town itself are naturally the clergy. There are plenty of them here—practically the entire hierarchy being represented. There are bishops and deans and canons and minor canons and canons occupying prebendal stalls and canons of other varieties and archdeacons and rectors and vicars and curates and still others in too long a list to enumerate. Besides this great array the other professions at first glance seem dwarfed almost into insignificance. Let us see, however, what other professions we find and how important they are. First, there are the doctors; not nearly so many as the clergy, but one of whom, Dr. Thorne, is of enough importance to give his name to one of the novels. Then there are the three other doctors, Dr. Crofts, Dr. Fillgrave, Dr. Rerechild, and also a mention of Dr. Gruffen. Furthermore, Sir Cmicon Pi is so frequently called down from London in consultation as to be quite well-known in the place. Then there are the lawyers—again, not nearly so many as the clergy, but the people of Barchester are forever consulting them. There is Finney, and Cox and Cummins, and Walker and Winthrop, and Mr. Toogood, some in Barchester and some in London. And when in dire need they go up to London to consult that greatest of all lawyers, Sir Abram Haphazard. There are also representatives of the army, Capt. Bernard Dale and Maj. Grantly. Then there are politicians and elections, too. Everyone in the shire seems to have his
political convictions, and we practically always know who sits in Parliament for the district. As for the men who devote most of their time to politics, there is Harold Smith and Mr. Sowerby and Plantagenet Falisser (or is Plantagenet a statesman?). Also there are Civil Service employees at Barchester. One Barchester man, Johnny Eames, procured a position in London; and one London civil servant, Adolphus Crosbie, came to Barchester for a visit. Both have friends in London whom we meet. Then there are the teachers, governesses and nurses. The Misses Prettyman who run a young ladies school in Barchester are very kindly ladies; and there is mention of governesses. The references to trades-people are few. There was a butcher who insisted that Mr. Crawley pay his bill, and also a few others. There are inns in the various parts of Barchester, but the only one whose publican we know is The Dragon of Wantly, where Dan and John Stringer were responsible for the stolen check which got Mr. Crawley into trouble. These are the only occupations represented except for Mr. Chadwick, the bishop's steward in Barchester, and Mr. Moffat, rather indefinitely engaged in business, who comes down to Barchester from London. Now there are also a great many people not engaged in any profession or occupation; a good many of the men and practically all of the women. There are the titled people of more or less comparative importance. First of all, is the Duke of Omnium; then the De Courcys; the De Guests; the Luftons; with Lord and Lady Dumbello, heirs to Marquis and Marchioness of Hartletop making frequent appearances. The Scatcherds, also, wear a title, but it is a bad fit, for Sir Roger is obviously a self-made man. There are also untitled country gentlemen; Squire Dale, Squire Gresham, and Mr. Thorne of Ullathorne. Then we find a large group of women, some of the families of the
clergymen and some of the other gentlemen. In any case they are almost without exception well educated for their time and in some measure attractive. There is scarcely a mention of the daughters of the tradespeople of the town. The "old maids" are few and a seemingly well-cared-for lot, being provided with money and unmarried brothers with whom they live happily. The older women are also few in number, but very interesting, including in their company Miss Dunstable and Charlotte Stanhope. There are a few young men, such as Frank Gresham, not engaged in any profession and yet not titled. The Barchester children are not important, Posy Arabin being the only one who attains even a little reality. Then comes that part of the community which most of the inhabitants of the place considered last—the poor. Barsetshire doesn't contain as many of these unfortunates as Glebe, for it is an agricultural community and contains no town with a slum like Sea Town. The most vivid among the poor of Barchester are the old Bedesmen at Hiram's Hospital. Walpole says that in these old inmates of Hiram's Hospital, Trollope shows the "extraordinary overflowing talent of the major Victorian novelists for minor characters."¹ They are indeed very convincing, while much less so are Giles Hoggett and the bricklayers of Hoggle End. Along with the poor goes their would-be-champion, John Bold, the reformer. Lastly we meet quite a group of London people when we travel to the city with the Barchester folk.

Here we have quite a variety of occupations and people, more in fact being actually mentioned than in Glebe. Barchester and

¹ Walpole, Hugh. Anthony Trollope, p.46.
its surrounding county is a typical bit of rural early or mid-Victorian England. Without its cathedral it would be just the same, with one exception—there would not be so many clergy and their families in the town of Barchester itself. The doctors, lawyers, army men and civil servants would come and go. The great families would entertain and the politicians would engineer the elections. To be sure, there would not be so much excitement without Mrs. Proudie and the Stanhopes as subjects for conversation, but life in general would go on as usual. This is chiefly because the clergy do not try to run the shire affairs. The Archdeacon and the Bishop attend to the church, while the Duke of Omnium and others attend to the secular affairs. There are these great secular folk who consider themselves the greatest in the community, even as some of the clergy consider themselves the greatest, and it all depends on who you are, Lady Lufton or the De Courcys, for example, who you think is the real prop and stay of the shire. However, remove the cathedral, and you remove a good number of the clergy and their families, but you leave an entire community of varying interests and occupations, very little or not at all influenced by finding themselves no longer in or near a cathedral town.

B. Character

We might naturally expect when first thinking of a cathedral series that the cathedral would at some time or place influence the inner lives or characters of the people near it. Is this true of Barchester? Furthermore, the class of people whom we might expect to be the most influenced are the people who come in closest contact with the cathedral—the clergy. We may ask concerning the different ones, are they the same as before they came to the cathedral city of Barchester? Have their characters
been built up because of some good influence which came from this building or institution or have they degenerated because of some bad influence? A cathedral is more than a mere building. It is also an institution. Thus in its capacity as a building it may exercise influence, and also it may influence as an institution. First we may consider the two bishops: the first bishop of Barchester with whom we are acquainted, Bishop Grantly, and his successor, Bishop Proudie. We know very little of Bishop Grantly because he is old and for the most part sick when the story of The Warden begins, but we are told nothing of any feeling which he had for the cathedral or of any influence which the cathedral had on him. His greatest feeling seemed to be for Mr. Harding, and the greatest influence in his later life his son, the Archdeacon. In fact Trollope tells us that it took the strong hand of the Archdeacon to maintain discipline in the diocese. No more did Bishop Proudie seem influenced by the cathedral. Mr. Crawley calls him ignorant, puzzle-pated, led by the nose by his wife, and weak as water; and finally supplies the best description of all when he calls him "that puny ecclesiastical lord". As time goes on he does get more puzzle-pated and more uncertain, but it is not the cathedral which does this to him but his famous wife, Mrs. Proudie, who shames him before the public and finally dies, leaving him quite forlorn. However, the fact that she can so shame him is largely because he is a bishop and in a public position where the entire diocese will hear of his hen-pecked state. However, it is possible that the same thing might have happened to Bishop Proudie had he occupied any one of a number of other executive and rather public positions in the church.
Next we may consider the Archdeacon, the man who practically ruled the diocese in his father's old age. As with the Bishop, the Archdeacon could have held his place had there been no cathedral in the diocese. He enters with gusto into ecclesiastical politics and into hot battles for the worldly estate of the clergy and of all church revenues in fact; but he is not concerned with the cathedral or apparently influenced by it. He battles over the reforms desired at Hiram's Hospital, against the Bishop's party, and against his son Henry when he crosses him. He brings Mr. Arabin to St. Ewold's to oppose the Bishop, but there is a difference here from the almost parallel appointment at Pybus St. Anthony. The appointment at Pybus St. Anthony belongs to the cathedral chapter and is the occasion of the fight in which Archdeacon Brandon falls, and the Folchester Cathedral takes a somewhat mystic if not fanciful part. The appointment at St. Ewold's belongs entirely to the Archdeacon and he gives it to Mr. Arabin solely because he knows that he is opposed to Mr. Slope and therefore to the Bishop's party. The cathedral is not concerned at all, and has really nothing much to do with the Archdeacon.

The two deans are equally little influenced. Of course, there would be no deans were there no cathedral; but aside from owing their positions to the institution they seem to have very little to do with it. The old dean, who was most of the time afraid to speak, was seemingly influenced by nothing except those things which frightened him, and this the cathedral did not. The new dean, Mr. Arabin, is for the most part getting himself married when he first comes to take the living at St. Ewold's and later when he
becomes dean, is only heard of indirectly as he is travelling most of the time on the continent and in the Holy Land.

The other clergy are for the most part as uninfluenced as to character as these prominent ones. Mark Robarts has his financial difficulties somewhat straightened out by being made a prebendary of the cathedral. The cathedral as such does not influence him though. His wealthy aunt might have left him the money and the influence would have been just the same. Mr. Crawley's character is no doubt somewhat influenced by the affair of the check. Again, however, it is not the cathedral as such, nor Mr. Arabin as dean of the cathedral which influences him; but the fact that a check is lost and he is accused of having stolen it.

There is one clergyman, however, who may possibly have been influenced by the cathedral—Mr. Harding, its precentor. We are not told that Mr. Harding's character has been thus influenced, but he does display some feeling for it and it seems as though it has played some part in his life. In the last of the series, The Last Chronicle of Barset, there is the description of Mr. Harding's last visits to the cathedral. His daughter, Mrs. Grantly, took him to morning service and he almost fell in the passageway from the Deanery to the Church—indeed would have fallen had he not had Mrs. Grantly's arm. After they returned home she told him he must never go alone to the cathedral again.

"'Papa, you must promise me that you will not go to the cathedral again alone, till Eleanor comes home.' When he heard the sentence he looked at her with blank misery in his eyes. He made no attempt at remonstrance. He begged for no respite. The word had
gone forth, and he knew that it must be obeyed. Though he would have hidden the signs of his weakness had he been able, he would not condescend to plead that he was strong. 'If you think it wrong, my dear, I will not go alone,' he said. 'Fappa, I do; indeed, I do. Dear papa, I would not hurt you by saying it if I did not know that I am right.' He was sitting with his hand upon the table, and, as she spoke to him, she put her hand upon his caressing it. 'My dear,' he said, 'you are always right.'

"She then left him again for a while, having some business out in the city, and he was alone in his room for an hour. What was there left to him now in the world?"

A little later when he was more or less reconciled to giving up his visits to the cathedral, he refused to go to Plumstead to stay with his daughter and her husband, and this is why. "He could not tell even his daughter that after such a life as this, after more than fifty years spent in the ministrations of his darling cathedral, it specially behoved him to die,—as he had lived,—at Barchester." Of course, he seems to feel as bad over giving up his violoncello, but then he is the only one of the clergy who expresses any feeling at all for the cathedral.

The other people in the town are as oblivious to any influence the cathedral may have as are the clergy. The county folk and the town folk go about their worldly business without even so much as admiring the cathedral building. Mr. Crosbie stopped at the cathedral on his way from Allington to Courcy, and when he entered the cathedral he found a service going on. Since he said to himself, "I did not mean to fall in for all of this," and since he had never heard of Mr. Harding we cannot claim that the cathedral had influenced
his character to any great extent. The women of the town and even the clergy's families are no more influenced. Most of them go quietly about their domestic and social affairs in Barsetshire; usual, attractive, but seemingly totally unaware of the cathedral. Mrs. Proudie would, no doubt, if possible, make over the cathedral after her own design, but she was in no way changed by her contact with it. The Signora Neroni was an adventuress and her sister Charlotte an unbeliever, but it is not the evils of the cathedral which turned them in that direction, which probably would have been the case had they lived in Polchester.

We find therefore that the Barchester Cathedral exercises very little, if any, influence on the characters of the people in the novels. The clergy and the laity are equally uninfluenced, and it is only in one case, that of Mr. Harding, where enough feeling is expressed for the cathedral, so that we may suspect an influence which is not actually narrated. Sadlier in his "Anthony Trollope" says that "Barchester is a town of living people, but not, save in narrative statement, a town containing a Cathedral."¹ This is said by Sadlier partly in regard to influence and partly in regard to descriptions; but it seems to me that it is entirely applicable as an answer to any question concerning the influence of the cathedral on the characters of the people of Barchester.

C. Religion

If the Barchester cathedral does not influence the characters of the people in the community, does it influence their religion or the general religious atmosphere of the

¹ Sadlier, Michael. Anthony Trollope, p.185.
shire? As in the case of character influence the clergy are the first ones about whom we shall inquire, as they come closest to the cathedral. Here about the same result is manifest as in the previous inquiry. Trollope tells us that the old bishop, Bishop Grantly, was "a bland and kind old man," and that pretty well sums up all that we know about him. Bishop Proudie never seemed much bothered about religion, but his wife, Mrs. Proudie, was greatly concerned with her own low-church variety. She was greatly interested in Sabbath schools, the suppression of Sabbath travelling, and various other religious hobbies of her own. Her usual social conversation was after this manner. "Idolatry is, I believe, more rampant than ever in Rome, and I fear there is no such thing as Sabbath observances." This religion, however, she did not learn from the cathedral, and when it appeared in the Barchester close it was stoutly resisted.

The Archdeacon's religion was not influenced either. In fact religion and the Archdeacon are never mentioned together, except when he prays by the old bishop's death bed. The Bishop was dying and the Prime Minister in all probability would make his son, the Archdeacon, Bishop of Barchester. But the Prime Minister was going out and the Bishop was still alive. Trollope tells us it was a case of "now or never." "He (the Archdeacon) was already over fifty, and there was little chance that his friends who were now leaving office would soon return to it. No probable British Prime Minister but he who was not in, he who was so soon to be out, would think of making a bishop of Dr. Grantly. Thus he thought long and sadly, in deep silence, and then gazed at that still living face, and then at last dared to ask himself whether he really longed for
his father's death.

"The effort was a salutary one, and the question was answered in a moment. The proud, wishful, worldly man sank on his knees by the bedside, and taking the bishop's hand within his own, prayed earnestly that his sins might be forgiven him." This, the only real mention of the Archdeacon's religion, shows no influence of the cathedral.

With the two deans it is the same. The old dean is a rather shadowy character about whom we can determine very little. Mr. Arabin, the second dean, is not so shadowy as regards the religious influences of his life, but his religion seems to have been made and fixed before he agreed to take the living at St. Ewold's. In his college days "he sat for a while at the feet of the great Newman", and almost followed him to Rome. He was not kept in the Establishment, however, by the influence coming from Barchester, or from any other cathedral, but by the influence of a simple Cornish curate, Mr. Crawley. After that crisis was passed, and it was long past when he came to Barsetshire, his religion seemingly remained fixed—high church—but safely so.

The other clergy are for the most part as little influenced as these great members of the cathedral chapter. We infer that Dr. Vesey Stanhope's faith is waning because we are told that his daughter Charlotte tried to undermine what little of it remained. We are not told what was the cause of this ebbing faith—perhaps it was lack of interest, perhaps Charlotte's influence, perhaps his great absorption in Lombard butterflies. However, whatever it was, it was not the cathedral which was responsible for the state of his religion.
Caleb Oriel shows more interest in religion than some, but he has very little contact with the cathedral, seemingly spending most of his time in and about Greshamsbury. Mr. Thumble is a mere hanger-on of Bishop Proudie; and Mr. Slope, Bishop Proudie's chaplain, stands for the same sort of religion as Mrs. Proudie. Like Mrs. Proudie he did not learn this religion at Barchester, and was not influenced by anything he found there. Unlike Mrs. Proudie though, we are never sure of Mr. Slope's sincerity; but are pretty clearly led to believe that he is playing his own game, and not even as Archdeacon Granty, playing the game of his order. Mr. Harding is usually considered the most saintly person among Trollope's clerical characters, although I agree with Saintsbury when he says that Mr. Harding is nearly as much of a coward as a conscientious martyr. The verger tells Mr. Crosbie when asked about the priest who intoned the service, "He is of the sort they make angels of." He is undoubtedly religious. His reply (if he is sincere, and we never doubt Mr. Harding's sincerity) to the Dean when advised that he is getting too feeble to participate longer in the cathedral services, certainly shows this. "Few," he said, "have had accorded to them the high privilege of serving their Master in His house for so many years,—though few more humbly or with lower gifts." As we have said before in discussing the influence of the cathedral on his character, he certainly shows a feeling for it which no other character shows. However, there is nothing to show us that the cathedral has influenced his religion, anymore than there is anything to definitely show us that it has

influenced his character. Where there is such a feeling for a building or an institution there must have been some influence, but just what the nature of the influence is we are not definitely told, nor are we shown it by the actions of Mr. Harding or any of the other characters. Then there is Mr. Crawley, who, Mr. Priestly says, is "the only one who continually bothers about God."\(^1\) Surely if he bothers about God, and continually at that, he too must be religious. Is this religion due to the cathedral, or at all influenced for good or bad by the cathedral? No, I think not. In the first place Mr. Crawley, like Dean Arabin, seems to be fixed as to religion when he comes to Barsetshire, and the only change which occurs in him, is the state of depression and near-insanity, coincident with the accusation of theft. In the second place Mr. Crawley comes into very little contact with the cathedral. He is perpetual curate of Hogglestock, quite a distance from the cathedral city, and Mr. Crawley is too poor to keep even one horse, and equally too poor to hire a conveyance. On the famous trip to Barchester when he interviewed the bishop and rebuked Mrs. Proudie, he rode part of the way in a farmer's cart, walked the rest of the way, and walked back home. Under such circumstances he was not likely to visit the cathedral very often. Also he had very little contact with the cathedral clergy, because his obstinate pride would not let him associate with those who were much wealthier than he. In the third place he was a man much more apt to influence than to be influenced. We have seen how he influenced Dean Arabin long ago in Cornwall and in Framley Parsonage we see him

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influence Mark Robarts to give up some of his worldly ways.

The other people of the town are no more influenced by the cathedral in regard to religion than the clergy. None of the women, whether they belong to the families of the clergy or not, seem to be in any way influenced. Griselda Grantly, Lady Dumbello, cannot possibly be said to be influenced. She is entirely the offspring of the worldly side of the Archdeacon. Neither are Mr. Harding's daughters, Mrs. Grantly and Mrs. Arabin, influenced; nor the Misses Proudie; nor the Stanhopes. It is the same with the other people in the shire—the nobility, the professional people, and all others—none are influenced.

A good deal has been said about the lack of religion in Barchester. J. B. Priestly says that Barset is black with clergymen, but that there is no religion.¹ Surely religion is not mentioned very much. The clergymen do not talk about religion, and what religious influence the cathedral may have is not mentioned. Only in one case have we any grounds for surmising anything about such an influence—that in the case of Mr. Harding. However, I think it is putting it rather strong to say that there is no religion. It seems rather that Trollope is not drawing us a picture of a place where there is no religion and where a cathedral has no influence. He is simply not taking those matters up. Trollope, himself, answers this criticism at the end of the Last Chronicle of Barset. He says, "I would plead, in answer to this, that my object has been to paint the social and not the professional lives of the clergymen; and that I have been led to do so, firstly, by a feeling that no men

effect more strongly, by their own character, the society of those around than do country clergymen, so, therefore, their social habits have been worth the labor necessary for painting them; and secondly, by a feeling that though I, as a novelist, may feel myself entitled to write of clergymen out of their pulpits, as I may also write of lawyers and doctors, I have no such liberty to write of them in their pulpits."  

It is this lack of obvious religion which, in part, I think, leads Father Knox to say, "Mr. Hugh Walpole was brought up, so to say, in the purple; but I hope his admirers will excuse me for saying that the clerical characters in The Cathedral are stage figures of the woodiest, bearing no resemblance (if I know anything of such matters) to the facts of real life. Trollope, with no experience to help him, did make his clergymen behave like men, and did make them behave like clergymen." Perhaps Trollope who was not intimately acquainted with many clergymen viewed them with a perspective which is common to the majority of his readers; while Walpole, who spent his impressionable years in intimate association with the clergy and their families, has failed to see in perspective those whom he can see so closely and knows so well.

D. Social Life  
The social life in a cathedral city is necessarily slightly different from that of an ordinary town of the same size. The cathedral clergy, or at least the most important ones, live in the cathedral close. There is a certain social life which goes on among the cathedral clergy and others admitted to their circle. We see very little of this social life in Barchester and few of its possibilities for forming cliques and snubbing outsiders, for Barchester is as near like an ordinary mid-

Victorian rural community as it could possibly be and still contain a cathedral. Perhaps it may be more like an ordinary rural neighborhood than the environs of a cathedral can be in actuality. However that may be, there is some snobbishness there of course. When Henry Grantly wants to marry Grace Crawley, in The Last Chronicle of Barset, the Archdeacon objects, even though Mr. Crawley is a clergyman and as well educated as himself. Of course Mr. Crawley has been accused of theft, but even if he hadn't been, we are quite sure that the daughter of the poverty stricken curate of Hoggleshock would not be considered a suitable match for the wealthy Archdeacon's son. This, however, is just such an attitude as will be found in many places, on the part of the wealthy toward the poor, and we fail to see that the cliquishness of the cathedral set has anything to do with the case. It is not cathedral against outsiders, but wealth against poverty. On the whole, moreover, these snobberies are not emphasized and most of the Barchester folk are contented and kindly of heart. The Archdeacon makes a great bluster about Grace Crawley, but begins to melt as soon as he sees her, and finally we are led to believe that he prefers her society to that of his own august daughter, Lady Dumbello.

There are not many social affairs held by this cathedral society, and those seem to include almost everyone of social position. Mrs. Proudie's reception was a very large affair and a very comical one, too, with Bertie Stanhope in his blue coat, and the Signora on her couch, and Mr. Slope and the Bishop, and many others. There were other big parties also; the old-fashioned merry-making given by Mr. Thorne of Ullathorne, and the big party given by Mrs. Thorne,
formerly Miss Dunstable. The guests included cathedral clergy and their wives and children, county families, and some professional people. There was no intimation here of a cathedral set and another outside set.

Trollope rather obviously thinks that the world is a pretty good place, and that it is better to enjoy what there is than to go about criticising and reforming. Trollope seems quite satisfied with Barchester and its social organization. We are distinctly given to understand that John Bold's efforts to get a more equal division of money between the warden and the old men at Hiram's Hospital brought about no improvement, but really made the condition of the old men worse. Here, at Hiram's Hospital we have some of the poor of Barsetshire. Nothing much is said about the cathedral and its influence on them and the way they live. There is no depraved slum which is openly claimed to be a disgrace to the nearby cathedral as is the case with Sea Town in Polchester. The bricklayers of Hoggle End and the old bedesmen at Hiram's Hospital are in no destitute state, and the cathedral has nothing to do with their position, or the care given them by the community.

Out in the shire also the cathedral has practically no influence on the social life of the people. They live as people of their time did in the country districts of England, and their houses and estates are much more often described than the houses and views within the precincts of the cathedral. These people sometimes know the cathedral families and visit back and forth with them, but their social life is no more changed by the cathedral, than is that of any other part of the community.
III. The Influence of the Cathedral Setting on the Characters in the Novels of Hugh Walpole
III. The Influence of the Cathedral Setting on the Characters in the Novels of Hugh Walpole

A. Occupations

In Polchester the cathedral seems to occupy the center of the stage. The townspeople might be roughly divided in two classes; the cathedral set and the tradespeople. Of course, there are other kinds of people there, but the bulk of the inhabitants would fit into one of these two classes. Naturally, it being a cathedral city, more clergy are mentioned than representatives of any other occupation. There is the first bishop whom we are made acquainted with, Bishop Purcell. As Mr. Harding is often spoken of as the only saintly character in the Barchester Close, so Bishop Purcell might be spoken of in Polchester. However, like Mr. Harding, he is only shown in his old age, although his appearance is much more effective than that of Mr. Harding. We hear even less of Bishop Franklin who succeeded Bishop Purcell because he was far more interested in the Kings of Israel than in his diocese. Then there is the Dean, Dean Sampson, who is just as shadowy as the bishop; doubtless because of his absorption in Glebeshire ferns rather than in his cathedral. Then there is the Archdeacon, and below him in importance the canons and parish clergy of the town. We would naturally expect to find fewer representatives of other professions but in this case we find practically none at all. The people of the town must have been uncommonly healthy for there is scarcely a mention of doctors. Cousin Francis called one in before he died, and Dr. Puddifoot is mentioned in connection with the Archdeacon's illness, but we are told scarcely anything about either one. Lawyers are equally scarce. Mr. John Agnew, of Pace and Pace, Solicitors, transacted business for Lucy Amorest; and there
was also Glasgow Parmenter, "the wickedest man in Polchester." Glasgow Parmenter is merely mentioned and Mr. John Agnew is not an important character. The Cole's governess, Miss Jones; and their nurse, "the Jampot" are the only people of that class who are characters. There is Reuben Fletch, a business man; the rich Cousin Francis; and the publican, Samuel Hogg. There are practically no people of other occupations mentioned except the tradespeople. No tradespeople come into the stories as characters, unless we might place here Billy and Fred Trennant, who assisted in Harmer John's gymnasium. However, we are given the impression of a great number of tradespeople, chiefly, I think because their stores and places of business are often mentioned as the characters go up and down High Street. There was the Market with its many fascinating stalls, Poole's Book Shop, Dennison's Store, Bennett's Book Shop, and the place of Rose the grocer. We know nothing of Mr. Poole, except that he objected to little boys because they never bought books, and we know even less of Mr. Bennett and Mr. Rose, but we are given the impression of quite a company of tradespeople. There are no titled people near Polchester except Lord St. Leath and his mother, the Countess. There are also in the town a number of women and young people and children. The place seems to abound in lonely old women—both "old maids" and widows. It would be hard to find three more neglected old people than the old ladies of Pontippy Square, Mrs. Amorest and Mrs. Payne and poor May Beringer. Then there were Miss Milton and Miss Stiles and Alice Ronder and Mrs. Combermere and Miss Midgley and Miss Maples and Jeremy Cole's Aunt Amy. Also there were the wives of the clergy; Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Brandon, for example. Most of the women
with the exception of the old ladies of Pontippy Square, either
belonged to the families of the clergy or to the cathedral set. Among
the young people a few belong to the families of the clergy; Mary
Longstaffe and Joan Brandon and her brother Falk. Then we meet a
few others of an entirely different order. There are Judy and
Maude Penethen, Mrs. Penethen's daughters; and Annie Hogg, the
publican's daughter. Also there is Isaac Boulton, who was
possessed of some money and finally married Maude Penethen; and Mrs.
Amorest's son, who made a brief appearance from America. There are
children here too, all belonging to the families of the clergy.
There are Jeremy and Mary and Helen Cole, Billy Longstaffe, and
Ernest Sampson. There are artists too, even though unsuccessful ones—
Uncle Samuel, and even the less successful Ben Short and Miss Eldred
and the drunken Davray. Last we come to the poor of the community.
Here we find the same thing true as with the tradespeople. Very
few of the poor come out as characters. There was old Looney 1-2-3,
who sat in the market place in Harmer John's day, and then there were
the Sea Town people whom Harmer John visited. However, a great deal
is said of Sea Town with its poverty and congestion, and we leave
some of the novels with the impression of a great many unfortunate
people crowded together in the lower part of the city. Polchester,
also, has one reformer even as Barchester had one. However, Harmer
John was quite a different sort from John Bold. Beside Harmer John,
John Bold appears like a demagogue, for Harmer John gave his life
for his cause and John Bold backed down when he had gone too far to
stop the harm he had done and not far enough to see the thing
through.
Now we see that we have a great company of clergy and no equally important representatives of other professions; most of the others being represented by characters who are merely mentioned. A majority of the women and children of the town are also connected with the clergy, although we have here among the women most of the important characters who are not of the clerical class. We are given the impression of quite a few tradespeople and a good many poor, but only a very few stand out as characters. This being the case we find the clergy and their families by far the most important characters in the town. There seems to be no one besides them to run the town, save Samuel Hogg, who is behind everything; and no one to interfere with the way it is run save Harmer John. If the clergy and the cathedral were removed there would be a great blank in the place. We wonder who would go to the parties, who would patronize the stores, and who would do everything. This being the case we are prepared to find the interest most usually centered on the cathedral and the clergy, or things which have to do with them. This is not so much in The Old Ladies, which is scarcely concerned with anyone save the three old ladies of Pontippy Square; or Hans Frost, where most of the action takes place in London; or with Jeremy At Crale, where the action takes place away at school. It is so, however, with the other books which make up the majority of those which deal with Polchester; and here is a different situation from that which we found at Barchester, for without the cathedral set there would be very few important people in Polchester. We have presented to us here a town where most of the important people are connected with the cathedral; where other occupations are most unnaturally unimportant compared with the clergy; where many occupations are missing altogether;
and where, if the cathedral were removed, business would be interfered with, social life would not be the same, and things would in no wise go on as usual. Since the cathedral employs most of the important people in the town we may conclude that it influences the occupations of the community to a certain extent—at least more than in the other town where a great many important people are employed in other ways.

B. Character

Since we have found that the cathedral influences the occupations of the people of Polchester we are prepared to find that it influences them in all departments of their living. Is this so, however, in regard to their characters? Practically all of the critics of Mr. Walpole are agreed that in all of his books something happens in the realm of character. The main idea of Clemence Dane's late book on "Tradition and Hugh Walpole" is that where Thackeray's contribution to the traditional English novel is a description of society, and Trollope's a description of family life, Walpole's is a description of a clash of ideas and forces. This clash of ideas is represented through the lives and clashes of people. In this clash character is involved. In the Sewanee Review for April-June, 1923, G. B. Dutton says, that Walpole's novels invariably deal with the effort of some individual to break his shackles. Here, again, character is involved. The question to be answered now is whether the cathedral is an influence in this struggle or not; and here we will draw more examples from The Cathedral than from any of the other novels because the cathedral plays its greatest part in this book.

1. Dane, Clemence. Tradition and Hugh Walpole, p.175.
First we shall discuss a group of characters, which, by their close association with the cathedral, we might expect to find influenced. However, among them we shall find little if any influence. We may begin here with the two bishops whom we meet in the stories; who are important members of the community; and, who are, of course closely connected with the cathedral. In the early days Bishop Purcell ruled the Polchester diocese. Much is said of his saintliness. We are told that "no one hesitated to realize that here was one who had walked and talked with God, and in whom there was no shadow of deceit or evil thought." However, nothing is said of his relation to the cathedral. The later bishop, Bishop Franklin, enters the stories very little. We are told scarcely anything of his relations with the cathedral. In fact we are told nothing except that he was almost too much interested in the Kings of Israel for the welfare of his diocese.

The Dean, Dean Sampson, comes into the story more in his official capacity as dean than as a real character. He does not appear enough as a character for us to tell whether the cathedral has influenced him or not.

Then there is Wistons, who appears chiefly in Harmer John. He is the modernist who gained the living at Pybus at the time of Brandon's death. The people of Polchester flocked out to hear him after he became the style, but we are told nothing of his relations to the cathedral. The other clergy are not important enough as clergy having associations with the cathedral for us to find out much about any influence the cathedral might have had on them. Mr. Morris, who ran off with Mrs. Brandon, admired the beauty of the cathedral,
showed Joan Brandon the view of it from his rectory window, and admitted that he knew what she meant by fearing it. Then there was Canon Dobell who loved an easy time; Canon Rogers who was equally the opposite; Ryle, the Precentor; Bentinck-Major; Canon Foster; Tom Longstaffe; and Mr. Cole, Jeremy's father. There is no definite influence shown in connection with any of these.

Turning to the other people in the town we find that a few of them express a reaction to the cathedral, and practically the whole town is definitely conscious of its presence among them. We are shown no influence on the professional and business men of the community. There is one thing, however, to be mentioned about Samuel Hogg and Reuben Fletch. The lack of influence which the cathedral had over them and over their Sea Town schemes is shown as a criticism of the cathedral. This criticism is not definitely stated, but we feel it through Harmer John's reaction to the community. We also feel the same kind of lack of influence when we see how the town accepts Mrs. Bond's malicious gossip. On the positive side, Mrs. Amorest loved the cathedral, Joan Brandon feared it, Hans Frost admired its beauty, and almost all attended services there and frequently went in and out.

Turning from the people whom we find merely expressing a reaction to the cathedral we may look at a rather indefinite, general influence which we are told that the cathedral had on the entire community; that is, the cathedral, and its history quickened the imaginations of many of the townspeople. This influence is stated well in Jeremy and Hamlet. "History, history, history--it lay thick as dust about the town, and only needed a
little stirring of the town's soil to send the dust up into people's eyes, making them think of times dead and gone and ghosts closer about them, perhaps, than they cared to think."

Finally we may take up a few important characters where we shall find that the cathedral has exercised a very definite influence. First there were two characters whose imaginative lives were definitely influenced by the beauty and the glory of the cathedral and its history. The first of these is the little boy about whom three of the books were written, Jeremy Cole. His carefully hidden imaginative life was fed by the cathedral after his Uncle Samuel had awakened him to its possibilities, and the possibilities of the town, and their histories. It was after one of these talks with Uncle Samuel and the reading of The Talisman that he saw the Black Bishop standing on the altar steps, dressed in full armor, with his hand on his sword. Another who felt the influence of the cathedral's history and beauty was Harmer John. He longed to create a beautiful town partly, at least, that it might be worthy of such a glorious building; and he longed to pull down Sea Town because it was something which should not be allowed to exist, (not in any place, of course) but especially not in a town with a cathedral and a history like Polchester's.

After these two there are three others upon whom the cathedral has a far greater influence; an influence, in fact so great that it changes the course of their whole lives. The first of these is Archdeacon Brandon. His quarrel with Bonder and the desertion of his wife and son are the main theme of The Cathedral. He only appears on the street in The Old Ladies, and is only spoken of in the Jeremy books. His character is certainly influenced by the famous
quarrel, because it is for the most part through this quarrel that he becomes the broken man he is in the last pages of the novel.

When the story first opens he is a proud man, secretly making enemies through his overbearing pride, although he is not yet aware of it. He loves the cathedral, glories in his position there, and feels almost at one with the spirit of the Black Bishop of former days. He had none of the mystics' submission to God; but as we are told in the novel, he "greeted Him as an equal...greeted Him with an outstretched hand."

"'As one power to another', his soul cried, 'Greetings! You have been a true and loyal friend to me. Anything that I can do for you I will do..."' His position in the cathedral contributed to his pride, and it contributed to his downfall, because, at least in part, he was working for the cathedral in his stand against Bonder. When at last he was beaten in the fight,

"'Not this shame' he cried. 'Not this shame—kill me—but save the cathedral!'" Furthermore, if the cathedral had not so contributed to his pride, and if his pride had not been so great, his downfall would not have been so awful. Also, I am sure that Walpole means us to feel that the cathedral has a sinister, somewhat supernatural interest in the whole affair, for we find not a little evidence to show that this is the case. In the first place, looking back on his own adolescence Walpole tells us in "The Crystal Box: A Fragment of an Autobiography," that Durham Cathedral, where his father was serving at that time, appeared to his adolescent mind to have just such a baleful influence, "...it was the sinister, revengeful spirit of the thing that I seemed most strongly to feel. Built originally for the
worship of God, it appeared to me to have become Pagan and heretic through its history of blood and crime—yes, and still more through the mosaic of small intrigues, plots, meannesses that through those years had encrusted it. It had for the most part developed only the worst and most sordid side of human character, and was glad of it. I can still hear the rustle of the silken dresses of some of the ladies of the cathedral set as they walked out, very ostentatiously before the sermon of some canon whom they personally disliked.”¹ Or again, "There were many good men, splendid and devout women, who served there at one time or another and worshipped God, but the cathedral threw them out when it could."² This sounds almost like quoting from The Cathedral instead of Mr. Walpole's autobiography. He is here attributing an almost personal influence to Durham for it "threw out the good men and devout women when it could." In the novel he attempts to give the reader this feeling by using the artist Davray, like a Greek chorus, to explain just what is going on. The following conversation, for instance, took place between Ronder and Davray.

"When I'm worked up," said Davray, "which I'm not today, I just long to clear all of you officials out of it. I laugh sometimes to think how important you think yourselves and how unimportant you really are. The cathedral laughs too, and once and again stretches out a great lazy finger and just flicks you away as it would a spider's web. I hope you don't think me impertinent."

"Not in the least," said Ronder, "some of us even may feel just as you do about it."

² Ibid. v.56, p.296.
"Brandon doesn't," Davray moved away. "I sometimes think that when I'm properly drunk one day I'll murder that man. His self-sufficiency and conceit are an insult to the Cathedral. But the Cathedral knows. It bides its time."

Ronder won the battle for the appointment at Pybus St. Anthony, but according to Walpole that was not the whole story. Because of Brandon's great pride, the cathedral threw him out a broken man. That a number of Walpole's readers feel this influence is shown by some of the critics. Clemence Dane, for example, in his book on Hugh Walpole, says it in a somewhat different way. "...the Cathedral, which is the creation of the herd, which is the power of the herd, which is the power of the herd and the dreams of the herd rendered again into stone, has no mercy on the individual whose power to serve it has failed. The sick creature has no place in the herd and Brandon is a sick creature."1 Thus we find that the cathedral helped to create Brandon's pride; was in part the object for which he fought his great losing fight; and finally acting as a character in the story, cast him out.

We may now turn to Canon Ronder, the winner in the battle over the Pybus living. Ronder first makes his appearance in The Cathedral, and later we see a good deal of him in Hamer John. He is a subtle, underhanded sort of a man, who, quietly and smilingly, fights Brandon in every field. He pays very little attention to the cathedral. He does not come to Polchester because he wishes to serve the cathedral. In fact, he does not even look up as he passes through the Arden Gate for the first time, but instead notices

1. Dane, Clemence. Tradition and Hugh Walpole, p.222.
Brandon's house and asks who lives there. He does not stay because he has learned to love the cathedral, but chiefly because he is comfortable. However, if he pursues his own plans without noticing the cathedral the same might have been said of him as was said of Brandon. The cathedral bided its time. We get just a hint of this in the novels. It is Davray once more who gives it. "The Cathedral's jealous you know—don't like its servants taking all the credit to themselves. Pride's dangerous, Canon Ronder. In a year or two's time, when you're feeling pretty pleased with yourself, you just look back on the Archdeacon's history for a moment and consider it. It may have a lesson for you." The prediction apparently came true and the cathedral cast Ronder out, even as it had cast out the Archdeacon before him, because we are told in Harmer John that after Harmer John's death Ronder declined and was about to retire to a country living, while Wistons of Pybus St. Anthony was spoken of as the coming man.

Then there is the drunken artist Davray, who was constantly hanging around the cathedral, and whom Walpole uses to tell us about the supernatural influence of the cathedral. He is another good example of the cathedral's supernatural, evil influence. He like the Archdeacon is ruined, but in his case there are not so many natural causes to be found, and furthermore he himself attributes his ruin to the cathedral. He comes to Polchester and paints the cathedral, and has a rather successful exhibit of his work. For a time he disappears, and then returns to drink and hover around the cathedral, like a moth hovering about a flame. After a bit people begin to say that he really is "too queer about the cathedral."

Then he tells someone that he might have been a great painter if
he hadn't come to that beastly town. Finally when he is up in the
King Harry Tower with Falk Brandon, he whispers to the cathedral,
as he looks down into the chapel, and tells the whole thing.
"You wonderful place! You beautiful place! You've ruined me, but
I don't care. You can do what you like with me. You wonder! You
wonder!"

So we find that a great many people of the town are
influenced by the cathedral. Some admire it and some fear it. The
imagination of at least part of the town is stirred by its beauty
and its history. Finally and most important, Davray is ruined by
it; Brandon's spirit is broken, and later we are quite sure that
Ronder gets his turn.

C. Religion        Walpole tells us that according to his opinion,

Trollope was not at all interested in the psychology of
religion.¹ Just from the way that the remark is made we infer that
Walpole himself is quite the opposite. His books bear this inference
out. Even some of them not definitely dealing with the Polchester
cathedral community show this. For example, in The Captives, he
studies minutely a small, premillenial sect in London. The same way
in the Polchester books he gives quite a good deal of attention to
the religion of the various characters. The question here to be
considered is whether the cathedral has anything to do with this
religion. All of the characters in the Polchester series more or
less conform to the Establishment. That is, they either belong to the
Established Church or to no Church, for dissent seems to have no
influence at all in the place. The first bishop of Polchester,

¹. Walpole, Hugh. The Crystal Box: A Fragment of an Autobiography,
Bishop Purcell is a deeply religious man. We are told something about this every time he is mentioned, from the first time we see him to the last. He is introduced to us on the first page of The Cathedral where we are told that "a better man, a greater saint than Bishop Purcell has never lived..."; and we take leave of him as he finishes the sermon preached for the Queen's Jubilee with these words, "So pray for her, and then pray for me a little, that when I meet God He may forgive me my sins and help me to do better work than I have done here. Life is sad sometimes, and often it is dark, but at the end it is beautiful and wonderful, for which we must thank God." Surely he is a religious man, but nothing is said of any connection which his religion has with the cathedral, except that he is bishop of the diocese and preaches occasionally from the cathedral pulpit. Dean Sampson and the second bishop do not enter the story enough to be considered.

Next in importance comes the Archdeacon. We are sure that the Archdeacon is a religious man, for a great deal of introspection is done as to his belief about God and his religion. In The Cathedral there is detailed his experience, a fairly common religious experience, of being deserted by the God to whom he has given a life-long service. When his wife and son and friends go, God deserts him also. He goes to the old bishop with his troubles and says, "God has turned His face away from me when I have served Him faithfully all my days." The bishop tries to make him see that this experience is at least common to some. "My dear friend, you are not alone in this. We have all been tried..." The Archdeacon is not strong enough to bear the terrible onslaught and goes down to defeat.

Someone from this has called The Cathedral a study in defeat. Had
the cathedral anything to do with this religious experience of the Archdeacon? Presumably not. Except that this feeling of the withdrawal of God is one of the many disasters which befell the Archdeacon; and as the cathedral played a rather supernatural role and threw the over-proud man out of its service, so it may have been partly responsible for this disaster, as it is intimated that it is partly responsible for them all.

Ronder is apparently not so religious a man as the Archdeacon. Nothing is said of his religion. When Falk Brandon asks him point blank if he believes in God, he answers yes. Being a clergyman, he would; but there is nothing very convincing in the reply. Then there is Wistons, the modernist, who was given the living at Pybus St. Anthony. He, like the Archdeacon, is a religious man. He gives us his ideas pretty well in his conversation with Harmer John. His religion is quite different from that of the Archdeacon, but never the less it is sincere religion. However, we see no connection between the cathedral and the man's religion, for like Dean Arabin in Barchester, his religion is fixed before he is introduced to us in the novels. He did not change his religion after he came to Polchester, even though he became quite an influence in Polchester affairs. Then there were others of whose religion we know very little. There was Mr. Morris; Canon Rogers, who wanted to have everything as it always had been; Bentick-Major and Canon Foster, the admirer of Wistons. In none of these do we see any influence.

It is about the same with the others in the town. Mrs. Amorest loved the cathedral and it was only her trust in "God the Father" that made her able to endure those terrible days in
Pontippy Square with Agatha Payne and May Beringer. We find, however, no connection between this trust in God and the cathedral. Harmer John we are told was not definitely a religious man. Then there were others who came and went, and about whose religion we are told nothing. There was Mrs. Combermere and Mrs. Penethen and Maude and Judy and Annie Hogg and Lord St. Leath. Presumably they went to the cathedral at times. When there were great services the whole town seemed to be there, and we are not told definitely that any of the characters stayed away.

Thus we find here practically no definite mention of the cathedral having a religious influence on anyone, except perhaps the supernatural influence of the cathedral in the life of the archdeacon. However, there is a good deal of religion in the stories and the cathedral occupies a prominent place in the town. We may infer, therefore, that there is quite a bit of the same kind of thing that we found in the case of Mr. Harding in the Trollope novels—where a man was decidedly religious and also displayed a good deal of feeling for the cathedral; and, therefore, where we may infer there was probably a good deal of unmentioned indirect influence. This no doubt was the case with the Archdeacon, with Bishop Purcell, with Lucy Amorest—and also, we might infer, with many others in the town who showed religious inclinations.

D. Social Life

The social life in Polchester is quite different from what it would be if there were not a cathedral in the town. There are very few great families in or near Polchester, so the cathedral set with a few exceptions are the most important people in the place. Lady St. Leath is no doubt the
most important person anywhere around, and after her come the most important of the cathedral clergy. We are told plainly that there was a very exclusive cathedral set in the town. At one place in Harmer John we find, "In any case, the cathedral set always kept to itself in our town." Later we are told that Tom Longstaffe, "had received an invitation to join the Shakespeare Reading Society, that society that had for its members only the most exclusive part of the cathedral set." So here are wheels within wheels. Then Lady St. Leath objected to her son marrying Joan Brandon because Joan was not his equal, even though her people belonged to the most exclusive part of the cathedral set. So there were some people, above the cathedral set. Thus we see that there was the most exclusive part of the cathedral set; and after that merely the cathedral set, all of which we are told in Harmer John always kept to itself in Polchester. Even all of the clergy were not in the cathedral set. Tom Longstaffe is an example of this. After the cathedral set there were doubtless all sorts of other sets in town; people who were fairly high socially, and people who had no set, but merely went around with their friends. Last came the inhabitants of Sea Town, not much noticed by the cathedral set, except in some cases, such as Ronder's, where gain might be had by trading with Samuel Hogg for some of the Sea Town profits.

So we find that the manner of living in the town is affected by the presence of the cathedral in about the same degree as the occupations of the people. There seem to be so few county families and so few other people of importance in the community, always excepting Lady St. Leath, that the cathedral set are the
upper set of the town. They do not mix with the other people, but
leave them alone, to go on their ways unnoticed socially. So if
the cathedral, and therefore its set, were removed from Polchester
some other people would have to step in and occupy the upper places
in the social world. It seems almost that Lady St. Leath would have
only a few friends with whom she would dare associate. There would
be left the Countess, a few professional and county families, and
then the tradespeople, and below them—quite far below—Sea Town.
The manner of living in Sea Town was not at all affected by the
cathedral, because had Ronder and his investments been removed before
Harmer John's death there still would have been Samuel Hogg to keep
it going. It was only in the upper circles that things would have
been changed socially by the removal of the cathedral.
IV. Conclusion
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A. Occupations

In Barsetshire we found a whole community of early or mid-victorian England, very little influenced as to occupations by having a cathedral in its midst. The community is fairly complete because in it we find town people, county families, and representatives of most of the important professions. Tradespeople are mentioned, but are more than naturally lacking when we look at the whole picture. The only difference which the presence of the cathedral makes is that there are more clergy in the shire, mostly in the cathedral city of Barchester, than there would be in an ordinary place of the same size. The clergy do not assume unnatural importance though, because there are others present, equally great, if not greater, such as the Duke of Omnium and Plantagenet Palisser. Furthermore Barchester is not provincial, for great people come and go, and Barchester people visit London.

This is not so in Glebeshire. Here we have a late Victorian community, and not as perfect a one as the other in Barchester. That is, the picture of the Glebeshire community is not done with the photographic exactitude with which the Barchester one is done. Perhaps as many other occupations as the clerical ones are mentioned, but in almost every case they are merely mentioned. Whereas Bernard Dale and Maj. Grantly are characters in the Trollope series, Walpole lists a few army people who attend the Jubilee ball in Polchester; and whereas Dr. Thorne is an important character and we get quite a few good laughs out of Dr. Fillgrave in Barchester, Dr. Puddifoot of Polchester is mentioned at the most a half dozen times. This being the case the cathedral and the cathedral clergy
assume a great deal more importance than they do in Barchester. There is only Lady St. Leath in Glebeshire who seems to be at all of a great family, while there are many great families in Barchester who balance the cathedral clergy in importance. There are more tradespeople in Polchester, but rather than detracting from the importance of the cathedral and the clergy, they serve to set the scene for their actions around the Polchester Cathedral in a town dwelling community, while the lack of mention of the tradespeople in Barchester and the frequent mention of rural people serves to set the actions around the Barchester Cathedral in a rural community. Furthermore the provincialism of Polchester serves to place the cathedral in bold relief. There are no great people; and no one, except the people from the Rising City books, who do not enter these stories often as characters, goes often to London and returns. No wonder that the Polchester Cathedral stands out more than the Barchester one. No wonder the canons quarrel over the advisibility of buying a lawn roller for the boy's school. There is very little else outside of their own doings to attract their attention.

B. Character

We have found that the Barchester Cathedral has practically no influence on character, except perhaps in the case of Mr. Harding. Here no influence is narrated, but since Mr. Harding displays a feeling for the cathedral which none of the other characters do, we may infer that perhaps there was some influence. However, we may say, practically without qualifications, that the cathedral setting has no influence on character in the Trollope series.

Once more it is different in the Walpole series. First the cathedral has what we may call a natural influence. The
influence is the greatest in the case of the Archdeacon. His pride is fed by the cathedral, and through a quarrel waged partly for the good of the cathedral and partly to keep the rule of the chapter, he is broken and defeated. Then there is the influence on the imaginations of the people. The building, which is impressively described in its beauty atop the rock, influences the people; and also its long history has the same effect. There was Jeremy Cole and Harmer John, and no doubt many others, who felt its spell. Also there is the same kind of an indirect influence which we noted in the case of Mr. Harding in Barchester. Some people express a fear, or a love, or an admiration for the cathedral. Joan Brandon feared it, and Tom Longstaffe loved and admired it. We may infer perhaps that there is some slight influence where there is an expressed reaction.

Then there is what we may call the unnatural influence of the cathedral. Walpole makes the cathedral, besides exercising this natural influence which we have spoken of, act as a character in the story. It ruins Davray. It watches the important characters. It will not have its servants become too proud. It casts them out of its service when they begin to feel their own importance. First, it cast out Brandon; and later, no doubt, Ronder.¹

¹. This part of the influence of the cathedral setting does not seem true to me at all. Not, I think, because of the fact that the cathedral is used as a character, but because of the way it is done. If it were done subtly, and we felt that it was almost a character as in the case of Egdon Heath in the Return of the Native, it would have a greater effect than it does when we have the artist Davray reminding us that the cathedral is a character by his detailing what it says and what it thinks. It seems to me that this idea of a cathedral as a character of evil influence runs away with Mr. Walpole to a certain extent and in The Cathedral makes him often move his characters to bring out this influence rather than move them as they would move in similar circumstances in life.
C. Religion

As in the matter of character so in the matter of religion, the Barchester Cathedral has practically no influence. The one case mentioned under character influence, that of Mr. Harding, might be mentioned again here. We might infer that there is a little influence because Mr. Harding expresses a good deal of feeling for the cathedral. That, however, is the only influence which can be attributed to the Barchester Cathedral in the field of religion.

There is a great deal of religion in Glebeshire. People go to church, and the clergy introspect about their religion until we wish that they had a little more of the lack of religious interest of the Trollope clergymen. However, the cathedral seems to have no definite part in this. Their religion seems to be more of a personal matter. There is, however, a good deal of the same sort of thing which we noted in the case of Mr. Harding. A great many people in Polchester express feeling for the cathedral, and, therefore, we may infer that in this way there may be some religious influence. The case for this sort of influence is stronger than in the Trollope series, because a great many more people express feeling for the cathedral, and furthermore we are told frequently of peoples going to service in the cathedral; while in Barchester, for all the reader is told, people very infrequently attend the services.

D. Social Life

Once more, in Barchester, the cathedral has practically no influence on social life. There is a large group of people from the great families of the county and from the clerical families, who attend each others' parties and make up quite a gay social life in the shire. The only influence which the
cathedral has on this group is to add to its number quite a good many clergymen and their families.

In Polchester the real society of the town is made up almost entirely of the cathedral set, plus a few others, most notably the Lady St. Leath. So here instead of merely adding some clerical members to the social group, the cathedral furnishes almost the entire upper set of the town. Furthermore, here are various sets as there does not seem to be in Barchester— the exclusive cathedral set, and then merely the cathedral set.

E. Summary

We see then that in the Trollope series the cathedral setting has practically no influence, except for peopling the place with a few more clergymen than would otherwise be present. There is almost a blank in Barchester where the cathedral should be. There are no real descriptions of the building, no descriptions of the services, and no influence emanating from the place.

The cathedral setting in the Walpole series does have an influence. The cathedral setting is thrown into relief by the subordination of all other classes of people to the cathedral set, and by the placing of this set in the socially most important place in the town. The cathedral setting, furthermore, influences character to quite an extent, in a perfectly natural way. Also in a less and wholly indefinite way it influences religion. Furthermore Walpole uses the cathedral setting as a character and has it act in opposition to some of the other characters.

It is up to the individual reader to choose which he prefers—that is, if he cares to choose. Trollope gives an almost photographic
reproduction of his community as far as he goes. He does not go as far as dealing with any influence which setting may have on character. Walpole does not give us a photographic reproduction of his community because he unnaturally subordinates some classes to others. However, he does deal a good deal in psychological influences, one of which is the influence of setting on character. So strong is his idea of this influence that he not only shows it, but goes farther and makes the setting act as a character itself.
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