
**DEATH OF
DR. S. BICKERSTETH**

**CATHEDRAL LIBRARIAN
SINCE 1924**

**FORMER RESIDENTIARY
CANON OF CANTERBURY**

Dr. Samuel Bickersteth, librarian of Canterbury Cathedral since 1924, a chaplain to King George V., and a former residentiary canon of the Cathedral, died at his home, 16, New Dover-road, Canterbury, on Tuesday morning.

Aged 79, Dr. Bickersteth had spent some 55 years in the service of the Church on his retirement from his canonry in January, 1936.



Dr. and Mrs. Bickersteth
at the time of their golden wedding

Dr. Bickersteth was the second son of the late Dr. E. H. Bickersteth, Bishop of Exeter. He was ordained in 1882 and became private chaplain to the then Bishop of Ripon, the Right Rev. Boyd Carpenter. He was afterwards appointed Vicar of Belvedere, Vicar of Lewisham for 14 years, and Vicar of Leeds, where he remained for 11 years. In 1913 he was made an honorary canon of Ripon and in 1916 a Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

He was a Doctor of Divinity and Master of Arts of St. John's College, Oxford.

Dr. Bickersteth's first visit to Canterbury was in 1885 when, as Vicar of Belvedere (then in the Diocese of Canterbury) he preached in the Cathedral at the invitation of Dean Farrar. He returned to the Cathedral in 1916 on his appointment by King George V. to the canonry vacant by the death of Dr. Moore. His appointment as chaplain to the King was from the same date.

He succeeded the late Dr. A. J. Mason as Cathedral Librarian in 1924. He resigned his canonry by leave of the Archbishop and at an interview at the time of his resignation he said he felt after three score years and ten, a man, though fit for work on some days was not necessarily fit for it every day as a salaried official of any institution ought to be.

ROUND EMPIRE TWICE

With Mrs. Bickersteth the Doctor travelled round the Empire twice as well as in the Far East and Egypt. Their overseas friendships were many and were often renewed at their thirteenth-century home "Meister Omers," in the Precincts, where they lived until recently.

Outstanding among the circumstances of Dr. Bickersteth's appointments is the fact that three of them were made by the Crown through the then prime ministers. In 1891 Lord Salisbury nominated him to the Vicarage of Lewisham; in 1905 Mr. A. J. Balfour nominated him Vicar of Leeds in succession to Dr. T. W. Gibson and in 1916 Mr. H. H. Asquith nominated him to the Residentiary Canonry of Canterbury Cathedral in which he occupied the eleventh stall. Nomination papers in his possession thus bore the signatures of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII. and King George V.

In 1931 Dr. and Mrs. Bickersteth celebrated their golden wedding. Mrs. Bickersteth is a daughter of the late Sir Monier Williams.

Through his travels and wide learning Dr. Bickersteth was an interesting speaker on many topics. As a preacher he was eloquent and evangelical and his sermons were greatly enjoyed.

He leaves five sons, one of whom is Headmaster of Felsted, another is Warden of Hart House, University of Toronto, and another is lecturer in English language and literature at Glasgow University. One son, Lieutenant (Acting Captain) S. M. Bickersteth of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Leeds Rifles) was killed in action in July, 1915.

The funeral takes place quietly at St. Martin's Church, Canterbury, to-day at 2-15, and there will be a memorial service in the Cathedral on Saturday at 2 p.m.