

## **COFFIN Robert Aston**

Was born in Brighton, England, of Anglican parents on 19th August 1819. Having decided on an ecclesiastical career, he went to Oxford in 1837 as a student of Christ's College and came under the influence of John Henry Newman and the Tractarians. Ordained priest in the Church of England in 1843, he was appointed vicar of the important church of St. Mary Magdalene's, Oxford. He was received into the Catholic Church on 3rd December 1845 and two years later joined Newman as a founding member of the English Oratory. He was ordained priest in Rome on 31st October 1847. In November 1850 he left the Oratory in order to become a Redemptorist, and after the novitiate in St. Trond, Belgium, took his vows on 2nd February 1852. In 1865 he was named first superior of the English province, a position he retained until 25th May 1883, when he was consecrated Bishop of Southwark. He died in Teignmouth on 6th April 1885.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

*Dictionary of National Biography*, XI, London, 1887, 219; *The American Ec-*

*clesiastical Record*, 113 (1945 II) 401-456; SH, 27 (1979) 355-374; 28 (1980) 147-176; 431-456; BG, II, 70.