

STATESMEN. No. 524.

THE RIGHT HON. AND MOST REVEREND EDWARD WHITE BENSON,
P.C., D.D., ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, PRIMATE OF ALL ENGLAND AND METROPOLITAN.

THE Bensons are a Yorkshire family which has produced good and active-minded men. One such was the father of the Archbishop, who was a chemist, a botanist, a writer of sound books, and a manager of alkali works. His son was born eight-and-fifty years ago at Birmingham, was sent to King Edward's School there, obtained an Exhibition, and so went to Trinity College, Cambridge. He rose fast. In 1852, being then three-and-twenty, he graduated as a Senior Optime in the Mathematical Tripos, and First Class in Classics, and the following year was elected a Fellow of his College. Then he became a Master at Rugby; and at nine-and-twenty was appointed the first Head-Master of Wellington College. After holding this post for three years, he left it to become Chancellor of Lincoln and a resident Canon. His work was great and his activities many and various, till in 1876 he was nominated by Lord Beaconsfield Bishop of Truro. Here too he won golden opinions, and in 1883 he was by Mr. Gladstone made Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of all England.

The Archbishop is a strong man, yet safe; an excellent administrator, discreet, bold, and original, and so little afraid of responsibility that, if necessary, he would undertake to manage all the other great affairs of State as well as those of his Archbishopric. Yet he is humble and reserved as becomes his office, a great worker, though not rapid, a man of simple life, and the most amiable of great dignitaries of State.