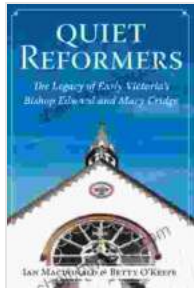


# Unveiling the Legacy of Early Victoria Bishops: Edward and Mary Cridge



## Quiet Reformers: The Legacy of Early Victoria's Bishop Edward and Mary Cridge by Ian Macdonald

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3159 KB  
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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 238 pages  
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As we delve into the rich history of the Anglican Church in Victoria, Australia, two remarkable figures emerge: Edward and Mary Cridge, who served as the first and second bishops of the diocese from 1878 to 1911.

Their story is a testament to the power of faith, courage, and unwavering dedication. Through their tireless efforts, they laid the foundation for a thriving religious community that would play a significant role in shaping the social and spiritual fabric of Victoria.

### **Edward Cridge: A Visionary Leader**

Edward Cridge was born in England in 1824. Ordained as a priest in 1849, he embarked on a missionary journey to the remote outpost of Geraldton in

Western Australia. His exceptional leadership and evangelistic zeal soon caught the attention of the Anglican hierarchy.

In 1872, Cridge was appointed as the first Bishop of Melbourne, overseeing Victoria and its neighboring territories. However, with the rapid growth of the population and the establishment of new dioceses, he proposed the creation of a separate diocese for Victoria.

His vision became a reality in 1878 when the Diocese of Victoria was established, and Cridge became its first bishop. With unwavering determination, he set out to establish churches, schools, and other institutions that would meet the spiritual and social needs of the growing community.

### **Mary Cridge: A Silent Powerhouse**

While Edward Cridge was the public face of the diocese, his wife, Mary Cridge, played an equally vital role behind the scenes. A woman of deep faith and unwavering support, she was an indispensable partner in her husband's ministry.

Mary Cridge was actively involved in charitable work, supporting schools and hospitals. She played a key role in establishing St. Catherine's School for Girls, which became one of the most prestigious private schools in Melbourne.

Her unwavering belief in her husband's mission empowered him to overcome challenges and dedicate himself fully to his pastoral duties. Together, they formed a formidable team, working tirelessly to promote the growth and well-being of their flock.

## **Building a Diocese and Beyond**

Bishop and Mrs. Cridge's legacy extended far beyond the boundaries of the Victoria Diocese. Their commitment to education and social justice had a profound impact on the wider community.

Edward Cridge played a pivotal role in the establishment of Trinity College, a prestigious Anglican theological college that became a center of learning and scholarship. He also supported the development of hospitals, orphanages, and other social services, recognizing the importance of a holistic approach to ministry.

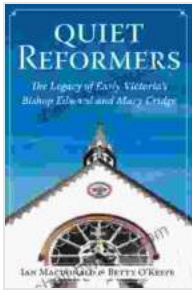
Mary Cridge's charitable work continued after her husband's death in 1911. She remained actively involved in St. Catherine's School, ensuring its continued success and growth.

## **A Lasting Impact**

The legacy of Edward and Mary Cridge continues to inspire generations of Anglicans in Victoria and beyond. They left behind a diocese that is vibrant, diverse, and committed to serving the community.

Their story reminds us of the transformative power of faith and service, and the difference that two dedicated individuals can make in shaping the world around them. As we honor their memory, let us strive to emulate their unwavering spirit and commitment to building a society that is both just and compassionate.

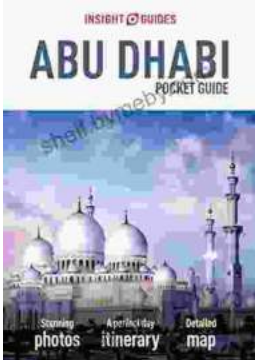
Written by: Victoria Diocese Historical Society



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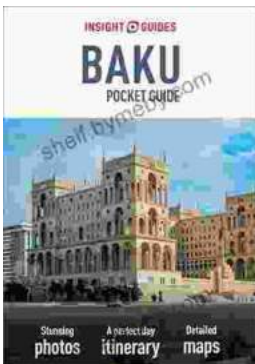
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