

Douglas, J. D., Comfort, P. W., & Mitchell, D. (1997, c1992). *Who's Who in Christian History*.

HEBER, REGINALD (1783-1826)

Anglican missionary bishop; hymn writer

Born at Malpas, Cheshire, England, Heber was educated at Oxford University, where he was elected to a Fellowship of All Souls College in 1805. In 1807 he was ordained as a clergyman and became Vicar of Hodnet in Hampshire. In 1815 he delivered the Bampton Lectures at Oxford University on the "Personality and Office of the Holy Comforter." In 1823 he was appointed the second missionary Bishop of Calcutta, a diocese which then included all of British India. Though his episcopate lasted only three years, "perhaps no missionary has ever left on his surroundings so deep an impress of his personality in so short a time" (Stephen C. Neill). Heber is notable also as "the greatest writer of English hymns since Charles Wesley." His fifty-seven hymns include such well-known sacred songs as "Holy, Holy, Holy" and "From Greenland's Icy Mountains" and "The Son of God Goes Forth to War." He also edited a posthumously published (1827) volume entitled *Hymns Written and Adapted to the Weekly Church Services of the Year*; and since this publication did much to popularize the singing of hymns, he has been described as "The Creator of the Modern Church Hymnbook" (W. H. Frere).

See: Reginald Heber. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*.

[Reginald Heber](#)