

HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION IN ENGLAND

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649283217

History of the Reformation in England by George G. Perry

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GEORGE G. PERRY

**HISTORY OF THE
REFORMATION
IN ENGLAND**

Epochs of Church History

EDITED BY THE

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THE

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BY

GEORGE G. PERRY, M.A.

LATE ARCHDEACON OF STOW:
CANON OF LINCOLN AND RECTOR OF WARWINGTON

62572
7/7/04

SEVENTH IMPRESSION

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON

NEW YORK AND BOMBAY

1903

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PREFACE.

IN this little volume an attempt is made to give a clear and connected account of the religious and ecclesiastical changes through which the Church of England passed in the sixteenth century. In order to preserve this special character of the book, many aspects of the Reformation, and of the history of the Church during this period, are scarcely touched upon. My endeavour has been to keep steadily in view the progress of the National Church from its state of bondage to Rome, and its encumbrance with many superstitious doctrines and practices, to the commencement of a higher life, the acquisition of Catholic and scriptural formularies, and the enjoyment of greater freedom. Only such historical facts as are directly connected with this religious progress are here given. Ecclesiastical history may be written in many different ways, and it is not every

period which is susceptible of such a treatment as this. But the Reformation was a great religious crisis in the life of the Church, and seems to demand a special treatment. The formation and growth of the Formularies with which English Churchmen are familiar, must ever be a subject of peculiar interest. It is hoped also that the simple narrative of the religious struggles and changes through which the Church of England passed during a period of more than forty years, may serve to remove the delusion, still too widely spread, that the Church of England is a body which was called into existence by some Act of Parliament in the sixteenth century. We may here see the National Church—not without many weaknesses, drawbacks, and errors—slowly and painfully shaking herself free from the obstructions which had long vexed her, and at length reaching a region of purer light.

As no references are given in the body of the work it may be desirable to state the principal sources from which it is compiled. These are:—Strype's 'Annals of the Reformation' and 'Lives of Archbishops Cranmer and Parker'; Collier's 'Ecclesiastical History'; Burnet's 'History of the Reformation'; Heylin's 'Ecclesia Restaurata'; Wilkins's 'Concilia Magnæ Britanniae'; Cardwell's 'Synodalia'; 'Documentary

Annals' and 'Two Liturgies of Edward VI.'; Ellis's 'Original Letters'; Amos' 'Statutes of Reformation Parliament'; Churton's 'Papers in British Magazine'; 'The Phoenix' (containing an account of the English Reformers abroad); *Archæologia*, vol. xviii.; the 'Original Letters' and 'Zürich Letters' (published by the Parker Society); the 'Parker Correspondence'; 'Suppression of the Monasteries' (Camden Society); 'Formularies of Faith in the Reign of Henry VIII.'; Camden's 'Life and Reign of Elizabeth'; the 'Elizabethan Formularies' (Parker Society); Hardwick on the Articles; Foxe's 'Martyrology'; and numerous other works.

