TROUBLES CONNECTED WITH THE PRAYER BOOK 1549

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Troubles connected with the prayer book 1549 by Nicholas Pocock

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NICHOLAS POCOCK

TROUBLES CONNECTED WITH THE PRAYER BOOK 1549

Trieste

TROUBLES

CONNECTED WITH

THE PRAYER BOOK OF 1549.

DOCUMENTS NOW MOSTLY FOR THE FIRST TIME PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE RECORD OFFICE, THE PETYT COLLECTION IN THE LIBRARY OF THE INNER TEMPLE. THE COUNCIL BOOK, AND THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

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PREFACE.

THE documents here printed form part of a large collection originally intended for a continuation of the Records of the Reformation, the first part of which was published at Oxford by the Delegates of the Clarendon Press in 1870. Owing to the limited sale which these volumes met with, the Delegates were unwilling to continue the publication, and no bookseller or publisher would undertake the risk of printing a series of papers for which there was no hope of a remunerative sale. Under these circumstances these documents have remained in manuscript as they were copied together with several epitomes of the scarce pamphlets and volumes of the period, which throw light upon the history of the changes in religion. Nearly all of them belong to the reign of Edward VI., for the editor had long ago abandoned his intention of publishing a second part of the Records, which would have continued the history of ecclesiastical affairs from 1533 to the end of the reign of Henry VIII., and purposed devoting his attention to the following reign -from 1547 to 1553. The reason for this was that the late Mr. Brewer's volumes of the State Papers and Documents of that reign were rapidly progressing, and seemed likely soon to reach this period, and his accounts of all important papers were so full and accurate

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that it would not have been worth while to publish a selection of ecclesiastical documents which would for all practical purposes have appeared in these volumes sufficiently epitomised. But there was no danger of such interference as regards the reign of Edward VI.; for, though the foreign papers of that reign in the Record Office had been admirably executed by the late Mr. Turnbull, there yet remained an immense mass of documents in the Cottonian Library and elsewhere which had been left unnoticed, and many of them perhaps entirely unknown to historians, the perusal of which would have been indispensable for any one who would take an accurate survey of the transactions of the period. And, what is much to be regretted, the Domestic Papers had been epitomised in the most meagre way in the first volume of the Domestic Series, which begins with the year 1547 and ends with 1580.

No reflection is intended by this remark on the labours or skill of the editor of the first volume, which extends over the reigns of Edward, Mary, and part of Elizabeth. The papers are perfectly well represented by Mr. Robert Lemon, but he, probably following his instructions, has just given the heads of the matters treated in each paper, so as to afford a perfect method of identifying the paper, but not so as to supersede the necessity of referring to the document itself. The mistake seems to have been discovered after its publication, for in all subsequent volumes of the series the plan has been changed; and even as regards the omitted documents of the earlier period, which have been from time to time published as appendices to Mrs. Green's volumes, the analysis of papers has been on a much more extended seale.

It is much to be regretted that the same permission, granted to Mr. Brewer as regards the State Papers of the reign of Henry VIII.

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was not extended to the other calendarers of succeeding reigns, for the number of such papers which exist in other collections probably greatly exceeds that of the documents now in the Public Record Office; and it is not yet too late to add a collection of documents of the reigns of Edward and Mary from the Cottonian and other libraries to that valuable series. Meanwhile the contents of the following volume, which are almost entirely new, may not be unacceptable to readers who wish to form a fair estimate of the means by which the reformation of religion was effected and the characters of those who were the chief instruments in bringing it about.

With the view of enabling the reader to understand the subject, a considerable number of notes has been added at the foot of the text, which serve to explain who the principal actors in the affairs of this reign were and what were their objects. These notes do not profess to give anything like a complete life of the persons to whom they refer, but only so much of their actions as may serve to illustrate the character, and the changes of belief, whether real, or professed, or of a mixed character, by which they were actuated.

The papers here published will tend to show how untenable is the theory that the principal agents in the Reformation of the reign of Edward VI. ever intended to stop short with the first Prayer Book of 1549; they are a link in the evidence, which is tolerably complete perhaps without it, that there was a systematic attempt from the first on the part of Somerset and his colleagues to bring doctrine to the state in which it appears in the second Prayer Book of 1552, which there is reason to think would have been further carried out in a third Prayer Book, if the premature death of the King had not put a stop to all their proceedings. Most of the

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