

**A HISTORY OF THE
EVANGELICAL PARTY IN
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

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A history of the Evangelical Party in the Church of England by G. R. Balleine

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George
BY
G. R. BALLEINE, M.A.
VICAR OF ST. JAMES'S, HERMUNDSEY

"THE LORD HATH SO DONE HIS MARVELLOUS WORKS THAT
THEY OUGHT TO BE HAD IN REMEMBRANCE"

NEW AND CHEAPER EDITION

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*Periculosae plenum opus aleae
tractas, et incedis per ignis
suppositos cineri doloso.*

HORACE, *Carm.*, II. 1.

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NOTE TO NEW EDITION

THE present edition is substantially the same as the first, but a few slight corrections have been made, suggested by reviewers and friends, and a certain amount of new matter has been added.

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PREFACE

A PARTY has been defined¹ as "a section of a larger society, united to carry out the objects of the whole body on principles and by methods peculiar to itself." It is in this sense that the word can be used of the Evangelicals. They have never been a party of the parliamentary type, drilled and disciplined to respond promptly to the crack of the whip. Though they have shown almost a genius for organization—the great Missionary Societies are evidence of this—they have always shrunk from using this power merely for party purposes. Every attempt to create a counterpart to the English Church Union has failed. Wesley's sneer,² "They are a rope of sand, and such they will continue," has been quoted against them in every generation. Nevertheless they have worked together for a century and a half, a distinct group within the larger society of the Church, with methods and principles more or less peculiar to themselves, but with no object, except that for which the whole Church exists, the salvation of souls and the training of citizens for the Kingdom of God.

In the following pages I have attempted to sketch the gradual growth of this party, and the development of its work at home and abroad. No one can write on such a subject without owing a heavy debt to previous workers in the field, especially to Mr. Luke Tyerman for his exhaustive studies of the literature of the Methodist movement, to Canon Overton for his researches into the Church life of the eighteenth century,

¹ *Fraser's Magazine*, January, 1878, p. 22.

² Paper read by Wesley to Conference, 1769. Printed by Tyerman, iii., 49.

and to Mr. Eugene Stock, whose masterly *History of the Church Missionary Society* contains many valuable chapters on the work at home. To these names I must add that of the Rev. Chas. Hole, whose unpublished manuscripts are now in the C.M.S. Library. My own book was practically complete before I learned of their existence, but I have found their scholarly accuracy invaluable in the work of revision. I have gladly availed myself of help from all modern sources, but at the same time I have tried to base every statement strictly on contemporary evidence. More than a thousand eighteenth century biographies and pamphlets have been studied. The back numbers of the *Record* and *Guardian*, the *Christian Observer*, and the *English Churchman* have grown very familiar, and Bristol, Manchester, and Liverpool newspapers have been frequently consulted. Whatever faults or defects may be found in the book, I venture to claim two points at least in its favour: it is the work of one who is entirely in sympathy with his subject—and without sympathy no true history can be written—but it is not on that account merely a brief for the defence; every effort has been made to discover the actual facts, and nothing has been consciously inserted or suppressed to give a bias to the story.

I have tried to keep the book strictly within the limits of its title. It does not profess to be a complete history of the Church of England since 1729, nor a complete history of the Evangelical movement. On the one hand little has been said about the work of the High Church Party, except when necessary to explain the attitude of the Evangelicals, and hardly anything at all about the work of the Broad Churchmen. On the other hand, nothing has been said of the Evangelical Party in the Church of Ireland, and the part they played in the disestablishment crisis, and their courage in giving episcopal orders to the reformers abroad, nor of the gallant struggle for existence of the Evangelicals within the Episcopal Church in Scotland, nor of the spread of Evangelicalism among the Nonconformists. Much good work has been done by Churchmen outside the Evangelical group, and much good work has been

done by Evangelicals outside the Church of England, but the following pages deal solely with the work of the English Evangelical Churchmen.

One further word of warning may be necessary. It has not been possible always to keep strict chronological order. No attempt has been made to group all the events of a single year together; the arrangement is sometimes geographical, sometimes topical, seldom annalistic. Thus the events of Chapter IV. did not take place after those described in Chapter III., but the two movements went on side by side; the same may be said of Chapters VIII. and IX. I hope, however, that the Chronological Table at the end will prevent this arrangement causing any difficulty.

The list of books at the end of each chapter is not intended to be a complete bibliography. It merely suggests to those who wish to study the matter further a few useful sources of information. Some of the books mentioned must be read with discrimination.

I have to thank many kind friends who have sacrificed much valuable time in helping to make the book more worthy of its subject. They know how grateful I am to them. I do not mention their names, through fear lest they should be held accountable for my personal opinions. If anything has been misstated or misrepresented, the responsibility must be borne by myself alone.

If this little book is able to do something to arouse interest in a much neglected piece of Church history, to clear away a few of the misconceptions that prevail about the Evangelicals, and to stir some readers to greater earnestness in the service of God through the example of the good men whose lives are recorded here, I shall be satisfied.

G. R. B.