

**THE CHURCH AND  
THE PURITANS,  
1570-1660**

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The Church and the Puritans, 1570-1660 by Henry Offley Wakeman

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**HENRY OFFLEY WAKEMAN**

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# Epochs of Church History

EDITED BY

MANDELL CREIGHTON, D.D., LL.D.

LATE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON

THE CHURCH AND THE PURITANS

## EPOCHS OF CHURCH HISTORY

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BY

HENRY OFFLEY WAKEMAN, M.A.

LATE FELLOW OF ALL SOULS COLLEGE  
AND TUTOR OF KEBLE COLLEGE, OXFORD

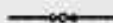
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## PREFACE.



THE history of the Reformed Church of England between the years 1570 and 1660 is too often treated as if it were but the history of a Government department of education and morals. The close connexion which undoubtedly existed between Church and State under the Tudors and the Stuarts has tended to obscure the fact, that during those years within the bosom of the Church itself was being worked out, independently of the Government, a problem which was essentially religious in its nature, and which only affected politics when men felt bound to put their principles into practice and try to enforce them upon others. That problem was no less than whether England as a nation should or should not cut itself off from historical Christianity, from the principles of Christianity as they had been understood for sixteen centuries; or, in other words, whether Puritanism should or should not succeed in establishing itself as legitimately within the pale of the English Church. That question was decided once for all in the negative by the Laudian movement, but



by that movement not in its political, but in its religious development, by Hooker and Andrewes and the opponent of Fisher, not by Charles I. and the President of the High Commission Court. Like all great questions, it was solved by the action of the human mind much more than by courts or governments. For this reason, therefore, I have tried to make this question the central one of those with which this volume has to deal, and have devoted more space to the consideration of the origin and intellectual basis of the Laudian movement than might at first sight seem justifiable.

Among the original authorities upon whom I have mainly relied may be mentioned, besides the State Papers, Cardwell, Strype, the Zurich Letters, Laud's Diary, Hooker, Heylin, Prynne, May, Clarendon, Baillie, Rushworth, and Cromwell; while among recent historians I should like to express my great indebtedness to Dr. Hook's *Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury*, Mr. Perry's *History of the Church of England*, Dr. Stoughton's *History of Religion in England*, Mr. Simpson's *Life of Campion*, and Mr. Barclay's interesting sketch of the *Inner Life of the Religious Societies of the Commonwealth*. For the reigns of James I. and Charles I. the assistance of Mr. Gardiner's *History of England from the Accession of James I.* has been simply invaluable.



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