

**THE INFLUENCE OF  
PURITANISM ON THE  
POLITICAL & RELIGIOUS  
THOUGHT OF THE ENGLISH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649613472

The Influence of Puritanism on the Political & Religious Thought of the English by John Stephen Flynn

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOHN STEPHEN FLYNN**

**THE INFLUENCE OF  
PURITANISM ON THE  
POLITICAL & RELIGIOUS  
THOUGHT OF THE ENGLISH**



## THE INFLUENCE OF PURITANISM

To those descendants of our Puritan Fathers, in the British Empire and America, who uphold the causes of political and Religious Freedom, for which Puritanism in the seventeenth century ventured all, and who in the crisis of the Great War, with an unquenchable Faith in their ideals and the justice of their cause, bore a noble part in rallying the democracies of both countries to Victory, and in uniting them in a lasting bond of Peace and Friendship, this work is gratefully dedicated.

6

# THE INFLUENCE OF PURITANISM ON THE POLITICAL & RELIGIOUS THOUGHT OF THE ENGLISH

BY  
JOHN STEPHEN FLYNN  
M.A., B.D., OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

*"If Puritanism did not fashion an Apollo with the bow, or a  
Venus with the apple, it fashioned virile Englishmen."*—  
DOWDEN.

NEW YORK  
E. P. DUTTON AND COMPANY

1920

---

v. 16.6  
A



Walker fund

40.00  
2

[All rights reserved]



## PREFACE

THE sketches here presented to the reader are of an impressional rather than of an historical character. They are an attempt at an appreciation of tendencies, making for righteousness and freedom, which have taken deep root in the English mind, and changed from time to time the course of politics and the outlook of churches. But while there is no elaboration of historical detail, and no observance of chronological order, history has not been disregarded. So far from that being the case, the period with which we are here most concerned has been carefully re-examined in such authorities as de Rapin and Neale amongst the earlier, and Macaulay and Green amongst the later writers. Trail's "Social England" and Gardiner's "History of the Commonwealth" have been freely used, while general literature on the subject, by both English and American writers, has been consulted at the British Museum. Through the courtesy of Viscount Clifden several little-known political pamphlets of the period have been examined in his library, which contains a good collection of Commonwealth literature. Baxter's "Self Review," with Sir James Stephen's

Essay on Baxter, and Balleine's admirable "History of the Evangelical Party," "The Journal of John Wesley," and Ryle's "Christian Leaders of the Eighteenth Century," throw much light on the earlier and later phases of the movement.

Morley, Harrison and Carlyle speak for Cromwell; Tuke and Gurney for the Quakers, and Stoughton for the Independents. Coulton's "Medieval Studies" (first series) have given valuable information. For America, reliance has been placed on Professor Max Farrand's "Development of the United States" and C. Chesterton's "History of the United States," and for the lighter side of Puritanism, where the clash of armies and the wranglings of politicians and sectaries are not heard, Professor Dowden's "Puritan and Anglican" has met every need. These have been the chief sources drawn upon for this work.

Yet it would have been quite impossible to have got at the Puritan mind of the seventeenth century without such aid as is afforded by Milton's tracts, Butler's "Hudibras," Lucy Hutchinson's "Memoirs" of her husband, and Bunyan's "Pilgrim" and "The Holy War." In these works, much more really than in the pages of Clarendon and Burnet, breathes the true Puritan spirit. The Hudibras is, of course, a caricature, but a very informing one, and with it Pepys and Selden's "Table Talk" have been availed of for their sidelights on the party and the times.

With all this literary wealth ready to hand, the appearance of a new work on Puritanism might seem an impertinence, and, indeed, would be had there been no need of a fresh treatment of the subject, presenting the movement in a juster light than that in which it commonly appears, and relating it to the present age. To trace Puritanism through the many stages of its progress; to show that its light, though often dimmed, has never failed; to distinguish its permanent from its merely transitory elements; to offer proof of the marvellous moral power inherent in it, which enabled it to determine in large measure the character of the great American Republic, as well as to effect many changes in that of the English people; to regard it in the bestowal of wholesome laws, colouring religious thought, educating public opinion, protesting against the popular fallacy that a State has no conscience—this in short is the aim of the present modest work, which the author hopes may, by its brevity and the popular style in which he has tried to cast it, commend itself to many readers who might be repelled by a more exhaustive and ponderous treatise.

Puritanism, often at war with itself and giving birth, from time to time, to rival sects and rival theories of Church and State, possessed a soul unaffected by all these mutations, and independent of circumstances of time and place. In the passing