

A SHORT HISTORY OF PURITANISM

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A Short History of Puritanism by James Heron

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OF PURITANISM**

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"For now Nonconformity (Puritanism) in the days of Edward was conceived, which afterwards in the reign of Mary (but beyond sea at Frankfort) was born; which in the days of Queen Elizabeth was nursed and weaned; which under King James grew up a youth or tall stripling; and towards the end of King Charles's reign shot up to the full strength and stature of a man, able not only to cope with, but conquer the hierarchy, its adversary" (Fuller's *Church History of Britain*, Book VII., Cent. xvi. 23).

A SHORT HISTORY OF PURITANISM

*A HANDBOOK
FOR GUILDS AND BIBLE CLASSES*

BY

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PREFACE

THE preparation of this Handbook was undertaken at the request of the Board of Management of the Young People's Guild of the Irish Presbyterian Church, and with the express sanction of the General Assembly.

So far as the writer is aware there is in existence no short history of Puritanism, nor anything that would serve as a handy or easily accessible text-book on the subject. It was for that reason, and because some knowledge of the history of that great movement is essential to a proper appreciation of both the civil and religious history of these kingdoms, and of some of the most vital elements in our national, social, and family life, that the present work was written. The period covered by this record embraces some of the most momentous, interesting, and stirring passages in English history. The one source of regret to the author is that the necessity of condensing within text-book bounds the account of a struggle extending over so wide a field and comprising events fraught with such vast and far-reaching issues, compelled him

to omit much which he should have liked to embody in his treatise; and indeed a larger book would have been easier to write.

The appearance of this volume at this moment is opportune in another respect. The celebration of the Quatercentenary of the birth of John Calvin is to be held next year. Now the Puritan movement, strictly so called, began at Frankfort and Geneva, and was not only an immediate fruit of Calvinism, but one of its most widespread, permanent, and influential consequences. The present volume, which records its history in England, may, therefore, be regarded as a contribution towards that Commemoration.

Of course such works as Neal's voluminous *History of the Puritans*, Marsden's *History of the Early and Later Puritans*, Fuller's *Church History of Britain*, Burnet's *History of the Reformation*, Collier's *Ecclesiastical History of Great Britain*, and many other Histories both general and special, have been constantly consulted, including Strype's *Annals*, his *Life of Archbishop Parker*, and other *Lives*; but it will be apparent to the reader that wherever it was possible, especially for the Elizabethan period, the author has gone to such sources as the *Original Letters*, the *Zurich Letters* and other Documents published by the Parker Society, and has given his own judgment on persons and events.

COLLEGE PARK, BELFAST,

July 1908.

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