

**ALCUIN CLUB TRACTS, VIII: THE
"INTERPRETATIONS" OF THE BISHOPS &
THEIR INFLUENCE ON ELIZABETHAN
EPISCOPAL POLICY (WITH AN APPENDIX
OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS)**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649272549

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Cover @ 2017

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VIII

THE
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BY
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LONGMANS, GREEN & CO
39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON
NEW YORK, BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

1908

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From the Alcuin Club.

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NOTE

This document has been much discussed of late years. It has, therefore, been thought well to print the three manuscript copies. There can be no doubt that it shaped the policy of Parker and his brethren in more respects than one, and represents a sort of mutual basis for the episcopal policy. I am indebted to the authorities of the Inner Temple Library and of Corpus Christi College Library, Cambridge, for permission to print these documents, which are in their possession. The dedication expresses my sincerest thanks for kindness, revision and direction, and for much patience with my inexperience.

I would also express my thanks to the Rev. E. Rhys Jones, S. Luke's Vicarage, Reigate, beneath whose hospitable roof this little book was largely written.

W. M. K.

Feast of the Epiphany, 1908.

THE important document which is dealt with in this tract has so far never been satisfactorily edited. Strype gave a very imperfect and distorted version¹ compounded of two manuscripts and broke it up into so many fragments that it almost lost its identity. Later writers have not bettered Strype.

Before entering into any discussion of the document itself, it will be well to say something of the manuscripts. The first² is a draft copy with corrections in Parker's hand (which are pointed out in the notes). It comprised several subdivisions, viz.: (i) Some notes on the Royal Injunctions of 1559, (ii) on the Prayer Book, (iii) on burial, (iv) on matrimony, (v) on collation of benefices, (vi) a set of Latin Articles of Religion, and (vii) certain injunctions for deacons and readers. This MS. is headed "Resolutions concerning the Injunctions." The second MS.,³ one which has too largely escaped notice, is similar, but in some important respects different. It is not a draft, but a fair copy written in one continuous hand. It has on the first folio a more comprehensive name than the other MS. has: "Declarations of Injunctions and Articles for Ministers and Readers," and the other headings follow as in the first MS. It is endorsed "A declaration to have been made of the Injunctions, by Dr Cox." Strype mentions Cox in connexion with the document, and he may have seen this endorsement. The writing of this endorsement seems somewhat later, but at the same time it bears a resemblance to Burghley's. It is difficult to say what this endorsement means. It may be that Cox drew up the document, then submitted

¹ *Annals*, i, i, p. 318 ff. (Ox. edn, 1824).

² *Peter's MSS* (Inner Temp. Lib.), vol. 538, 38, f. 223

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 538, 47, f. 545.