

**AN INQUIRY INTO THE EVIDENCE
RELATING TO THE CHARGES
BROUGHT BY LORD MACAULAY
AGAINST WILLIAM PEN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649536559

An Inquiry into the Evidence Relating to the Charges Brought by Lord Macaulay against
William Pen by John Paget

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

JOHN PAGET

**AN INQUIRY INTO THE EVIDENCE
RELATING TO THE CHARGES
BROUGHT BY LORD MACAULAY
AGAINST WILLIAM PEN**

AN
INQUIRY INTO THE EVIDENCE
RELATING TO THE
CHARGES BROUGHT BY LORD MACAULAY
AGAINST
WILLIAM PENN

BY JOHN PAGET, ESQ.

BARRISTER-AT-LAW

"I know my enemies, and their true character and history, and their
intrinsic value to this or other Governments; I commit them to time,
with my own conduct and affections."—*Letter of William Penn, 1696.*

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
EDINBURGH AND LONDON
MDCCCLVIII

210. L. 322.

INTRODUCTION.

My attention was first directed to the subject of the following pages by finding in Lord Macaulay's picture of William Penn a character, so inconsistent with itself, that one would not expect to meet with it until we discover a country inhabited by centaurs, or succeed in catching a living mermaid. I was thus led to examine the authorities on which he relies. A short time served to convince me that the dark stains with which he has disfigured the portrait of Penn were not to be found in the original, but owed their existence solely to the jaundiced eye of the artist. I have endeavoured,

in the following pages, to collect into a small compass all the evidence I could meet with on the subject, in the hope that by so doing I might enable others, with less labour, to form their own opinions upon a question which involves, not only the character of the dead, which has become a sacred trust in the hands of the living, but also the degree of confidence which ought to be placed in the statements of the most popular and eloquent of modern writers. I have examined for myself the different documents referred to, having been enabled to do so by the liberality of the Right Hon. S. H. Walpole, and the kind assistance which I have received from the Gentlemen in whose immediate custody the documents preserved in the State-Paper and Privy Council Offices are deposited. It appeared to me, that notwithstanding what has already been done by Mr Hepworth Dixon and others, matters of considerable interest still remained to be gleaned ; I have therefore

done my best to collect them, and to lay them before the reader in as concise a form as possible. Lord Macaulay in the present year has reiterated his charges, and in some instances has attempted to justify them. The issue, upon the character of William Penn and the trustworthiness of Lord Macaulay, is therefore now fairly before the public.

J. P.

3 BRICK COURT, TEMPLE,
Nov. 1858.



AN INQUIRY, &c.

“ RIVAL nations and hostile sects have agreed in
“ canonising him—England is proud of his name.
“ A great commonwealth beyond the Atlantic
“ regards him with a reverence similar to that
“ which the Athenians felt for Theseus, and the
“ Romans for Quirinus. The respectable society
“ of which he was a member honours him as an
“ apostle. By pious men of other persuasions
“ he is generally regarded as a bright pattern
“ of Christian virtue. Meanwhile admirers of a
“ very different sort have sounded his praises.
“ The French philosophers of the eighteenth
“ century pardoned what they regarded as his
“ superstitious fancies, in consideration of his
“ contempt for priests, and of his cosmopolitan
“ benevolence, impartially extended to all races
“ and all creeds. His name has thus become,

“ throughout all civilised countries, a synonyme
“ for probity and philanthropy.”

Such is the verdict of posterity upon the character of William Penn, recorded in the glowing words of Lord Macaulay.¹ Such is the judgment which Lord Macaulay seeks to reverse ;—to show instead that this same William Penn prostituted himself to the meanest wishes of a cruel and profligate court²—gloated with delight on the horrors of the scaffold and the stake³—was the willing tool of a bloodthirsty and treacherous tyrant⁴—a trafficker in simony and suborner of perjury⁵—a conspirator, seeking to deluge his country in blood⁶—a sycophant, a traitor,⁷ and a liar.⁸

Such are the charges scattered through Lord Macaulay's pages ; and in support of them he relies on the part taken by Penn on the following occasions :—

I. His conduct with regard to the Maids of
Taunton.—Vol. i. p. 655.

¹ Vol. i. p. 506.

² Vol. i. p. 656.

³ Vol. i. p. 665.

⁴ Vol. ii. p. 230.

⁵ Vol. ii. p. 298, 299.

⁶ Vol. iv. p. 20, 31.

⁷ Vol. iii. p. 587.

⁸ Vol. iii. p. 599.