

**THE CONGREGATIONAL MANUAL:
OR A CONCISE EXPOSITION OF
THE BELIEF, GOVERNMENT, AND
USAGES, OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES**

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The Congregational Manual: Or a Concise Exposition of the Belief, Government, and Usages, of the Congregational Churches by John Le Bosquet

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JOHN LE BOSQUET

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BY **JOHN LE BOSQUET,**  
Acting Pastor of the Congregational Church, Nottingham, N. H.

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION,
BY REV. BENJAMIN P. STONE.

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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy."—Psalms 137.

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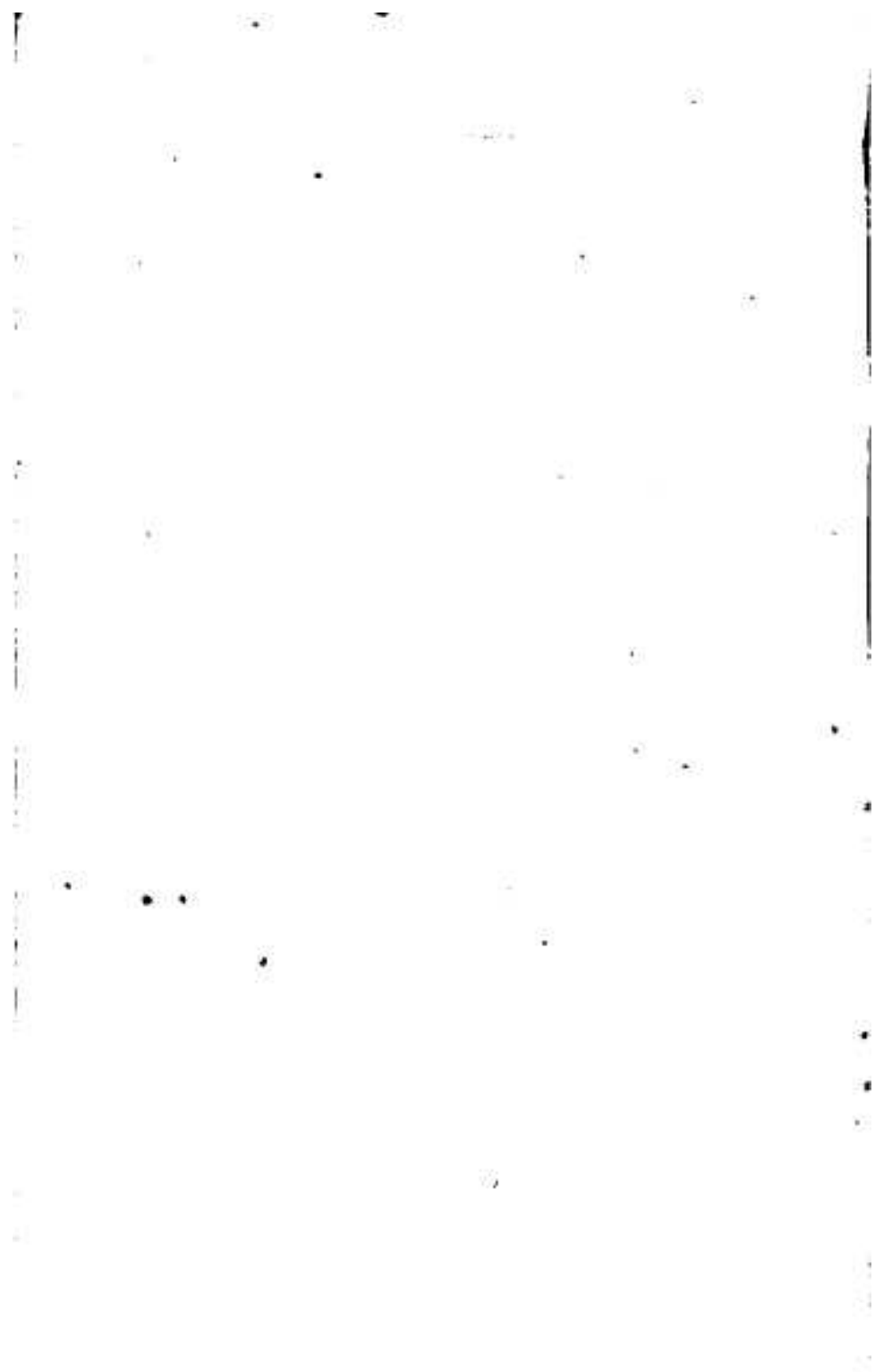
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TO THE
MEMBERS
OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES,
And particularly the younger portion of them,
Who are bound together by the holy principles herein laid down,

THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY

DEDICATED.



PREFACE.

THIS volume is intended to occupy a place which has never been filled by any other book. Its object is to give, in the briefest manner, and particularly for the benefit of the young, a view of what the Congregationalists believe, and of what they are, as a denomination. This object the writer proposes to accomplish, without going into the intricacies of church polity, and without any expectation of enlightening ministers or the more experienced members of the churches. The plan and design of these pages were suggested to his mind by his own experience and observation of the obvious want of such a work in all the places in which he has been acquainted. The ministers and other members of our body are so often called upon to answer inquiries in regard to which information is here given, as to make it evident that the extensive circulation of a work of the kind must be of great importance to the welfare of our churches. It is even feared that only a small proportion of the members of our churches have so much as

the articles of faith in their possession. The writer would not intimate that there are no publications in existence which treat of the Congregational system of doctrine and usages with sufficient fullness. Such publications are numerous. But for the purpose which this volume is intended to subserve, they are neither intended nor adapted. They are too voluminous, and contain a great amount of matter that is not interesting to the majority of professors of religion. They are better fitted to occupy a place in the library of a minister, than to lie upon the table, in the parlor or in the retired room, of the private member of the church. Whereas a work like the one now offered to the churches, may and ought to find its way into the hands of every individual who has named the name of the Lord in our Zion. Hoping that it may be of some benefit to the followers of the great Head of the church, it is humbly and prayerfully submitted by the writer.

In giving this work to the public, however, it should be added, that while in manuscript, it was submitted to the examination of Rev. NATHANIEL BOUTON, of Concord, N. H., to whom, as well as to the author of the introduction, the writer is indebted for valuable assistance in its final revision for the press.

Nottingham, N. H., 1841.

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