

**A HISTORY OF THE MARTIN  
MARPRELATE  
CONTROVERSY IN THE  
REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH**

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A History of the Martin Marprelate Controversy in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth by William Maskell

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**WILLIAM MASKELL**

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MARPRELATE  
CONTROVERSY IN THE  
REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH**



മരണശിക്ഷയുടെ പേരിൽ

MARTIN MARPRELATE.

ഒരു നോവൽ

*By the same Author,*

**THE ANCIENT LITURGY OF THE  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND,**

According to the Uses of **SARUM, BANGOR, YORK, and  
HEREFORD,** and the **MODERN ROMAN LITURGY,**  
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A HISTORY OF THE  
**Martin Harprelate Controversy**  
IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN  
ELIZABETH

BY  
THE REV. WILLIAM MASKELL M.A.



c LONDON  
WILLIAM PICKERING  
1845



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## MARTIN MARPRELATE.

### CHAPTER I.

**T**HOSE who may be lookers on in the beginning of any popular movement, those who may be actors in it, and those who are the leaders, are all equally ignorant of the end to which it will reach, and the excesses into which it may run. Many will at first be interested in, and well-wishers to the cause, until gradually they will lose their interest from their own objects being already gained, or some mismanagement disgusts them: and those who set on foot great changes in important matters, whether of belief or practice, whether temporal or spiritual, are quickly passed by their eager followers, and these again in their turn by others, until liberty becomes tyranny, and reformation the most abominable of all abuses.

*Introduction.  
Danger of  
excess in  
popular  
movements.*

Corruptions  
existed in the  
Church in the  
XVIIth Cen-  
tury.

It would be absurd to deny that there were corruptions existing in the Christian Church about the beginning of the sixteenth century: the Western Branch was not yet divided in communion; and, bound up as all her members had ever been, not only in their practice and doctrines and government, but in their sympathies, with thousands and tens of thousands, none acknowledging any checks which the boundaries of earthly kingdoms would put upon their one brotherhood, it is not to be wondered at that errors and corruptions should arise and spread among so great a multitude. There is no promise among the many given to His Church by our Blessed Lord, that she should always be free from such calamity: but rather on the contrary it was foretold, and herself cautioned, that in the midst of all, the Faith might be the more carefully preserved, and the faithful might be known.

So in the  
English  
Branch.

It was not possible therefore that the English Church should escape: among the people under her rule, both clerical and lay, there were many matters at that time to be corrected, and new life and energy given, (it was to be hoped) by the mere pursuit itself of the proper and necessary means. But it is far easier to spy out abuses than to administer the right remedies: it is far more suitable