

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL
INSTITUTIONS OF HOLLAND: A
REPORT, PRESENTED TO THE
HIBBERT TRUSTEES, AND
PUBLISHED BY THEIR DIRECTION**

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The Ecclesiastical Institutions of Holland: a report, presented to the Hibbert Trustees, and published by their Direction by Philip H. Wicksteed

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PHILIP H. WICKSTEED

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL
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REPORT, PRESENTED TO THE
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THE
ECCLESIASTICAL INSTITUTIONS OF
HOLLAND,

TREATED WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE POSITION AND
PROSPECTS OF THE MODERN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY.

A Report

PRESENTED TO THE HIBBERT TRUSTERS, AND PUBLISHED
BY THEIR DIRECTION.

BY

PHILIP H. WICKSTEED, M.A.

Fidem rectamque colendo.

WILLIAMS AND NORGATE,
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AND 20, SOUTH FREDERICK STREET, EDINBURGH.
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1875.

"Nowhere in Europe is the conflict of opinion more earnest and sincere [than in Holland]; nowhere perhaps—not even in Germany—has theological science assumed a bolder and more decisive tone, though always within the limits of profound reverence, and an un-
enfeebled attachment to the divine essence of the Gospel."

J. J. TAYLER.

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At the beginning of last year, I laid before a Sub-Committee of the Trustees of the Hibbert Fund a Report on the History of what is called in Holland "Modern Theology." This Report contained, together with a very rapid sketch of the progress of Theological studies and opinions in Holland from near the beginning of the century to the present time, a more detailed account of the principal works of the most eminent "modern" theologians, shewing the successive phases through which the school itself and its chief leaders have passed, and characterizing their present position.

As an Appendix to this Report, I drew up a short account of the most important of the Protestant ecclesiastical institutions of Holland, considered with special reference to their bearings upon the position and prospects of the "Moderns."

It appeared to the Sub-Committee to whom the Report was presented, that in the present state of ecclesiastical affairs in England, the subject of this Appendix might perhaps be of interest to a somewhat wider circle of readers than it was likely to reach in its manuscript form, and I was therefore requested to prepare it for publication.

In the present pamphlet, then, the original Appendix appears as an independent Report, and such information as to the "Modern

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Theology" of Holland as it seemed absolutely necessary to supply has been thrown into a brief Appendix.

I have to thank Professor Kuenen, of Leiden, for his kindness in allowing me to read nearly the whole of the MS. to him, on occasion of a recent visit to Holland, and for various suggestions and corrections in matters of detail.

PHILIP H. WICKSTEED.

LONDON, Jan. 1875.

REPORT
ON THE CHIEF
PROTESTANT CHURCHES OF HOLLAND,
CONSIDERED WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE POSITION AND
PROSPECTS OF THE "MODERN SCHOOL" OF THEOLOGY.*

It is difficult to make details of Church organization, and of the complicated relations of Church and State, anything but a dry and unattractive subject; but at the same time the problems which the Dutch Churches are endeavouring to solve bear so close an analogy to those which are agitating us in England, and there are so many curious parallels between some of the Dutch and some of the English Churches and parties, that a short examination of the Ecclesiastical History and Geography of Holland may perhaps be instructive, though it can hardly be entertaining.

It will be well to begin by gaining some idea of the

* General authorities: Wijne's "Geschiedenis van het Vaderland" (History of the Fatherland), 1870; the "Staats-almanak" (Official Almanack of the Government) for 1871, checked by references to later editions; Scholten's "Leer der Hervormde Kerk" (Doctrine of the Reformed Church), 1861, &c. &c.

relative numerical strength of the various Churches which we are about to examine, both with regard to each other, and with regard to the other religious communions of Holland. The subjoined table will give us in the second column the percentage of the total population embraced in each Church in 1869, the latest period for which proper statistical data are as yet available.

We shall presently see that a system of "concurrent endowment" has grown up in Holland to a certain extent; and it will not be uninteresting therefore to add in a second column a statement of the official estimates of the pecuniary grants* to the various bodies for 1875.

COMMUNITY.	Total number of Members in 1869.	Per cent. of Pop. in 1869.	Estimate of Grant for 1875.	Approx. value in English Money.
			£.	£.
Netherland Reformed Church.....	1,967,811	54.97	1,136,038	94,670
Christian Reformed (Separatists)	107,123	2.99	No grant.	—
Remonstrants	5,486	.15	19,100	1,592
Baptists	44,227	1.24	11,800	983
Evangelical Lutherans	67,545	1.61	37,486	3,124
Restored Evangelical Lutherans	10,522	.29	4,325	360
Hernhutters	311	.01	No grant.	—
Anglican Episcopalians	456	.01	No grant.	—
Roman Catholics	1,307,765	36.53	519,404.775	43,284
Old Romanists	6,287	.15	7,500	625
Greeks	32	.00	No grant.	—
Netherland Israelites... ..	64,478	1.8	9,950	829
Portuguese Israelites... ..	3,525	.1		
Unknown	5,161	.15	No grant.	—

* In payment of salaries alone. Other grants, of very considerable amount, in payment of educational and miscellaneous expenses, are massed in the returns, and cannot be assigned to the various Churches. In the case of Jews, some of these items appear to be included in the estimate given above.

We will now proceed to a brief examination of the history and constitution of the chief* Protestant Churches of Holland, viz., (a) The Reformed Church of the Netherlands; (b) The Remonstrant Brotherhood; (c) The Baptists (or Mennonites); (d) The Evangelical Lutherans.

The first of these Churches will occupy far more of our attention than the others, on account of its great preponderance over them in numbers.

(a) THE REFORMED CHURCH OF THE NETHERLANDS.†

(Percentage of total population in 1869, % 54.97.)

The great Reformation was heralded in Holland, as elsewhere, by certain premonitory symptoms of a more or less isolated description; but no one could possibly have divined from them that the Calvinistic form of the Reformation

* With the exception of that of the Christian Separated Communities or the Separatists. This Church is important in many respects, and its history has features of great interest in reference to the ecclesiastical history of the first half of this century; but since it represents, with few exceptions, the ultra-orthodox element of the lower strata of Dutch society, it has no connection with the special subject of this Report.

† Special authorities: "Het Kerkrecht der Nederlandsche Hervormde Kerk, historisch-critisch beschreven, door J. J. Prins" (The Ecclesiastical Law of the Reformed Church of the Netherlands, historically and critically expounded, by J. J. Prins), 1870; "Scheiding van Staat en Kerk enz. door H. J. Smidt" (Separation of State and Church, &c.), 1872; "Jaarboekje voor de Nederlandsche, Hervormde Kerk, door H. M. C. van Oosterzee" (Annual for the Reformed Church, &c.), 1871, 1872, 1873; "De Reglementen voor de Ned. Her. Kerk, door G. Bruha" (Ordinances of the Reformed Church, &c.), 1872; "Rapport van de Commissie van Advies ter zake eener Reorganisatie enz." (Report of the Committee of Advice on the Question of a Reorganization, &c.), 1873; together with a number of controversial pamphlets, reports, &c., of 1872, 1873 and 1874.