

The Dissent and Nonconformity Series

Number 10



The Early English Dissenters

Volume 2 of 2

Champlin Burrage



Non dilexerunt animam suam usque ad mortem.

The Latin, *Non dilexerunt animam suam usque ad mortem*, translates, "... they loved not their lives unto the death." Revelation 12:11

On The Cover: *Massacres at Salzburg* took place in 1528 when Prince-Archbishop Cardinal Matthaus Lang of Salzburg issued mandates sending police in search of Anabaptists. Many were captured and killed. This engraving illustrates the sufferings and sacrifices these Dissenters endured when their government, in conjunction with established religion, attempted to coerce and impose uniformity of religious belief. Hence, this picture is a reminder of the cost of religious liberty and the ever-present need to maintain the separation of church and state. We use this art to represent our Dissent and Nonconformity Series.

THE
EARLY ENGLISH DISSENTERS

IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT RESEARCH

(1550-1641)

VOLUME II

April. 4. An^o. 1605.

21

Whereas almost 3 quarters of a year since I published a booke intituled, Reasons taken out of Gods word &c. I do heere faithfully promise to disperse no more of them, nor to be a meane that any other shall, but to hinder the dispersing of all that shall come into my power.

Also I do promise that I will not speak against y^e Church-government & orders now among vs established by Law, for the time of any being upon Saile & till I shall see weighty reasons against my opinion will come forth within this halfe year. And if I shall perceave to be good & well grounded on Gods word, then I will speake for the said Church-government & orders now established.

Howsoever, I will allwayes hereafter behaue my selfe quietly, & as loue carefull of the Churchs peace, God assisting me.

Henry Jacob.

The first promise I may easily keepe, seeing I have none of those bookes left.

The second cometh a time viz. within this halfe year, wherein I forbear to speak against their orders, that in the meane while my booke speaketh my minde & judgment most plainly every where.

Thirdly I will allwayes hereafter behaue my selfe quietly, well also I have sin allwayes herebefore, I praye God

FIRST PAGE OF HENRY JACOB'S COPY OF HIS SUBSCRIPTION, April 4, 1605. (Facsimile.) See Vol. I., page 285 and Vol. II., pages 151-3.

THE
EARLY ENGLISH DISSENTERS
IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT RESEARCH
(1550-1641)

BY
CHAMPLIN BURRAGE
HON. M.A. (BROWN UNIVERSITY), B. LITT. (OXON.)

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Illustrated

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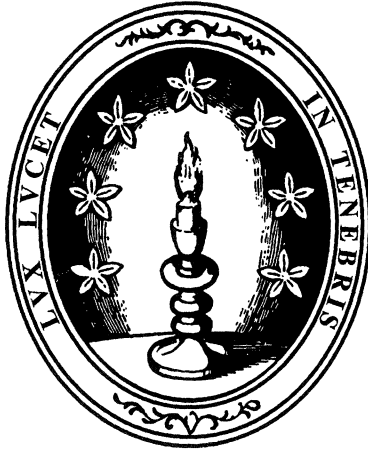
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Thou hast given a *standard* to them that fear thee;
that it may be displayed because of the truth.
-- *Psalm 60:4*

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THE WALDENSIAN EMBLEM

lux lucet in tenebris

“The Light Shineth in the Darkness”

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PREFACE TO VOLUME II

THE documents herein brought together illustrative of the history of early English Dissent cannot of course claim the dignity of forming a complete "Corpus" of the literature relating to the subject, but they have been carefully selected from the mass of material now available for investigation. My aim in publishing these particular texts has been to present to the reader a number of the more inaccessible or historically valuable writings, many of which have as yet been only imperfectly or partially reproduced. Others have remained entirely, or almost entirely, unnoticed. The contents of this volume are likewise intended to supplement the narrative of volume I., as well as to illustrate it.

Such a selected Corpus has long been needed, for students, it is to be feared, have generally been much more familiar with what has been said by writers and historians of different points of view concerning this literature than with the manuscripts themselves, with resultant misunderstanding, or only partial understanding. Such papers, too, as are herein reproduced are all, with one exception, carefully located, whereas often in earlier works the location was not stated, thus sometimes requiring long search before the originals could be found. Further, in some cases only an imperfect translation of a document has up to this time appeared in print, so that students have been dependent for information upon the skill or candor of a translator.

Special mention should be made of the texts of a number of papers procured in Holland which are now for the first time reproduced in England as nearly as possible in their original form. Some of these were most difficult to decipher accurately even with the occasional help of the ablest Dutch manuscript specialists in the University Library, Amsterdam. No doubt my copies contain minor mistakes and imperfections which keen-eyed critics will be quick to detect. Even so, however, in case any injury should ever befall the originals themselves, approximately accurate texts of these manuscripts ought now to be preserved.

A typographical error may here be corrected. On page 309 *Boberti Baffam* should read *Roberti Baffam*.

C. B.

OXFORD,

16 *December* 1911.

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The coalition of church and state (corpus Christianum) has continually had outspoken opponents since its inception in the 4th century under Constantine. All through the long medieval night of papal terror and up to the present day of accommodation and compromise, there has never been a time when the voice of dissent and nonconformity was not heard, protesting against established religion and coerced uniformity. The most prominent target of that protest has been the arrogant usurpation of Christ's Kingly Authority and Headship over His churches and the souls of men, whether that usurpation was Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, or any other. As it has been, so shall it ever be. This enduring testimony of dissent, this genuine Christian nonconformity arises as the inevitable response of the Christian soul to the internal witness of the Spirit toward the truth and supreme authority of God's Word. Consequently, the origin, nature and history of Christ's churches can never be adequately discerned or explained apart from some grasp of the Biblical Truths advocated and defended throughout the history of genuine Christian Dissent and Nonconformity. As Dr. J. S. Whale, former Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Mansfield College, Oxford University and President of Cheshunt College, Cambridge University, said, *"Dissent, not only from the centralized absolutism of Rome, but also from the State establishments of Protestantism in the Old World is an historic fact of enduring influence. To account for the tradition of liberty in the 'free world' of today without reference to dissent would be to read modern history with one eye shut."*

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