

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Royal 8vo. In two volumes. With three plates.

Price £1. 11s. 6d. net.

Vol. I, pp. cxxii + 320. Vol. II, pp. viii + 456.

THE WORKS OF
JOHN SMYTH

FELLOW OF CHRIST'S COLLEGE, 1594-8

TERCENTENARY EDITION FOR THE
BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WITH NOTES AND BIOGRAPHY BY

W. T. WHITLEY

M.A., LL.D., F.R.Hist.S.

Sometime Exhibitioner of King's College

None of the English Separatists had a finer mind
or a more beautiful soul.

MANDELL CREIGHTON



Cambridge University Press

C. F. CLAY, Manager

London : Fetter Lane, E.C.

Edinburgh : 100, Princes Street

1915

The Works of John Smyth

Extract from Preface

THIS edition of the works of John Smyth offers the opportunity for a pioneer to be studied at first hand. He had never been utterly forgotten, for when Americans who preferred to look to New England rather than to Virginia as the formative district of their nation, were telling its earliest story, they glanced casually at the friend of Brewster mentioned by Bradford; and when English Congregationalists were searching into their origins, they caught a glimpse of one who passed through their position. But in comparison with Browne and Robinson, Johnson and Ainsworth, or Jacob, Smyth has been but dimly known, chiefly by reflected light, even to Hanbury in 1839.

Fifty years ago, Benjamin Evans broke new ground and printed many documents long unknown to Englishmen, revealing Smyth's doings in Amsterdam. Further search by John Waddington, Robert Barclay and Henry Martyn Dexter was so far rewarded that a better background was afforded, and then the last named student earned thanks by recognizing the *Story of Smyth* "as told by himself and his contemporaries," and by setting a stupid forgery which bade fair to confuse the tale. His posthumous work on the *England and Holland of the Pilgrims* reverted to the earlier treatment of Smyth as an appendage to those heroes, while John Brown and Edward Arber had naturally adopted the same standpoint.

The importance of Smyth's work had been discerned by Mandell Creighton, and when Henry W. Clark wrote the *History of English Nonconformity* to expound ideas rather than facts, a more sympathetic spirit was evinced. More errors were eliminated by J. H. Shakespeare in his study of *Baptist and Congregational Pioneers*, all too brief. When Walter H. Burgess prepared to publish on *Baptist Origins*, he not only added to our knowledge of fact by his minute research, but placed Smyth in the forefront, both of the narrative and of the title. Next year, Champlin Burrage in his *Early English Dissenters* treated of him in true perspective with the attention to detail that is so conspicuous in all his work.

All students, however, who desired better acquaintance with Smyth, were seriously hindered by the difficulty of reading his works. Though seven books were published, only seventeen copies in all are known, and no town

The Works of John Smyth

contains more than three works. At the very best, Cambridge, York, and Oxford must be visited; while Amsterdam must be added for manuscripts. Moreover, the typography of most of the books is trying in the extreme. So it has been far easier to read what Smyth's opponents said about him, or to copy some isolated sentence extracted for a purpose, than to consult the whole book and let Smyth speak for himself.

To rescue him from this predicament has long been the hope of the present editor, and means have been provided by the Hibbert Trustees (through the kind offices of Sir W. J. Collins), by Principal Gould and Sir George Macalpine, president and vice-president of the Baptist Historical Society, under whose auspices the edition appears. The librarian of Emmanuel College arranged for a transcript of the *Morning Starre*, a copy of the *Paterne* was lent by Dr Gould, Bodley's librarian permitted the *Paralleles* and the *Character* to be photographed page by page, the editor copied the *Principles* and the *Retractations* at York Chapter library, the *Differences* at the Bodleian, and supplied a slight ~~part~~ in the *Character* from the ~~MS.~~

~~The manuscripts at~~ were consulted by the courtesy of Professor S. Cramer, and in their study the editor was aided by Carel J. Ströer, who arranged for transcripts. The archivist of the city of Amsterdam cleared up a long-standing obscurity as to the last home of Smyth, and produced a contemporary map showing its site and appearance; from this the frontispiece has been copied...

The editor has added notes on such points as seemed to need comment, and on such as had special interest for himself. He has also prefixed a study of the author's career. For this he has naturally used the works named, and the contemporary books that alluded to Smyth. He has accepted the assurances of the Registry of Cambridge and the late Master of Christ's that nothing more is extant there than is here incorporated. He has sought at first hand, in both the municipal and the diocesan records at Lincoln, profiting by the aid of W. S. Linton and of the vicar of Welton, as well as of the official custodians. He has consulted the Mennonite and the civic archives at Amsterdam...

Further, in these pages is pointed out, what has escaped serious attention, the time, place, and circumstances when the Pilgrim Church was born...

The Works of John Smyth

Apart from matters of fact, the editor hopes to have presented the subject afresh in three respects; the starting-point of Smyth's career, its consistency, and the permanent result of his work.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME I

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION.

SIZAR AT CHRIST'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, 1586-1590.

GRADUATE AND FELLOW, 1590-1598.

LECTURER AT LINCOLN, 1600-1602.

OFFICIAL REFORM, 1603-1605.

MEDITATION AND DISCUSSION, 1605-1606.

PASTOR OF THE CHURCH AT GAINSBOROUGH, 1606-1608.

CHURCHES, CHURCH WORSHIP, CHURCH GOVERNMENT, 1608.

BAPTISM OF BELIEVERS, 1609.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MENNONITES.

THE MAN AND HIS WORK.

THE BRIGHT MORNING STARRE (1603).

A PATERNE OF TRVE PRAYER (1605).

PRINCIPLES AND INFERENCES (1607).

~~THE DIFFERENCE~~

VOLUME II

CERTAYNE DEMAUNDES, ETC.

PARALLELES, CENSVRES, OBSERVATIONS (1609).

Lettre to Mr. Ric. Bernard (1607).

Lettre written to Mr. A. S. (1606?).

Lettre written to certaine brethren in S. (1606?).

THE CHARACTER OF THE BEAST (1609).

NOMINA ANGLORUM (1610?).

CORDE CREDIMUS (1610?).

DEFENCE OF RIES' CONFESSION.

ARGUMENTA CONTRA BAPTISMUM INFANTUM.

PROPOSITIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

RETRACTATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS.

APPENDIX.

NOTES.

LIST OF PLATES

The Last Home of John Smyth

from a contemporary map in the Amsterdam archives.

The Lower Trent Valley

showing places whence emigrants went to Amsterdam in 1608.

Names of the English who applied in 1610 for union with the Waterlander church in Amsterdam. Holograph of John Smyth.