

**THE PURITANS IN POWER: A  
STUDY IN THE HISTORY OF THE  
ENGLISH CHURCH FROM 1640  
TO 1660. [CAMBRIDGE-1913]**

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The Puritans in Power: A Study in the History of the English Church from 1640 to 1660.  
[Cambridge-1913] by G. B. Tatham

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A STUDY IN THE HISTORY OF THE  
ENGLISH CHURCH FROM 1640 TO 1660

by

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## PREFACE

THE object of the following sketch is to illustrate the effect of the Puritan Revolution upon the Church of England and upon the Universities as institutions closely connected with the Church. In pursuing this purpose I have had in mind the immediate and material results of the revolution rather than the influence exercised upon religious thought, upon the future history of parties within the Church, or upon the relations of the Church to Dissent. I have not attempted, except by way of the shortest possible introduction, to analyse the development of the Puritan movement or to trace the steps which brought it into conflict with the school of Archbishop Laud—a field which has provided ample material for independent investigation. My aim has been to collect evidence descriptive of the methods by means of which the revolution was accomplished and generally illustrative of the outward aspects of the Puritan regime. If in the course of the discussion I have touched upon matters of polemical interest it has not been with the object of providing weapons to the armoury of either side in the dispute.

I am very deeply indebted to Professor Firth for giving me access to some valuable notes and for his generous assistance at all times. To the Venerable Archdeacon Cunningham also I wish to express my sincere thanks for much advice and for his interest in a work with the conclusions of which he did not always agree.

G. B. T.

TRINITY COLLEGE.

*September, 1913*



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## ERRATA

PAGE	LINE	
82	24	<i>For</i> "Robert" <i>read</i> "Roger"
127	25	" " <i>* Croydon</i> <i>read</i> "Croyden"
184	30	" " <i>" Gerald</i> <i>read</i> "Gerard"
197	6	" " <i>" Heylin</i> <i>read</i> "Heylyn"
188	30	" " <i>" Acts</i> <i>read</i> "Arts"
247	22	" " <i>" Duncan</i> <i>read</i> "Duncon"

## CHAPTER I

### THE PRELUDE

THE brief period of Puritan ascendancy which succeeded the Great Civil War forms the concluding phase of what has generally been regarded as a distinct epoch in English ecclesiastical history. But though a revolution which saw the overthrow of episcopal government, the abolition of the liturgy of the English Church, and the deprivation of a third of its ordained ministers is obviously a subject which cannot be described without reference to the events which preceded it, yet the whole history of the Puritan movement is so complex that an attempt to summarise the causes and tendencies is a task of no ordinary difficulty.

One is faced at the outset by the question of terminology. The name "Puritan," by which we are accustomed to designate the forces which lay at the back of a great religious and social upheaval, is itself full of pitfalls, because it was and is used to describe tendencies of thought, superficially alike, but really distinct. In the first place, its most common use in modern language draws attention to that aspect of its meaning which is historically the least important. To modern ears the word naturally suggests the dour look and the sombre habit, familiar in fiction and in art, as typifying an austere code of morals and a harsh and narrow outlook upon life. But though this view of Puritanism as a social and moral force is a direct