

The Dissent and Nonconformity Series

Number 2



The History of the Evangelical Churches of the Valleys of Piedmont

Volume 2 of 2

Samuel Morland



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.

H I S T O R Y
OF
The Evangelical Churches



SAMUEL MORLAND
1625-1693

THE
H I S T O R Y
OF
The Evangelical Churches
Of the VALLEYS of
PIEMONTE.

CONTAINING
A most exact *Geographical* Description of the Place, and
a faithfull Account of the Doctrine, Life, and Persecutions of
the Ancient Inhabitants.

TOGETHER,
With a most naked and punctual Relation of the late
BLOODY MASSACRE, 1655. And a Narrative of
all the following Transactions, to the Year of Our LORD, 1658.

All which are justified, partly by divers Ancient *Manuscripts*
written many hundred Years before CALVIN or LUTHER, and
partly by other most Authentick Attestations: The true
Originals of the greatest part whereof, are to be seen in their proper Languages
by all the curious, in the Publick Library of the famous University
of CAMBRIDGE.

Collected and compiled with much pains and industry,
By *SAMUEL MORLAND*, Esq;
During his abode in *Geneva*, in quality of HIS
HIGHNESS *Commissioner Extraordinary* for the Affairs
of the said VALLEYS and particularly for the
Distribution of the *Collected Moneys*, among the remnant of those poor distressed People.

REVEL. 6.9.

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the Altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God,
and for the testimony which they held; And they cried with a loud voice saying, How long O Lord, holy and
true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

BOOKS 3 & 4 of 4

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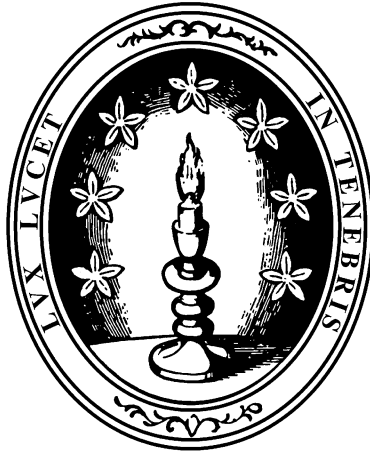
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Thou hast given a *standard* to them that fear thee;
that it may be displayed because of the truth.
-- *Psalms 60:4*

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THE WALDENSIAN EMBLEM

lux lucet in tenebris

“The Light Shineth in the Darkness”

ISBN #1-57978-542-5

The Contents of the following History.

The Contents of the Third B O O K.

C H A P T E R,

- 1 **T**he Court of Savoy's FACTUM, or Narrative of the several Trans-
actions in the Valleys of Piemont in the Year 1655. upon
occasion of the Reports that was spread abroad of a Massacre of the
Protestants in those parts, printed and published in the Italian, Latin,
and French Tongues.
- 2 The Animadversions of some able and knowing friends of the poor Pro-
testants of the Valleys of Piemont, upon the Court of Savoy's
FACTUM and REASONS, set down at large in the fore-going Chap-
ters.
- 3 A faithfull and most Authentick Narrative of the Continuation of the
War in the Valleys of Piemont, between the Popish and Protestant
party, upon the occasion of the Massacre.

The Contents of the Fourth B O O K.

C H A P T E R,

- 1 **T**he Mediation of the Evangelical Cantons of Switzerland with
the Duke of Savoy, and their Letter to the States General, in
favour of the poor distressed Protestants of the Valleys of Piemont.
- 2 The Negotiation of Mr. Gabriel Weis, the Deputy of the Evangelical
Cantons in the Court of Savoy, in the behalf of the poor distressed Pro-
testants in the Valleys of Piemont.
- 3 The several Pathetick Letters of His Highness the Lord Protector of
the Commonwealth of England, &c. to his Protestant Neighbours,
in favour of the poor distressed Protestants in the Valleys of Piemont.
- 4 Mr. Morlands Negotiation in quality of His Highnesss Envoy to the
King of France, and Duke of Savoy, in the year 1655.
- 5 A brief Account of the notable and famous Collection in England,
Wales, and Ireland, for the relief of the poor distressed Protestants in
the Valleys of Piemont, in the year 1655.
- 6 The notable effects of the Intercession of His Highness the Lord Prote-
ctor of England, &c. for the poor distressed Protestants in the Valleys
of Piemont, upon the spirits of the Neighbouring Princes and States of
the Protestant Profession, with divers of their Letters upon that sub-
ject, as also the intended Negotiation of the Commissioners Extraor-
dinary from His Highnesss the Lord Protector, and the States General
of the United Provinces.
- 7 The Negotiation of the four Ambassadors of the Evangelical Cantons
of Switzerland, in the Court of Savoy, and the Treaty concluded at
Pignerol. Together with a Copy of that Relation which they themselves
sent their Superiours at the same time.
- 8 The many Grievances and sad effects of the Treaty concluded at Pignerol,
with a true description of the present state and condition of those poor
people.

Here



THE
 THIRD BOOK
 OF THE
 HISTORY
 OF THE
 EVANGELICAL CHURCHES
 in the Valleys of *Piemont*.

CHAP. I.

The Court of Savoy's Factum, or Narrative of the several Transactions in the Valleys of Piemont in the Year 1655. upon occasion of the Report that was spread abroad of a Massacre of the Protestants in those parts, printed and published in the Italian, Latin, and French Tongues.

The true Originals whereof, are to be seen, together with the other original Pieces of this present History, in the publick Library of the famous University of *Cambridge*.

Erasmuch as on the one side it is the part of a true and faithfull Historian, to make a naked Relation of whatsoever he pretends to give the World a satisfactory Account of, and where ever there is matter of contest, or where several contrary parties and interests fall under the subject of his Discourse, to give every one (yea though it were the Devil

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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