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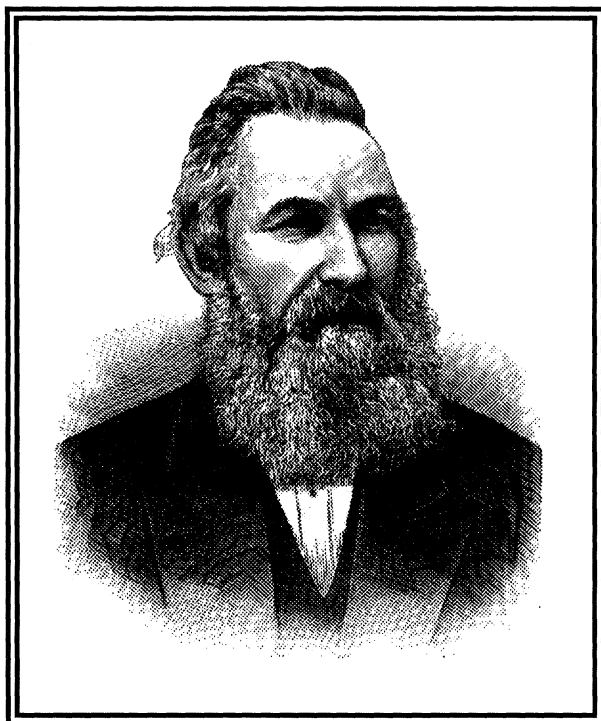


The Early English Baptists

Volume 2 of 2

Benjamin Evans

THE
EARLY ENGLISH BAPTISTS



BENJAMIN EVANS
1803-1871

THE
EARLY ENGLISH BAPTISTS.

VOL. II.

BY
B. EVANS, D.D.

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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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P R E F A C E .

ONLY a very few words are necessary in introducing this volume to the attention of the reader. He will find in the preface to the former one the principles which have guided me, and the end I have had in view in writing this work. The few sentences I pen belong to the apologetic class.

When I consented to prepare a sketch of Early Baptist History for the BUNYAN LIBRARY, I had no idea that it would swell into its present magnitude. As the work progressed, the materials multiplied; but I hoped that, by condensation, the present volume would exhaust my resources. Many of the incidents which form the staple of the works of my predecessors, have been reduced in this work to the narrowest bounds. I have done what, honestly and justly, I could do. Much that is new and illustrative of our history lies unused before me. The volume might have been enlarged greatly; but at some cost of feeling I have steadily checked this, and omitted much which might have given something like completeness to my outline. I have felt the evil of writing to order. My work is necessarily incomplete. Under other chapters, much would be introduced which forms an important element in Baptist history. Whether the outline already sketched in the first volume will

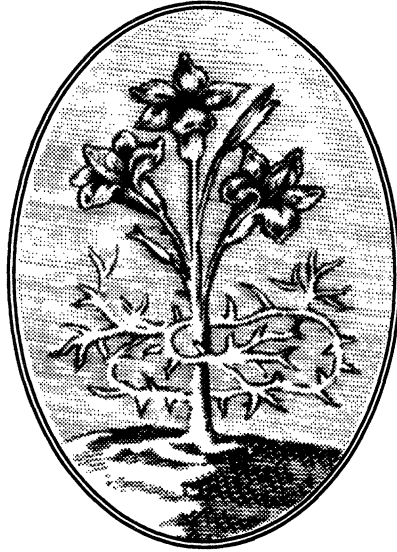
ever be completed, it is not for me to say. It rests with the publishers, and perhaps with the subscribers, to determine if a third volume shall make a part of the BUNYAN LIBRARY. I regret this necessity. I have done what I could to escape from it; and I now leave it with my readers to judge, after reading the volume, how far I could have avoided this result. I await their decision without alarm. Grateful for the kindness with which the former volume was received, I venture to hope that the present will not be found unworthy of the same favour. Only in one instance have I been censured for failure—not in what I engaged to do, but for not doing more than I promised, and indeed felt that any one could do. My work, says my reviewer, should have been a history, not a sketch. Indeed! The opinion shows the utter incompetency of this gentleman to sit in the critic's chair, and satisfies me that he is profoundly ignorant of the matter on which he writes. I repeat again, what he knows to be true, if he knows anything about it, that the history of the Baptists cannot yet be written. I have read much; I have added here and there a fragment to the labours of my predecessors; but there are masses of still unexplored materials which, when examined, will throw much light on the character and principles of our brethren during the period over which these volumes have carried my readers. The libraries at Lambeth, at Sion College, Red Cross Street, the British Museum, and the State Paper Office, contain hundreds of volumes of MSS. never yet examined for this end. Only at some of them have I glanced, but the mass are yet untouched by us. I advert to this, not for the sake of controverting this dictum of my reviewer—I am not troubled at it; but mainly, if possible, to excite the

attention of my brethren to this course of investigation. Many might easily do what it would take the life of one man to accomplish. A sample of this was given in the Baptist Magazine only a few months ago; and this is only a specimen of the wealth which is yet unexplored by us. If Nonconformists would employ some competent persons to investigate these hidden sources of their history, the church and the nation would be alike benefited by it. I hope to aid in this; and, if spared, to render at some future time this work more worthy of the body to illustrate whose progress it has been professedly devoted.

I have only to add, what indeed justice to myself demands, that it is possible here and there an error may be detected, especially in the notes. I am not aware that it is so; but as most of this volume has been corrected, and no small portion of it written, whilst travelling about the country, far from my books, the probability may be in that direction. I owe no apology for the time at which the volume is published.

B. EVANS.

SCARBOROUGH,
August, 1864.



Sicut lilium inter spinas sic amica mea inter filias

On The Cover: We use the symbol of the “lily among the thorns” from Song of Solomon 2:2 to represent the Baptist History Series. The Latin, *Sicut lilium inter spinas sic amica mea inter filias*, translates, “As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.”

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“A HISTORY of the Baptists should be understood in its objects and aims; and cleared, in the beginning, of misapprehension and perversion. It is not the history of a nationality, a race, an organization, but of people, *traced by their vital principles and gospel practices*. The unity to be exhibited and demonstrated was not brought about by force, by coercion of pains and penalties, by repressive and punitive Acts of Conformity; but by the recognition and adoption of a common authoritative and completely divine standard... the WORD OF GOD.”

Dr. J. L. M. Curry (1825-1903)

President of Howard College,

Professor of English & Philosophy at Richmond College,

Trustee of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and

United States Ambassador to Spain

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