



THE HISTORY
OF THE
EARLY PURITANS.

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THE HISTORY
OF
THE EARLY PURITANS
FROM THE REFORMATION
TO THE OPENING OF THE CIVIL WAR
IN 1642.

BY
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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following pages are intended to form a work complete within itself. Should life and leisure be afforded to the author, he hopes, at no distant period, to publish a second volume upon the History of the Later Puritans from the opening of the Civil War to the close of the seventeenth century.

Many events of great interest in the political and in the religious history of England, are passed over in this volume, with a slight reference or with none. This needs no apology. It was not the author's intention to write a history of England, or even of the church of England. The former task lay far away from his studies, his tastes, and his sacred duties; the latter has been done so lately, and so well, by others, that his chief anxiety has been to avoid the ground from which the harvest has been gathered.

The stream of Puritan history runs deep and clear. The facts are well authenticated, and they are recorded by the historians of each party with a singular agreement. With all their faults, religious writers have shewn a regard for truth in the relation of facts, from which secular historians might yet learn some useful lessons. The author has not