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## NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

### "NONCONFORMIST."

"Mr. Barclay has most effectually rewritten the history of the Commonwealth. The work before us is one of painstaking investigation, by a man of singularly wide and independent mind, who finding many hitherto unfound facts, has reported exactly what he has found, and has assessed their value and meaning with rare sagacity and conscientiousness. Very vivid is Mr. Barclay's description of the religious state of England at the meeting of the Long Parliament. Mr. Barclay has presented the whole before us not only in a clear and vigorous style, but with a definite purpose. He has had in view a distinct service to the Christian Church, and that service we think he has rendered. It may be said that Mr. Barclay's comprehensive and detailed account of this subject is a new chapter in the history of religious opinion."

### "THE ENGLISH INDEPENDENT."

"A study of this most important work should have the effect of stirring up the Protestant Churches of all denominations to more resolute efforts for the evangelization of the masses, until the success achieved in the Principality of Wales has its parallel throughout the United Kingdom."

### "THE DAILY NEWS."

"Mr. Barclay has contrived to throw new light upon a somewhat obscure branch of modern religious history in this country. But even the most exclusive churchman will acknowledge at least the historical interest of a study such as this, of the religious societies which, in an epoch of revolutionary disturbance and disruption, when altars were proscribed and prelacy was suppressed, and priests were shorn alike of vestments and tithes, held aloft the sacred torch, and turned the thoughts of struggling and suffering men to the 'City of God.'"

### "THE SATURDAY REVIEW."

"We think that Mr. Barclay has worked in a more tolerant and generous temper than Crosby and Janney, the historians of the English Baptists, or than Hanbury and Waddington, the historians of the English Independents. In the case of every English 'religious society,' except the very largest and widest, he has striven to put himself in as full sympathy as he can with its adherents, and to state their claims and beliefs from their own point of view. The Church of England is the one religious society of the Commonwealth period, concerning which Mr. Barclay presupposes that every man already understands everything without need of enquiry."

### "THE CHRISTIAN WORLD."

"It is fully worthy of all the energy and time and research expended upon it, and no writer who undertakes to tell the story of the religious life of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, can overlook the mass of unique information which is here brought together."

### "THE ACADEMY."

"The history of the Religious Societies of the Commonwealth has been so frequently written from without, that it is with satisfaction we turn to the late Mr. Barclay's 'Inner Life of the Religious Societies of the Commonwealth.' But there is no question that he has produced a work which has not only cost him much labour, but that he has said things of which every historian of the Commonwealth will be bound to take account."

### "WESLEYAN METHODIST MAGAZINE."

"We regard this as one of the most important contributions to Church history and treatises on Church structure that has appeared for many years past. The book itself is much more comprehensive than its title. \* \* \* \* Besides a searchingly luminous history of the Society of Friends in England and America, from its origin to the present day, we have a highly interesting account of the earlier English and Continental Societies, with which it was more vitally connected than has generally been supposed. The whole subject is treated in a thoroughly genial, earnest, impartial, penetrative, and inductive spirit. It forms a very remarkable and important monograph. \* \* \* \* Indeed, the Church principles of the book are strictly scriptural, and its catholicity of tone is perfect."

### "THE ECHO."

"It is impossible to conceive a more painstaking effort in the byways of history; and the result is a book of reference of a valuable character, in days when it is necessary to retrace every step in ecclesiastical history. Mr. Barclay having cleared his way by strict historical definition as to the Puritans, and the sects that had sprung up outside the Church, proceeds to give the history of those sects in their origin. Mr. Barclay has traced all the transactions of this period with great care and candour, and it is evident that he bestowed great research upon the elucidation of the events of the time, which includes the meeting of Westminster Assembly, and its discussions. The service which Mr. Barclay has rendered is a considerable addition to our historical literature; and we must admit that he has proved his case—that a Church to *live* must *work*."

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THE INNER LIFE  
OF THE  
RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH.

N. 2892



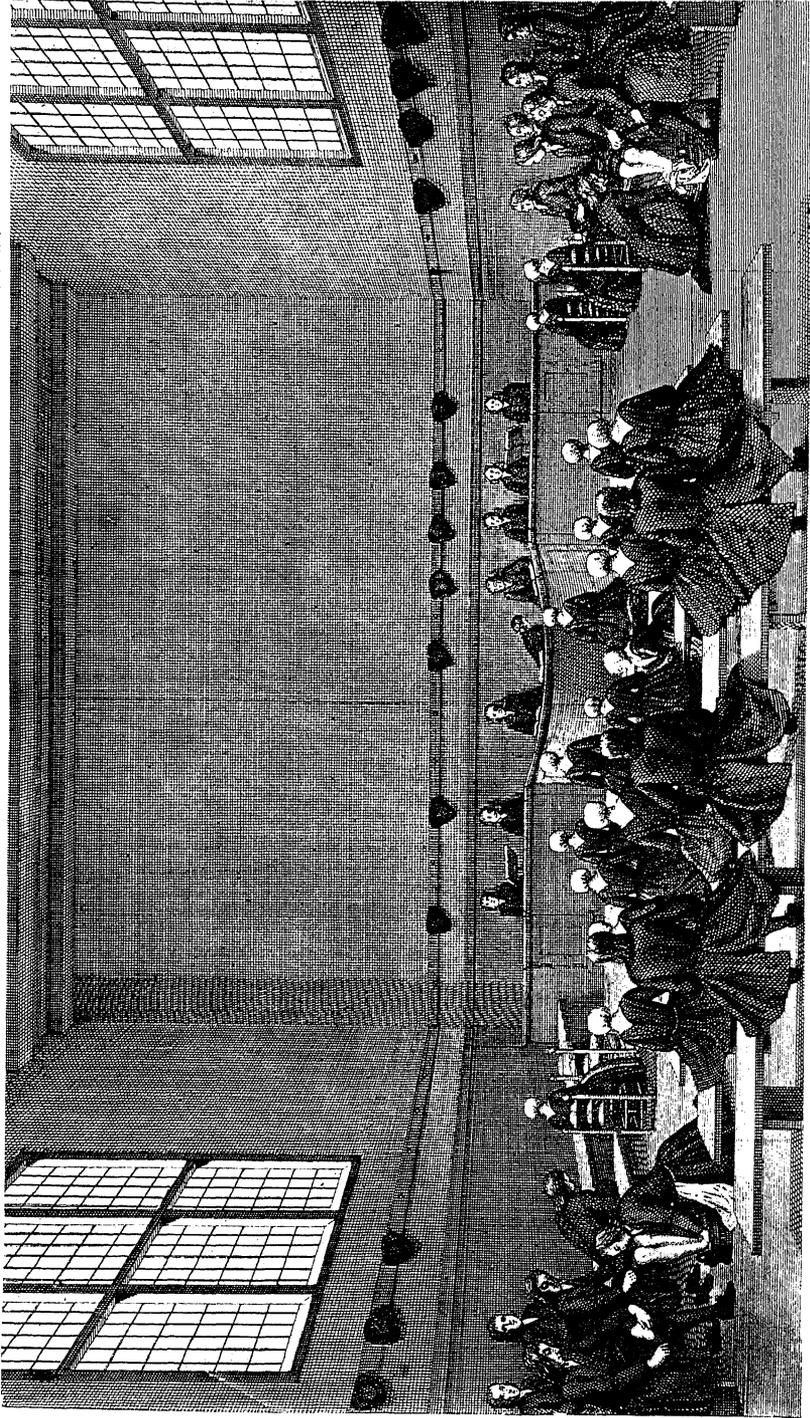
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DEACONESSES,

THE ELDERS,

DEACONESSES.



MEETING FOR WORSHIP OF THE OLD FLEMISH MENNONITES, AT ZAAANDAM.  
The Ordinance of Washing the Feet of the Brethren and Sisters. See John 13: 14, 15.