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A table of contents for *The Baptist Quarterly* can be found here:

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The  
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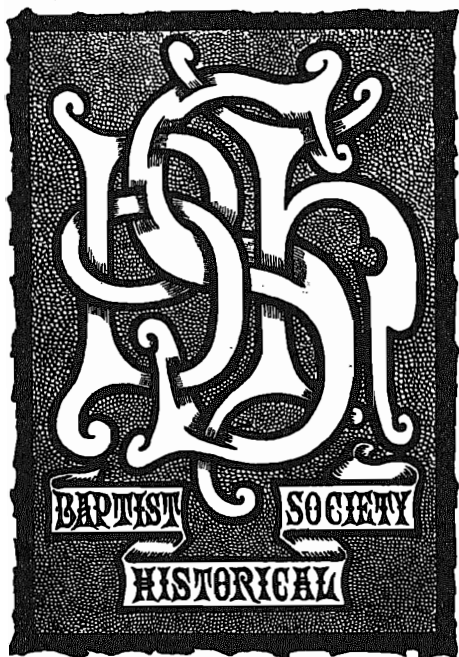
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## Contents.

Editorials	1, 49, 97, 289
Religious Revivals in the Light of their History	4
Our Theological Colleges	16, 65, 218, 263, 327
Dr. Clifford on the Baptist Outlook	27
Personal Evangelism	30
Pilgrim's Progress, Welsh and English	39
The German Baptist Brethren	42
Reviews	44, 144, 186, 388
The Value of Baptist Witness To-day	50
The Missionary Appeal for To-day	57
Early Leicester Baptists	74
The Hollis Family and Pinners' Hall	78
London Churches in 1682	82
John Richard Jones	88
Books on English Baptist Church History	94
The Mind for Peace	99
The Revivalism of the New Testament	103
Baptist Church Discipline, 1689-1699	112, 179
An Appeal to the Parliament concerning the Poor	128
Daniel Noble	135
The Stinton Repository of 1712	139
Bunyan's Conception of the Seat of Authority in Religion	142
Chowns, Christians and Citizens	145
The Message of Amos and its Bearing on Modern Problems	148
The Wallis House	158
The Future of our Ministry	170
Baptists and the World's Crisis	193
Baptists in Continental Europe	196
An Early "Baptist" View of Scripture	203
The Place of Baptism in Baptist Churches To-day	209
The Late Midland College	218, 263, 327
Early Baptists in Hampshire	223
Welsh Baptists till 1653	228
London Preaching about 1674	233
Baptist Bibliography	236
The Foreigner in America	241

Tendencies in Modern Psychology ... ..	247
Public Prayer ... ..	255
The Origin of the General B.M.S. ... ..	270
The Plantation of Ireland ... ..	276
John Bunyan as a Writer for Children ... ..	282
The Stockholm Congress and Exhibition ... ..	289
A Baptist Doctor with the Prussian Army ... ..	293
As Others See us ... ..	301
August Dillmann ... ..	310
New Light on Dr. Carey ... ..	314
The Baptist Board ... ..	321
The Apocalyptic of Jesus and the Church ... ..	337
Students and the Church ... ..	351
English in Amsterdam ... ..	357
John Clarke, Rhode Island ... ..	368
Prosecutions of Worcestershire Dissent ... ..	373
Lancashire Gleanings of the XVII Century ... ..	384
Pearce's Description of Carey's Farewell ... ..	386
Ecstasy and Prophecy ... ..	391
Index ... ..	393

## Ecstasy and Prophecy.

**I**N his *Prophecy and the Prophets in Ancient Israel*, Dr. T. H. Robinson, of Cardiff, has made a valuable addition to Duckworth's well-known series of *Studies in Theology*. It is sure to be appreciated by scholars, and we believe it will be warmly welcomed by all Bible students, while many a congregation will have reason to be grateful for this illuminating addition to the working minister's library. For there is gold here for the preacher none the less surely that it is not yet beaten into sermonic shape. It is a marvel of compression, yet the style is clear and strong and eminently readable.

Dr. Robinson sketches with a sure hand the development of Jewish religion, and shows the affinity of the prophets to its simpler, purer strain, and their constant opposition to the corruptions that threatened to submerge it.

There is a clear-cut picture of each of the principal prophets—known and unknown—with his characteristic message, and his place in the long line of religious development which culminates in Jesus and His cross.

Amos—the prophet of righteousness, with his word for an age of social transition; Hosea, who wins his way by tragic experience to the deeper secret of religion as the consecration of a person to a Person; Micah—the illustration of how the lesser man may be used to accomplish the greater immediate results; Isaiah—the prophet of “holiness,” with his magnificent philosophy of history; Jeremiah—in whom truth is embodied in personality; and the “Great Unknown,” who declares that the idols are “less than nothing”; while Nahum and Malachi have their value as contrasts to the loftier line of the prophets, and “Jonah” is the forerunner of Christianity.

But the book will be read with special interest for its balanced and illuminating study of the “ecstatic” element in Hebrew prophecy. The author indicates his belief that “psychic phenomena” accompanied many of the prophetic utterances, and was a popular guarantee of “inspiration,” whilst he insists that not the form and manner of the utterance but its context is the really vital and valuable thing. “A prophet's ecstatic utterances were the expression of his own

real opinions"; in trance or abnormal exultation he uttered his normal convictions, but without the strange psychic experience they would have remained unuttered, or would have seemed to lack authority, both to the hearers, and indeed to the prophet himself. The whole treatment of this debated question is specially useful and important, both as shedding light upon the nature of Old Testament prophecy and helping towards a true valuation of modern "psychic manifestations."

Dr. Robinson's study of prophetic "ecstasy" is worth pondering also by those who have found the proofs of "inspiration" in the abnormal, and no less by those who have ignored the "ecstatic" element. The book will be a healthy corrective to those who have imagined the prophets as modern politicians in Eastern dress—is it too much to hope that it may also be read by those who imagine their importance to lie in their detailed predictions of future history—à la Joanna Southcott?

We can most heartily recommend the book to all who seek an understanding of one of the greatest movements of history, and it is a pleasure to note that it is written by a Baptist.

W. J. CLEAL.

*Nonconformist History* has had no more ardent and thorough student than the late Rev. G. Lyon Turner. His *Original Records* is a monument of amazing industry, indispensable to all investigators of the period which it covers. In addition to his published work, Mr. Turner collected a number of transcripts from original sources bearing on Nonconformist history in the seventeenth century, and these he was most generous in lending to others who shared his interests. Mrs. Turner has now presented this collection of manuscripts to Dr. Williams' Library. It includes papers on the religious life of London during the Interregnum, based on material drawn from the records at the Guildhall and elsewhere. Extracts from the State Papers in the Record Office concerning Nonconformity in London from 1662-1672, transcripts of the clerical subsidy rolls of 1661, transcripts of the lists of persons presented in the ecclesiastical courts of a number of English dioceses for their nonconformity between 1662 and 1685, as well as memoranda on seventeenth-century dissent in Berkshire, Hampshire, Dorset, Leicestershire, Bristol, Reigate, Deptford, and other places. By her gracious act Mrs. Turner has made easily accessible to students important material which would have been difficult or impossible for them to get at otherwise.

# Index.

to Baptists, Places with which Baptists were concerned, and Prominent Topics. The London Church Roll of 1689, at page 113, is not indexed.

Abergavenny, 21.  
Accrington, 21, 372.  
Adams, Richard, 82, 226.  
Alchurch, John, 224.  
Aldridge, 227.  
Allen, William, 276.  
America, 241.  
Amos, Message of, 148.  
Amsterdam, 357.  
Anderson, Hugh, 68.  
Andover, 224.  
Angus, Joseph, 372.  
Armfield, Edward, 359.  
Army Baptists, 276, 293.  
Authority in Religion, 142.  
  
Baptism, 209, 301.  
Baptist Board, 321.  
Baptist Outlook, 27.  
Baptist Witness, 58.  
Barbican, 18, 136, 227.  
Barret, George, 119, 185, 369.  
Basingstoke, 224.  
Belcher, John, 370.  
Bewdley, 373.  
Bibliography, 39, 44, 94, 141, 236, 288.  
Biggs, William, 382.  
Bishop's Waltham, 224.  
Booth, Abraham, 20.  
Booth, William, 385.  
Bowser, S. W., 222, 268, 329.  
Boylston, Thomas, 373.  
Bradford, 20.  
Bristol, 19.  
Briton, Benjamin, 227.  
Bromsgrove, 373.  
Broughton, Hants, 224.  
Buckley, John, 220.  
Bunyan, John, 39, 75, 142, 282.  
Bunny, Richard, 224.  
Bury, 21, 385.  
  
Cannadyne, Thomas, 361.  
Carey, William, 162, 314, 386.  
Chalk, Richard, 227.

Chown Family, 145.  
Christchurch, 227.  
Christology, 123.  
Circular Letters, 163.  
Claridge, Richard, 124, 380.  
Clarke, Charles, 222, 267.  
Clarke, John, 368.  
Clayton, John, 82.  
Clifford, John, 27.  
Clifford Priory, 379.  
Coats, Jervis, 72.  
Coats, Joseph, 70.  
Cole, Charles, 227.  
Cole, Peter, 223.  
Collier, Thomas, 223.  
Continental Baptists, 196, 293.  
Cornthwaite, Robert, 135.  
Courtenay, Hugh, 232.  
Crosley, David, 16, 384.  
Culross, James, 69.  
Currell, Edward, 223.  
  
Danvers, Henry, 82.  
Davies, David, 230.  
Davies, T. Witton, 222, 268, 289, 332.  
Deacons, 116.  
Denck, Hans, 203.  
Denne, Henry, 16.  
Dennis, John, 115.  
Devizes, 224.  
Diggle, Richard, 382.  
Dillmann, August, 310.  
Dipple, John, 382.  
Discipline, 116, 179.  
Dormston, 378.  
Douglas, John, 269.  
Downton, 223.  
Dozel, John, 224.  
Dunkers, 42.  
  
Eastham, Thomas, 227.  
Eckels, John and Jane, 378.  
Eckington, 374.  
Education, 16, 65, 135.  
Edwards, John, 377.



Ellyot, Robert, 223.  
 England, John, 381.  
 Ephrata, 43.  
 European Baptists, 196, 293.  
 Evans, Hugh, 230.  
  
 Fanch, James, 228.  
 Fawcett, John, 20.  
 Feckenham Village, 378.  
 Feckenham, Thomas, 374.  
 Fordingbridge, 223.  
 Fuller, Andrew, 161.  
  
 Gale, John, 17.  
 Gander, Thomas, 113.  
 Gathorne, John, 345.  
 German Baptist Brethren, 42.  
 Gifford family, 18.  
 Gillingham, Richard, 223.  
 Goadby, Thomas, 222, 266.  
 Goodgroom, Richard, 371.  
 Goodyeaes, Edward, 224.  
 Gosport, 225.  
 Gowing, George, 381.  
 Grant, John, 226.  
 Gray, William, 165.  
 Greenwood, Abraham, 165.  
 Greenwood, John, 225.  
 Griffith, John, 82.  
 Grindal, Swithin, 359.  
  
 Haldane brothers, 65.  
 Hall, senior, 161.  
 Hampshire, 223.  
 Hankyns, Will, 382.  
 Hansome, Henry, 378.  
 Harbottle, Joseph, 372.  
 Harding, William, 223.  
 Hargreaves, John, 384.  
 Harrington, Simon, 382.  
 Harrison, Edward, 82.  
 Hartley, John, 386.  
 Hathaway, Elisha, 379.  
 Haynes, Will, 378.  
 Hereford, 379.  
 Hills, Henry, 368.  
 Hobson, Paul, 141.  
 Hodgkin, Alexander, 359.  
 Holland, Charles and Thomas, 385.  
 Hollis family, 17, 78.  
 Holman, Sir John, 379.  
 Honiton, 223.  
 Hopkins, 227.  
 Horley, 81.  
 Humphreys, Robert, 378.

Ireland, 276.  
  
 Jackman, George, 227.  
 Jackson, Henry, 370.  
 Jarrom, Joseph, 219, 263.  
 Jennings, Jonathan, 82.  
 Jessey, Henry, 369.  
 Johnstone, Francis, 66.  
 Jones, Daniel, 379.  
 Jones, James, 82.  
 Jones, Jenkin, 231.  
 Jones, John Richard, 88.  
 Jope, Caleb, 227.  
  
 Keach, Benjamin, 82, 225.  
 Kent, John and Richard, 224.  
 Kent, the hymnodist, 383.  
 Kettering, 158.  
 Kidd, Peter, 369.  
 King, Richard, 224.  
 Kingston, 378.  
 Knollys, Hanserd, 82, 112, 370.  
 Kyrewood, 379.  
  
 Lacy, James, 382.  
 Lacy, John, 227.  
 Lamb, Thomas, Pedobaptist, 128.  
 Lamb, Thomas, General Baptist, 230.  
 Lampitt, Thomas, 115.  
 Lane, Nathaniel, 227.  
 Langford, John, 379.  
 Lawrence, Richard, 276.  
 Leechman, John, 66.  
 Leeds, John, 385.  
 Leicester, 74.  
 Leominster, 379.  
 Lester, 227.  
 Lockhart, Ninian, 65.  
 London, 233, 82.  
 Longparish, 227.  
 Loughborough, 226, 273.  
 Loveday, Samuel, 82.  
 Lucar, Mark, 368.  
 Lymington, 225.  
 Lyndhurst, 227.  
  
 Mack, John, 43.  
 Man, Edward, 119.  
 Manchester, 21.  
 Marsland, Ann, 385.  
 Martin, T. H., 70.  
 Midland College, 218, 263, 327.  
 Miles, John, 231.  
 Millennium, 88, 232, 337.  
 Miller, Henry, 227.  
 Ministry, 170.  
 Missionary Appeal, 57.

- Missions, 4, 30, 50, 57, 103, 158, 270.  
 Moccas, 379.  
 Moyer, Samuel, 77.  
 Mumford, Edward, 226.  
 Murton, John, 359.  
  
 Nash of Newnham, 224.  
 Noble, Daniel, 135.  
 Norcott, John, 113.  
 Nottingham, 222.  
  
 Oakley, Widow, 381.  
 Ombersley, 379.  
 Organ, Margery, 360.  
  
 Pardoe, William, 376.  
 Paterson, James, 67.  
 Pearce, Samuel, 169, 386.  
 Pen, Henry, 223.  
 Pershore, 374.  
 Personal evangelism, 30.  
 Piggott family, 359.  
 Piggott, Randolph, 380.  
 Pilgrim's Progress, 39.  
 Pinners' Hall, 79.  
 Plant, Thomas, 82.  
 Poor, Help for the, 128.  
 Porton, 225.  
 Post of Botley, 224.  
 Potter, Humphrey, 382.  
 Powell, Vavasor, 230.  
 Powick, 389.  
 Preaching in London, 233.  
 Price, Christopher, 232.  
 Price, Edward and John, 379.  
 Pritchard, Frances, 379.  
 Psychology, 47, 247.  
 Public Prayer, 255.  
  
 Randall, William, 379.  
 Reade, John, 223, 276.  
 "Religious Hypothesis, The," 186.  
 Revivals, 4, 103.  
 Rhode Island, 19, 136.  
 "Ring, Richard," 223.  
 Robinson, George, 375.  
 Romsey, 223.  
 Roper, Samuel, 378.  
 Row, Peter, 223.  
 Rumsey, John, 225.  
 Ryland, senior, 18.  
 Ryland, junior, 386.  
  
 Salisbury, 225.  
 Sankey, Sir Jerome, 276.  
 Scott, John, 119.  
 Scripture, Denck's view of, 203.  
  
 Senatus Academicus, 22.  
 Sharpwell, Henry, 223.  
 Sims, John, 223.  
 Skinner, John, 124.  
 Southampton, 225.  
 Spilsbury, John, 370.  
 Stanger, John, 159, 168.  
 Staughton, William, 159.  
 Steadman, William, 20.  
 Steed, Richard, 112.  
 Steele family, 226.  
 Stepney, 20.  
 Stevenson families, 220, 264, 266,  
 272.  
 Stinton Repository, 139.  
 Stockholm, 289.  
 Strange, Nathaniel, 124.  
 Strutt, Dorothy, 359.  
 Sutcliff, John, 20.  
  
 Taunton, Jacob, 27.  
 Taylor, Dan, 19, 77, 218, 263.  
 Terrill, Edward, 17.  
 Theological Colleges, 16, 65, 218, 263,  
 337.  
 Thomson, Solomon, 359.  
 Thornbury, Thomas, 374.  
 Tombes, John, 141.  
 Tottlebank, 384.  
 Tracey, Samuel, 379.  
 Trowbridge, 17.  
 Tunkers, 42.  
 Tutchin, Robert, 223.  
  
 Underwood, W., 222, 265.  
  
 Vernon, John, 276.  
 Voysey, John, 227.  
  
 Waldron, Henry, 378.  
 Wales, 228.  
 Wallis, Joseph, 221, 265.  
 Wallis, of Kettering, 158.  
 Warburton, James, 119.  
 Ward, John, 18.  
 Ward, of Virginia street, 126.  
 Warren, W., 370.  
 Webber, John, 225.  
 Whitchurch, 225.  
 Whiting, Christopher, 381.  
 Winwick, 385.  
 Wisbeach, 219, 273.  
 Wise, James, 223.  
 Worcestershire, 373.  
 Workhouses, 128.  
 Worthington, Roger, 385.

## Contributors, Ancient and Modern.

Atkinson, E. G., F.R.Hist.S.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Aubrey, M. E., M.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Avery, The late W. J.	...	...	...	...	...	218,	263,	327
Benander, C. E., D.D.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Carey, S. Pearce, M.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	314
Cleal, W. J.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	391
Coats, R. H., M.A., B.D.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	282
Collins, B. G., A.T.S.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	337
Dakin, Arthur, B.D., D.Th.	...	...	...	...	27,	47,	99,	270,
Davies, The late T. Witton, B.A., Ph.D., D.Th., D.D.	...	...	...	...	...	...	88,	310
Farrer, A. J. D., B.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	203
Fullerton, W. Y.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	289
Jones, John Richard, 1806	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Lamb, Thomas, 1660	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Lord, F. Townley, B.A., B.D.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Mangano, Antonio, Ph.D.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	241
Martin, Hugh, M.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	351
Medley, Edward, B.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	386
Nightingale, Benjamin, M.A., Litt.D.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	384
Olney, William	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	255
Page, W. Sutton, B.A., B.D., A.T.S., O.B.E.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Payne, A. J.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	321
Pearce, Samuel, 1792	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	386
Petrick, Herbert	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	293
Phillips, Idris W., M.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	186
Pike, John Gregory, 1816	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	270
Robinson, F. E., M.A., B.D.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Robinson, H. Wheeler, M.A.	...	...	...	...	1,	112,	131,	179,
Robinson, Theodore H., M.A., D.D.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Rowse, Harold, M.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	247
Rushbrooke, J. H., M.A., D.D.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	196
Spurr, F. C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Steed, Robert, 1689	...	...	...	...	...	...	112,	179
Stewart, Thomas, M.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Stuart, J. A., B.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Underwood, A. C., M.A., B.D., B.Litt.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Whitley, W. T.	...	16,	39,	42,	74,	135,	139,	145,
	...	158,	223,	276,	357			