The Literary Culture of Nonconformity in Later Seventeenth-Century England

N. H. KEEBLE

LEICESTER UNIVERSITY PRESS
1987
# Contents

Preface vii  
List of abbreviations ix  
Introduction i  
Reformation sentiments – Restoration sentiments

Chapter 1 ‘Fallen on evil days’  
The historical circumstances of nonconformity 25  
Black Bartholomew day – ‘Divers sorts’ of nonconformists –  
The Clarendon code – Schism by law

Chapter 2 ‘Hand in hand’  
The literary response of nonconformity to persecution 68  
Rebels and schismatics – ‘These so much censured meetings’ –  
‘Deare frind my deare loue saluts thee’ – ‘The press hath a louder voice then mine’

Chapter 3 ‘Truth shall retire’  
Nonconformity and the press 93  
Licences, libels and bonfires – Mr Filth –  
With authority, or without – Confederates and congers

Chapter 4 ‘Fit audience though few’?  
Nonconformist writers and their readers 127  
Cadmus’ dragon’s teeth – The implied reader –  
The authorial persona – Good books and bad

Chapter 5 ‘Knowledge within bounds’  
Learning and creativity in nonconformity 156  
Education and the spirit – Humane learning –  
‘Trust not only to your understandings’ – ‘Still as I pull’d, it came’

Chapter 6 ‘A paradise within’  
Internationalization, introspection and individualism in nonconformist writing 187  
No cross, no crown – The lamb’s war –  
‘Christ his schools’ – Heart religion

Chapter 7 ‘The better fortitude’  
Realism and the nonconformist hero 215  
À la mode – In the world –  
‘Above heroic’ – The company of the saints
Chapter 8  ‘Answerable style’  
the linguistic dissent of nonconformity  240
A plain style? – ‘The thing as it was’ –
‘Fine metaphors and glittering allusions’ – ‘Glory stamped on every creature’

Chapter 9  ‘The world was all before them’  
nonconformist story  263
‘The true children of Abraham’ – ‘To be a pilgrim’ –  
‘Out of Egypt’ – ‘The wilderness of this world’

Conclusion  
the literary temper of nonconformity  284

Notes  286

Bibliography  328

Index  343