England’s Radical Reformation

Alec Ryrie
• Adult baptism made a universal church impossible
• ... and opened up questions about many other established traditions
The German “Peasants’ War”, 1524-5
The city of Münster in Westphalia
Münster Cathedral today, with the cages where the executed Anabaptists’ bodies were hanged
John Wyclif (d. 1384), founder (or at least inspirer) of the ‘Lollards’
John Ball preaches to the rebellious peasants, 1381
The examination of Master William Thorpe, accused of heresy before Thomas Arundell, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the year of our Lord MCCC and seven.

The examination of the honorable knight Sir John Oldecastell, Lord Cobham, burnt by the said Archbishop in the first year of King Henry the fifth.

Benomere ashamed to hear it; then ye were and be to do it.
Three streams of English radicalism

• Perfectionist-mystical
• Separatist
• Utopian
Three streams of English radicalism

• Perfectionist-mystical
• Separatist
• Utopian
Perfectionist-mystical radicals

• The ‘Freewillers’ of the 1550s
• The Family of Love (‘Familists’)

Unsere Herze, ist Godes Gemüt.
Unsre Wesen kleckt, als de Lelie fost.
Unsre Trieue / Liehe / unde Wahrheit,
Ist Godes Licht / Leuen / unde Klarnheit.
THE
Gospel-Treasury Opened:
OR,
The Holyeſt of all Unvailing:
Discovering yet more
The Riches of Grace and Glory
to the
Vessels of Mercy.
Unto whom only it is given to know the
Mysteries of that Kingdom, and the Excellency.

SPIRIT
LETTER
POWER
above
FORMS
TRUTH
SHADOWS

In several Sermons Preached at Kesington, and elsewhere
by JOHN EVERARD D. D. deceased.

Whereunto is added the mystical Divinity of Dionisius the
Areopagite, spoken of Acts 17. 34, with Collects out of
other Divine Authors, Translated by Dr. Everard, never
before printed in English.

1 Cor. 3. 6. Who also hath made us able Ministers of the New Te-
ment, not of the Letter, but of the Spirit: for the Letter killeth,
but the Spirit giveth life.
Ver. 10. For even that which was made glorious, had no glory
in this vifcell, by reason of the glory that excelleth.
1 Cor. 2. 6. Noweſt, we speak wisdomes among them that are
profeflf, even the hidden wisdome of God in a Miftery.

London, Printed by I. O. for Rapha Harford, at the Bible
and Heart in Little Britton, 1659.
Three streams of English radicalism

• Perfectionist-mystical
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The Bagijnhof Chapel, Leiden: home of the English exile congregation
TO THE MEMORY OF ROBERT BROWNE, A
FOUNDER OF THE BROWNISTS, OR INDEPENDENTS
RECTOR OF THORPE ACHURCH, 1591-1631
WHO WAS BURIED IN THIS CHURCHYARD 8th OCT. 1633
A TRIBUTE TO A LIFE WHEREIN, AMONG MANY
THINGS OBSCURE, ONE THING SHONE BRIGHTLY, THAT
CHRIST WAS BY HIM EXALTED AS HEAD ABOVE ALL.
ERECTED BY CONGREGATIONALISTS IN CONNECTION
WITH THE VISIT TO NORTHAMPTON, OCT. 1923, OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.
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Memorial to Anne Hutchinson (1591-1643) in Boston
Roger Williams,
The Bloody Tenent of Persecution (1644)
Three streams of English radicalism

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Prophetae qui profetantur, lapsi sunt in se ipsum, quidam autem, qui eisdem prophetae in prophetae, ne quis datur mortis Prophetarum salus, et.
The ‘camping time’, 1549
Oh read over S. John Bridgex for it is a worthy worke.

Dr an epitome of the first booke of that right worshipfull vol-

ume written against the puritans in the defence of the noble clergy by as worshipfull a priest S. John Bridgex presbyter priest of elders and Doctors of Divinitie and Deane of Sarum wherein the arguments of puritans are wisely prevented that when they come to ans-

swer M. Bowers they may needes say something that hath beene spoken.

Compiled for the behoove and overthrow of the parfous freekys and curats that have lent their carechnesses and are past grace by the reverend and worthie Martin Marprelate gentleman and dedicated to the consecration house.

The Epitome is not yet published but it shall be when the bishops are at convenient lesure to view the same.

In the mean time let them be content with this learned Epistle.

Printed oversea in Europe within two surf-

longs of a bouncing Priest at the cost and charges of M. Marprelate gentleman.
the Bishops are at convenient leisure to view the same. In the means time/let them be content with this learned Epistle.

Printed oversea/in Europe/within two fur- longs of a Bouncing Priest/at the cost and charges of M. Maryzlate/gentleman,

a. 2 1387
Charge with Bullet

Draw forth your
scurving stick

Take the Bullet forth of your bag
or out of your mouth and put it
into the muzzel of your Musket

With your right hand of Palm turned
from you, draw forth your scurving
scurring your whole and of left hand
by Musket's farbade as you can

Shorten your scurving
stick

Rame home

Having drawn one forth of scurving
stick set of Rammer head against
your and of hand press it of Rammer
if you may the easte out it into Musket

Put your scurving stick downe
in to your Musket and Rame
home hard twice or thrice
Twelve Quakers quite still.
- Levellers
- Diggers
- Seekers
- Fifth Monarchists
A Catalogue of the several Sects and Opinions in England and other Nations
With a briefe Rehearsall of their false and dangerous Tenents.
TO HIS HIGHNESSE
THE LORD PROTECTOR
OF THE COMMON-WEALTH OF
England, Scotland, and Ireland.

THE HUMBLE ADDRESSES
OF MENASSEH Ben Israel, a Divine, and
Doctor of PHYSICK, in behalfe
of the Jewish Nation.

1655
A ‘Collegiant’ meeting in Amsterdam
Baruch Spinoza (1632-77), friend of the Quakers and Collegiants
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Alec Ryrie