

# Theology on the Web.org.uk

*Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible*

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

[PayPal](#)

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

---

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

[https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles\\_bq\\_01.php](https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_bq_01.php)

<sup>5</sup> R. A. Church, *Economic and Social Change in a Midland Town: Victorian Nottingham, 1815-1900* (London, 1966), p. 199.

<sup>6</sup> *Nottingham Borough Records*, ix, p. 138.

<sup>7</sup> Chapman, p. 202.

<sup>8</sup> *Nottingham Date Book* (Nottingham, 1884), 22nd January 1817.

<sup>9</sup> *Nottingham Journal*, 12th March 1831; *Nottingham Review*, 26th March, 29th April 1831.

<sup>10</sup> *Nottingham Journal*, 18th March 1832.

<sup>11</sup> *Nottingham Mercury*, 21st April 1848.

<sup>12</sup> Beeston Church Minutes, 4th March 1839.

<sup>13</sup> Basford Church Minutes, 23rd March 1840.

<sup>14</sup> Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Forest Street Church Minutes, 22nd September 1874.

<sup>15</sup> Information from Mr. L. Allen, Church Secretary.

<sup>16</sup> Kirkby Woodhouse Church Minutes, 10th September 1887, 26th September 1911, 12th January 1912, 7th August 1912.

<sup>17</sup> Nottingham, Mansfield Road Church Minutes, 23rd July 1851.

<sup>18</sup> *Nottingham Review*, 15th April 1853.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, 28th April 1854.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 16th October, 30th October 1857.

<sup>21</sup> *East Midland Baptist Magazine* (1899), p. 31.

<sup>22</sup> *Nottingham Date Book*, 6th June 1831; *Nottingham Review*, 19th February, 26th February, 10th June 1836; *Nottingham Journal*, 17th April 1886.

F. M. W. HARRISON.

## Review

*Nineteenth-Century Nonconformity*. Ian Sellers. London: Edward Arnold, 1977. x, 102 pp. £5.95 (hardback), £2.95 (paperback).

It is refreshing to turn to a book that lists 'BQ', for *The Baptist Quarterly*, as one of its standard abbreviations. This is one of the signs that Dr. Sellers' study of Dissent in the last century is firmly based on detailed research that has appeared in recent years, not least in the pages of this journal. He has published a number of important articles in the field and is the author of one of the very best chapel histories, an account of Pembroke Chapel, Liverpool, whose ministers included the Baptists C. M. Birrell and C. F. Aked. Dr. Sellers, who tells us that he was raised in the Primitive Methodist tradition, is well qualified to guide his readers through the by-ways of Nonconformity.

His book is neither a narrative nor, like an earlier co-operative work with John Briggs of Keele, a collection of documents. It is organised by subject in five chapters—on Nonconformity's denominational structures, theology, patterns of church life, place in society and politics. Within the chapters the analysis is ordered broadly chronologically, and then usually according to denomination. The result is a comprehensive, though brief, survey. His conclusion stresses that social service was normally associated with outbursts of evangelism—a find-

ing perhaps instructive for contemporary debate on the mission of the church.

What treatment does he give to the Baptists? They are shown to have been both part of the integrated social movement that was Nonconformity and distinctive. "Mission for the Baptist was no supplementary activity," he comments, "but the essential ingredient of his whole vision of what his faith was about . . ." (p. 38). A few reservations ought to be entered about Baptist matters: there was more strategic planning of Baptist itinerancy than is stated (p. 1); the Baptist Union was rather less than "powerful" under J. H. Hinton, and J. H. Shakespeare was secretary not in the 1890s as a whole but only from 1898 (p. 11); the theological liberalism of the New Connexion of General Baptists, at least at rank-and-file level, is exaggerated (pp. 17, 28); Clifford had more reservations over empire than is suggested (p. 64); and Spurgeon was far from "ambiguous" in some statements over Home Rule (p. 84: "The whole scheme," he wrote to a Cardiff Liberal, "is as full of dangers and absurdities as if it came from a madman.") Yet these are relatively minor points, for Baptist personalities and doings are discussed with sympathy and insight.

Its conciseness prevents the book from explaining certain technical terms like "local option" in proposed temperance legislation and "clause 25" of the 1870 Education Act. It is perhaps best suited, therefore, to those having some acquaintance with the subject—precisely such readers as those who take this journal. Incorporating, as it does, both footnotes and a judiciously annotated booklist, this study is an excellent guide to the present state of knowledge in its field.

D. W. BEBBINGTON.