

ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE



HISTORY OF PROTESTANTISM

JAMES A. WYLIE

History of Protestantism

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About the Author

Ellen G. White (1827-1915) is considered the most widely translated American author, her works having been published in more than 160 languages. She wrote more than 100,000 pages on a wide variety of spiritual and practical topics. Guided by the Holy Spirit, she exalted Jesus and pointed to the Scriptures as the basis of one's faith.

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Contents

Information about this Book	i
Preface	iv
Table of Contents	vi

Preface

James A. Wylie: Earnest Contender for the Faith by Tom Stewart

James Aitken Wylie was born in Scotland in 1808. “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord” ([Psalm 37:23](#)). His collegiate preparation was at Marischal College, Aberdeen (a North Sea port city and industrial center of northeastern Scotland) and at St. Andrews (Fife, East Scotland). “It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth” ([Lamentations 3:27](#)). Though we could find no account of his conversion, he entered the Original Secession Divinity Hall, Edinburgh (Scotland, the land of John Knox) in 1827, and was ordained to the Christian ministry in 1831; hence, the name “Rev. J. A. Wylie” is affixed to most of his written works. “And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” ([2 Timothy 3:15](#)).

His disposition to use the pen as a mighty “Sword of the Lord” ([Judges 7:18](#)) is evidenced by his assumption of the sub-editorship of the Edinburgh “Witness” in 1846. “My tongue is the pen of a ready writer” ([Psalm 45:1](#)). In 1852, after joining the Free Church of Scotland- which was only inaugurated in 1843 (Dr. Chalmers as moderator), insisting on the Crown Rights of King Jesus as the only Head and King of the Church- Wylie edited their “Free Church Record” until 1860. “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” ([Galatians 5:1](#)). The Protestant Institute appointed him Lecturer on Popery in 1860. He continued in this role until his death in 1890. “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” ([2 Corinthians 10:5](#)).

Aberdeen University awarded him an honorary doctorate (LL.D.) in 1856. “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the

excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ” ([Philippians 3:8](#)). His travels took him to many of the far-flung places, where the events of Protestant history transpired. “So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are at Rome also” ([Romans 1:15](#)). As a prominent spokesman for Protestantism, Dr. Wylie’s writings included “The Papacy: Its History, Dogmas, Genius, and Prospects”- which was awarded a prize by the Evangelical Alliance in 1851- and, his best known writing, “The History of Protestantism” (1878). “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the Common Salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the Faith which was once delivered unto the Saints” ([Jude 3](#)).

It is a solemn and sad reflection on the spiritual intelligence of our times that J. A. Wylie’s classic, “The History of Protestantism” went out of publication in the 1920’s. “Little children, it is the Last Time; and as ye have heard that Antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the Last Time” ([1 John 2:18](#)). But- “we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul” ([Hebrews 10:39](#)). And, we continue to “look for Him” ([Hebrews 9:28](#)) to come for us to cause us to “escape all these things” ([Luke 21:36](#)) in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, while we intently “occupy” ([19:13](#)) for Him in the Gospel fields, which are “white already to harvest” ([John 4:35](#)). “Even so, come [quickly], Lord Jesus” ([Revelation 22:20](#)). Amen, and Amen

[2]

Table of Contents

Volume 1	
Book 1: Progress from the First to the Fourteenth Century	
Chapter 1: Protestantism	1
Chapter 2: Declension of the Early Christian Church	5
Chapter 3: Development of the Papacy from the Times of Constantine to those of Hildebrand	8
Chapter 4: Development of the Papacy from Gregory VII. to Boniface VIII.	15
Chapter 5: Mediaeval Protestant Witnesses	18
Chapter 6: The Waldenses - Their Valleys	23
Chapter 7: The Waldenses - Their Missions and Martyrdoms	28
Chapter 8: The Paulicians	32
Chapter 9: Crusades Against the Albigenses	28
Chapter 10: Erection of Tribunal of Inquisition	44
Chapter 11: Protestants Before Protestantism	47
Chapter 12: Abelard, and Rise of Modern Skepticism	56
Book 2: Wicliffe and his Times, or Advent of Protestantism	
Chapter 1: Wicliffe - His Birth and Education	58
Chapter 2: Wicliffe, and the Pope's Encroachments on England	63
Chapter 3: Wicliffe's Battle with Rome for England's Independence	70

Chapter 4: Wicliffe's Battle with the Mendicant Friars	74
Chapter 5: The Friars Versus the Gospel in England	85
Chapter 6: The Battle of the Parliament with the Pope	87
Chapter 7: Persecution of Wicliffe by the Pope and the Hierarchy	92
Chapter 8: Hierarchical Persecution of Wicliffe Resumed	96
Chapter 9: Wicliffe's Views on Church Property and Church Reform	98
Chapter 10: The Translation of the Scriptures, or the English Bible	105
Chapter 11: Wicliffe and Transubstantiation	113
Chapter 12: Wicliffe's Appeal to Parliament	119
Chapter 13: Wicliffe Before Convocation in Person, and Before the Roman Curia by Letter	122
Chapter 14: Wicliffe's Last Days	124
Chapter 15: Wicliffe's Theological and Church System	128
Book 3: John Huss and the Hussite Wars	
Chapter 1: Birth, Education, and First Labours of Huss	130
Chapter 2: Huss Begins his Warfare Against Rome	135
Chapter 3: Growing Opposition of Huss to Rome	141
Chapter 4: Preparations for the Council of Constance	144
Chapter 5: Deposition of the Rival Popes	149
Chapter 6: Imprisonment and Examination of Huss	154
Chapter 7: Condemnation and Martyrdom of Huss	161
Chapter 8: Wicliffe and Huss Compared in their Theology, their Character, and their Labours	165
Chapter 9: Trial and Temptation of Jerome	167

Chapter 10: The Trial of Jerome	171
Chapter 11: Condemnation and Burning of Jerome	173
Chapter 12: Wicliffe, Huss, and Jerome, or the First Three Witnesses of Modern Christendom	176
Chapter 13: The Hussite Wars	178
Chapter 14: Commencement of the Hussite Wars	184
Chapter 15: Marvellous Genius of Ziska as a General	189
Chapter 16: Second Crusade Against Bohemia	190
Chapter 17: Brilliant Successes of the Hussites	195
Chapter 18: The Council of Basle	202
Chapter 19: Last Scenes of the Bohemian Reformation	207
Book 4: Christendom at the Opening of the Sixteenth Century	
Chapter 1: Protestantism and Medievalism	213
Chapter 2: The Empire	215
Chapter 3: The Papacy, or Christendom Under the Tiara	220
Book 5: History of Protestantism in Germany to the Leipsic Disputation, 1519	
Chapter 1: Luther's Birth, Childhood, and School-Days	226
Chapter 2: Luther's College Life	232
Chapter 3: Luther's Life in the Convent	236
Chapter 4: Luther the Monk Becomes Luther the Reformer	239
Chapter 5: Luther as Priest, Professor, and Preacher	243
Chapter 6: Luther's Journey to Rome	245
Chapter 7: Luther in Rome	251
Chapter 8: Tetzal Preaches Indulgences	255

Chapter 9: The “Theses”	260
Chapter 10: Luther Attacked by Tetzels, Prierio, and Eck	266
Chapter 11: Luther’s Journey to Augsburg	272
Chapter 12: Luther’s Appearance Before Cardinal Cajetan	275
Chapter 13: Luther’s Return to Wittenberg and Labours there	281
Chapter 14: Miltitz - Carlstadt - Dr. Eck	287
Chapter 15: The Leipsic Disputation	293
Book 6: From the Leipsic Disputation to the Diet at Worms, 1521	
Chapter 1: Protestantism and Imperialism; or, the Monk and the Monarch	302
Chapter 2: Pope Leo’s Bull	310
Chapter 3: Interviews and Negotiations	317
Chapter 4: Luther Summoned to the Diet at Worms	326
Chapter 5: Luther’s Journey and Arrival at Worms	329
Chapter 6: Luther Before the Diet at Worms	335
Chapter 7: Luther put Under the Ban of the Empire	345
Book 7: Protestantism in England, from the Times of Wicliffe to those of Henry VIII.	
Chapter 1: The First Protestant Martyrs in England	350
Chapter 2: The Theology of the Early English Protestants	356
Chapter 3: Growth of English Protestantism	362
Chapter 4: Efforts for the Redistribution of Ecclesiastical Property	366
Chapter 5: Trial and Condemnation of Sir John Oldcastle	370

Chapter 6: Lollardism Denounced as Treason	377
Chapter 7: Martyrdom of Lord Cobham	381
Chapter 8: Lollardism under Henry V. and Henry VI.	384
Chapter 9: Rome's Attempt to Regain Dominancy in England	393
Chapter 10: Resistance to Papal Encroachments	396
Chapter 11: Influence of the Wars of the Fifteenth Century on the Progress of Protestantism	401
Book8: History of Protestantism in Switzerland from A.D. 1516 to its Establishment at Zurich, 1525	
Chapter 1: Switzerland - The Country and the People	408
Chapter 2: Condition of Switzerland Prior to the Reformation	412
Chapter 3: Corruption of the Swiss Church	416
Chapter 4: Zwingle's Birth and School-Days	421
Chapter 5: Zwingle's Progress Towards Emancipation	425
Chapter 6: Zwingle in Presence of the Bible	430
Chapter 7: Einsiedeln and Zurich	432
Chapter 8: The Pardon-Monger and the Plague	437
Chapter 9: Extension of the Reformation to Bern and Other Swiss Towns	441
Chapter 10: Spread of Protestantish in Eastern Switzerland	446
Chapter 11: The Question of Forbidden Meats	450
Chapter 12: Public Disputation at Zurich	454
Chapter 13: Dissolution of Conventual and Monastic Establishments	460
Chapter 14: Discussion on Images and the Mass	464

Chapter 15: Establishment of Protestantism in Zurich	468
Book 9: History of Protestantism from the Diet of Worms, 1521, to the Augsburg Confession, 1530	
Chapter 1: The German New Testament	472
Chapter 2: The Abolition of the Mass	479
Chapter 3: Pope Adrian and his Scheme of Reform	485
Chapter 4: Pope Clement and the Nuremberg Diet	490
Chapter 5: Nuremberg (This chapter is founded on Notes made on the Spot by the Author in 1871)	495
Chapter 6: The Ratisbon League and Reformation	502
Chapter 7: Luther's Views on the Sacrament and Image-Worship	506
Chapter 8: War of the Peasants	512
Chapter 9: The Battle of Pavia and its Influence on Protestantism	519
Chapter 10: Diet at Spires, 1526, and League Against the Emperor	523
Chapter 11: The Sack of Rome	527
Chapter 12: Organization of the Lutheran Church	532
Chapter 13: Constitution of the Church of Hesse	537
Chapter 14: Politics and Prodigies	543
Chapter 15: The Great Protest	548
Chapter 16: Conference at Marburg	554
Chapter 17: The Marburg Confession	562
Chapter 18: The Emperor, the Turk, and the Reformation	564
Chapter 19: Meeting Between the Emperor and Pope at Bologna	573

Chapter 20: Preparations for the Augsburg Diet	580
Chapter 21: Arrival of the Emperor at Augsburg and Opening of the Diet	585
Chapter 22: Luther in the Coburg and Melanchthon at the Diet	590
Chapter 23: Reading of the Augsburg Confession	594
Chapter 24: After the Diet of Augsburg	601
Chapter 25: Attempted Refutation of the Confession	606
Chapter 26: End of the Diet of Augsburg	614
Chapter 27: A Retrospect-1517-1530-Progress	617
Volume 2	
Book 10: Rise and Establishment of Protestantism in Sweden and Denmark	
Chapter 1: Causes that Influenced the Reception or Rejection of Protestantism in the Various Countries	1
Chapter 2: Fortunes of Protestantism in Italy, Spain, and Britain	4
Chapter 3: Introduction of Protestantism into Sweden	11
Chapter 4: Conference at Upsala	16
Chapter 5: Establishment of Protestantism in Sweden	23
Chapter 6: Protestantism in Sweden, from Vasa (1530) to Charles IX. (1604)	29
Chapter 7: Introduction of Protestantism into Denmark	33
Chapter 8: Church-Song in Denmark	38
Chapter 9: Establishment of Protestantism in Denmark	41
Chapter 10: Protestantism under Christian III., and its Extension to Norway and Iceland	45

Book 11: Protestantism in Switzerland from its Establishment in Zurich (1525) to the Death of Zwingli (1531)	
Chapter 1: Zwingli - His Doctrine of the Lord's Supper	51
Chapter 2: Disputation at Baden and its Results	56
Chapter 3: Outbreak and Suppression of Anabaptism in Switzerland	59
Chapter 4: Establishment of Protestantism at Bern	64
Chapter 5: Reformation Consummated in Basle	70
Chapter 6: League of the Five Cantons with Austria - Switzerland Divided	76
Chapter 7: Arms - Negotiations - Peace	81
Chapter 8: Proposed Christian Republic for Defence of Civil Rights	85
Chapter 9: Gathering of a Second Storm	88
Chapter 10: Death of Zwingli	92
Book 12: Protestantism in Germany from the Augsburg Confession to the Peace of Passau	
Chapter 1: The Schmalkald League	95
Chapter 2 : The German Anabaptists, or the "Heavenly Kingdom"	99
Chapter 3 : Accession of Princes and States to Protestantism	104
Chapter 4: Death and Burial of Luther	107
Chapter 5: The Schmalkald War, and Defeat of the Protestants	112
Chapter 6 : The "Interim" - Re-Establishment of Protestantism	117
Book 13: From Rise of Protestantism in France (1510) to Publication of the Institutes (1536)	

Chapter 1: The Doctor of Etaples, the First Protestant Teacher in France	123
Chapter 2 : Farel, Briconnet, and the Early Reformers of France	128
Chapter 3 : The First Protestant Congregation of France	134
Chapter 4 : Commencement of Persecution in France	137
Chapter 5: The First Martyrs of France	141
Chapter 6: Calvin: His Birth and Education	146
Chapter 7 : Calvin's Conversion	149
Chapter 8 : Calvin Becomes a Student of Law	155
Chapter 9 : Calvin the Evangelist, and Berquin the Martyr	158
Chapter 10 : Calvin at Paris, and Francis Negotiating with Germany and England	164
Chapter 11 : The Gospel Preached in Paris - A Martyr	168
Chapter 12 : Calvin's Flight from Paris	174
Chapter 13 : First Protestant Administration of the Lord's Supper in France	178
Chapter 14 : Catherine De Medici	183
Chapter 15 : Marriage of Henry of France to Catherine De Medici	186
Chapter 16 : Melancthon's Plan for Uniting Wittemberg and Rome	190
Chapter 17 : Plan of Francis I. for Combining Lutheranism and Romanism	196
Chapter 18 : First Disciples of the Gospel in Paris	198
Chapter 19: The Night of the Placards	205
Chapter 20 : Martyrs and Exiles	208
Chapter 21: Other and More Dreadful Martyrdoms	214

Chapter 22: Basle and the “Institutes”	219
Chapter 23: The “Institutes”	226
Chapter 24: Calvin on Predestination and Election	231
Chapter 25: Calvin’s Appeal to Francis I.	233
Book 14: Rise and Establishment of Protestantism at Geneva	
Chapter 1: Geneva: The City and its History	238
Chapter 2: Genevese Martyrs of Liberty	243
Chapter 3: The Reform Commenced in Lausanne and Established in Morat and Neuchatel	247
Chapter 4: Tumults - Successes - Toleration	251
Chapter 5: Fabel Enters Geneva	256
Chapter 6: Geneva on the Brink of Civil War	260
Chapter 7: Heroism of Geneva	265
Chapter 8: Rome Falls and Geneva Rises	268
Chapter 9: Establishment of Protestantism in Geneva	274
Chapter 10: Calvin Enters Geneva -its Civil and Ecclesiastical Constitution	280
Chapter 11: Sumptuary Laws - Calvin and Farel Banished	285
Chapter 12: Calvin at Strasburg - Rome Draws Near to Geneva	291
Chapter 13: Abortive Conferences at Hagenau and Ratisbon	297
Chapter 14: Calvin Returns to Geneva	299
Chapter 15: The Ecclesiastical Ordinances	304
Chapter 16: The New Geneva	306
Chapter 17: Calvin’s Battles with the Libertines	310

Chapter 18 : Calvin's Labours for Union	315
Chapter 19 : Servetus Comes to Geneva and is Arrested	320
Chapter 20 : Calvin's Victory over the Libertines	323
Chapter 21 : Apprehension and Trial of Servetus	328
Chapter 22 : Condemnation and Death of Servetus	333
Chapter 23 : Calvin's Correspondence with Martyrs, Reformers	340
Chapter 24 : Calvin's Manifold Labours	345
Chapter 25 : Final Victory and Glory of Geneva	349
Chapter 26 : Geneva and its Influence in Europe	353
Chapter 27 : The Academy of Geneva	358
Chapter 28 : The Social and Family Life of Geneva	362
Chapter 29 : Calvin's Last Illness and Death	365
Chapter 30 : Calvin's Work	370
Book 15: The Jesuits	
Chapter 1 : Ignatius Loyola	377
Chapter 2 : Loyola's First Disciples	382
Chapter 3 : Organization and Training of the Jesuits	387
Chapter 4 : Moral Code of the Jesuits-Probabilism, Etc	393
Chapter 5 : The Jesuit Teaching on Regicide, Murder, Lying, Theft, Etc	398
Chapter 6: The "Secret Instructions" of the Jesuits	404
Chapter 7: Jesuit Management of Rich Widows and the Heirs of Great Families	407
Chapter 8: Diffusion of the Jesuits Throughout Christendom	412
Chapter 9: Commercial Enterprises and Banishments	416

Chapter 10: Restoration of the Inquisition	421
Chapter 11: The Tortures of the Inquisition	424
Book 16: Protestantism in the Waldensian Valleys	430
Chapter 1: Antiquity and First Persecutions of the Waldenses	430
Chapter 2: Cataneo's Expedition (1488) Against the Dauphinese and Piedmontese Confessors	436
Chapter 3 : Failure of Cataneo's Expedition	441
Chapter 4: Synod in the Waldensian Valleys	445
Chapter 5 : Persecutions and Martyrdoms	449
Chapter 6 : Preparations for a War of Extermination	456
Chapter 7 : The Great Campaign of 1561	461
Chapter 8 : Waldensian Colonies in Calabria and Apulia	468
Chapter 9 : Extinction of Waldenses in Calabria	472
Chapter 10 : The Year of the Plague	476
Chapter 11 : The Great Massacre	479
Chapter 12 : Exploits of Gianavello - Massacre and Pillage of Rora	488
Chapter 13 : The Exile	494
Chapter 14 : Return to the Valleys	498
Chapter 15 : Final Re-Establishment in their Valleys	503
Chapter 16 : Condition of the Waldenses from 1690	508
Book 17: Protestantism in France from Death of Francis I (1547) to Edict of Nantes (1598)	
Chapter 1 : Henry II and Parties in France	512
Chapter 2 : Henry II and his Persecutions	518
Chapter 3 : First National Synod of the French Protestant Church	525

Chapter 4 : A Gallery of Portraits	532
Chapter 5 : The Guises, and the Insurrection of Amboise	538
Chapter 6 : Charles IX-The Triumvirate-Colloquy at Poissy	546
Chapter 7 : Massacre at Vassy and Commencement of the Civil Wars	555
Chapter 8 : Commencehent of the Huguenot Wars	562
Chapter 9 : The First Huguenot War, and Death of the Duke of Guise	568
Chapter 10 : Catherine de Medici and her Son, Charles IX- Conference at Bayonne-The St. Bartholomew Massacre Plotted	574
Chapter 11 : Second and Third Huguenot Wars	580
Chapter 12 : Synod of La Rochelle	585
Chapter 13 : The Promoters of the St. Bartholomew Massacre	588
Chapter 14 : Negotiations of the Court with the Huguenots	592
Chapter 15 : The Marriage, and Preparations for the Massacre	597
Chapter 16 : The Massacre of St. Bartholomew	600
Chapter 17 : Resurrection of Huguenotism-Death of Charles IX.	608
Chapter 18 : New Persecutions-Reign and Death of Henry III.	614
Chapter 19 : Henry IV and the Edict of Nantes	617
Volume 3	
Book 18: History of Protestantism in the Netherlands	
Chapter 1: The Netherlands and their Inhabitants	1

Chapter 2: Introduction of Protestantism into the Netherlands	4
Chapter 3: Antwerp: Its Confessors and Martyrs	9
Chapter 4: Abdication of Charles V. and Accession of Philip II.	14
Chapter 5: Philip Arranges the Government of the Netherlands, and Departs for Spain	17
Chapter 6: Storms in the Council, and Martyrs at the Stake	22
Chapter 7 : Retirement of Granvelle - Belgic Confession of Faith	29
Chapter 8: The Rising Storm	35
Chapter 9: The Confederates or “Beggars”	41
Chapter 10: The Field-Preachings	46
Chapter 11: The Image-Breakings	51
Chapter 12: Reaction - Submission of the Southern Netherlands	58
Chapter 13: The Council of Blood	64
Chapter 14: William Unfurls his Standard - Execution of Egmont and Horn	71
Chapter 15: Failure of William’s First Campaign	75
Chapter 16: The “Beggars of the Sea,” and Second Campaign of Orange	79
Chapter 17: William’s Second Campaign, and Submission of Brabant and Flanders	87
Chapter 18: The Siege of Haarlem	92
Chapter 19: Siege of Alkmaar, and Recall of Alva	98
Chapter 20: Third Campaign of William, and Death of Count Louis of Nassau	102

Chapter 21: The Siege of Leyden	107
Chapter 22: March of the Spanish Army Through the Sea - Sack of Antwerp	110
Chapter 23: The “Pacification of Ghent,” and Toleration	116
Chapter 24: Administration of Don John, and First Synod of Dort	119
Chapter 25: Abjuration of Philip, and Rise of the Seven United Provinces	128
Chapter 26: Assassination of William the Silent	133
Chapter 27: Order and Government of the Netherland Church	137
Chapter 28: Disorganisation of the Provinces	142
Chapter 29: The Synod of Dort	146
Chapter 30: Grandeur of the United Provinces	154
Book 19: Protestantism in Poland and Bohemia	
Chapter 1: Rise and Spread of Protestantism in Poland	158
Chapter 2: John Alasco, and Reformation of East Friesland	165
Chapter 3: Acme of Protestantism in Poland	172
Chapter 4: Organisation of the Protestant Church of Poland	178
Chapter 5: Turning of the Tide of Protestantism in Poland	183
Chapter 6: The Jesuits enter Poland - Destruction of its Protestantism	185
Chapter 7: Bohemia - Entrance of Reformation	192
Chapter 8: Overthrow of Protestantism in Bohemia	200
Chapter 9: An Army of Martyrs	207
Chapter 10: Suppression of Protestantish in Bohemia	212

Book 20: Protestantism in Hungary and Transylvania	
Chapter 1: Planting of Protestantism	219
Chapter 2: Protestantism Flourishes in Hungary and Transylvania	225
Chapter 3: Ferdinand II and the Era of Persecution	228
Chapter 4: Leopold I. and the Jesuits	234
Chapter 5: Banishment of Pastors and Desolation of the Church of Hungary	239
Book 21: The Thirty Years' War	
Chapter 1: Great Periods of the Thirty Years' War	248
Chapter 2: The Army and the Camp	252
Chapter 3: The March and its Devastations	256
Chapter 4: Conquest of North Germany by Ferdinand II and the "Catholic League"	261
Chapter 5: Edict of Restitution	269
Chapter 6: Arrival of Gustavus Adolphus in Germany	274
Chapter 7: Fall of Magdeburg and Victory of Leipsic	280
Chapter 8: Conquest of the Rhine and Bavaria - Battle of Lutzen	287
Chapter 9: Death of Gustavus Adolphus	294
Chapter 10: The Pacification of Westphalia	299
Chapter 11: The Fatherland after the War	304
Book 22: Protestantism in France from Death of Henry IV. (1610) to the Revolution (1789)	
Chapter 1: Louis XIII. and the Wars of Religion	309
Chapter 2: Fall of La Rochelle, and End of the Wars of Religion	316

Chapter 3: Industrial and Literary Eminence of the French Protestants	320
Chapter 4: The Dragonnades	326
Chapter 5: Revocation of the Edict of Nantes	332
Chapter 6: The Prisons and the Galleys	338
Chapter 7: The “Church of the Desert”	343
Book 23: Protestantism in England from the Times of Henry VIII.	
Chapter 1: The King and the Scholars	347
Chapter 2: Cardinal Wolsey and the New Testament of Erasmus	352
Chapter 3: William Tyndale and the English New Testament	359
Chapter 4: Tyndale’s New Testament Arrives in England	365
Chapter 5: The Bible and the Cellar at Oxford - Anne Boleyn	371
Chapter 6: The Divorce - Thomas Bilney, the Martyr	376
Chapter 7: The Divorce, and Wolsey’s Fall	383
Chapter 8: Cranmer - Cromwell - The Papal Supremacy Abolished	389
Chapter 9: The King Declared Head of the Church of England	395
Chapter 10: Scaffolds - Death of Henry VIII	402
Chapter 11: The Church of England as Reformed by Cranmer	408
Chapter 12: Deaths of Protector Somerset and Edward VI	416
Chapter 13: Restoration of the Pope’s Authority in England	419

Chapter 14: The Burnings under Mary	425
Chapter 15: Elizabeth; Restoration of the Protestant Church	431
Chapter 16: Excommunication of Elizabeth, and Plots of the Jesuits	440
Chapter 17: The Armada; its Building	446
Chapter 18: The Armada Arrives off England	450
Chapter 19: Destruction of the Armada	455
Chapter 20: Greatness of Protestant England	461
Book 24: Protestantism in Scotland	
Chapter 1: The Darkness and the Daybreak	466
Chapter 2: Scotland's First Preacher and Martyr, Patrick Hamilton	470
Chapter 3: Wishart is Burned, and Knox Comes Forward	478
Chapter 4: Knox's Call to the Ministry and First Sermon	483
Chapter 5: Knox's Final Return to Scotland	489
Chapter 6: Establishment of the Reformation in Scotland	492
Chapter 7: Constitution of the "Kirk": Arrival of Mary Stuart	496
Chapter 8: Knox's Interview with Queen Mary	501
Chapter 9: Trial of Knox for Treason	506
Chapter 10: The Last Days of Queen Mary and John Knox	511
Chapter 11: Andrew Melville; the Tulchan Bishops	515
Chapter 12: Battles for Presbyterianism and Liberty	520
Chapter 13: James in England—The Gunpowder Plot	526

Chapter 14: Death of James VI, and Spiritual Awakening in Scotland	530
Chapter 15: Charles I and Archbishop Laud; Religious Innovations	536
Chapter 16: The National Covenant and Assembly of 1638	540
Chapter 17: Civil War—Solemn League—Westminster Assembly	545
Chapter 18: Parliament Triumphs, and the King is Betrayed	551
Chapter 19: Restoration of Charles II, and St. Bartholomew Day, 1662	556
Chapter 20: Scotland—Middleton's Tyranny—Act Recissory	560
Chapter 21: Establishment of Prelacy in Scotland	563
Chapter 22: Four Hundred Ministers Ejected	568
Chapter 23: Breach of the "Triple League" and War with Holland	574
Chapter 24: The Popish Plot, and Death of Charles II	578
Chapter 25: The First Rising of the Scottish Presbyterians	586
Chapter 26: The Field-Preaching or "Conventicle"	591
Chapter 27: Drumclog—Bothwell bridge—The "Killing Times"	597
Chapter 28: James II—Projects to Restore Popery	603
Chapter 29: A Great Crisis in England and Christendom	609
Chapter 30: Protestantism Mounts the Throne of Great Britain	617
Chronology	648