

on his social, political, and ecclesiastical context. For scholars, this edition provides an indispensable resource for detailed study and analysis. For the dedicated minister who may be reading editions of Baxter's pastorally oriented works, it offers a wealth of insight into his practical experiences and his evaluation, clear-eyed or otherwise, of his own and other's actions. Sylvester's unfortunately deficient edition of Baxter's mammoth project lasted for over three centuries. By preserving and reprinting Baxter's autobiography, this will be the edition through which *Reliquiæ Baxterianæ's* place in accounts of seventeenth-century Puritanism and wider histories of the period will receive its due recognition for what will hopefully be centuries to come.

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John Morrill, Andrew Baclay, Tim Wales, Elaine Murphy, Micheál ó Siochru, Jason Peacey, Joel Halcomb, Patrick Halcomb, Patrick Little, and David L. Smith, eds., *The Letters, Writings, and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell*, 3 vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

This new edition of Oliver Cromwell's letters, writings, and speeches has satisfied the longstanding need of both academics and general readers for a scholarly, reliable, and accessible version of the much-loathed and much-loved champion of the Puritan Revolution. Through over one thousand texts, the editors have made a profound contribution to the study of Cromwell and of the wide variety of historiographies he informs by replacing the previous mixed attempts at compiling such an edition. The work of the nineteenth-century historian, Thomas Carlyle, in the earliest collection of Cromwell's writings is well-known for including the editor's own musings. By modern critical standards, this reduces the edition to be itself a subject of study rather than a usable edition of Cromwell's own materials. The work of Sir Charles Firth and Sophia Lomas greatly improved Carlyle's reliability through new manuscripts but still followed his edition as a base text. Wilbur Cortez Abbott was the third scholar to work on the Cromwell project. While his edition remains useful for the sheer amount of material included, this feature is also its main weakness. The value of Cortez's work was diminished by a lack of rigor in distinguishing documents in which

Cromwell may have had the loosest engagement from those he penned directly, and a mixed approach to the texts of the speeches.

Removing all the content that Abbott included indiscriminately while listing omissions as part of the apparatus, this edition provides a clear and rigorous focus on what Cromwell himself said and wrote. In fact, it is fascinating to read through the range of material which was not included, along with the editors' brief descriptions and reasons for doing so. While removing a large amount of Abbott's material, this edition still manages to be more comprehensive by integrating many new finds, such as original autograph and holograph letters, and unpublished speeches delivered in the Long Parliament between 1640 and 1648. The editors have been particularly careful regarding authorship of the pieces included. All forgeries have been removed and special warnings are provided where the evidence of Cromwell's authorship is reasonable but unconfirmed.

A full scholarly apparatus is provided, with thorough introductions to every piece, along with generous annotations informing the reader about places, persons, and events which occur in the text. The result of all this is an eminently easy-to-use edition and safe guide to the writings and speeches of one of the most important figures in English history in general and the religious and political history of England in particular.

Beyond the usefulness of the volumes for its subject matter, the edition is an outstanding exemplar for other similar projects through the editors' commitment to clarity in methodology and presentation, and dedication to providing the most accurate text possible through detailing where significant differences exist between variant copies of material. The description of how the project came together and was executed by the expert team of scholars under the general editorship of John Morill, presents a picture of a real labor of love for which students and scholars of this iconic figure owe a deep debt of gratitude. It will be an important source for those who take seriously the need to study the works of Puritan figures in context, shedding light on a figure who many Puritans believed God had specially raised to accomplish his eschatological purposes. As interest in early modern Christian political theory has recently increased, the introductions and texts offered here will provide informed, rather than hagiographical, background to one of church history's most well-known and controversial men of power.

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