

mass.

OK 7/14

1649

CAMBRIDGE PLATFORM.

(written part in
Huntington
3/24/64)

(117)

A Platform of Church Discipline Gathered out of
the Word of God: and Agreed upon by the Elders:
and Messengers of the Churches assembled in the Synod
at Cambridge in New England To be presented to the
Churches and Generall Court for their consideration
and acceptance, in the Lord. The Eighth Moneth
Anno 1649. [7 lines from the Psalms.]

Printed at Cambridge by S G in New England
and are to be sold at Cambridge and Boston Anno
Dom: 1649.

Leaf of title, verso blank; The Preface [by John
Cotton], 10 p.; ^{text,} 29 p., verso blank; "A Table of the
Contents of the Chapters" and "Errata", ^{1 leaf,} ~~[1] p.~~ verso
blank. 17.8 cm. Full morocco.

Other copies:

References:

5 Church 491, with varying imprint.

Evans 26, with varying imprint.

Holmes, Minor Mathers, 51-A, with title page
reproduced, *varying imprint*

J.C.B., Part II, 672.

J.C.B. (1919 ed.), Vol. II, p. 390.

Sabin 63331, with varying imprint.

Source not marked, but from W. D. Breakey
Entered Feb. 1941 sale thru L.C. Harper

Entry revised Jan. 1949.

I m/w 11 May 55 \$10,000

1937 Alexander - Vail copy 3,500 +

elder TWS was the Hollingsworth

Sabin locates ICB, W (ie AAS).

Church locates Congregl Libr,
AAS, ICB, Lenox.

Evans locates AAS, ICB.

Holmes locates AAS, Congregational
Library, HCH, ICB.

J.H. Scheide, mcg-wgm,

NYPL

notes: AAS, HCH, mcg-wgm

have a swash italic g in gathered.

ICB and ^{was} NYPL have ordinary italic g

memo of LCH in TWS copy lists
these and old TWS now Macgregor
and the Alexander - Vail copy, the one
entered here.

Vault
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h. c. → mass
The Cambridge Platform. 1649

^{my for is}
The first edition of the Cambridge Platform, one of the earliest books printed in English America, and for its influence at home and abroad perhaps the most important of the "cradle books" of New England, ^{of} is also the first extant work of Samuel Green, the third Cambridge printer.

✓ In May, 164~~8~~⁶, the General court of Massachusetts passed an order desiring the churches of Massachusetts to assemble in a synod at Cambridge "to discuss, dispute and cleare up by Word of God," certain questions of church government and discipline.

This Synod, "a grave, learned and pious body," sat for two weeks and appointed John Cotton, Richard Mather, and Ralph Partridge, each to draw up a plan of church government. Mather's plan was

the one adopted. As I said in the entry for this book in The Grolier Club's One Hundred Influential American Books Printed before 1900, New York, 1947,

(No. 3):

The Cambridge Platform is not only the "platform upon which the structure of New England Congregationalism was built, rebuilt, tenemented, and redecoreated" (Wimshik) but it also, with its proviso "Heresy,

The Cambridge Platform. 1649

Henry Ueeder Fente's "Significance
and Influence of the Cambridge
Platform of 1648" in Vol. 69 of
Proceedings of Mass. Hist. Society
(Years 1947-1950) makes

the excellent reading material
authoritative
705 Oct 9, 1956

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The Cambridge Platform. 1649

[and] Venting Corrupt and pernicious opinions, are to be restrayned and punished by civil authority," marks the culmination of the Puritan theory of the Union of Church and State.

George Parker Winship has an interesting discussion of the Cambridge Platform in his The Cambridge Press 1638-1692, Philadelphia, 1945, but perhaps the most authoritative study ^{of its printing} is Lawrence G. Starkey's The Printing of the Cambridge Press of a Platform of Church Discipline, 1649, (Papers of the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia, Vol. II, 1949-1950) 5 p. 79-93. Mr. Starkey examined either directly or from microfilm eight of the nine extant copies, that is the ones at University of Virginia, New York Public (lacks D4), Congregational Library, American Antiquarian, Huntington, Clements, John Carter Brown (title has been cut out close to frame and mounted for binding), and my copy, but did not see the John H. Scheide copy and comments that Mr. Winship erroneously includes the Boston Public Library copy in his list of original editions.

Mr. Winship was inclined to believe that the Platform was printed after October 19, 1649, when an entry approving the book was made in the Minutes of the

The Cambridge Platform. 1649

Massachusetts General Court, but Mr. Starkey gives good reasons for thinking that "the book was printed before the autumn meeting of the General Court and that the wording of the entry in the Court records was copied from the printed title page."

The final session of the Synod opened at Cambridge on August 15, 1648, and after some modification of text the Platform as drawn up by Richard Mather was adopted. The 1649 date for the Synod ^min the title page is a misprint for 164⁸.

This error is followed in the London 1652 edition and the Cambridge 1671 edition. Mr. Thomas J. Holmes in The Minor Mathers records eighteen printings of the Platform by the year 1800 and eleven more in the Nineteenth Century.

My copy and that at the John Carter Brown with the imprint Printed at Cambridge by S. G. in New England ..., instead of Printed by S. G. at Cambridge in New England, as in the other six copies examined by Mr. Starkey are called by him the first issue. Mr. Starkey found that the largest copy was the slightly imperfect one at the New York Public, 181 x 132 cm, with the Antiquarian copy measuring 180 x 134 and my copy 178 x 132.