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The BAPTIST QUARTERLY

THE JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXXII OCTOBER 1988 No. 8 CONTENTS 358 THE SPIRIT AND THE SWORD: Bunyan and the Stuart State Richard L. Greaves 'HERE IS HER GLORY, EVEN TO BE UNDER HIM': The feminine 380 in the thought and work of John Bunyan N. H. Keeble SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE AND SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY: 393 Some contexts for Grace Abounding Roger Pooley THE PARTICULAR BAPTIST CONFESSION 1689 AND BAPTISTS 403 TODAY Roger Hayden REVIEWS 379, 402, 417 NOTE: Scottish Baptist History Inside back cover

EDITORIAL: HERITAGE AND CHANGE

The years 1688-89 are an obvious hinge in nonconformist history. In this issue we celebrate two aspects of the changes of those years. Retrospectively, the death of Bunyan, here noted contributors, represents an appropriate way to mark the end of a period of overt persecution by the state; prospectively, his works were to energise dissenting spirituality in a period when the costs of being a nonconformist were less remarkable, thought when the need for conscientious dissent remained, and remains, crucial. In such a context of change our attention is drawn to the need for some commonly accepted statement of belief such as the Particular Baptist Confession of 1689. The Secretary of the Society, in studying this influential Confession, poses the question whether the transitions of our contemporary life do not also require a similar restatement of the faith that unites us.