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## 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 by three 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 widely 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.