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POPULAR RELIGION IN SIXTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND

HOLDING THEIR PEACE

CHRISTOPHER MARSH

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Queen's University of Belfast*

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For Margaret Spufford and Patrick Collinson

How came it to pass that you were so ready to distroy and spoil the thing that you thought well of?

Question put to a man who, in the mid-sixteenth century, had participated in the despoiling of Roche Abbey in Yorkshire (British Library Add. MS 5813, reproduced in A. G. Dickens (ed.), Tudor Treatises, Yorkshire Archaeological Society (1959) p. 125)

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