

**THE SPIRITUAL VENALITY OF ROME. TAXE
SACRE PENITENTIARIE APOSTOLICE; PRECEDED
BY A HISTORICAL AND CRITICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE TAXAE CANCELLARIAE APOSTOLICAE,
AND TAXAE SACRAE POENITENTIARIAE
APOSTOLICAE, OF THE UNITED CHURCH AND
COURT OF MODERN ROME**

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The Spiritual Venality of Rome. Taxe Sacre Penitentiarie Apostolice; Preceded by a Historical and Critical Account of the Taxae Cancellariae Apostolicae, and Taxae Sacrae Poenitentiariae Apostolicae, of the United Church and Court of Modern Rome by Joseph Mendham

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JOSEPH MENDHAM

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UNITED CHURCH AND COURT

OF

MODERN ROME.

BY EMANCIPATUS.



..... Venalia nobis
Templa, sacerdotes, altaria, sacra, coronas,
Ignes, thura, prociis—coelum est venale Domusque.
B. Mantuanus de Calamitat. Lib. III.
Poeta fuit doctus, et pius.—*Beilerm. de Scriptis. Ecclesar.*

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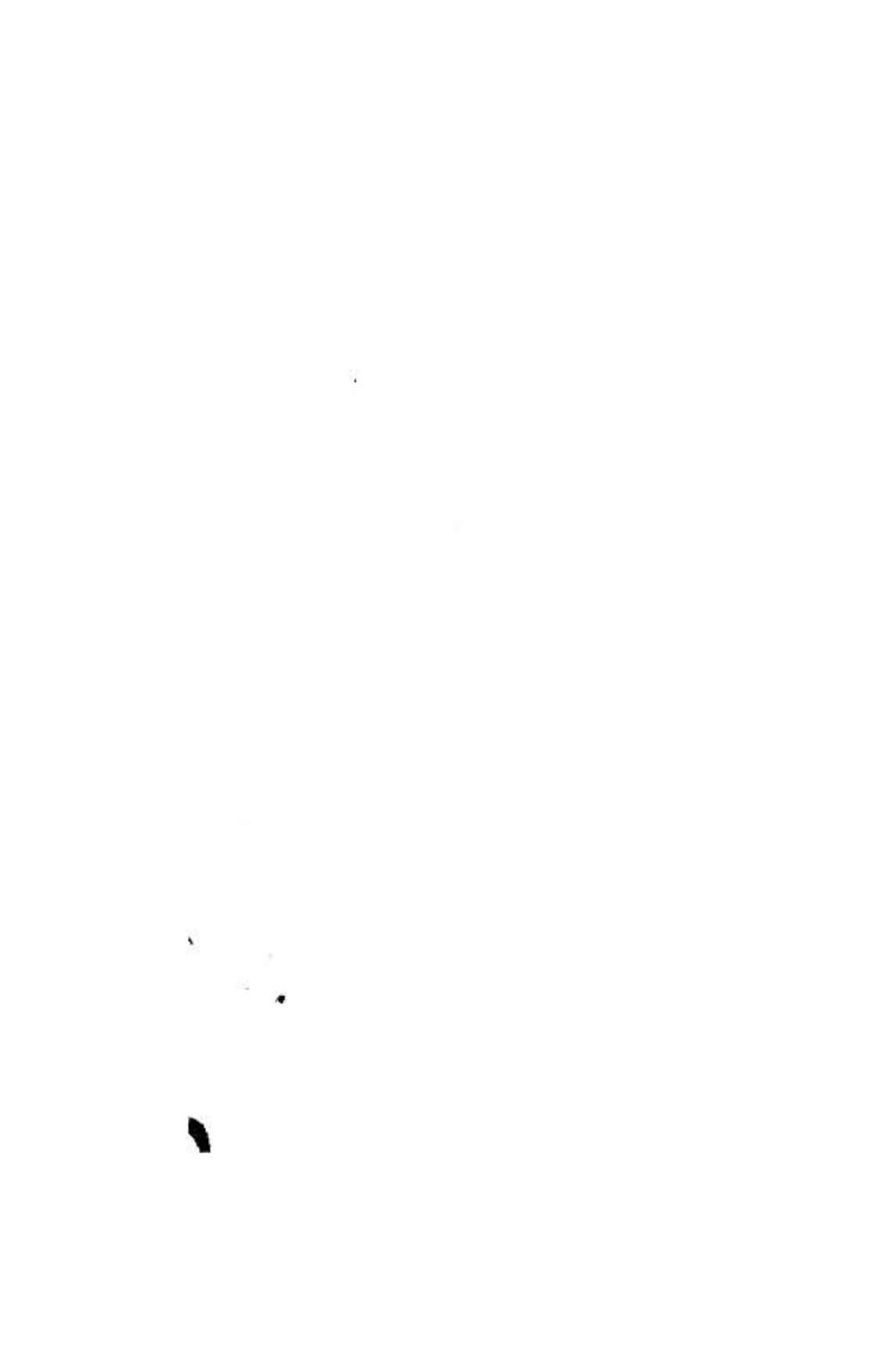
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170.

TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY
IN ROME,
THE MAJOR PENITENTIARY ;
THE REGENT ;
THE THEOLOGIAN ;
THE DATARY ;
THE CANONIST ;
THE SECRETARIES, AND ALL OTHERS,
NOT OMITTING THE CONFESSORS DISTRIBUTED OVER
THE PAPAL WORLD—
WITH THE HUMBLE REQUEST, THAT ALL, OR ANY, WILL
CONTRIBUTE SUCH CORRECTION
OR CONFIRMATION
AS THEIR PROFESSIONAL ADVANTAGES QUALIFY
THEM TO IMPART—
THE PRESENT WORK
IS APPROPRIATELY, AND WITH DUE RESPECT,
INSCRIBED BY
THE AUTHOR,



PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE work which the writer now republishes with a somewhat varied title, with much additional matter, and with other decided improvements, issued from the press originally in 1825, under the name *EMANCIPATUS*—a name intended to refer to the Emancipation achieved by the blood of martyred British Christians, and enjoyed by himself in common with the whole body of reformed Christians, from the servile yoke and doctrinal corruption of the church of Rome. He retains the fictitious name for the same reason, although he never made any secret of the real one. He considers it of peculiar moment at the present crisis, that Protestants should become acquainted with facts and documents little known to themselves or others; and respecting which the very parents either possess or affect the most consummate ignorance—if, indeed, in the face of opposite conviction, they do not father their own progeny upon

those whom calumny calls heretics. Some concern is likewise had for the credit and integrity of those among ourselves, who may so far lend a helping hand to the guilty as to cultivate the same ignorance, both in themselves and in others.

We are living in times of strange perversity, or rather of divine and just visitation. Every portion of society seems to be undergoing a decomposition, which has reached Protestantism itself; and in its camp treason of all characters and dimensions has been discovered. Under the impulse of virtual popery, the religion of nature, have issued those, who, not daring to attack what they nominally profess, have disguised and nick-named the best friends of reformed Christianity, and the best measures for advancing it, in order to make *both* the victims of their unnatural hostility.* Even some, who must be accepted as friends, have yet, by hesitating doubt or disapprobation respecting proceedings, which have exclusively supplied them with all that is effective in their own exposures of papal fraud, given an advantage to the enemy, of which he will not fail to avail himself.† And what shall we say of

* See British Critic. In spite of the unworthy imputation of Ultra-Protestantism, there are no individuals, to whom true Protestants are more indebted than Messrs. M'Ghee and O'Sullivan.

† See the generally excellent and unanswerable *Strictures on the Letter of Dr. Murray relative to Dens' Theology*. By a Lay Protestant.

the repetition by a popish government of that violation of Protestant liberty and integrity, which, when attempted by a popish king, was successfully resisted by the illustrious body, to whom the insult was offered, the University of Oxford? If the Lady Margaret of Richmond's Reader in Divinity does not afford a refuge, parents must look to the sister University; till the pontifical priesthood in Ireland, ordering *their* Slave, and he *his*, shall think fit to offer the same indignity there. The perhaps *inevitable* professor of divinity, who has, indeed, sung a *real*, but not an *open* or *professed*, recantation; (for *ambiguity* in some of his expressions is the *extreme* of his admissions,) seems in some instances to have fallen into error, more from the giddiness inspired by newly acquired erudition, before he understood how to manage it, than from perversity of intellect or will. But had the retractation been more definite and complete, still the sincerity must remain at a considerable distance from moral certainty; and the *softening process*, so prominent in the application of papal logic, would supply ample means of defending, and maintaining, what is fundamentally both erroneous and noxious.* Let

* One of the first universities in the world certainly presents no very dignified aspect to its own country, in leaving the supposition not absolutely irrational that the Royal professor of theology in it might be corrected, not only in his conclusions, but in the logic which conducts him to them, by the more intelligent of the young academics who attend his lectures.

us, however, hope, that all these matters will be ruled and over-ruled for the best; and, as one of the most effectual of counteracting instruments, we look to our episcopal bench—unless *that* should be still farther invaded by the tyrannical and unchristian obtrusion of disqualified individuals, who, if they do not, themselves, lead the flock of Christ into Papal or Socinian pastures, care not who does, and will not be so *illiberal* as to refuse him *God speed*.

The edition of the *Taxæ* given at the close of this little volume, as well as some of the additional matter,* may be found in the *Life and Pontificate of St. Pius V.* The author does not consider any apology necessary on that account; since it is obviously important to have the whole subject brought together under one view, and many may feel an interest in the present subject, who feel less, or none, in a volume of biography.

The most material of the documentary articles in the edition now repeated, is, the *Extracts from the MS. Taxæ* in the British Museum, to a far greater extent than in the former. A second visit to that princely establishment, enabled the author to transcribe much more liberally than in the first; and the present result is, a far more extensive contribution of the extraordinary volumes than has ever before met the eye of the public. The folia marked in the mar-

* Pp. 30—5.