

**THE TRUE STORY OF
THE
VATICAN COUNCIL**

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The true story of the Vatican Council by Henry Edward

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HENRY EDWARD

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Manning, Henry Edward, Cardinal

BY
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PREFACE.

THIS brief story of the Vatican Council was written at the request of two lay friends, who thought that a true and sufficient estimate of the Council was seldom to be found in what is called public opinion. I call it a Story, because to write a History of the Vatican Council would be the work of a man's life. Slight as I know it to be, I know it also to be true. The facts narrated rest partly upon the authority of the Archbishop of Florence, and none can be more amply provided with documents; and partly upon that of the Secretary of the Council, the Bishop of St. Pölten. To this I may also add that, for many details, I have before me the Diary of a very learned and distinguished Bishop present in the Council; and also my own knowledge of facts of which I was personally a witness.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE, WESTMINSTER,
September 8th, 1877.

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*The True Story of the Vatican
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CHAPTER I.

THE ORIGIN AND MOTIVE OF THE VATICAN
COUNCIL.

FEW centuries since the Christian era have seen events of greater magnitude, or more far-reaching in consequence, than the age in which we live. It has seen the extinction in 1806 of the Holy Roman Empire, the heir and representative of the Cæsars; the rise and fall of two Empires in France; the setting up of two French republics; the overthrow of more dynasties, and the abdication of more kings, than any former age. It is, characteristically, the century of revolution. It has seen great wars which shook the whole of Europe from Madrid to Moscow; and lately two great empires overthrown in a few weeks or in fewer months. It sees now a German Emperor and a king of Italy. Once it has seen the head of the Christian Church carried away prisoner