APPROACH TO THE HOLY ALTAR; FROM "MANUAL OF PRAYER" AND "PRACTICE OF DIVINE LOVE"

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Approach to the Holy Altar; From "Manual of Prayer" and "Practice of Divine Love" by Thomas Ken

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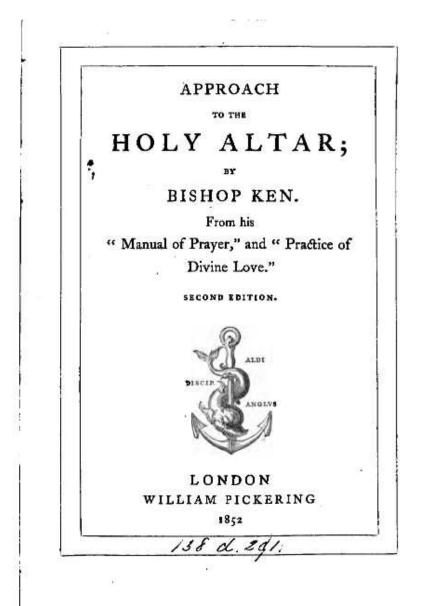
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THOMAS KEN

APPROACH TO THE HOLY ALTAR; FROM "MANUAL OF PRAYER" AND "PRACTICE OF DIVINE LOVE"

Trieste



ADDRESS TO YOUNG COMMUNICANTS. OLY Bishop Ken was an eminent teacher, by precept and example, of Divine Love, -of Love to God and man. His heart feemed to be " lightened with celeftial fire." He was ever breathing out prayer and praife, and rejoicing in acts of beneficence to all around him. A fhort account of his life and character would show forth the power of heavenly Grace on those who feek, and love the Lord Jefus Chrift, and follow after righteoufnefs. But this is not the proper moment to fpeak the praife of man. Let us rather contemplate our adorable Saviour, Whofe Death we are about to commemorate :---Whilft we make our "Approach to the

iv	Addrefs to Young Communicants.		
	Holy Altar," all other thoughts fhould be hufhed.		
	In an age, however, like the prefent, when your Faith is affailed on all fides by new doctrines, not grounded on the war- ranty of Scripture, it may ftrengthen your principles to be affured that every word of		
	this book is from the pen of an orthodox		
	Bishop, and Confession to the Truth. Amidst many great changes in this		
	kingdom, at the facrifice of all his worldly		
	interefts,—even to the loss of his Bishop- rick,—in perfecution, in imprisonment,		
	and not without danger of being driven		
	into exile, Ken remained immoveably fteadfaft to the English Church, which he		
	loved above all things on Earth. He		
	withftood two Kings in defence of her primitive doctrines. Whatever he taught,		
	-all that he wrote, -he "humbly fub-		
	mitted to her judgment, conformably to whose Articles he defired all good Chrif-		
	tians to interpret it." He exhorted the		
	people " to adhere to the Written Word,		
	and to perfevere in the Faith, taught in the Church of England, whole doctrine		

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Address to Young Communicants.	v
for Catholic and foundness he preferred to all the Communities, and Churches of	
Chriftians in the world."-He foretold	
that, "whatever is suffered, is should after a short trial emerge, to the confusion of her	Evelyn's Diary, vol. 1, p. 637.
adversaries, and the Glory of God." Learn from his example to be patient and hopeful, meek and courageous, sted-	
fast and unchangeable under all difficult queftionings. Take comfort from his last	
declaration, " As for my Religion, I die in the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Faith, pro-	
feffed by the whole Church before the dif- union of East and West: more particularly	
I die in the Communion of the Church of	
England, as it stands distinguished from all Papal and Puritan innovations, and as it	
adheres to the Dostrine of the Crofs."	
He never for a moment doubted that fhe	
is a true and a pure Member of the "Holy CATHOLIC (or Universal) CHURCH, which	
is made up of the Collection of all parti- cular Churches," United in one Body,-	
Jefus Chrift Himfelf being the Head. This Holy Catholic Church inherits His	
own rich promife, that " at the Name of	

vi	Addrefs to Young Communicants.
Matt, xxviii. 19.	Jefus every knee (hould bow,"—confirmed by His own gracious command, "Go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghoft." "It is Holy, like its Author; Holy by the original defign of its Inftitution; Holy by Baptifmal Dedication; Holy in all its Administra- tions, which tend to produce holinefs: and, though there will be always a mixture
	of good and bad in it in this world, yet it has always many real Saints in it." "It is Catholic in refpect of time, com- prehending all ages to the world's end to which it is to endure; Catholic in refpect of all places out of which Believers are
	to be gathered; Catholic in refpect of All-faving Faith, of which the Apoftles' Creed contains the fubftance, which fhall
	in it always be taught ; Catholic in refpect of all Graces which fhall in it be practifed, and Catholic in refpect of that Catholic
	War it is to wage against all its Ghostly enemies, for which it is called "Militant."*
	• Practice of Divine Love, Ed. 1686, p. 47, 48.

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Address to Young Communicants.
To this CATHOLIC CHURCH the Chrif- tian Faith was, once for all, delivered clearly by our Lord Jefus Chrift, and in the Gofpel unalterably revealed, as the living teftimony of God's will : as fuch it was preached by the Apoftles, and their Succeffors; as fuch it was folemnly con- firmed by the early Patriarchs, and Bifhops of all Chriftendom, affembled in Univerfal Councils. And, " If any man fhall add unto thefe things, God fhall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book : and if any man fhall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God fhall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this book. He which teftifieth thefe things faith, Surely I come quickly. Amen." Notwithftanding thefe awful words of God, many Churches have unhappily "added" to the Chriftian Faith, or "taken away" from it. After a while falfe doc- trines fprung up: error and fuperfition obfcured the light of the Truth. The Roman Bifhops amidft the ignorance and