

**HUMILITY THE TRUE
TALISMAN; A STUDY
OF CATHOLICISM**

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Humility the true talisman; a study of Catholicism by Albert von Ruville

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ALBERT VON RUVILLE

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HUMILITY
THE TRUE TALISMAN

A STUDY OF CATHOLICISM

BY

DR. ALBERT VON RUVILLE

PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HALLE A. S.

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PREFACE

THE worker in the sphere of modern history is everywhere and perpetually confronted by the contrasts between the various Christian Creeds right up to the present time. Any historian intent on acquiring a true estimate of persons, institutions and events is bound to consider these contrasts with rigorous attention until he understands their origin as well as their nature and justification.

One question above all others demands solution, or at least an attempt at solution, for until a correct answer to it is acquired all the changes of these last three centuries can be understood but imperfectly, and but inadequately judged. This fundamental question is: *which of the many religious parties always has been and still is in possession of the Truth?* Should we succeed in obtaining a trustworthy answer to this problem, light will be thrown on all other subjects with which history treats. For it is evident that the whole historical issue assumes a different aspect according to whether this or that religious community

is found to be in possession of the true knowledge of salvation.

It may be objected that such truth does not exist, or if it does, that it can never be established with any degree of certainty. Even were such a statement correct the historian would not thereby be relieved of his duty of prosecuting an investigation of the problem above stated. He must run the risk of his labours being fruitless in the end. At the same time experience shows that even the greatest difficulties are surmountable, be they only grappled with correctly deep down at the roots.

In approaching this task, I am not beginning a study which is entirely new to me, for I arrived at its conclusions long ago with a conviction the firmness of which entailed momentous consequences in my life. My present aim is rather to set forth as compactly and as decisively as possible the ideas and arguments which prevailed with me, and to arrange and focus them in the manner best calculated to constitute a convincing proof to all searchers for the truth. The fact that I am sure that I have found the truth constrains me to use this precious acquisition for the benefit of my science. I can in this sense affirm that the investigations which I offer are important historical ones.

ALBERT VON RUVILLE.

HALLE A S.,

June, 1910.

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