# THE DEVOTION TO THE HEART OF JESUS WITH AN INTRODUCTION ON THE HISTORY OF JANSENISM

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The devotion to the Heart of Jesus with an introduction on the history of Jansenism by John Bernard Dalgairns

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## JOHN BERNARD DALGAIRNS

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#### AN INTRODUCTION ON THE HISTORY OF JANSENISM.

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JOHN BERNARD DALGAIRNS, Print of the Oratory of S2, Philip Neri,

NEW REVISED EDITION.

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#### PREFACE TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

THE work which is here presented to the American public is not a controversial treatise, but a doctrinal exposition of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, now so extensively diffused throughout the Church. The author, a distinguished convert from the ranks of the Anglican clergy to the Catholic faith, was sensible that the subject of popular devotions is frequently obscure to the minds of those who have but recently become members of the Church; for, although they believe on her authority whatever is a matter of faith, they may not yet have acquired that intimate knowledge of her life and spirit which are exhibited in the practical and fruitful operation of her heaven-descended doctrines. To aid them in rightly apprehending the system of

#### 8 PREFACE TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

popular devotions is the object of the following pages. Though he treats more especially of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, his remarks apply in general to all those which are approved by the Church, and show that they always spring legitimately from her theology, and that if they vary at different times, they are but various expressions or illustrations of her interior and unchanging life to meet the different phases of the world. These points, embracing the historical and dogmatical view of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, are discussed in the first and second chapters; the remaining four treat of the love of that Divine Heart, or what may be termed the mystical grounds of the devotion. As an introduction to the subject, the author has given a very interesting sketch of the origin, progress, and spirit of Jansenism, the most fearful enemy of popular devotion in the last century.

This brief outline of the writer's plan, which he has executed with considerable ability, will

#### PREFACE TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

suffice to show that his work will prove a source of valuable information, not only to converts, but to those also who have been reared in the belief of Catholic doctrine, by affording more ample instruction on a topic to which only a few words of explanation are commonly devoted in our manuals of picty. We may add that the author, in the performance of his task, has not disdained the ornaments of style. His language is polished, yet clear and vigorous, and breathes that devout fervor which he aims at enkindling in the hearts of his readers.