

**THE PHYSICAL  
SYSTEM OF  
ST. THOMAS**

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The physical system of St. Thomas by Giovanni Maria Cornoldi & Edward Heneage Dering

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**GIOVANNI MARIA CORNOLDI & EDWARD HENEAGE DERING**

# **THE PHYSICAL SYSTEM OF ST. THOMAS**



BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

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THE  
PHYSICAL SYSTEM  
OF ST. THOMAS

BY

FATHER GIOVANNI MARIA CORNOLDI, S.J.

TRANSLATED BY

EDWARD HENEAGE DERING

*Translator of "On Universals," and "Political Economy;"  
Author of "Freville Chase," "The Ban of Maplethorpe," "Memoirs  
of Georgiana Lady Chatterton," &c., &c.*

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1893

**B**EFORE the last chapter of this treatise was in print, its lamented author had passed out of this world, in which he had done invaluable service to the Church of God.

While the present translation was passing through the press, the translator also, EDWARD HENEAGE DERING, was suddenly called to his reward. The last composition that he printed (in the *Tablet*, Nov. 19, 1892), was the following short memoir of his friend and master in Scholastic science, FATHER MATTEO LIBERATORE:

### “In Memoriam.

“Sixty-seven years ago a boy of fifteen, whose book-learning had till then been in abeyance, by reason of his having wonderfully been the mainstay of his widowed mother's house from the age of ten, entered a Jesuit school in Naples, and, rapidly passing all his competitors, was in the following year a novice in the Society of JESUS. He was Professor of Philosophy from 1837—only twelve years after going to school—till the Revolution of 1848

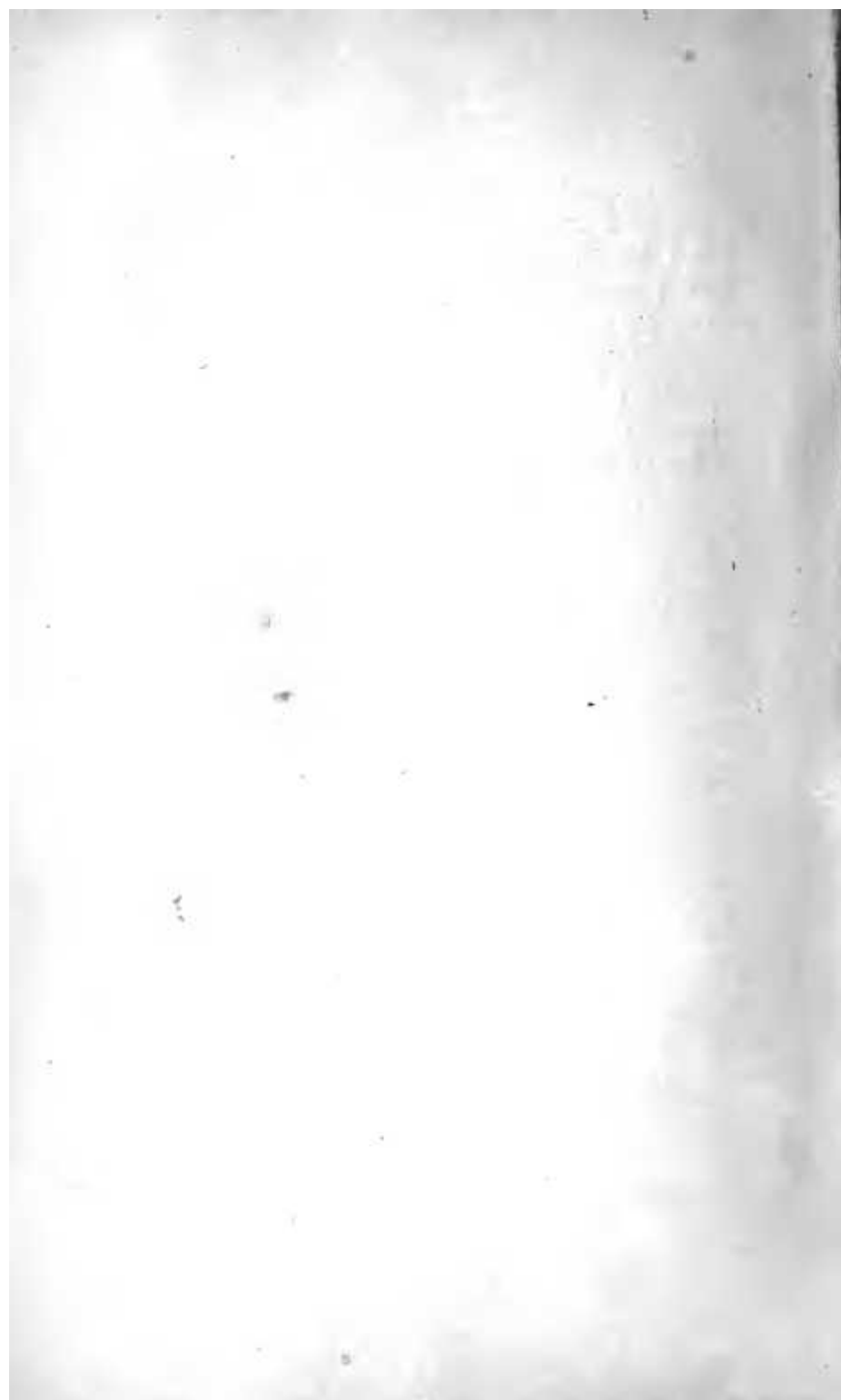
forced him into exile, from which he returned at the imminent risk of his life, and was made Professor of Theology at Naples. The risk was evident, because his name was on the list of the proscribed, as intended for the patriot's dagger. In 1850 he co-operated in founding the *Civiltà Cattolica*, to defend the Church, the Holy See, and notably the teaching of St. THOMAS. Without him that invaluable periodical would have died still-born, instead of doing the great work that it has done and continues to do. But this necessitates a brief retrospect. When he began teaching philosophy as a professor, thirteen years before, he found it infected with dangerous errors. We cannot speak of them here for want of space, but certain it is that the Angelic Doctor was generally forgotten, discredited, misrepresented, and that false philosophy was taught even within the Church. He was the first in the field against that, published his *Institutiones Philosophicæ* in 1840, and continued to fight the good fight as long as Almighty God willed that his life should last. That man was FATHER MATTEO LIBERATORE, who died in Rome on the 18th of last October, eight months after the death of his great co-operator and *confrère*, FATHER GIOVANNI MARIA CORNOLDI. When two such men are taken away from the Church militant, one can only turn to Almighty God



and say, *Fiat voluntas Tua*. To myself the loss of FATHER LIBERATORE is a personal grief and an irreparable loss. *Dominus dedit. . . Dominus abstulit. . . sit nomen Domini benedictum.*—*Baddesley Clinton, Nov. 19, 1892.*"

Mr. Dering's life and literary labours had been devoted to the enlightenment and conversion of his countrymen. He died, as he had desired to do, in harness; and, lamenting the greatness of his loss, the many who loved him, can only echo his last printed words: *Dominus dedit. . . Dominus abstulit. . . sit nomen Domini benedictum.*

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## PREFACE.

WHY THIS TREATISE WAS WRITTEN.

HAVING for many years openly defended the Philosophy of St. Thomas, even in what concerns the fundamental doctrines of organic and inorganic nature, we think it time to treat that subject, not merely touching on one or another point, but dealing with those doctrines philosophically.

In Italy, where Masonic influence is now felt in every department of Government, nothing has been omitted by which the minds and hearts of our young men could be turned away, not only from the religious teaching of the Catholic Church, but also from all philosophical doctrines that are not against Religion. The teaching of Metaphysics was made over years ago to professors who only corrupted their pupils by the German transcendentalism of Kant, Hegel, Schelling and others: but,