

**MANUAL OF THE LIVES
OF THE POPES, FROM
ST. PETER TO PIUS IX**

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Manual of the Lives of the Popes, from St. Peter to Pius IX by John Charles Earle

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BY JOHN CHARLES EARLE, B.A.

"Siate, Christiani, a muovervi piu gravi;
Non siate come penna ad ogni vento,
E non crediate ch' ogni acqua vi lavi.
Avete 'l vecchio e 'l nuovo Testamento
E 'l Pastor della chiesa che vi guida;
Questo vi basti a vostro salvamento."

DANTE, *Il Paradiso*, Canto V.

FIRST AMERICAN, FROM THE LAST LONDON EDITION.



BALTIMORE:
PUBLISHED BY JOHN MURPHY & Co.
182 BALTIMORE STREET.
1867.

PREFACE TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

AN English periodical, second to none in our language, and distinguished for its ability and impartiality, thus speaks of the work which we now present to the American public.

“We notice with pleasure the appearance of this invaluable Manual. No division of Ecclesiastical History is so convenient as that by successive Pontificates; and such a volume, therefore, as the present is not more useful towards *acquiring* the knowledge of Ecclesiastical History, than towards recalling what has been already learnt.”

* * * * *

“The Manual admirably meets a want long felt in English Catholic literature; and will be exceedingly useful in our Colleges and Schools. The biographies, though necessarily brief, contain all the material facts, civil and ecclesiastical, of each Pontificate, carefully summarised; and the narrative throughout is written in a very clear, concise, and graceful style.”

The sincere inquirer after truth, and we cherish the hope, that there are many such in our country, will hardly require any additional commendation of this little volume after the above favorable judgment from such competent judges.

It is not many years since one of our public men said: “There is nothing of which the present age stands so much in need, as of peace-makers.” Peace through Truth is the only peace that can be lasting: and in promoting this always desirable state of society, few agents are more potent than

historical truth. How much it has already accomplished within the present century, is one of the brighter signs of our times, dark and foreboding as they must appear to many. Whatever clouds passion and prejudices may spread over the minds of men sooner or later truth resumes her sway, and triumphs over all error. Falsehood can exist only for a time: it may be embellished by learning, sustained by self interest, genius and the power of party spirit, but it cannot bear the test of patient inquiry, scientific research and candor. Before these united, how many great historical errors have already disappeared: how many noble, but long-misrepresented characters of former days, have come forth from the gloom, in which their deeds, their virtues and sufferings remained so long hidden to wear the honors so unjustly, and for so many generations withheld from them. For the intelligent reader it will be enough to name a Gregory VII., an Innocent III., a Thomas à Becket, to remind him of what the present age has done in this regard.

What is true in matters of faith, holds good to a great extent in matters of history. It is the Truth will make you free.

May our present addition to the solid literature of our country contribute to the enlightenment of many and to the promotion of that taste for valuable knowledge, still so desirable, is the cordial hope and desire of the publisher.

BALTIMORE, *March 25, 1867.*

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THOUGH the larger part of this volume has already appeared in a Catholic periodical, it is not without much diffidence that I now offer it to the public complete. The history of the Papal line is encumbered with peculiar difficulty, in consequence of the conflicting accounts which exist respecting many Pontiffs, the insufficiency of information regarding others, and the variety of sources from which their annals are derived. These circumstances would make it difficult to satisfy all parties even in an extended history; but in a Manual, where everything must be compressed into a small compass, it is almost impossible to obviate all objections. If my humble attempt should fall into the hands of any who are learned in ecclesiastical history, I entreat them to remember that I have not presumed to write chronicles for them. This compilation is intended—as its title indicates—for students, and has grown out of notes made, in the first instance, for my own instruction and amusement. If it should prove to be as accurate as I have endeavoured to make it, it may perhaps find a place by the side of larger works, ancient and modern, on the same subject; and, by reason of its elementary character, be sometimes, and for special purposes, preferred to more elaborate treatises. The scholar and the teacher, as well as the learner, may—such is my hope—find it convenient to turn to a volume which will help them in the confusion that arises, even in the best memories, when trying to recall in an instant the chief events in the pontificate of one Pope, whose name is common to ten or twenty others, and they may be glad of a compendium of Papal history that supplies them readily with the dates they require.

I have avoided all vexed questions and all controversy; and though I write as a Catholic, in the love of Catholicism, and in devoted submission to Papal authority, I do not think

Protestant readers and Protestant students will find anything in the series to repulse them, or cause them to exclude it from their bookshelves. I recognise all good wherever I find it, as affiliated to the Catholic Church, and earnestly deprecate hostility where I intend and feel nothing but kindness and love. If in any of my statements I have unconsciously been led into error, I shall be grateful to any one who will point out the mistake, and it shall be rectified at the earliest opportunity. The confidence I have in the Papacy as a divine institution relieves me of all anxiety as to the effect of recording in each instance the plain, though sometimes painful, truth; nor can I desire for my readers any greater and more solid happiness than that which I felt (and still feel in retrospect) when I went up the stairs of the Vatican, and placed myself with all my cares—as I now desire to lay this little volume, with all its imperfections—at the feet of the Vicar of Jesus Christ.

LONDON, *June 6, 1866.*

WORKS PRINCIPALLY EMPLOYED IN THE
 COMPILATION OF THIS MANUAL.

Bouillet.—Dictionnaire d'Histoire; Ouvrage Approuvé par le
 Saint Siège.

Butler's Lives of the Saints. 12 vols.

Compendium Historiæ Ecclesiasticæ. Londini. 1778.

Döllinger.—History of the Church. 3 vols.

Drioux.—Précis Élémentaire d'Histoire Ecclésiastique.

Eusebius.—Historia Ecclesiastica.

Fleury.—Histoire Ecclésiastique. 40 vols.

Henrion.—Histoire de l'Eglise. 25 vols.

Manual of Church History. Burns. 1860.

Ranke.—Lives of the Popes of Rome during the Sixteenth
 and Seventeenth Centuries. 3 vols.

MANUAL
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LIVES OF THE POPES.

THE object of the biographical notices in this series is to present a summary account of the principal events in each Pontificate, so far as they can be gathered from history; to draw as faithful a portrait as possible of each Pontiff; to trace the rise and fall of the several heresies which have assailed the Catholic faith; to mark the progress of civilisation under the fostering influence of Christianity;* and to invite constant attention to the wonderful and special providence of God in preserving the Popes from the promulgation of any theological error, illustrating them, on the whole, with exalted talents and resplendent virtues, and enabling them to wage ceaseless and successful

*I have treated this branch of the subject more at length in an article entitled "Rome, the Civiliser of Nations," in the *Dublin Review* of April 1866.