

**STARTLING FACTS; OR, DEEDS OF  
DARKNESS DISCLOSED RELATIVE TO  
AURICULAR CONFESSION. AND ITS  
RELATIONS TO SACERDOTAL CELIBACY,  
CONVENTS, MONASTERIES, MORALITY,  
AND CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

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Startling facts; or, Deeds of darkness disclosed relative to auricular confession. And its relations to sacerdotal celibacy, convents, monasteries, morality, and civil and religious liberty by J. G. White

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BY

REV. J. G. WHITE,

AUTHOR OF THE "PROTESTANT MISSIONARY," AND OTHER ANTI-ROMAN  
PUBLICATIONS.

*"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather  
reprove them."—Paul.*



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## PREFACE.

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THE present volume is offered to the public as the first of a series of works in which the author proposes to expose Romanism and defend Protestantism. This work devotes special attention to *Auricular Confession*, its corrupting and intolerant influences. The confessional is regarded as the main pillar of Popery, the instrument of a despotic clerical power, and the arch-key of the whole superstructure of the Papacy, without which it would crumble to the dust.

This book is intended to be an embodiment of facts and documentary evidence of the pernicious influences of the confessional. It is a beacon-light to warn Protestants against the seductive influence of the confessional in connection with professed sacerdotal celibacy and convent life. It is also intended to show that Auricular Confession degrades and enslaves its votaries, and that through it the Roman clergy are endeavoring to subvert and destroy the principles of civil and religious liberty throughout the world; and that their energies are especially concentrated against the Government of the United States,

with a determination to destroy it, and on its ruins establish a Papal despotism.

This book was written in the midst of numerous and pressing professional engagements; and if it does not possess variety, it should not be attributed to the monotony of surrounding circumstances. It has been written while traveling thousands of miles, and at intervals between lectures, at hotels, between sermons, at protracted meetings, when often surrounded by the domestic circle, and occasionally at home, when resting from the fatigues of a journey, and at all hours of day and night. The numerous references to authorities has required the continued presence of a small select traveling library of Roman books. We submit the work to the careful consideration of a generous American people, conscious that, while its style may be subject to criticism, it contains important facts which challenge investigation.

Frequent abortive efforts have been made by Romanists to assassinate the author, and he has the positive evidence that they intend to take his life. He therefore puts these facts in form to speak for themselves; and, if he falls by the hand of an assassin, he will fall in defense of outraged and insulted virtue; and fall *fearlessly* at his post, battling for virtue, for liberty, for truth, for the right, for the salvation of man, and for the honor of God.

THE AUTHOR.

JACKSONVILLE, ILL., Feb. 1, 1875.



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# AURICULAR CONFESSION EXPOSED.

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY.

THE intolerant, despotic power of the Church of Rome over the souls and bodies of men is maintained by the direct influence of the confessional. The crime and licentiousness of cities and nations has been, and is now, in proportion to the unrestrained influence of the confessional. Civil and religious liberty struggle in vain for existence where its obligations are universally recognized. It therefore becomes the duty of all true patriots to investigate the principles of an institution, the influence of which is evil, and only evil, continually.

To comprehend the moral degradation and abject servitude which result from the Romish Confessional, it is necessary, first, to understand its principles, its obligations, its practices, and its legitimate results. Such is the nature of the subject, and such are the facts connected with its investigation, that a regard for decency precludes the possibility of full disclosures.