

**THE HISTORY OF AURICULAR  
CONFESSION: RELIGIOUSLY, MORALLY,  
AND POLITICALLY CONSIDERED  
AMONG ANCIENT AND MODERN  
NATIONS. IN TWO VOLUMES, VOL. I**

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The history of auricular confession: religiously, morally, and politically considered among ancient and modern nations. In Two Volumes, Vol. I by

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*Lasteyrie du Saillant, Charles P*

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# HISTORY

OF

## AURICULAR CONFESSION,

RELIGIOUSLY, MORALLY, AND POLITICALLY CONSIDERED  
AMONG ANCIENT AND MODERN NATIONS.

BY

COUNT C. P. DE LASTEYRIE.

TRANSLATED UNDER THE AUTHOR'S ESPECIAL SANCTION BY

CHARLES COCKS, B.L.,

PROFESSOR BREVETE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FRANCE. TRANSLATOR OF  
MICHELET'S "PRIESTS, WOMEN, AND FAMILIES," &c.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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IN laying this remarkable work before the English reader, the translator conceives it may not be superfluous to indicate the object which the noble author had in view in thus exposing the immoral effects of the system of Catholicism, so conspicuous in the invention and practice of Auricular Confession. To do so, the translator has only to give the following quotation from the present volume :—

“ If to present to the knowledge of the public detestable opinions and principles, be an opprobrium to some persons, it will, on the contrary, be a salutary warning to all, and the only means of putting a stop to causes of depravity, the more dangerous as they are disseminated quietly and under the cloak of religion : it will be a motive for too confiding and over-credulous persons to keep clear of an institution invented for the pur-

pose of subjecting Christians to a shameful and intolerable bondage."

The translator takes this opportunity of expressing to Count de Lasteyrie his grateful acknowledgments for the following obliging favour, by which the author has honoured the present undertaking with his approbation.

"Monsieur,

"J'ai reçu la lettre par laquelle vous me demandez à traduire en Anglais mon Histoire de la Confession . . . Ayant composé cet ouvrage dans le seul but d'attirer l'attention du public sur l'une des institutions les plus funestes imaginées par l'ambition sacrilège des hommes, je verrai avec plaisir que cet ouvrage soit reproduit dans une langue où il pourra acquérir une plus grande publicité, et étendre ainsi le bien que j'ai eu en vue. Je suis d'autant plus aise que vous entrepreniez cette traduction, que le talent dont vous avez donné des preuves en ce genre, est une garantie du succès que vous devez avoir . . .

"J'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur,

"Avec dévouement,

"C. DE LASTEYRIE."

## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

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HE who writes to oppose errors must expect to find contradictors, and often adversaries, the more violent and irascible that they are more interested in deceiving. There are some, however, who, according to the ideas they have acquired from education and circumstances, condemn, without examination and from prejudice, every opinion that differs from their own. This is a misfortune; yet we cannot blame them when they act conscientiously, and are as tolerant towards others as we ought to be towards them. But, on the other hand, we must rise against those hypocrites, those cheats, who are the eternal enemies of civil and religious liberty. We must despise their criticism, and even their hatred and calumny.