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LAURENCE VAUX & THOMAS GRAVES LAW

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A Catechisme

OR

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

BY

Laurence Maur, B.D.,

CANON REGULAR AND SUB-PRIOR OF ST. MARTIN'S MONASTERY, LOUVAIN,
SOMETIME WARDEN OF THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH,
MANCHESTER.

REPRINTED FROM AN EDITION OF 1583; WITH AN INTRODUCTORY MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR

BY

THOMAS GRAVES LAW,

Librarian of the Signet Library, Edinburgh; Editor of Hamilton's Catechium, 1552.

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INTRODUCTION.

NTIL quite recently a dozen lines would have been enough to tell all that could be learnt from printed sources of Laurence Vaux, who was at one time the Warden of the Collegiate Church of Manchester, and the author of the Catholic Catechism here reprinted. It was known that he was born at Blackrod in Lancashire, that he was educated first at Queen's College and afterwards at Corpus Christi, Oxford, that he was Chaplain to James Brooks, Bishop of Gloucester, and was made Canon of Salisbury, that under Queen Mary he became Warden of Manchester, and on the accession of Elizabeth was deprived, went into Ireland and there fell among thieves, that he then retired to Louvain, where he wrote his Catechism and became a monk, and that finally returning to England he was confined in some London prison where he died in misery and want. His early biographers, Protestant and Catholic alike, speak of him with respect for his uprightness and the innocence of his life, as well as for his learning. But his once famous little book, at first often reprinted, gradually passed out of sight; and the faint traditions of his sufferings in prison alone served to keep alive his memory among his co-religionists in succeeding generations as one of their army of confessors for