

**REMAINS, HISTORICAL AND LITERARY,  
CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE  
COUNTIES OF LANCASTER AND  
CHESTER, VOL. IV. A CATECHISME OR  
CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE**

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**LAURENCE VAUR & THOMAS GRAVES LAW**

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REMAINS  
**Historical and Literary**  
CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE COUNTIES OF  
**Lancaster and Chester.**



VOLUME 4.—NEW SERIES.

MANCHESTER:  
**Printed for the Chetham Society.**  
1885.

**A Catechisme**  
OR  
**CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE**

BY  
**Laurence Vaur, 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 Catechism, 1550.*

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.  
1885.



PRINTED BY CHARLES E. SIMMS,  
MANCHESTER.



## INTRODUCTION.

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UNTIL 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

the faith. He was, however, little more than a name on the roll of Catholic exiles, writers, or martyrs. Meagre, too, as the early accounts of him had been, they were not free from serious errors and contradictions.

His death is first noticed in the index to the *Concertatio Eccl. Cath.* (1588), where (*sub voce* Laurentius) the editor briefly remarks "obiit in vinculis martyr," but is apparently unable to give a date. Pitts, the author of the *De Illustribus Angliæ Scriptoribus* (1619), who might be expected to have had access to trustworthy sources of information, even if he had not personal knowledge of Vaux's mission and capture, which took place in 1580 (after Pitts had left Oxford for Douai), unaccountably sets down the death of the ex-warden in 1570, too early at least by fifteen years. Anthony à-Wood (1691) follows Pitts; and Tanner (*Bibliotheca Brit.*), on the authority of an alleged register in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, fixes the date of Vaux's burial positively on the 24th December, 1571.<sup>1</sup> Dodd, the Church Historian (1739), is led by the *Douai Diaries* to suspect an error in Pitts's account, but has some doubt whether his own records speak of the same Vaux or of another. Laurence, he remarks, "became

<sup>1</sup> Wood was informed by Dr. Simon Patrick, afterwards Bishop of Chichester, that there was no entry of Vaux's burial in the pariah register of St. Margaret's. A MS. History of the Parish (quoted by Baker in Bliss's edition of Wood, vol. i, 385), says that nevertheless Vaux was buried there "December 28 [*sic*] 1571, as appears by the register." By the kindness of Archdeacon Farrar, the rector of St. Margaret's, I am able to give the entry in dispute as it stands: "1571, Dec<sup>r</sup> xxiiiij<sup>th</sup> die, Larenés Vans [*sic*]." There is no entry of the name of Vaux in the year 1585.

a monk, but of what order he [Dr. Pitts] does not say;” while in another place, *sub voce* “N. Vaux,” Dodd gives a tentative account of “an ancient monk call’d Vaux, who set out from Rheims, August 2, 1580, in order to return upon the mission into England,” and who, landing at Dover, “was seized and clapp’d up in prison. I have elsewhere [he adds] made mention of Lawrence Vaux. Query, Whether by mistake in the date of years they may not be the same person?” The more accurate and well-informed Bishop Challoner, in his *Memoirs of Missionary Priests* (1741), places the death of Vaux, on the authority of an ancient Catalogue, in 1585, but the couple of sentences devoted by him to the Warden’s memory are not entirely free from error.<sup>1</sup> Later on M. Paquot, in his *Histoire Littéraire des Pays Bas* (Louvain, 1770), puts the date in question too late, 1588, but is able to supply fuller information on Vaux’s monastic life, and mentions that a letter written by him, and giving an account of his imprisonment, was still preserved as a precious treasure in the Priory of St. Martin at Louvain.<sup>2</sup>

Hibbert-Ware, who, in his *Foundations of Manchester*, vol. i. p. 76, gives from Hollinworth, &c., a short account of Vaux’s wardenship, adds in a note that he died in the

<sup>1</sup> “Lawrence Vaux, formerly Warden of Manchester (sometime Convictor of the College of Doway or Rheims) afterwards Canon Regular. He was cast into the prison of the Gatehouse, together with N. Titchburn, Esq., by Elmer, Bishop of London, in 1580, and died there this year” [1585]. (*Memoirs*, vol. i. p. 172.) Vaux was never at Douai or Rheims before he became a monk. He spent a few days only at the latter College, on his way to England, in 1580.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. iii. pp. 580 and 668.