

**THE TWO BISHOPS. A
TALE OF THE
NINETEENTH CENTURY**

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The Two Bishops. A Tale of the Nineteenth Century by Anonymous

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THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.



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AS A TRIBUTE TO

The Cause of Truth,

THESE PAGES ARE

OFFERED BY

THE AUTHOR.

ROME,
May the 1st, 1860.

P R E F A C E.

IN the following pages, the endeavour has been rather to trace conscientious convictions to their just conclusion, than to attempt a record of historic facts or actual events.

The Author has glanced at the follies of a system, in order that, under colour of fiction, it may be more forcibly proved, to all earnest minds, that a search for Truth must result in submission to the Unity of Faith—"the One Church Catholic of Rome."

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THE TWO BISHOPS.

CHAPTER I.

FRANCIS and JULIAN VAVASOUR were the sons of a rich and highly-born gentleman, who had died whilst the two young men were completing their education at Oxford.

Francis, the elder, was intended to hold the family living of Lillyfield; and Julian, much against his inclination, was destined for the bar.

The sudden death, however, of their father, released the latter from his promise of not selecting his own profession, and opened out a path to a life more in unison with his own feelings.

That there is a greater evil to be overcome than poverty, in all its varied sufferings, he felt the more assured, the more he pondered over the spiritual destitution of his native land, so apparent even within her proud colleges, and in spite

of her many public institutions for the education of her children. During his sojourn at Oxford, often had Julian endeavoured to discover a remedy for a state of things which, to every thoughtful mind, must appear a great national evil.

In that time-honoured seat of learning he saw science carried to perfection. The wisdom of this world seemed to be attained by all. And not as mere scholars had Oxford good reason to boast of her sons: they were also finished gentlemen, whose elegant tastes exercised as much influence in the fashionable, as their more solid acquirements in the political world. But in the signs of the times Julian saw a striking resemblance to the 18th century in France; when a school of philosophy arose which summoned to the bar of Reason the most sacred truths, and rejected those which could not stand the test; when the spirit of rationalism pervaded every class of society, and men were found to call in question even the sublime and consoling doctrine of the soul's immortality! Turning over the historic page, he marked how many disciples of this school had been, at the hour of death, forced to acknowledge that mere human learning was