DRIVEN TO ROME

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Driven to Rome by Henry Willis Probyn-Nevins

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HENRY WILLIS PROBYN-NEVINS

DRIVEN TO ROME





DRIVEN TO ROME.

BY

AN EX-ANGLICAN CLERGYMAN.

"Our little systems have their day;
They have their day and cease to be:
They are but broken lights of Thee,
And Thou, O Lord, art more than they."
In Memoriam.



WILLIAMS AND NORGATE,

14, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON; and 20, SOUTH FREDERICK STREET EDINBURGH.

1877.

251. e. 84.



INTRODUCTION.

FATHER NEWMAN Wrote Loss and Gain; Mr. Capes, To Rome and Back; other writers of less reputation have also used the form of a novel to portray a history of events in which they were interested. Driven to Rome is written likewise with an object, and that object is to point out how Bigots and Bullies frequently drive men to Rome, and then raising their pious faces heavenward exclaim, "Oh! how shocking!" or, still more often, "I told you so." Few men who have a tolerably large circle of acquaintances can fail in a more or less degree to point out a Mr. Macdonald or a Joyce, and in the list of retired officers in the army there are still many Lamorts whose moral and religious notions are such as I have described. Arthur Macdonalds and George Lamorts I have frequently met; and probably in the present state of chaos in the Church

of England many Arthurs and Lamorts are at this very moment undergoing the process I have so briefly described. If so, and some of the bigots I have alluded to get hold of this novel, may they for once in their lives exercise that highest of all virtues, a little—Charity.

September 1877.

THE AUTHOR.

A NOTE FOR CLERICAL READERS.

A want of charity and intense love of trying to pick holes in the orthodoxy of our neighbours is doing untold harm not only to the Anglican Church, but to that of which I have the honour to be a member. If men would only try and see in how many points they absolutely agree and in how many controversial matters, the difference lies really far more in the form of expression than in the dogma about which they discuss, there would be more hope for the Christianity of Europe exercising due sway in the latter half of this nineteenth century. A large body of able, clever, and would-be Christian men are almost forced into the ranks of the Infidel, though Priestly intolerance and Clerical Despotism. The bigoted Vicars of Sleepytown and the men of the Lamort and Shallow style seem at the present moment to paralyse the action of the In this country no Ministry-Whig or Moderates. Tory-will be able to stand if it throws its mantle over the doings of the Ultras, whether of Rome, Canterbury, or Islington.

