

**DECLARATIONS AND
LETTERS ON THE VATICAN
DECREES, 1869-1887**

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Declarations and Letters on the Vatican Decrees, 1869-1887 by Ignaz von Döllinger

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IGNAZ VON DÖLLINGER

**DECLARATIONS AND
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HIPPOLYTUS AND CALLISTUS;

OR,

**The Church of Rome in the First Half of the Third
Century.**

By JOHN J. IGN. VON DÖLLINGER.

TRANSLATED WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, AND APPENDICES.

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MASTER OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DURHAM.

'We are impressed with profound respect for the learning and ingenuity displayed in this work. The book deserves perusal by all students of ecclesiastical history. It clears up many points hitherto obscure, and reveals features in the Roman Church at the beginning of the third century which are highly instructive.'—*Athenæum*.

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PREFACE BY THE EDITOR.

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ON the 2nd October 1886 the late Dr. Döllinger wrote to me as follows:—

“But a very short time ago I received from several quarters intimations that I ought to submit myself. These intimations consist of two verbal communications closely succeeding each other from the Pope, a written one from the Archbishop of Munich (worded very politely and delicately), and a second one in writing from Bishop Hefele. I myself feel very keenly that, before my life’s hour-glass runs out, I still owe the world a well-substantiated declaration. There is still so much to be said on the matter that has hitherto not been said, or has only been broached in an enfeebled form, that I cannot dismiss the affair in a pamphlet, but rather am compelled to bring forward in a certain degree of completeness an *aciem argumentorum et factorum instructam*.¹ There are also some personal experiences (about my visit to Rome, and what I saw there) to be narrated. As a

¹ A well-ordered array of arguments and facts.

7 Aug 50 Very Fricker 175

preliminary step I have carefully weighed the whole subject, and the material is collected. . . . The form is to be that of a series of letters addressed to a prelate in high office, whose name, however, out of regard for the man, I should not mention. This affords freer scope. As title I propose to myself, *The Vatican Decrees in the Light of History*. Among other things I think of giving a survey of the dogmatic history of the Roman See from its beginning to the present day, in which history all somewhat important *decreta fidei* that have been issued by a pope would be brought forward, and, where necessary, critically though briefly discussed. As is well known, nothing of this kind exists as yet. Since I received the above-mentioned intimations, this plan has been daily, almost hourly, engaging my attention, so that it is difficult for me to direct my thoughts earnestly to anything else. Partly on this account and partly also because of other hindrances, I must beg you to have patience with me a little longer in reference to the article on Ignatius.¹

“The considerations, the thinking over of the plan, the enormous quantity of facts and doctrines to be brought forward, which have thrust themselves upon my memory, have been so overwhelming during these last few weeks, that it has been almost too

¹ For *The Autobiography of Cardinal Bellarmine*, which appeared in the following year, 1887, at Bonn.