

**XVII**  
**OPUSCULES**

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XVII Opuscles by Juan de Valdés & John T. Betts

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BY

JUÁN DE VALDÉS.

Translated from the Spanish and Italian

AND EDITED BY

JOHN T. BETTS.

"Valdesio Hispanus scriptore superbiat orbis."

*From Daniel Rogers' Epigram in Lawrence  
Humphrey's Life and Death of Bishop  
Jewell, 1573.*

201726  
6.4.26

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1882.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE Editor of this collection of extracts from Juan de Valdés' works, *hitherto unpublished in English*, has, in connection with Valdés' recently discovered tracts (never edited in any language until recently so in Spanish), to make his public acknowledgments of obligation to his highly valued and learned friend, Dr. Edward Boehmer, Emeritus Professor of Halle and Strasburg Universities, for his assistance and kindness, in furnishing him, the Editor, with the manuscript copies of the Spanish originals, so that he was enabled to translate them into English before they were published in Spanish as Valdés' *Trataditos*. This is true of the tracts numbered in the appended table of contents from v. to xi. The Editor feels it a pleasure to make these his grateful expressions public, for they are a well-earned but inadequately paid tribute to his master in these studies, whilst the circumstance gives an authority and value to these papers which they otherwise

would not have. Again, the Editor's recognition of obligation in that direction would be but half paid were he not to state, that it has been his privilege to translate them from Mrs. Boehmer's autograph; it is due to her, in commemoration of her desert in connection with those, who prize Valdés' works, to state, that the only German translation of Valdés' "CX. Divine Considerations" extant, is her able and faithful one.

*Valdés' Introduction to his Commentary on the Psalms*, here printed in English, has never previously been printed in any language; it was communicated to the Editor by his talented young friend, Don Manuel Carrasco, whose elder brother, the gifted and lamented Don Antonio, was drowned on his return from America, when the "Ville de Havre," on board of which he was a passenger, foundered. Don Manuel was invited by Dr. Boehmer to assist him in transcribing copies of the original Spanish Manuscripts, "sent by the liberality of the Austrian Government and by the favour of that of Germany from Vienna to Strasburg" for Dr. Boehmer to copy. Don Manuel transcribed this Introduction to Valdés' Commentary on the Psalms, and the Commentary itself on the first book of the Psalms—from Psalm i. to Psalm xli. Don Manuel is in possession of his own unpublished transcript of the original Spanish

manuscript both of the Commentary and of the Introduction. There is, indeed, evidence that Valdés expounded all the five books of the Psalms, but of them, however, there has been as yet but this one found.

*The Tratatitos* were recently discovered among the thousands of anonymous manuscripts deposited in the Palatine Library at Vienna. Their discovery is greatly due to Michael Denis, who was appointed principal Librarian of the Imperial Library in the year 1791. He was a poet, scholar, and lover of books. His biographer says of Denis "that he did not rest satisfied with the mere guardianship of the literary treasures confided to him, but that he sought to make them known, and to show to youth and to scholars, how to turn them to account."

This observation is justified by the fact that Denis appended short initiatory extracts from the MSS. to each one of them; judge of the task, when told that their titles catalogued, made 6000 folio columns. The extracts were intended to serve as a clue to recognition; and in the instance of these, Dr. Boehmer's discoveries, here published, they did so; for he, the great Valdesian scholar and author of our time, by these extracts at once recognised them, and brought them to the light by publication, after perhaps a necessary entombment



of 340 years, calculated from the date of Juan de Valdés' death, which was in 1541. An earlier discovery might by publication have ensured their fanatical destruction; but their gloomy wintry chrysalis period of existence terminated two years ago, and their resurrection has now commenced, in the latter decades of this enlightened century. This presumption is warranted by the experience realised in the instance of one of Valdés' works, his "CX. Divine Considerations," which are now to be found in Spanish, in Italian, in German, and in English, in all the university libraries of Europe and of America; but that work twenty-five years ago was so rare, as scarcely to be attainable by purchase. Its *editio princeps* was the Italian of 1550, for so well had the Inquisition suppressed and destroyed its Spanish original, that there was not a known Spanish copy of it extant, when that patriotic Christian scholar, Don Luis Usóz i Rio, turned it into Spanish from the Italian copy found by Dr. Boehmer in 1859 in the library of Franke's Orphan Schools at Halle. Don Luis published it in two editions, the latter being a trophy of scholarly luxury. Recently, however, amongst the collected papers of the Emperor Maximilian II. there have been found XXXIX. Spanish originals of thirty-nine of the CX. Divine Considerations, which, edited by Dr. Boehmer, have been published by Don Fer-

nando de Brunet, just prior to his lamented and recent decease, in the new work entitled Valdés' *Trataditos*. Under Imperial protection Valdés' works have been safely preserved, but under any other the documents would have been destroyed and their possessor would have been compromised. In relation to the conservation of Valdés' works, and in connection with the Emperor, it should be told of Juan Perez de Pineda, who was Secretary to the Spanish embassy at Rome in 1527, when Rome was sacked by the Constable de Bourbon, that he subsequently published at Geneva in 1557, from Valdés' own MS., his Commentary upon St. Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians, dedicating it with a long prefatory letter to the Emperor Maximilian II., which he presumably would not have done had he not been aware that such evangelical teaching was acceptable to the Emperor.

The recently discovered treasures in Vienna comprise the following:—

Valdés' *Commentary on the Gospel of St. Matthew*, the existence of which, prior to the discovery, was alike unknown to the late Benjamin B. Wiffen, who wrote the life of Valdés, and to all Valdés' modern biographers. It is already printed in Spanish at Madrid. Dr. Boehmer edited it; and, now translated into English, it is actually in the press.

Valdés' *Spanish Version of the Psalms* from the Hebrew

"*El Salterio*," also edited by Dr. Boehmer, and published by Fernando de Brunet, with the *Trataditos*, at Bonn.

Valdés' *Commentary on the First Book of the Psalms*, from i. to xli., with a valuable introduction.

*Thirty-nine* of Valdés' *CX. Divine Considerations*, being the only known originals in Spanish.

Valdés' *Seven Doctrinal Letters*, which, with the thirty-nine Spanish Considerations, and the original Spanish version of the treatise on "*The Fundamentals of the Christian Religion*," have been edited by Dr. Boehmer, and published as the *Trataditos*.

This last-mentioned treatise had been found by Dr. Boehmer in Italian, with four others, in 1869, and were reprinted by him under the title of "*Sul Principio della dottrina Cristiana. Cinque trattatelli evangelici di Giovanni Valdesso, ristampati dall' edizione Romana del 1545.*"

The tract entitled the "*Christian's Conception of Christ*" is taken from the Editor's translation of the *CX. Divine Considerations*, to which Celio Secondo Curione prefixed a letter to the first edition of 1550, in which he says of their author, "No writer has soared to such a height, nor demonstrated so powerfully, nor reasoned so sweetly, nor with such majesty, nor with such authority, nor with such grace, as our Valdés."

PEMBURY, TUNBRIDGE WELLS,  
November 1881.