

**ST. PETER NON-ROMAN IN  
HIS MISSION, MINISTRY,  
AND MARTYRDOM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649480517

St. Peter Non-Roman in His Mission, Ministry, and Martyrdom by Robert Maguire

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**ROBERT MAGUIRE**

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ST PETER, NON-ROMAN

IN HIS

MISSION, MINISTRY, AND MARTYRDOM

BY THE

REV. ROBERT MAGUIRE, M.A.,  
VICAR OF CLERKENWELL.



LONDON:  
SEELEY, JACKSON, & HALLIDAY,  
54 FLEET STREET.

MDCCLXXI.

130. f. 77.

## PREFACE.

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A CHAIN of many links, if it is to have any effect upon the object intended, must be brought into direct contact with that object. If to move a ship, it must be attached or fastened to the ship; if to any other object, it must be brought into connection therewith. For example, a train of many carriages may be ready to start, freighted with many passengers; the engine with all its steam up. The bell rings, the signals fall, the shrill steam-whistle sounds, and the engine starts and whirls along at forty miles an hour; but if that engine has not been attached by the coupling-irons to the train, the train and all its passengers are left behind!

The Atlantic cable consists of many links; by it messages are sent across the ocean. It is not enough that it should be just such a length, or extend just so far, or be complete in all its parts. It may be perfect in all these, but if it is not attached, in its *first link*, to "Heart's Content," or "Valencia," it

carries no message ! All the links, for that one want, are practically dead !

Now, that is just what this book is designed to show respecting the Papal Claims—that in working back, they *fail to touch* that point which is alleged to be the Source of all ! Thus, even though we should grant a long succession of Roman Bishops, Pontiffs, Popes,—yet so long as they claim “succession to St Peter,” and yet fail to connect their cable by its first link with Peter, their claim is naught, and fails to carry.

Even though we grant all that the Church of Rome says about the “Rock,” and about “St Peter” as the Rock ; and about “the Church,” as built upon the Rock,—still, if there is no loop on the Rock, whereby to fasten their chain, that Rock is plainly no strength to them.

Even though we were to admit all that the Church of Rome asserts about primacy, supremacy, papacy, infallibility, as connected with St Peter and at Rome,—yet until she connects St Peter with Rome, she has done nothing !

Therefore, if the purport of this book should seem to be but limited, it is because it professes to deal with *that first link*, and with that only. That link failing, all the rest of the chain is useless !

That which is “first” is indispensable in every-

thing. What would a building be without its first stone? or a tree without its first planting? or a railway without its first sod upturned? or a river without its spring? or a life without its first breath? or an education without its alphabet? So, what are the Papal Claims without—*Peter? And at Rome?*

In this book, I have no objection (if only for sake of argument) to allow everything to pass unchallenged, save one thing; that one thing I boldly challenge all through—namely, the Claim that St Peter was first Roman pontiff! This failing, all other Claims become a dead letter, and worthless.

The purport of this work is to show from authentic and unquestioned evidence:—

That St Peter was not Bishop of the Roman See.

That no early or sufficient evidence warrants us in saying that St Peter was ever in Rome at all.

That the Papal Claims, high and lofty as claims could possibly be, are founded not on faith, but on doubt; not on settled history, but on growing fable; and receive support from neither the Word of God, nor the testimony of man.

The whole effect of this argument is in the direction of the Spiritual Power of the Roman Pontiff—that power which has ever been the most effective arm of the Papal service, and which, owing to recent



political changes, is now the only strength on which the Papacy can depend. The Temporal Power has ceased; but the Spiritual Power continues. The Temporal Power had effect only in Rome and its suburbs; but the Spiritual Power extends throughout the world, and is owned, or at least claimed, in all lands. This latter power is reviewed in this book—as to its origin, its rise, the extent of its claims, and the force of its argument. Diligent search and research has been made in gathering the materials together; and I now send forth my book as a contribution to the literature of Truth; and trust it may have its use in the service of God, and in the instruction of my fellow-men.

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" And this is all the Rock, whereof they boast,  
As Rome will one day find unto her cost.

As Sin in Greece a Prophet was before,  
And in old Rome a mighty Emperor ;  
So now being Priest, he plainly did profess  
To make a jest of Christ's three Offices :  
From Egypt he took petty deities,  
From Greece oracular infallibilities,  
And from old Rome the liberty of pleasure,  
By free dispensings of the Church's treasure.  
Then, in memorial of his ancient throne,  
He did surname his palace, *Babylon* ! "

—GEORGE HERBERT.