

**A VINDICATION OF THE MOST  
REVEREND THOMAS CRANMER,  
LORD ARCHBISHOP OF  
CANTERBURY, AND THEREWITH OF  
THE REFORMATION IN ENGLAND,**

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A Vindication of the Most Reverend Thomas Cranmer, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and  
Therewith of the Reformation in England, by H. J. Todd

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**H. J. TODD**

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A

# VINDICATION

OF THE MOST REVEREND

**THOMAS CRANMER,**

LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,

AND THEREWITH OF THE

**REFORMATION IN ENGLAND,**

AGAINST SOME OF THE

ALLEGATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN RECENTLY MADE

BY THE Rev. Dr. LINGARD, THE Rev. Dr. MILNER,

AND CHARLES BUTLER, Esq.

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THE SECOND EDITION,

WITH NOTICES OF DR. LINGARD'S AND MR. BUTLER'S REMARKS  
ON THE FIRST EDITION.

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BY THE

REV. H. J. TODD, M.A. F.S.A. AND R.S.L.

CHAPLAIN IN ORDINARY TO HIS MAJESTY, AND RECTOR OF  
SETTRINGTON, YORKSHIRE.

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## PREFACE

TO THE  
PRESENT EDITION.

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THE vindication of the character and conduct of Archbishop Cranmer, which not long since I prefixed to his admirable treatise upon the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, has been so well received by the publick, as to render it advisable to reprint it in a form suited to a more extensive circulation. It has indeed been said by Dr. Lingard and Mr. Butler, to whose animadversions upon the Archbishop I have replied in this Vindication, (with becoming circumspection, I trust,) "that the attempt of Mr. Todd to place in

\* Mr. Butler's Vindication of the Book of the Roman Catholic Church, p. lxx.

a more favourable light the labours of this celebrated prelate has not been successful."

The remark of Dr. Lingard is in <sup>b</sup> general terms, without impugning a single point which I have advanced, either as to accuracy or to applicability. It is therefore of no weight. Indeed, to the reimpression of this Vindication, I have been led by the judgement which has been passed upon it by men, not inferior in learning to Dr. Lingard, or (I might safely contend) to any scholar professing the Romish faith in the present age; men, who have cheered me for detecting the revival of forgotten calumnies, and for guarding others against the attempt, now made, to change the complexion of English history through the reign of Henry the Eighth to the close of Elizabeth's, in order to set at nought the Reformation, by an ostentatious appeal to documents of little or no value, and by a suppression of

<sup>b</sup> Preface to the last volume of his History of England, 4to and vol. 9th. 8vo.

indisputable authorities not in unison with the object of the historian. To the twelve especial statements concerning Cranmer, in which I am opposed to Dr. Lingard, I have now only added what may accompany his partiality for bishop Gardiner, namely, that in ° *the same fear* with that of the 'crafty prelate, the historian has coupled the learned and amiable bishop Tunstal, when, in truth, Tunstal's own ° letter has descended to us, proclaiming the very reverse.

The observations of Mr. Butler are specifick. He says, *first*, that "° without a minute and full investigation of every topick which my Vindication presents for discussion, it would be impossible to decide with justice between us. In such an investigation (he adds) I *may* hereafter engage." For such an investigation I shall look without fear.

° See the following Vindication, pp. 63, 64.

° Printed in the Appendix to this volume, p. 146.

° Vindication of The Book of the Roman Catholic Church, p. lxxv.



The courtesy of the champion against my cause will admit, that, as often as such contest may be renewed, the Protestant clergyman is not to be blamed, is not to be derided, who in his humble station presents himself armed with truth in defence of the Reformed Church of England; in defence especially, too, of the *unfortunate and wickedly treated prelate*, as Mr. Butler <sup>f</sup>recites the phrase in his mention of a letter received from the late Dr. Parr, in which the doctor censured, and very justly, in the severest terms, the language of Mr. Butler upon what he had considered the blamable parts of the Archbishop's character. The *second* remark of Mr. Butler on my Vindication is this: "Mr. Todd asserts, that I *charitably* say, that Cranmer and his association wished Mary and her associates to be exposed to their projected persecution. I am surprised

<sup>f</sup> Vindication of The Book of the Roman Catholic Church, p. lxvi.

<sup>g</sup> *Ibid.* p. lxvii.

at this remark." I need only refer the Protestant reader to the <sup>b</sup> passage in question; and he, I think, will not be *surprised*. But it will be right to produce the sentence of Mr. Butler, which occasioned my remark. "In extenuation of Mary's persecutions, it may be said, that she did no more than execute, against Cranmer and his associates, the provisions to which he had *wished* her and her associates to be exposed." What Mr. Butler says that the Archbishop and his associates thus *wished*, Dr. Lingard says they *intended*. I request the reader, therefore, particularly to regard what is offered upon this point in the statement in the <sup>k</sup> following pages. The *third* reflection of Mr. Butler on my Vindication is, <sup>l</sup> that I have accused him of unfairly citing bishop Jeremy

<sup>b</sup> See p. 115, et seq.

<sup>l</sup> The Book of the Roman Catholic Church, p. 205.

<sup>k</sup> See p. 115, et seq.

<sup>l</sup> Vindication of The Book of the Roman Catholic Church, p. lxxvii, et seq.

Taylor on the subject of transubstantiation and the mass; and that to this purpose I have produced a passage from the same author's *Dissuasive from Popery*. I have certainly so done; and, I trust, successfully. For what says Mr. Butler himself? "After repeated serious perusal of the passage cited by Mr. Todd from bishop Taylor's *Dissuasive*, I am convinced that it does not substantially contradict the passage cited from his *Liberty of Prophesying*. I admit that it appears,—that it may be thought,—that it may be construed to contradict it,—that it sounds like,—that it approaches very near to a contradiction; but I aver, that *it is not* a contradiction." I am content to leave this hesitating and rather whimsical declaration, which serves only to corroborate what I have asserted, without further comment; and to direct the reader to the plain, the perspi-

<sup>m</sup> Vindication of the Book of the Roman Catholic Church, p. lxi.