

**THE CLAIMS OF
ROME
(210TH THOUSAND)**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649435586

The Claims of Rome (210th Thousand) by Samuel Smith

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SAMUEL SMITH

**THE CLAIMS OF
ROME
(210TH THOUSAND)**

THE
CLAIMS OF ROME.

BY
SAMUEL SMITH, M.P.

THIRD EDITION.

LONDON :
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.
1897.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

The severe criticism to which this pamphlet has been subjected by Roman Catholic writers has led to a searching revision, and some slight corrections have been made. But the writer sees no reason to doubt the substantial truth of his statements. He has had the pleasure of reading the admirable work of Dr. Salmon on *The Infallibility of the Church* since the first edition of this pamphlet was published, and he takes the liberty of quoting freely, in the Appendix, from this unanswerable work.

In this edition the Appendix has been much enlarged, so that ample proof is now given of the truth of the statements made in the body of the pamphlet.

March, 1897.

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

The first chapter of this Pamphlet was delivered as an Address in my constituency, the County of Flint; the remainder has been added by a process of expansion. Hence there is a certain degree of informality in the order of the argument. I have sought only to state what I believe to be undoubted facts, and if these should lead to a fuller study of this great question I will be satisfied. There cannot be a doubt that it is the paramount question of the day for the English people.

INDEX.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE.
Growth of Romish Doctrines	7
The Priest and Christ Jesus the Mediator	8
The "Infallible Pope"	9
The <i>Syllabus</i> of Pio Nono	10
Cruelties of the "Holy Inquisition"—Massacre of St. Bartholomew— Galileo and the Papal Anathema	11
The Popes of the Middle Ages the Shame of Christendom	12
Cruel Persecution of the Waldensian Church—Milton	13
The Bible not for the Laity	13
The Romish System an attempt to degrade the Human Mind—Its operation described by Channing	15
Mary the Intermediary between Man and Jesus Christ	16
Transubstantiation	17
The Study of the Scriptures a Safeguard against the bondage of Popery	19

CHAPTER II.

Claim of the Popes to be Successors of St. Peter	21
Arrogant Pretensions, Temporal and Spiritual, of the Popes	22
A Patriarch of the Greek Church on the Dogma of Infallibility	23
Papal Forgeries—the "Decretals"—the "Clementine Homilies"	25
The Church of Rome Incapable of Reformation	29
The Reformers of the Sixteenth Century	30
The Policy of Rome bound by Unchangeable Decrees	31

CHAPTER III.

Image Worship—Relics—Saints, &c.	32
Cardinal Vaughan on Church of England Practices	35
Priestly Assumption and the Weakness of Human Nature	36
Thomas à Kempis—"Pilgrim's Progress"—The True Saints of God	39

	PAGE.
A Want of Reverence about Protestant Services	40
Earnest Spiritual Preaching of the Gospel needed to Arrest Spread of Ritualism and Romanism	40

APPENDIX.

Roman Deductions as to the Power of the Priesthood	41
Sacerdotalism	43
Mariolatry	45
The Virgin Mary	46
Worship of the Virgin	47
Purgatory	49
Indulgences	52
The Holy House of Loretto	53
The Vatican Decrees	59
The Church War in Quebec	61
Quemadero—the Spanish Smithfield	63
Spanish Inquisition	64
Galileo and the Infallible Tribunal	64
The Roman Church in the Tenth Century	66
Pope Alexander VI. and His Times	67
Immorality of the Clergy before the Reformation	68
Prohibition of the Bible	69
Discouragement of Bible Reading	72
The Bible in Brittany	73
The Pope's recent Decree concerning Bible Reading	74
Cardinal Newman on Infallibility	75
Peter's alleged Roman Episcopate	76
The Forged Decretals	77
Irish Bishops and the Pope's Infallibility	80
The Vatican Council of 1870	81
The Apostolic Succession	82
Excommunication of Queen Elizabeth	84
The Romish Confessional and its Dangers	86
Celibacy and the Confessional	87
Convents	88
Priestly Assumptions	89
Ritualism in the Church of England	90
Novelty of Romish Doctrines	91
The Coronation Oath, &c.	92
Father Chiniquy on Transubstantiation	94

THE CLAIMS OF ROME.

I.

THE public mind has been much exercised of late by the claims of the Roman Church. The Pope's Encyclical has recently been published in most of the newspapers: other circumstances have pressed home on the Protestants of this country the astonishing growth of Romish doctrines in our midst, and I have thought that I might offer some observations on this all-important question. I call it all-important because the very life of a nation depends upon the character of its religion. The gulf that separates England to-day from Spain and Italy, from Mexico and Peru, is chiefly owing to its breach with Rome in the 16th century. Our civil and religious liberty, our strong individuality, our national greatness, have their roots in the Reformation of the 16th century, and if the religion of the priest is to supersede the religion taught by Christ we shall surely witness the decadence of all that makes our country great. The judgment of history is unmistakable on this point, no nation governed or guided by priests has ever prospered and none ever will; yet there is an ominous apathy in our day which fills me with dread. Under the spurious name of Charity many seem to think it matters little what faith a people holds; a generation

has grown up which knows little, and cares less, for the tremendous struggles by which our forefathers purchased their freedom. Money-making and amusement divide the allegiance of most men; and Romish doctrine unperceived is stealing over the nation like an eclipse of the sun. One cannot deny that for many minds Sacerdotal religion has a strange fascination; many of our most earnest men and women have passed into Rome through the door of Anglican Sacerdotalism; if our purer faith is not to be lost we must refurbish the arms by which the Reformation was won. There are no weapons that will avail in this warfare except those by which our forefathers triumphed; they used "the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God" and "which is sharper than any two-edged sword," and this weapon has not lost its temper; let Romish and Sacerdotal doctrine be judged by this standard, and what do we find?

The great Charter of the Christian is direct access to God by Christ. "For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I. *Tim.* ii. 5). His language is not come to the priest, or come to the Church, but "come unto me." Never in the New Testament is a priest interposed between the sinner and the Saviour; that vast machinery of mediæval superstition which is well described by the word "Sacerdotalism"* is utterly unknown to the New Testament. If the salvation of men depends upon sacraments, and those sacraments owe their validity to a divinely constituted priesthood with apostolical succession, it is marvellous that Christ and his Apostles preserve a total silence on the subject; never once is a minister of religion in the New Testament called a priest; never once is a sacrifice for sin spoken of except that which was offered on Calvary once for all for the sin

* See Appendix, p. 48. Dean Farrar, in *The Bible and the Ministry*.