

**THE DEVIL'S
PARABLES: AND
OTHER ESSAYS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649561599

The Devil's Parables: And Other Essays by John Hannon

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JOHN HANNON

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BY

JOHN HANNON

R. & T. WASHBOURNE, LTD.

1, 2 & 4 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON

74 BRIDGE STREET, MANCHESTER

248 BUCHANAN STREET, GLASGOW

BENZIGER BROS. : NEW YORK, CINCINNATI, CHICAGO

1910

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KD 18736



TO THE
RIGHT REV. MONSIGNOR PATRICK FENTON

LORD BISHOP OF ARMYCLA, PROVOST AND VICAR-GENERAL OF THE
DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER, AND AUXILIARY BISHOP TO
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER

THESE PAGES ARE INSCRIBED
WITH DEEP RESPECT AND AFFECTIONATE MEMORIES
OF HIS LORDSHIP'S PRESIDENCY AT ST. EDMUND'S
IN THE HAPPY LUSTRUM

1882—1887

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INTRODUCTORY

TOM GRIFFIN was a quiet man, who dwelt in the "Hundreds" at Brentford. My personal memories of Tom are fast fading. I seem to recall a tall stooped man of forty, with a dark, oval, priest-like face. But he passed out of my life before I reached my teens; also my people dwelt some miles from the historic town of the "Three Kings," and of the battle in the Civil War. Suffice it that I now know him intimately from talks with the "old neighbours," of whom I was privileged to give some account to readers of a book called "The Kings and the Cats." They were Famine emigrants, mostly from Munster, and settled towards 1851 in Brentford, Isleworth, and Mortlake—orchard-towns in the Valley of the Thames.

Tom was a "quiet" man. Every Corkonian of his day pronounced the word in one syllable—"quite." Tom Griffin went further. He could not manage the sound of *qu*, but made a *k* of it, as do the French. Thus Tom, in his vernacular, was a "kite" man. He was also one in reality—a tranquil, easy-going, pious bachelor, who avoided disturbances with his neighbours, as the devil dodges holy water. Being such, most Irishmen (and nearly