

**A HISTORY OF THE
CHURCH,
VOLUME THE FIRST**

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A History of the Church, Volume the First by J. J. Ig. Döllinger & Edward Cox

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J. J. IG. DÖLLINGER & EDWARD COX

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CHURCH,
VOLUME THE FIRST**

A

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN

OF THE

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VOLUME THE FIRST.



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1840.

TO THE
RIGHT REVEREND THOMAS GRIFFITHS, D.D.

BISHOP OF OLENA AND VICAR APOSTOLIC IN THE
LONDON DISTRICT,

THIS TRANSLATION
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,
AS A TESTIMONY OF MOST PROFOUND RESPECT
AND OF SINCEREST GRATITUDE,
BY HIS LORDSHIP'S MOST OBLIGED AND HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE TRANSLATOR.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE poverty of our national literature, in works of Ecclesiastical History, has long been universally confessed and lamented. But if the history of our country, its civil institutions and its military exploits, be interesting to us, and considered worthy of our study and research,—the history of the kingdom of the Church of Christ, can certainly not be less so to those, whose glory and happiness it is to number themselves amongst its members. Its first beginnings, small as the mustard seed—the rude storms which wept over it, whilst it was yet a tender plant—its growth into the strong and vigorous tree : or, in other words, the institution of the Church, the severe combats which were waged against it, in its first ages, by pagan persecution, by heresy and schism, over all which it gloriously triumphed—because the gates of hell could not prevail against it—are subjects well worthy of the attention and meditation of the Christian.