

**A REPLY TO DR. LINGARD'S  
VINDICATION OF HIS  
HISTORY OF ENGLAND, AS FAR  
AS RESPECTS ARCHBISHOP  
CRANMER**

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A Reply to Dr. Lingard's Vindication of His History of England, as Far as Respects Archbishop Cranmer by H. J. Todd

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S. H. 1827

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A

# REPLY

TO

DR. LINGARD'S VINDICATION

OF HIS

**History of England,**

AS FAR AS RESPECTS

ARCHBISHOP CRANMER.

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BY THE REV. H. J. TODD, M.A. &c.

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

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"Forasmuch as Archbishop Cranmer was a principal means of the Pope's  
expulsion, the Papists did hate him worse than a scorpion, heaping upon him  
whatsoever wit sharpened with malice could devise."

*Mason, Vind. of the Church of Eng. 1613, p. 33.*

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## INTRODUCTION.

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IN the spring of the year 1825, I published a Vindication of Archbishop Cranmer against some of the allegations which had been made by the Rev. Dr. Lingard, the Rev. Dr. Milner, and Charles Butler, Esq. The Vindication contended more especially against the labours of the first of these gentlemen; because I considered him to have spoken, in his History of England, with unfairness of the Archbishop, and because in the popular form of National Memoirs the injury to his character was widely spreading. Others also thought that certain portions of this history, respecting distinguished facts or persons, were vulnerable; and therefore opposed the historian. In the winter of last year, Dr. Lin-

gard endeavoured to silence his opponents, and assigned to me the honour of a place among them, in "A Vindication of Certain Passages in his History of England." This has given rise to the following pages.

Dr. Lingard boasts of having "delineated the character of the Archbishop with fidelity." I do not hesitate to question the accuracy of this statement; resolved, on the authority of facts and indisputable documents, to rescue from disparagement **THE FATHER OF OUR REFORMED CHURCH**, and to guard the unsuspecting Protestant against the consummate artifice employed to depreciate the religion of his country. The importance of the subject must apologize for the length of this Reply to the Romish historian of England; and the reconsideration of those passages, which occasioned the gauntlet to be thrown down and accepted, will still be found, I trust, "to do right unto the memory of the truly great and good archbishop."



The fate of Cranmer, it has been justly observed by the present archbishop of Cashel, “\* has been peculiarly hard. Living in evil days, and exposed after his death to the malice of evil tongues, he has suffered in almost every part of his reputation. Papists have impeached the sincerity, while Protestants have doubted the steadiness, of his principles; and a too general idea seems to prevail, that his opinions were for ever fluctuating, or at least were so flexible, as to have rendered him little better than a weak instrument in the hands of those, who possessed more talent and more consistency. But the fact was far otherwise. *He was in truth the chief promoter and the ablest advocate of the Reformation, planning it with the discretion of a prudent and the zeal of a good man, and carrying it on towards perfection with a firmness, a wisdom, and a liberality, which obtained*

\* Laurence's Bampton Lectures, Sermon I.

*him no less credit for the endowments of his head, than for the impressions of his heart."*

As a general answer to the observations of modern writers upon his life and labours, a new biography of the archbishop seems requisite; and it is my purpose to attempt it. The criminations of him by the writer of the life of Cardinal Pole, by <sup>b</sup> Dr. Mil-

<sup>b</sup> Dr. Lingard observes, in a note, Vindic. p. 74. "I do not notice the strictures of Mr. Todd on Dr. Milner and Mr. Butler, which he frequently mixes up with his animadversions on my work. Of these two writers the first can make no defence; death has removed him from the petty quarrels, which agitate the inhabitants of this earth."

Dr. Milner was unable, I say it with confidence, to answer at least one grievous charge I brought against him. He lived many months after the accusation. He was silent, as I am sorry to add he was, upon other occasions, when the fidelity of his references and assertions was questioned.

"The latter, (Mr. Butler,) Dr. Lingard continues, though seventy-seven winters have passed over his head, still wields the pen with the energy of youth. He has replied, and as far as I can judge, most satisfactorily replied, to Mr. Todd, in his Letters to Charles Blundell, Esq."

That is, in his Book of the Roman Catholic Church; in a second edition of which he has favoured me with additional observations, which first met my eye while

ner, Dr. Lingard, Mr. Butler, and other Romanists of minor name, may thus be concentrated; and the system of aggression, which has been adopted against him, be overthrown.

the following pages were passing through the press. They are courteous, they are even complimentary, as the manner of Mr. Butler always is; but they seem to require no separate answer, like the present to Dr. Lingard; they contain indeed a considerable portion of animadversion similar to what the latter has bestowed upon me; and there the reply to one is the reply to both. I might indeed, by a regular address to Mr. Butler, give further occasion to the exercise of his good opinion of me; for as he acknowledges in the first edition of his Book, that he should not have said what he did say of bishop Taylor, if he had known what I produced upon the subject; and as in his second, he thanks me for detecting an unjust reprehension of myself in the matter of bishop Gunning; so now I should lead him, I think, at least as to one or two of his passages, ingenuously to grant that they might be withdrawn. That I should misrepresent him in the smallest degree, was certainly never my intention: but I notice this, because he is pleased to say, "Mr. Todd cites *my* expression, *wickedly-treated* prelate, as the expression of Dr. Parr." It is a satisfaction to find, that this venerable and entertaining writer is himself of opinion, that Cranmer was wickedly treated.