

**THE WHOLE WORKS OF THE MOST  
REV. JAMES USSHER, D.D. WITH A  
LIFE OF THE AUTHOR, AND AN  
ACCOUNT OF HIS WRITINGS. IN  
SEVENTEEN VOLUMES. VOL. XVII**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649744633

The Whole Works of the Most Rev. James Ussher, d.d. With a Life of the Author, and an Account of His Writings. In Seventeen Volumes. Vol. XVII by Charles Richard Elrington

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Cover @ 2017

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**CHARLES RICHARD ELRINGTON**

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THE  
WHOLE WORKS  
OF THE  
MOST REV. JAMES USSHER, D.D.,  
LORD ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH, AND PRIMATE OF ALL IRELAND.

NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME COLLECTED,  
WITH A LIFE OF THE AUTHOR,  
AND  
AN ACCOUNT OF HIS WRITINGS,  
BY  
CHARLES RICHARD ELRINGTON, D.D.,  
LATE REGIUS PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN,  
AND RECTOR OF ARMAGH.

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IN SEVENTEEN VOLUMES.

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VOL. XVII.

DUBLIN:  
HODGES, SMITH, AND CO.,  
PUBLISHERS TO THE UNIVERSITY.  
1864.

DUBLIN:  
Printed at the University Press,  
BY M. H. GILL.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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THE unexpected death of Dr. Elrington, on the 18th of January, 1850, deprived the University of one of its brightest ornaments, and the Irish Church of its most learned theologian. His edition of Ussher's Works, upon which he had been labouring for upwards of twenty years, was unfortunately left by him unfinished, and the Provost and Senior Fellows of Trinity College committed to me the task of completing it. Dr. Elrington had completed the first thirteen volumes, with 400 pages of the fourteenth volume, the progress of which was then interrupted; but he proceeded with the fifteenth and sixteenth volumes, and finished them before his death. My first duty was, therefore, to endeavour to ascertain the nature of the difficulty which had caused the interruption of the fourteenth volume, and to complete that volume as well as I

\* The fifteenth volume was issued with the following notice:—"The publication of the fourteenth volume is unavoidably postponed."

could, in accordance with the intentions of Dr. Elrington. Notwithstanding the intimacy with him which it was my privilege for many years to enjoy, he had never explained to me fully the reason which induced him to leave this volume unfinished, when he went on with the fifteenth and sixteenth. I believe now, that the great difficulty of deciphering the MS. destined to supply matter for the completion of the unfinished volume, was the principal cause why he suspended the printing. He had found it impossible, consistently with his other important avocations, to transcribe the MS. and prepare it for the press himself. He employed an amanuensis to make a transcript, but this turned out to be unsatisfactory.

There was also another cause of embarrassment, which Dr. Elrington felt more acutely, perhaps, than it was worth. He had intended the fourteenth volume to contain such remains as could be recovered of the Theological Lectures delivered by Ussher when Professor of Divinity in the University; and he had begun with the "Tractatus de Controversiis Pontificiis," written against Bellarmine, and never before printed. He had also partly put into type what now stands second in the fourteenth volume, viz., the "Catholica Assertio Integritatis Fontium Hebraico-



rum Veteris et Græcorum Novi Instrumenti," which formed the substance of the Theological Lectures, delivered in the year 1610. In addition to the embarrassments already alluded to, arising from the imperfect and confused state of the MS., Dr. Elrington now found that this second series of Lectures (in conformity with the chronological arrangement of the Works, which he had adopted) ought to have been placed before the "Tractatus de Controversiis Pontificiis;" and that a third series<sup>b</sup>, dated 1607, ought to have preceded both.

Having thus discovered, as I believe, the real cause of the suspension which took place in the printing of the fourteenth volume, and of the difficulty which had so embarrassed Dr. Elrington, my next care was to ascertain what materials existed for completing the volume in accordance with his design. The following allusions to the intended contents of volume xiv., which are to be found in the Life of Ussher, will enable us to understand what that design was. Having mentioned that, immediately after taking his first degree in Divinity (1607), Ussher was appointed Professor of Theology in the University, Dr. Elrington proceeds<sup>c</sup>:—

<sup>b</sup> Printed, vol. xiv., p. 383.

<sup>c</sup> Vol. i., p. 26.

“ He continued to deliver lectures during the following fourteen years, at first twice, afterwards once, in every week. His principal subject was an answer to the controversies of Bellarmine. Dr. Bernard says he read three volumes of these Lectures, and that it would be an honour to the University, where they were read, to have them published. There is only one volume now in existence, and it does not appear that the other two were ever deposited in the Library of Trinity College. The volume now in existence bears evidence of having been commenced with an intention of publishing the Lectures, but they are left unfinished in every part; I have, however, printed them in the fourteenth volume of the Archbishop's works, as much anxiety was expressed to have them made public. There is a great deal of information contained in them, imperfect as they are, and a remarkable display of logical acuteness in a contest with the most learned and able disputant of the Romish Church.”

The statement made in this passage that only one MS. volume of Ussher's Lectures now exists, was afterwards ascertained by Dr. Elrington himself to be incorrect. The one volume<sup>d</sup> to which he alludes is that which contains the “*Tractatus de Controversiis Pontificiis*,” published in the former half of the fourteenth volume of the Works. But two other MS. volumes<sup>e</sup>, in the autograph of the Archbishop,

<sup>d</sup> Class D. 3. 19.

<sup>e</sup> Class D. 2. 22, 23.

containing the earlier Lectures, exist also in the Library of Trinity College. These volumes are lettered on the back "Usserius de Veteri et Novi Test.," but are numbered in a wrong order, that is to say, the Lectures delivered, or begun to be delivered, in 1610, occur in vol. i. (D. 3. 22.), and those delivered in 1607 in that which has been marked vol. ii. (D. 3. 23.) It is probable, therefore; that we still possess the *three* volumes alluded to by Bernard, and that all that can now be gathered from them, as capable of being published, is collected in the fourteenth volume. If Dr. Elington had been aware of the existence of the earlier Lectures, before he had printed those which now stand first, there is no doubt that he would have arranged these fragments in an order the inverse of that in which they are now printed, viz.:—

1. "Prælectiones habitæ 1607" (vol. xiv., p. 383);
2. "Catholica Assertio Integritatis Fontium," 1610 (*ib.* p. 199);
3. "Tractatus de Controversiis Pontificiis" (*ib.* p. 1).

Another allusion to the intended contents of the fourteenth volume, which occurs in the Life of Ussher<sup>f</sup>, need not be here quoted, as it adds nothing to the information given in the foregoing passage.

<sup>f</sup> Vol. i., p. 321.