

**WHY I BECAME A
CATHOLIC: OR,
RELIGIO VIATORIS**

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Why I became a Catholic: or, religio viatoris by Henry Edward Manning

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HENRY EDWARD MANNING

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Or, RELIGIO VIATORIS

BY

HENRY EDWARD MANNING

Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster

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NOTICE.

Some years ago, being for many days on a journey without work or books, I thought that it might be a fair time to write down, in fewest words, the reasons for what I believe. The thoughts were written as the crow flies, over wide lands and a long flight, without deviation from the straight line. Much was, therefore, omitted that might be said, but the continuity and coherence of the reasoning were my only aim.

They who will do more solidly what I have done so slightly will deserve and receive my thanks. The text remains as it was written. The references have been since added.

The Argument.

THE four following Truths are the four corners of my Faith :—

I. A necessity of my reason constrains me to believe the existence of God.

II. My moral sense, or moral reason, or conscience, constrains me to believe that God has revealed Himself to me.

III. My reason and moral sense constrain me to believe that this revelation is Christianity.

IV. My reason is convinced that historical Christianity is the Catholic Faith.

I.

A NECESSITY of my reason constrains me to believe the existence of God.

A NECESSITY of my reason constrains me to believe the existence of God, because I can in no other way account for my own existence.

1. If to bar this argument any man refuses to believe in the certainty of his own existence, so be it. I cannot reason with a non-existence or with a dubious entity. It needs two to make a battle. And if any man ask of me to prove to him his own existence, I am sure either that reason, which is the better part of man, is not in him or that he is trifling with it and with me.

2. The necessity that lies upon my reason is this : I know that I am. I am either uncaused or self-caused, or caused by a cause—whether it be a