

**THE MYSTERY OF
INIQUITY;
OR, ROMANISM
NOT CHRISTIANITY**

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The mystery of iniquity; or, Romanism not Christianity by Jesse S. Gilbert

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JESSE S. GILBERT

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PREFACE.

THE author of the present treatise is well aware that much has already been written and printed on the subject of Romanism. Ever since the memorable day when Luther nailed his celebrated theses to the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral, busy pens have been at work exposing the folly of Papal doctrine and Papal practice. Much that has been written has, however, gone out of print and become obsolete, because it no longer bears on the existing state of the controversy. The *spirit* of Rome has never been changed, but her mode of operation, in this country at least, has been greatly modified within the past ten years. Waning in the old world, the idea has been conceived that the Papal

throne may some day be erected on the ruins of the American Republic. To carry out this bold plan no expense will be deemed too great, and no toil too severe. Our public school system must be destroyed, our rights of person and property invested, our halls of legislation and courts of justice brought under the control of Romish influence, one citadel of our liberties after another taken and destroyed, until we are brought under the complete dominion of Rome, and are changed from a nation of intelligent free men to a nation of blind and helpless Papal slaves.

This new aspect of things renders it necessary that we have the advantage of fresh and additional light. It must be shown that the spirit of Rome is still the same, that she is ever the enemy of civil and religious liberty, and that, under a smiling exterior and fair promises, she conceals dark and deep designs. Much that has been written on the subject of Romanism within the past twenty-five years is either too learned and elaborate for general circulation, or else too abusive and sensational to gain

general credence. The author humbly hopes that he has met a real want of the times. The present work is not designed to be an exhaustive treatment of the subject, but simply to furnish a brief manual of the past history and present status of the Romanistic controversy. Great pains have been taken to secure absolute accuracy of statement, and to do justice in every case to those who maintain opposite views. How well the proposed object has been accomplished must be left to the reader to determine.

Trusting that some good may be wrought by the work now offered to the public, praying for the divine blessing on those still kept in the darkness of Romanism, and looking earnestly forward to the time when the man of sin shall be destroyed and Jesus reign supreme over the nations of the earth, the author commits this, the result of much toil and study, to the thinking men and women of the land.

VERONA, N. J.

J. S. G.