

**REASONS FOR BELIEVING THAT  
THE CHARGE LATELY REVIVED  
AGAINST THE JEWISH PEOPLE  
IS A BASELESS FALSEHOOD**

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Reasons for believing that the charge lately revived against the Jewish people is a baseless falsehood by Alex McCaul

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**ALEX MCCAUL**

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REASONS

FOR

BELIEVING THAT THE CHARGE

LATELY REVIVED AGAINST

THE JEWISH PEOPLE

IS

A BASELESS FALSEHOOD.

DEDICATED BY PERMISSION

TO

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY

THE QUEEN.

BY THE

REV. ALEX<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>CAUL, D.D.

OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.



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ALEXANDER MACINTOSH,  
PRINTER,  
GREAT NEW-STREET, LONDON.

TO  
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY,

**VICTORIA,**

BY THE GRACE OF GOD,

QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, DEFENDER  
OF THE FAITH,

ETC. ETC. ETC.

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MADAM,

TIME was when to persecute and oppress the Jewish people was regarded as one of the most effectual modes of defending the faith. YOUR MAJESTY has taught the nations a lesson of charity, as well as faith, by taking God's ancient people under YOUR MAJESTY's special protection. Whilst some of the powers of the earth have wavered, and continued to do homage to the spirit of unjust prejudice and the practice of persecution,

to YOUR MAJESTY'S Government belongs the just praise of asserting the claims of justice and mercy, by interposing in behalf of the unhappy victims of religious hatred. All who are interested in the cause of suffering humanity, and anxious for the honour of Christianity, rejoice. As YOUR MAJESTY'S loyal and devoted subject, I am thankful that the blessing of God Almighty has thus been secured for YOUR MAJESTY, YOUR MAJESTY'S Illustrious House, and YOUR people, knowing that none ever conferred benefits upon Israel without a return of blessing from HIM who hath said, "I will bless them that bless thee." (Gen. xii. 3.)

With a hearty prayer that God may abundantly fulfil this promise to YOUR MAJESTY, may grant YOUR MAJESTY a long, happy, and glorious reign, and establish YOUR MAJESTY'S children's children upon the throne of these realms, I now thankfully avail myself of YOUR most gracious permission to dedicate to YOUR MAJESTY this defence of the Jewish people, and remain

YOUR MAJESTY'S  
Most dutiful and loyal Subject  
and Servant,

ALEX. M'CAUL.

LONDON,  
July 1, 1840.



## REASONS, &c.

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EVER since the period of the Reformation the condition of the Jews has been gradually improving. The light of God's Word has tended to the dissipation of prejudice, and the diffusion of its principles of justice has delivered the Jewish people from those absurd and calumnious accusations which were once so common. The mercy, which Protestants have learned in the New Testament, has put an end to the use of the rack and the wheel, and extinguished the flames in which formerly so many Israelites perished ; whilst at the same time a sober and enlightened interpretation of the prophecies has procured for them that respect as a people which was justly due to their genius, their learning, and their place amongst the nations of the earth. A remnant of the old superstition, however, has again revived the most foul and most pernicious calumny with which they have ever been vexed, and rekindled the spirit of persecution. It is true that the calumny and the persecution have both arisen in a land of darkness, and have had their origin in a particular

locality and under particular circumstances ; but occasion has hence been taken to bring a general charge against the whole Jewish nation, and to excite universal prejudice, which, if allowed to spread, must again end in outbreaks of popular fury such as used to disgrace Christendom in the days of Popery. Had the calumny and the persecution been confined to the ignorant followers of Mahomet, it would have been hardly worth notice. In Europe a vindication of the Jewish people would have been, and was thought, unnecessary, if the interference of Europeans, and an impression said to be made in certain quarters, had not pointed out the necessity of showing the falsehood of the general accusation.

The Jewish people are again charged with using Christian blood at the celebration of the Passover, by mixing it either in their unleavened cakes or their wine, and, in order to obtain it, with murdering Christians, especially children, every year previous to the time of the feast. Particular cases require a particular examination. The groundlessness, however, of the general prejudice may be easily shown from general considerations.

In the first place, *the charge has been made only in the times and regions of ignorance, and in countries where justice is not impartially administered, or where confessions elicited by the torture are considered as sufficient testimony.* How is it that during the last two centuries the sound of this

accusation has gradually died away in Europe? Why is it that no case of the kind now occurs in France, or Holland, or Prussia, or England? The efficiency and vigilance of the police—the number and skill of local magistrates have greatly increased. Amongst a mass of the Jewish people bigotry is as prevalent. The prejudices of the uneducated Christian multitude against the Jews are, generally speaking, as strong, and yet not even an accusation of the kind is breathed, much less sustained in any of these countries in a court of justice. How is this to be accounted for? The Jews are most scrupulous in fulfilling the requirements of their religious system, and have been at all times ready to lay down their lives rather than renounce their faith. If therefore Christian blood were annually required by the Jewish religion, it would most undoubtedly annually be shed—and if annually shed, some one case, either in England, or Holland, or France, or Prussia, or Saxony, &c., must have been detected, examined, and proved during the last hundred years. One such case is not to be found. Does not this cast a strong shade of suspicion upon the cases recorded in former times? Does it not lead us to conclude that if the rack had been as little employed in centuries gone by, and false accusers been as sure of punishment, and Jews as certain of a fair and impartial hearing, the execution of Jews for child murder would have been unknown?

2dly. *The charge is confined to certain countries*