A MUCH-ABUSED LETTER

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A Much-Abused Letter by George Tyrrell

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GEORGE TYRRELL

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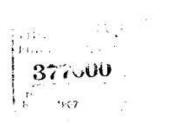
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GEORGE TYRRELL

AUTHOR OF "LEX CREDENDI," ETC.

Ay me! what act
That roars so loud and thunders in the index?
Hamlet

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INTRODUCTION

I T is necessary to justify the present publication of a letter whose privacy was originally its chief justification. To do so I need only retrace briefly the steps by which I have arrived at a decision counter to my first intention.

On 7 January, 1906, I received a letter from the late Father Martin, General of the Jesuits, in which he says: "My only motive in writing is to learn from your Reverence whether or not you are the author of the expressions quoted in the Milanese 'Corriere della Sera' of 1 January, of which I send you a copy herewith. The Archbishop of Milan asks me whether it is true that any Father of the Society has written such things, and I want an answer from you which I can transmit to the Archbishop."