

**THE PROGRESS OF  
BEGUILEMENT TO  
ROMANISM: A  
PERSONAL NARRATIVE**

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The Progress of Beguilement to Romanism: A Personal Narrative by Eliza Smith

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THE PROGRESS OF BEGUILMENT

TO

ROMANISM.

A PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

BY ELIZA SMITH,

AUTHRESS OF "FIVE YEARS A CATHOLIC," &c. &c.



Seeleys.

FLEET STREET, AND HANOVER STREET,

LONDON : MDCCL.

TO THE

REV. W. H. HAVERGAL, M. A.

RECTOR OF ST. NICHOLAS, AND HONORARY CANON, WORCESTER ;

WHOSE COUNSEL AND ASSISTANCE,

IN THE WAY OF TRUTH,

HAVE PROVED MOST BENEFICIAL,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS GRATEFULLY

INSCRIBED BY

THE AUTHORESS.



## PREFACE.

SOME apology may be necessary for the publication of the following pages.

By many who have kindly perused my former narrative, "Five Years a Roman Catholic," a wish has been expressed for me to narrate the incidents of my perversion to Romanism, and to give a more detailed account of my experience while a Romanist.

This in my former little volume, modesty, and the fear of becoming tedious, prevented me from doing. The unanticipated interest and kindness, however, with which that little work has been received, and which I can only account for on the principle that the language of the heart appeals to the heart, encourages me to venture on what was then felt to be too delicate ground. Fully requited indeed shall I be for any sacrifice of personal feeling which the effort occasions me, should my dearly-bought experience be made beneficial to only one individual who, from like causes, is in similar danger.

A word on the *style* of the present Narrative may be allowed. As stated in the Preface to the Second



Edition of the one already alluded to, my having written in the third person has laid me open to misconception, and possibly has suggested doubts as to the veracity of my statements. I have therefore felt it incumbent upon me, in this instance, to avoid all possibility of such misunderstanding; and though I frankly confess, contrary to my own inclinations, and I fear, somewhat to the detriment of my freedom of expression also, yet I have deferred to the judgment of those before whom my own must bow, and have written plainly and unadornedly in the first person. In doing this, I acknowledge that I have felt great dread of appearing egotistical. The extreme delicacy and difficulty also of exposing the inmost thoughts and feelings of the heart before the world, has made me almost hopeless of accomplishing my task even tolerably well. But, be this as it may, I have endeavoured to put aside all personal considerations, and commending myself to the kindness of the reader, have, as simply as I *could*, followed the plan suggested to me as most likely to be generally useful.

Fain would I indeed, at any cost of individual feeling, prevent others from tasting the bitter chalice it has been my lot to drink. Fain would I, by any lawful means, however difficult, shield the pure-minded and sincere from the dark ordeal through which I have passed; and fain would I warn the

ardent and imaginative of the deceptive character of the glittering snare spread out to entangle them. With this view alone I have written. This also has induced me, though perhaps it has appeared somewhat irrelevant to the point, to enter so largely as I have done into my feelings and experience *previously* to becoming a Romanist; because I doubt not there are others who are liable to be led by a similar train of thought and reasoning, to precisely the same fallacious conclusion. No lower aim could have induced me to commit myself thus painfully to the public gaze. How far the end may be accomplished, depends solely on the blessing of Almighty God. For this I earnestly and humbly pray, leaving Him, as seemeth best, to accept and crown the unworthy effort.

E. S.

