

He has joined a Church which not only pronounces the fearful doom of everlasting destruction upon those who differ from her—teaching the very children to say they go “to hell for all eternity”—but has in every age, when she possessed power or influence, consigned them to the most horrible punishments, torturing and destroying them, by means of her agents, in untold numbers;—in one word, the Church which is the mother of the Inquisition.

Mr. Maturin has joined that Church. Can such a union make him a happier, a holier, or a more useful man?

In conclusion, I beg to ask the attention of those members of the Roman Catholic persuasion who may read these pages.

I have written plainly (some may think, severely) on the subject under discussion. It will be admitted, I hope, that in so doing I have conscientiously followed the dictates of duty. Nevertheless, you think that I am in grievous error, as *I* think *you* are. Protestants and Roman Catholics, regarding each other as in a state of spiritual peril, must each naturally desire to effect the rescue of the other. There is no obstacle in this country to such efforts. *You* may endeavor to convert us to *your* views, and *we* are at full liberty to convert you to *ours*. The publication of our sentiments, on either side, contemplates this result, and not merely the explanation or defence of our respective systems. If any of our number should be persuaded by Mr. Maturin's pamphlet, and join your ranks, we shall have no right to be angry with them on that account, however we may regret their defection, and tremble for their souls; much less, would it be defensible to slander them, or to injure them in any way. All that we should be justified in doing, in such cases, would be, to pity the wanderers, pray for them, and employ reasonable and Scriptural means for their restoration. The same observations will apply to *you*, should any Roman Catholics become converts to Protestantism. Persecution, in any form, on account of religion, is as mean and cowardly as it is opposed to Christian teachings.