

So far we have said nothing of the Inquisition against the Moors, for the reason that the same causes and circumstances concomitant to the Inquisition against the Jews in 1481 gave rise to the Inquisition against the Moors in 1500. These Saracens had crossed over from Africa to Spain in great numbers, and had practically conquered the whole Peninsula. They held sway in Spain for a long time, and were not completely driven back until the time of Ferdinand and Isabella. This may be called the reconquest of Spain by Spaniards; and nobly, and like true sons, did those swarthy southerners rescue from bondage and oppression—yes, from destruction—the land which had given them birth. To rid their country of the danger, they rose up in their might, and after a long struggle finally succeeded in expelling the infidels. Some of the Moors, however, rather than go were baptized, and in this way the same troubles arose as with the Jews. And if the Inquisition purged the Spanish nation of the plotting Jew in 1481, it proved no less a blessing against the revengeful Saracen in 1500. They were *ousted, or imprisoned, or put to death*, and Spain was proudly and gloriously out of the dangers which had threatened her with utter destruction.

When we review these facts, and take into account the royal advantages and the ecclesiastical disapproval of the Spanish Inquisition, we, as Catholics, maintain, and have for authority, the best and most upright and learned historians, Protestant as well as Catholic, among whom I enumerate, in addition to those quoted above, Balmes, Hefele, De Noso Cortes, Demester and Reuben Parsons; that it grew out of peculiar circumstances; that it was introduced by the State, empowered, fostered, and cherished by the State; that its punishments were inflicted by the *bracium sæculare*; and that, consequently, no matter what outrages were committed by the Inquisition, they cannot be laid at the threshold of the Catholic Church. But the fact of the matter is, there were *no outrages committed by the Spanish Inquisition*, and let us here refute some of the charges brought forward against it.

They say that the Dominican, Torquemada, the Grand Inquisitor, slew 11,400 victims in his time of office, and that during his first year alone as Inquisitor he put to death 2,000 heretics; and that during the whole existence of the tribunal itself, in all 34,100 victims perished. These charges we flatly deny. They are taken from Llorente, a Spanish historian. Now, who was Llorente? He was a renegade Catholic, an apostate priest, an *ingrate*, who, in order to satisfy his ambitions and glut his own desires, like some of the so-called ex-priests of our own day, hesitated not to trample under foot the honor of his family, his country and his church. The history of such a man is not to be credited with authority, even though we had no other reason for doubting his writings. But he attempts to quote Mariana, and here, as the expression has it, we have him "on the hip." Mariana says that during the whole Inquisition about 2,000 were killed. And, as far as Torquemada is concerned, the most honest historians declare him to