

# Does the End Justify the Means?

(*American Quarterly Review*, January 1888.)

*Compendium Theologiæ Moralis*, a Joanne Petro Gury, S. J., primo Exaratum, nunc vero ad Breviorem Formam Redactum. Ab ALOYSIO SABETTI, S. J. Ed. Tertia. Neo-Eboraci: Pustet. 1887.

*Compendium Theol. Moralis* S. Alphonsi M. de Ligorio. Sive Medulla Theol. Moralis HERMANNI BUSENBAUM, S. J., ab ipso Ligorio Adjectis Nonnullis Animadversionibus Probata. Ed. Altera Emendatio, Priori omnino Conformis. Iriæ (1): Typis Cæsaris Giani. 1840. Two vols. 8vo.

*Theologia Moralis* in V. Libros Partita. Auctore PAULO LAYMANN, Soc. Jesu Theologo. Venetiis: Typis Antonii Tivani. 1691. Two vols. Folio.

*Encyclopædia Britannica* (American Reprint). Philadelphia: J. M. Stoddart & Co. 1881. Vol. xiii., art. JESUITS.

In our last number we spoke of the popularity of F. Sabetti's abridgment of Gury's "Moral Theology" as evinced by the demand for a second edition, the first having been soon exhausted. Since then it has gained rather than lost in favor, and we are glad to see how well its merits are appreciated by professors and students. Every copy of the second edition was sold within six weeks from the date of publication, and a third has been prepared by the publishers, Pustet & Co.

Yet, in looking over these repeated editions one thing, and one only, has disturbed our equanimity. *Mihi unus scrupulus etiam restat*, as the comic poet says, *qui me male habet*. We have looked, and looked in vain, throughout F. Sabetti's volume for some trace of that "recognized maxim of the Society," as Dr. Littledale calls it: "The end justifies the means". How cruel of the good Father to take away from under Catholic heads that comfortable cushion, by the help of which, from the days of St. Ignatius to the present, his children have taught us to still any unpleasant murmur of conscience, and sin as we list, provided we decently veil it with a pious intention! What a pity that by his silence he has taken away from the Littledales, Coxes,

(1) Voghera in Upper Italy.