

Blessed be the wonders of your power and goodness, O Divine King! Speedily come to *save* us, and remember that man is dear to you, because you have fashioned him with your own hands. O come! for your glorious work has degenerated; it has fallen to decay, death has seized upon it. Take it again into your powerful hands, reform, and *save* it, for you always loved it, and you are not ashamed of your own work.

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DECEMBER 23.

O Emmanuel!

“O Emmanuel, Our King and Lawgiver, the Expectation of the Gentiles, and their Saviour: come and save us, O Lord our God!”

O Emmanuel, King of Peace! you enter to-day into Jerusalem, your chosen City, for there is your Temple. There too will be your Cross, and your Tomb, and the day will come when your formidable Tribunal will be established there. You now enter this city of David and of Solomon without noise or pomp, on your way to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph will not pass through the city without going up to the Temple, to offer their homage to the Lord. Then is accomplished the oracle of the Prophet Aggeus who announced that *the glory of the second Temple would be still greater than that of the first*. This Temple now possesses an Ark of the Covenant, much more precious than that of Moses. It is no longer the Table of Stone on which the Law is graven, but the Lawgiver himself is here. But the Living Ark of the Lord will soon descend the Temple steps, and depart for Bethlehem, to which it is called by other Prophecies. O Emmanuel! we adore your footsteps in this world, and we admire the fidelity with which you observe all that has been written of you in the law. All will be accomplished. You will possess every character of the Messiah that your people may recognise you. But remember, that the hour is ready, and all things prepared for your birth. Come then to *save* us. Come to dwell with us. Be our Emmanuel and our Jesus, our Lord and our God. Amen.

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Atheists should say things that are perfectly clear; Now, one must have lost one's senses, to say it is perfectly clear, that the soul is mortal.

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In trouble we generally come off better than we expect, and always better than we deserve.

LITERATURE.

ROME, ANCIENT AND MODERN, AND ITS ENVIRONS.

By the Very Rev. J. Donovan, D. D. Domestic Prelate to his Holiness, &c. &c.

(Four vols. 8vo. Rome, 1815)

As one of the most erudite and delightful historical works ever written on the Eternal City, has been that of the Rev Dr Miley; it is singular that by far the best and most comprehensive descriptive work on the same splendid subject should have been also the production of an Irish Catholic priest. Such is the publication to which we now direct the attention of our readers. It is one which supplies an important desideratum in English literature—extends in no slight degree the literary fame of our clergy on the Continent, and affords an additional refutation of the aspersions cast by their enemies on that literary fame at home. It may seem strange to say that room was still left for a descriptive work on a subject so apparently exhausted as that of Rome; but, if we compare the production of our learned countryman with that of any of his predecessors, our wonder will cease. The efforts of English writers on the subject have hitherto signally failed. Not one of them possessed that combination of endowment which could have qualified them for the task. That preparatory fund of information, historical, classical, and artistic—that thorough local knowledge, combined with indefatigable industry and application, and a command of time sufficient for so vast a labour—that exemption from hostile religious prejudice which disfigures the works of all Protestant writers on Papal Rome, and yet that enthusiasm, religious as well as classic, which could alone on the occasion give energy to a writer's sentiments, and sustain him through such prolonged and fatiguing efforts—these are qualities which however essential to success in such an undertaking, were not combined by the author of any previous descriptive work on this important subject, but which, to the credit of Ireland and of the Irish Catholic clergy were found concentrated in an eminent degree in an Irish Catholic priest and prelate—an *élève* and a professor of the Irish Catholic Alma Mater—Maynooth.

The brevity alone of all English descriptive works on the Eternal City, would render them insufficient. What are a few hundred pages devoted to so vast a theme, as the description of ancient and modern Rome, with its monuments of antiquity, of religion, and of the arts? With all the conciseness that he judged compatible with justice to the subject, Dr Donovan has found four large octavo volumes necessary in the magnificent work which he has just issued from his pen through the Roman press. The nature and division of that work will be best understood from the following extract from the author's preface: