

A Historical Sketch Between the Jesuits and the Seculars in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth

Law, Thomas Graves (A Historical Sketch Between the Jesuits and the Seculars in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth; 1889, Published by David Nutt, the Strand, London.)

(the Memorial Against the Jesuits, 1597, Drawn up by Bishop Fisher) “First their will is that in every Catholick house, (and such houses are in stead of a Church) either they themselves may be the pastor, or others deputed by them in their roomes...So holie, so godly, so religious would they seem to be; as nothing is holie, that they have not sanctified; no doctrine Catholick, and sound, that cometh not from them; no dispensation available, that is not granted by them; and which is worse, they have beaten into the heads of the most, that the Masse is not rightly, and orderly celebrated of any, but a Jesuit.”

“They use also to fawn upon men of noble birth, especially if they be rich, and inveigle them by all faire means to sell all they have, and enter into their Societe. Women also are induced by them to become Nunnes, and to leave such goods as they have to them. Which thing many that are godly-wise allow not.”

“but in this manner do they make merchandise of the conversion of England; thus they do dispose of the last wills of the sick; thus they do love to intermeddle with the marriages of many, with their temporal goods. And indeed with all things; Always taking that course with all men, that something happen to their share, having indeed in mind nothing, but their own gain. They scorn to come to anyone, except they may be daintily and costly entertained; they look not after the cottage of the poor, nor minister their help to them, be there never so much need.”

Moreover, they are delighted with equivocation, or a subtle and dissembling kind of speech, as that to the scandal of others as that they are not ashamed to defend it in their public writings...They take pleasure also to scatter rumors, and to suggest certain novelties in the ears of the Catholicks, yea to forge and invent things that are not, insomuch as they are nowadays great liars; and it is come to pass, though they swear, men will not believe them.”

“ To conclude, omitting all other things (which are very many) I will only rehearse one, which I have heard many; that it is come to pass now, that the Catholicks stand I more fear of the Jesuits, than the hereticks. For the hereticks (say they) can but chasten the body only, but the Jesuits would wound both their bodies and their good name.”