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0521833930 - Anti-Catholicism and Nineteenth-Century Fiction - Susan M. Griffin

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ANTI-CATHOLICISM AND NINETEENTH-CENTURY FICTION

Susan Griffin uncovers and analyzes the important but neglected body of anti-Catholic fiction written between the 1830s and the turn of the century in both Britain and America. Griffin examines Anglo-American anti-Catholicism and reveals how this sentiment provided Victorians with a set of political, cultural, and literary tropes through which they defined themselves as Protestant and therefore normative. She draws on a broad range of writing including works by Harriet Beecher Stowe, Charles Kingsley, Henry James, Charlotte Brontë and a range of lesser-known writers. Griffin traces how nineteenth-century writers constructed a Church of Rome against which “America,” “Britain,” and “Protestant” might be identified and critiqued. This book will be essential reading for scholars working on British Victorian literature as well as nineteenth-century American literature; it will be of interest to scholars of literary, cultural, and religious studies.

SUSAN M. GRIFFIN is Professor and Chair of the English Department at the University of Louisville. She is the editor of the *Henry James Review* and author and editor of numerous works including *The Art of Criticism*, *The Historical Eye*, and *Henry James Goes to the Movies*.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

To Douglas, Griffin, and Emma

Contents

<i>List of plates</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
Introduction	I
1. Awful disclosures: the escaped nun's tale	27
2. The dead father and the rule of religion: the Oxford Movement	62
3. The foreign father and the sons of the sires: nativist novels of the 1850s	91
4. Mariolatry, imperial motherhood, and manhood	114
5. Under which lord? Ritualism, marriage, and the law	153
6. Black robes, white veils, and foregone conclusions: Disraeli, Howells, and James	179
Reliquaries	207
<i>Notes</i>	218
<i>Bibliography</i>	255
<i>Index</i>	273

Plates

1	The Jesuit threat to American homes and liberties. <i>Stanhope Burleigh</i> , Helen Dhu [Charles Edwards Lester], 1855.	page 9
2	“What, Not come into my own house.” <i>Punch</i> , 1850.	10
3	Title page of <i>The Chronicles of Mount Benedict</i> , Norwood Damon [Mary Magdalen], 1837. (Courtesy of the University of Georgia Library.)	19
4	Chapel of the Ursulines – Cecile taking the veil. <i>The Nun of St. Ursula</i> , Harry Hazel, 1845.	36
5	Title page of <i>The Nun of St. Ursula</i> , Harry Hazel, 1845.	37
6	Censored “evidence.” From Samuel B. Smith’s “Introductory to the Letters, Written by the Rev. Father Pies to Different Females,” in Culbertson’s <i>Rosamond</i> (28–29). (Courtesy of the University Of Georgia Library.)	40
7	Lord Russell combats Cardinal Wiseman. <i>Punch</i> , 1851.	118
8	Cardinal Wiseman as Guy Fawkes. <i>Punch</i> , 1850.	119
9	Rome’s Orientalism. <i>Punch</i> , 1850.	134
10	The Catholic confessor and his female victim. <i>Punch</i> , 1850.	155
11	The husband confronts the priest. <i>Under Which Lord?</i> , Eliza Lynn Linton, 1879.	164
12	John Bull protects British womanhood. <i>Punch</i> , 1858.	166
13	The bereft mother barred from her daughter, now a nun. <i>Under Which Lord?</i> , Eliza Lynn Linton, 1879.	170

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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