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From the Author.

VIGILANTIUS AND HIS TIMES.



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VIGILANTIUS $\frac{\quad}{208}$

AND HIS TIMES.

BY W. S. GILLY, D.D.

CANON OF DURHAM, AND VICAR OF NORHAM.

“ ὅτι κατὰ τὴν ὁδὸν ἣν λέγουσιν αἰρεσιῶν, ὕψω λατρεύω τῶ πατρίῳ Θεῷ.”
ACTS xxiv. 14.

“ NOSTER VIGILANTIUS.”
EPIST. PAULINI AD SULPICIUM.

“ SANCTUM VIGILANTIUM PRESBYTERUM;”
EPIST. HIBRON. AD PAULINUM.

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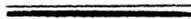


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THE object of the following pages is to illustrate the ecclesiastical errors and corruptions of the fourth century, and to show what sort of opposition was made to them. The author believes that many of those innovations, which have been called *a development of Church principles*, in regard to doctrine and discipline, were departures from the purer Christianity of the Church of the Apostles. He believes also that the calumniated presbyter, Vigilantius, was one of those witnesses, who have been raised up from time to time by divine grace, to bear testimony to the truth, and to be the links of its continuity through ages of rebuke and darkness. There is a succession of Christianity which may be compared to that of Judaism. The genealogies of Israel are lost; the sacerdotal line can no longer be traced up to Aaron; the tribes are scattered through the world; the succession has been interrupted; but the true seed of Abraham cannot perish, nor will the promises in regard to the restoration of Israel be unful-