

Cambridge University Press

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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)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*.

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE
 AND CULTURE

Editor

Ross Posnock, *New York University*

Founding editor

Albert Gelpi, *Stanford University*

Advisory board

Sacvan Bercovitch, *Harvard University*
 Ronald Bush, *St. John's College, Oxford University*
 Wai Chee Dimock, *Yale University*
 Albert Gelpi, *Stanford University*
 Gordon Hutner, *University of Kentucky*
 Walter Benn Michaels, *University of Illinois, Chicago*
 Kenneth Warren, *University of Chicago*

Recent books in this series

- 134 PETER STONELEY *Consumerism and American Girls' Literature, 1860–1940*
 133 ERIC HARALSON *Henry James and Queer Modernity*
 132 WILLIAM R. HANDLEY *Marriage, Violence, and the Nation in the American Literary West*
 131 WILLIAM SOLOMON *Literature, Amusement and Technology in the Great Depression*
 130 PAUL DOWNES *Democracy, Revolution and Monarchism in Early Modern American Literature*
 129 ANDREW TAYLOR *Henry James and the Father Question*
 128 GREGG D. CRANE *Race, Citizenship, and Law in American Literature*
 127 PETER GIBIAN *Oliver Wendell Holmes and the Culture of Conversation*
 126 PHILLIP BARRISH *American Literary Realism, Critical Theory and Intellectual Prestige 1880–1995*
 125 RACHEL BLAU DUPLESSIS *Genders, Races and Religious Cultures in Modern American Poetry, 1908–1934*
 124 KEVIN J. HAYES *Poe and the Printed Word*
 123 JEFFREY A. HAMMOND *The American Puritan Elegy: A Literary and Cultural Study*
 122 CAROLINE DORESKI *Writing America Black: Race Rhetoric and the Public Sphere*
 121 ERIC WERTHEIMER *Imagined Empires: Incas, Aztecs, and the New World of American Literature, 1771–1876*
 120 EMILY MILLER BUDICK *Blacks and Jews in Literary Dialogue*
 119 MICK GIDLEY *Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian, Inc.*
 118 WILSON MOSES *Afrocentrism, Antimodernism, and Utopia*
 117 LINDON BARRETT *Blackness and Value: Seeing Double*

Cambridge University Press

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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ANTI-CATHOLICISM AND
NINETEENTH-CENTURY
FICTION

SUSAN M. GRIFFIN



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 0521833930 - Anti-Catholicism and Nineteenth-Century Fiction - Susan M. Griffin
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge, CB2 2RU, UK
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
 Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa
<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Susan M. Griffin 2004

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
 no reproduction of any part may take place without
 the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2004

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeface Adobe Garamond 11/12.5 pt. *System* L^AT_EX 2_ε [TB]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
 Griffin, Susan M., 1953–

Anti-Catholicism and nineteenth-century fiction / Susan M. Griffin
 p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in American literature and culture; 141)
 Includes bibliographical references (p.) and index.

ISBN 0 521 83393 0

1. American fiction – 19th century – History and criticism. 2. Religion in literature.
 3. Protestantism and literature – United States – History – 19th century. 4. American
 fiction – Protestant authors – History and criticism. 5. Anti-Catholicism – United
 States – History – 9th century. 6. Catholic Church – In literature. 7. Anti-Catholicism in
 literature. 8. Catholics in literature. I. Title II. Series.

PS374.R47G75 2004

813'.309382 – dc22 2003055896

ISBN 0 521 83393 0 hardback

Cambridge University Press

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

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

Acknowledgements

This project has received support from University of Louisville Arts & Sciences Research, Research on Women, and Project Completion Grants, as well as sabbatical leave, for which I am deeply grateful. The Ekstrom Library staff, particularly Delinda Buie in Rare Books and those at Inter-library Loan, were essential to the making of this book. Peggy Strain provided important research assistance in the early stages of the project. Jo Ann Griffin brought her “Girl Scout” virtues to my aid at its completion. My colleagues at the University of Louisville, Marc Bousquet, Debra Journet, Susan Ryan, Tamar Heller, and Nancy Theriot, all read drafts of chapters, giving valuable advice. I received research leads from Nina Baym, Ed Berman, John Crowley, Leonard Curry, Carolyn Karcher, Royal Rhodes, and members of the VICTORIA listserv. I was able to try out sections of this study at the University of Louisville Critical Theory Forum, the 18th- and 19th-Century Women Writers Conference, the Modern Language Association and Narrative conferences. Thanks to fellow panelists and audience members for suggestions.

Dale Bauer read the manuscript both in part and as a whole, offering astute and generous advice. I’m grateful too to Bob Levine, who invited me to talk about American nativist fiction, and who provided an enormously helpful reading of the overall project. Other anonymous readers for Cambridge University Press also helped me see how to improve the manuscript throughout, as did readers for earlier versions of this material published in *Legacy*, *PMLA*, *Victorian Literature & Culture*, and the *Roman Holidays* collection. Thanks to those editors for the opportunity to share my work and, too, for permissions to publish; and to Ross Posnock and Ray Ryan at Cambridge University Press for their encouragement and support. The scrupulous editorial assistance of Joanne Webb has been nothing short of invaluable. My deepest debt is to my family whose love and support have sustained and nourished me throughout these years of research and writing. Emma, Griffin, and Douglas – my great good fortune continues to astonish me daily.