

WHEREAS Our Holy Father, Pope Urban VIII., on the 13th day of March, 1625, in the Sacred Congregation of the general Inquisition of the Holy Roman Church, made a Decree, and confirmed the same on the 5th day of June, 1634, by which he forbade any books, containing the actions, miracles, or revelations of men who have departed this life, famed for Sanctity or Martyrdom, or containing any favors supposed to have been received from God through their intercession, to be printed without being examined and approved by the Ordinary; and wishes that whatsoever has heretofore been printed without such examination and approbation, shall be in no manner considered as approved; and whereas, also, His Holiness has — on the 5th day of June, 1631 — explained the same decree, to wit, that no eulogies of a Saint or Blessed should be permitted unconditionally, and so as to be directed to the person of such Saint or Blessed; but that such eulogies might well be permitted, as are given to their exemplary life and repute for sanctity, provided there is a protestation in the beginning, that the facts are not vouched for by the authority of the Roman Church, but that reliance is to be placed merely on the author: In compliance with this decree and its confirmation and explanation, with all due observance and reverence, I declare that, whatever is related by me in this book, I wish to understand and to be understood in no other sense than that in which is usually understood whatever is based upon mere human authority, and not on the divine authority of the Roman Catholic Church, or of the Holy Apostolic See, excepting however those, whom the same Holy See has entered on the catalogue of Saints, Blessed, and Martyrs.