

This leads us to advert to the third and last charge in the indictment, viz. that "from MSS. that had privately come into his possession, he furnished the Inquisition with evidence of the heretic's opinions." This charge, as here stated, is not put quite accurately, but we admit that in substance it is not only adduced but established by Mr Dyer. He puts it thus:—"But this (that is, the admission that there is no evidence that Trie's first letter was written with Calvin's knowledge) does not clear him from the charge of having furnished the evidence by which alone Trie's denunciation could be rendered effectual; and of thus having made himself a partaker in whatever guilt attaches to such an act."\*

Calvin did not perceive or admit that there was any guilt attaching either to Trie's conduct or to his own in this matter; but he certainly did the substance of what is here ascribed to him. The facts are these. Trie, in his first letter to his Popish friend,—in which he told him of the publication of Servetus's work, and gave the name of the author and printer,—enclosed also the first leaf of the book. His friend communicated this to the Popish authorities, who made some investigation into the case. But so effectual had been the precautions taken by Servetus to secure secrecy, that they could get hold of nothing tangible. Trie's friend was in consequence requested to write to him again, and to urge him to furnish, if possible, any additional materials that might throw light upon the matter. In answer to this application, Trie sent about twenty letters, which, a good many years before, Servetus had addressed to Calvin, and which were to be used, not as Dr Tulloch says, "as evidence of the heretic's opinions," but as materials for establishing his identity. Trie's account of the way in which he procured the letters is this, and it is all we know of Calvin's procedure in this matter: †—

"But I must confess that I have had great trouble to get what I send you from Mr Calvin. Not that he is unwilling that such execrable blasphemies should be punished; but that it seems to him to be his duty, as he does not wield the sword of justice, to refute heresy by his doctrines, rather than to pursue it by such methods. I have, however, importuned him so much, representing to him that I should incur the reproach of levity, if he did not help me, that he has at last consented to hand over what I send."

Calvin had great hesitation in giving up these letters to be

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\* P. 361.

† Dyer, p. 316.