



DEATH OF SAVONAROLA.*

PANORAMIC VIEWS OF HISTORY.

No. 3.

MANY striking scenes have occurred in the history of the human race as, in different countries, it unfolded itself. There are the two great epochs of the Past and the Present, and between the two stands CHRIST as the true center of all history,—the past bending its gaze forward to meet Him, the present looking still forward to meet Him in a form of transcendent power and glory, and yet exulting over the records of the past which tell of his actual advent to this world, and of his residence among a people too shortsighted to realize the honor that such residence conferred upon them.

The Past is crowded with extraordinary works of man as seen to-day in the remains of ancient pyramids, sphinxes and temples; the Present clusters in singular and constant form around the Christian religion, which, from the time of its miraculous propagation by the Apostles, has proved

itself the leading power in all the historical records of civilized people. In the history of the holy martyrs, who were called upon to seal their faith with their own "baptism of fire," we have a phenomenon which the coldest historian has not been able to despise or ignore.

But martyrdom itself has taken two different forms,—the one natural and glorious, the other unnatural and deplorable. The one which came to the struggling Christians as they stood firmly against oppression which came upon them from without, when they suffered persecution at the hands of those who hated them and cried over their religion, "Down with it, down with it, even to the ground," was natural. It was a foreign body bearing down upon them. Their interests were different; their paths in life divergent. It was likewise glorious, for it proved, in a manner totally unlooked for by the enemy, the real strength of the infant church, and the most powerful agent in propagating the principles of Jesus.

And this the Church of Christ has ever gloried in. The spirits of the martyred dead have ever given a lustre to the struggles of the faithful, as they made their way against all forms of oppression, which has reacted for good upon the Church itself.

* This illustration and that of the Old Bastille on the next page are from Ridpath's lately published History of the World, and are furnished us through the kindness of Messrs. Balch Bros., Publishers, Toronto.