

The Socinians represent Humanism with its Erasmic external respect for authority laid aside. They had all of Luther's contempt for extra-Lutheran authority; and, in addition to this, a contempt for Luther's own. They had no remnant of Realism, no Mysticism. They respected Biblical authority, but insisted on interpreting the Scriptures in accordance with the requirements of reason. Their apprehension of the Scriptures was not profound, and their religious zeal rarely led them to court persecution.

With the Anabaptists the Biblical principle, apprehended on its positive and on its negative side, held the first place. This was combined with Mysticism (in some cases a purely Biblical Mysticism, in other cases a Neo-platonic, semi-pantheistic Mysticism), and, in some cases, with pre-millenarianism; the false Mysticism, when it preponderated, leading to the rejection of fundamental doctrines—denial of the importance of the written Word in comparison with the divine *Logos* always present to enlighten the believer, indifference to external ordinances, modification of the commonly received views of the person and work of Christ, etc.; the pre-millenarianism sometimes leading to fanaticism, and to an utter wrecking of Christian life. Pre-millenarianism, in connection with a desperate and frenzied socialistic movement, is responsible for the Münstster kingdom, with its horrors.

Such were the instruments. Now, just what was to be accomplished? Ecclesiastical theory and practice were to be thoroughly purified. What were the fundamental errors of the mediæval system that needed to be eradicated? I conceive that there were three. First and foremost, *Sacerdotalism*. Given Sacerdotalism, and what follows? If priests as representatives of the holy Catholic Church, are, without reference to personal character, mediators between God and man, have power to bind and to loose on conditions imposed by themselves, men are no longer responsible to God for their lives, but to men. Holiness before God is of infinitely less importance than scrupulous obedience to the regulations of the priests. Religion thus comes to be a mere matter of outward form. From Sacerdotalism flowed, as naturally as a stream from its source, superstitious adoration of images, shrines, etc., all forms of ritualism, the practical repudiation of Scripture authority, the domination of Church over State, the obliteration of moral law as founded on the nature of God.

The second great evil of the mediæval system was the *union of Church and State*, the idea that the Church and State are coincident. *Casaro-papacy* is almost as objectionable as papacy. We shall have occasion later to see the disastrous consequences of such union, especially for the Church.