

enemies, to ensure her ultimate triumph. She has used human methods, and her intellectual apostolate has been done largely by the co operation of chosen spirits raised up from time to time by Almighty God, men with a mission for the epoch in which they lived. Thomas is one of these.

When the eleventh century of the Church's long fight with Protean error had waned, she was fairly mistress of the situation, and could look back with pride on the gifted sons who had helped her brave so many dangers in the dark hour, her Justins and her Augustines. There was a lull in that storm ever raging against her, yet symptoms were not wanting of breakers ahead. Several circumstances had conspired to produce a state of unrest in the minds of men, struggles between King and Pope, the Crusades, the commencement of scientific investigation and the invasion of Greek and Eastern literature, all had successively shocked the Western nations, the inquisitive Latin or Frank or Celt, to electrify them as it were, to a new intellectual activity, artificial unfortunately, a fictitious life, called the Renaissance. The paladin gave way to the student in youthful ideals of greatness, and in the glamor of inexperience and the ardor for novelty, there was a danger, that many a bold enthusiast would strand on the barren reefs of Greek pagan philosophy or Eastern naturalism. For the teaching of the Greek refugees tended to neglect the thought for the material perfection or finish. The Almighty knew the danger, and saw fit to call forth a pilot, to guide the erring crafts to the deep sea, on the homeward way. That pilot was Thomas Aquinas.

He came in the name of the new learning, in the name of philosophy, that name which had been used so often to hide attacks on truth. He assimilated the teachings of the old teachers, and meditated on revelation, to become in thirty years the oracle of the century. He pored over the book of nature, man, God and the world, placed the boundaries between matter and spirit, sounded the mysteries of life and death, he delved into psychology and logic, probing the mysterious limits of human knowledge and human liberty; all this he did by taking Aristotle, one of the greatest minds the world has produced, explaining him,