

tions, twenty-five mounted the scaffold, and there died the martyr's death, in witness to the Christian Faith. Whenever heresy arose to assail Christian truth the Pope smote it with his anathemas. The great general Councils, which shine out like beacon lights through the centuries, were convoked and ratified by papal authority.

But the Popes not only protected the Christian Faith against the inroads of heresy, and safe-guarded the moral code of Gospel teaching, but they also promoted in the most efficient manner the cause of Christian civilization and well regulated liberty. It was they that sent their missionaries to preach the Gospel to the fierce barbarians who swarmed over southern Europe at the break up of the Roman Empire. It was they who caused them to be taught the arts of peace and all that was calculated to create and advance their civilization; and when a worse evil threatened the Christian Faith, and the liberty of European nations, when Mahometanism hung like a cloud over the greater part of Europe, threatening to break down upon it in a destructive deluge, the voice of the Popes called on the chivalry of Christendom to combine for the defence of their homes and their altars. The Popes organized the Crusades, and thus saved European civilization from destruction by the fanatical hordes of Mahomet.

The voice of the Popes was ever raised in defence of the weak against the strong, in defence of well-regulated liberty against despotic tyranny. The arts, the sciences, universities, as well as popular education, always found the Popes their most encouraging and generous patrons. It would be truly impossible to give a just estimate of the beneficent influence of the Popes on the happiness, the well-being and progress of our race. They have made a track of light across the ages they have traversed.

Our present Holy Father Leo XIII., assuredly ranks amongst the great Popes, who, by the splendour of their genius