

which the Inquisition is the last codicil, is well told by the Archdeacon in many an eloquent page. Beyond even this, it tended to throw overweening power into the hands of the bishops, and thus dislocate permanently the relations of the three orders.

When the clergy of our day, convened by their bishop to a synod, are told, as some have been told, that they have no right of speech beyond a question which he will answer, they are really imbibing the dregs of that Imperialism which saw danger in a free-spoken presbytery and found convenience in an encroaching prelacy. The beginnings of this tendency within the Church itself are manifest, as we shall see already in the period of Origen, but were stimulated and multiplied subsequently.

The union of wide and boldly speculative thought with a gentle, calm, and almost passionless moral nature is what distinguishes Origen. With a more profound philosophic basis of reasoning than even Augustine, he draws with equal scrupulosity his proofs, or what he deems as such, from the arsenal of Holy Writ. It is true that finding an idea of the Gospel symbolized in a Mosaic rite is not the same thing as proving the truth of that idea from the Old Testament. But making due allowance for such a strain on the sense of Scripture, Origen is intensely scriptural. Yet his freedom places him in a position, relative to subsequent speculation, similar to that occupied by Lord Bacon in respect to modern natural philosophy. The nature of God and of the Trinity (although the relations of the Third with the other Two Divine Persons are not defined), the Unity, the Eternal Generation, the Incarnation, the creation, man's soul and human free-will, and the effect of the Fall on both of them; the idea of mediation, the law of nature and of Moses, the Church, the clergy, confession, absolution, Hades and Paradise, the nature of and purposes furthered by penal infliction, the beatific vision and the consummation of all things—all fall within the horizon swept by the view of Origen; and are all discussed with a dispassionate equanimity which might well have disarmed controversy of its asperities.