

He died in 1829 and was succeeded by Pius VIII., who died one year later, after having done his best to put back the clock of time. One of his decrees commanded all good Catholics to lay information publicly against all infidels and suspected infidels; which caused much blackmail, hypocrisy, hatred and misery.

Gregory XVI. was the next to represent God from 1831 to 1846. During this period the European people began to awaken from a lethargy which had lasted many hundreds of years, and the Pope's policy of suppressing literature and science, supporting the Jesuits, building new convents, etc., was not in the spirit of even those times. In consequence he got into collision with Prussia, Russia, Switzerland, and even with Spain and Portugal, and when he died in 1846, nobody felt sorry.

The roll is now drawing to a close, and we come to modern times. Count Mastai Ferretti was the next keeper of the keys of Heaven, and we know him by the name of "Pio Nono." As a young man he was much admired by the ladies, and intended to choose a military career, but as he suffered from epilepsy, he was obliged to give up this plan and decided to study theology. However, it is not allowed to enter the priesthood when suffering from such a disease, and if heaven had not directly interfered by a miracle, we would not have heard of the ninth Pius. A priest at Loretto cured young Ferretti by the simple laying on of hands, and nothing now stood in the way of his ordination. In 1823 he was sent as missionary to South America, where he remained two years. In 1827 he became archbishop, cardinal in 1840, and in 1846 he was made Pope. On the whole he was a liberal man. During the Revolutionary year of 1848 he was obliged to concede a constitution to the people, a very strange thing indeed in a theocratical government; but of course it was a sham, and the Prime Minister Rossi, who tried to keep the people in check against the spirit of the Constitution, was assassinated, and the people actually planted cannon in front of the Quirinal. Then the Pope nominated a democratic ministry; but seeing himself deprived of his former power, he fled in disguise to Gaeta, where he placed himself under the protection of the king of Naples. Meanwhile Rome was declared a Republic.

After the Revolution, the reaction took place, and when