

MATERIALIST CONCEPTION OF HISTORY.
(Continued on page 3.)

dition that the progress of mankind would go on the lines which it had sketched out, and to the limits which it had defined. Any onward movement was dangerous, suspicious and finally intolerable."

"It cannot be from accident that those parts of Europe which have been from time to time distinguished for manufacturing and commercial activity, have always been with one exception and that capable of easy explanation, generally hostile to the church and they have whenever possible revolted from it. It was so in Toulouse before the crusade of Simon de Montfort wasted the fairest land of France. It was so in Flanders, Holland, Baltic towns, Scandinavia and the eastern parts of England. It was so in the most industrious and opulent parts of France in the 16th century. It was not indeed so in Italy; but the Papacy laid all Europe under tribute, and what have been the lot of its own subjects, the presence of the papal court was an immense factor in the wealth of Italy. It was not in human nature that Italy should quarrel with the process by which it became opulent."

The Pope gathered money he wanted from all his spiritual subjects by any pretext he could devise, by capitation fees, dues, taxes on ecclesiastical succession, by exacting enormous bribes for confirmations in dignities, by the sale on canonizations, relics, pardon licenses, and indulgencies. He invented affinities in order to sell dispensations and he gave dispensations for the marriage of near relatives, as for instance uncle and niece. He borrowed and paid interest by annuities, levied on anything that came handy. "The Roman Church," said Alphonso of Arragon to Eugenius IV., "is a veritable harlot, for she offers herself to everyone who approaches her with money."

Walsh's "13th Greatest of Centuries," published by the Catholic Summer School Press, p. 377: "The rise of free cities in Germany represents the democratic spirit down to our time better than any other single set of manifestations. The international relations of these cities did more than to broaden men's minds and realize the brotherhood of man, in spite of the national boundaries, than any other factor in human history. Commerce has always been a great leveller. The nobility gladly granted charters and privileges for men and money."

"It is to commerce we owe the first recognition of the rights of the people of other countries even in times of war."

"It was not the recognition of great principles, as of money and revenues that proved the origin of the amelioration of civic conditions."

"The commercial cities accumulated the wealth. Money was necessary for their rulers for the maintenance of power and to wage war. In return for money given for such purposes, the cities claimed for their inhabitants, and were granted many privileges."

Why has the church not put this book on the index? It must be an "overlook," because this is the Materialistic Conception of History with a vengeance.

When the Reformation storm subsided, and the wealth of the church lands was safely gathered into the hands of the landed and industrial classes, the church gradually gained her lost flock, and from being the supreme overlord of feudalism she became the handmaiden of capitalism, and the Bride of Christ for a second time became a strumpet. Henry divided up the spoils with his courtiers and concubines. Henry VIII. suppressed 645 monasteries, 90 colleges, 2,374 chantries and free chapels, 100 hospitals with an income of £2,000,000.

Rogers says of Henry VIII.: "The establishments of each of his infant daughters were more costly than the whole annual expenses of his father, Henry VII. He had fifty palaces. I am persuaded that the ever-increasing necessities of Henry and his vast expenditure would have led to the suppression of the monasteries or the confiscation of their wealth, even if the king had not quarrelled with the Pope. The religious had all along been discredited by the people for their debauchery."

Trade in England had grown between the continent, especially in wool. With the rise in the price of wool, and the increased productivity of silver

from newly discovered mines of South America, the manufacturers were flourishing. The landlords, ruined by the War of the Roses, saw it more profitable to turn their arable lands into pastures, and go into sheep farming on a large scale. They evicted small tenants and enclosed the common lands, employing less labor than formerly with larger returns, this resulted in an increase of the workers, becoming distinctively proletarian. This we will deal with in our next lesson.

PETERT. LECKIE.

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