

to be surrounded by armed troops and a scene of violence and disorder ensued. Finally having wrested from the unfortunate bishops, the signatures of one hundred and thirty, Dioscorus proceeded to pass sentence of excommunication against St. Leo himself. Thus closed this disgraceful council known in history as the Latrocinale of Ephesus. St. Flavian died of the wounds received at it, and Dioscorus profiting by the sad event, named Anatolius, one of his deacons from Alexandria to fill the vacant see. The weak Theodosius lent the confirmation of his authority to all these scandalous proceedings, and further, deposed several holy bishops distinguished for their attachment to the Catholic faith.

As soon however, as Leo I. was informed of these unparalleled acts of violence, he took immediate steps to punish the offenders. He wrote a stirring appeal to Theodosius to disengage himself from complicity with Dioscorus and Eutyches.

Providence interposed in an unlooked-for manner. Theodosius was killed by a fall from his horse and was succeeded by Marcian, an officer distinguished for his talents and virtues.

The first act of the new Emperor was to convoke a council for the condemnation of Dioscorus and Eutyches. The banished bishops were recalled and the remains of St. Flavian brought back to Constantinople. Leo I. approved all these acts but in addition, desired to convoke a general council, which vested with his authority could finally settle the question at issue and restore peace to the world.

This, the Fourth Ecumenical council, took place at Chalcedon in the year 451. Five hundred bishops attended it. Dioscorus was banished, the error of Eutyches condemned and the dogma of the two natures of Christ clearly defined.

While thus engaged in protecting the interests of the Church in the East, St. Leo had need of all his courage and energy to save the West from falling into the hands of the barbarous Huns, who under their formidable leader Attila, self-styled the Scourge of God, had overrun the Eastern Empire and were now extending their ravages to the very gates of Rome.

There are few pages in history so suggestive of sublime reflections as the one which describes the encounter between St.