

Napoleon became traitor to the new-born French liberty, and was small enough to aspire to a throne. To accomplish his object he had to stultify the people, and to this end he needed a Pope. Priest and despotism go together like hammer and handle. The new Pope, Pius VII., anointed Napoleon but the old times had passed. Pius had to go to Paris to perform this comedy. The Parisian people received him with good humor and had great fun. The donkey upon which sat the bearer of the cross which preceded the Papal carriage came in for a great share of the people's attention. "There! Look at the Pope's cavalry! See the holy ass, the apostolic donkey!" and there was much noise and jollification before the portals of Notre Dame.

Napoleon kept the Pope waiting in the church for over an hour, and at the coronation he put the crown on his own head and on Josephine's. The Pope was only a side-show, merely giving his benediction. Deeply offended, the Pope returned to Rome, and did what he could to excite the popular feeling against Napoleon. Finally, Napoleon who wanted to keep the Pope under restraint and under special supervision, had him kidnapped and brought to France; but he could make no terms with the proud old man, who would not budge an inch from his pretensions. When Napoleon was exiled to Elba, Pius returned to Rome and felt himself Pope again. One of his first actions was to re-instate the Jesuits and all other religious orders, and even torture and the Inquisition. This was in 1814 in the present century. Once more the old papal garret, which had long been closed, was opened, and out fluttered old mediæval bats and owls. For a time it was night again, and all the old clap-trap of processions, pilgrimages, miracles and relics was trotted out once more. Pius VII. one day fell down on the marble floor of his room, broke his leg, and died aged 81 years.

His successor, Leo XII., was a man of the world, and a sporting man before he became Pope. Immediately after he had assumed that dignity, his life was changed, and he followed in the footsteps of his predecessors. In 1825 he instituted a jubilee and invited the faithful to come and "suck the milk of the true faith directly from the breasts of the true mother church," as he expressed it. Many of the faithful were thirsty and they flocked to Rome. He also prohibited vaccination.