

ing this about. A devoted follower of the "Philosopher" of whom he speaks with evident respect and admiration, he was a more devoted Christian, a firm believer in Scripture and the teachings of the Church. When Aristotle departs from or disagrees with these teachings, St. Thomas does not follow him but boldly defends what he knows to be the truth. For this reason the philosophy of St. Thomas cannot be called the mere philosophy of Aristotle. True, it imitates the form of Aristotle, but it stands by none of Aristotle's errors. It has the elevation and sublimity of Plato which Aristotle never had and never could have.

Plato, Aristotle, and St. Thomas, the three greatest minds the world has ever seen, strove for one end—truth. Plato searched the heavens; Aristotle, the earth and its creatures. Both, their works show, succeeded in a remarkable manner. Neither, strange as it may seem, believed in the other. There are truths neither reached, truths that reason unaided cannot approach. Herein the "Angelical" possessed an undoubted advantage. Truths that puzzled them were made plain to him by the illumination of the Scriptures and the grace of God; of which he was so possessed that men were wont to say of him: *Thomas erat angelus, antequam esset Doctor Angelicus*; "Thomas was an angel before he was the Angelical Doctor." His own luminous and comprehensive intellect enabled him to appreciate the efforts of others, to separate the false from the true and to use the truth no matter where he found it. His whole life was given to the defence of the right, and to the destruction of error in whatever form it might appear. At one time he was busy writing against the pantheism of the Orientals, at another, combatting the rationalism so prevalent in his time. Though he did not at once eradicate all the evils of his time, no human power could do it. There was formed under his inspiration a School of Philosophy, that gradually and surely destroyed them and prevented the disastrous results that then appeared inevitable.

The eminence his sanctity, his learning and method has won for him among his contemporaries has never been lost. Great philosophers succeeded, yet none so great. Popes vied in bestowing praises on him. Councils of the Church have consulted him on great and