

tive; English and American theology, mainly practical; and French theology equally speculative and practical;—just as geographically France holds an intermediate position between Germany and England. I prefer, however, in order not to prejudice that question, to entitle this paper Protestant Theology in France, rather than French Protestant Theology.

France has just been endowed with a new theological system styled *Symbolo-fidéisme*, whose chief representative is Auguste Sabatier, Dean of the Faculty of Divinity of Paris, and Professor of Reformed Dogma.

In order to render intelligible its nature and comparative success, we must briefly review the events which led to its conception.

I do not need to go back to the Flood, namely in this case to the invasion of Barbarians, and remind you of the first attempts in Gaul, during the dark period of the Middle Ages, from Scotus Erigena to Anselm of Canterbury, Thomas Aquinas, Abélardus and Guillaume Occam, to solve the mysteries of life and religion, on the line of perfect submission to the teachings of Rome.

Nor is it necessary to recall the work of John Calvin and of the brilliant schools of Saumur, Montauban, Sedan and Nîmes, justly renowned at that time throughout the world.

With the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and the expulsion from France of the Reformed Theologians, the forward march was stopped, even in the Roman Catholic Church, who, being no longer compelled to defend herself against a learned and powerful rival, fell asleep. Protestant churches were destroyed, their academies closed, their books burned. The few Huguenots who remained could barely escape in wild places their fierce persecutors, and their ministers or predicants devoted themselves solely to the preaching of the Word explained as in the Calvinistic standards.

When at last the Revolution of 1789, and, at the dawn of the century, the first Napoleonic empire, secured liberty and peace to the remnants of the Huguenots, there was a revival of theological studies. Samuel Vincent, pastor at Nîmes,