

day and to such duties rather than to clerical employments, they wholly devoted themselves.

*Q.* What else destroyed the spiritual life of the people?

*A.* Widespread ignorance and superstition and the increase of formalism in religion.

*Q.* Give instances.

*A.* As the new-fangled dogma of transubstantiation spread, Holy Communion became a priestly sacrifice and nothing more. People attended merely as spectators. So called saintly relics were multiplied and venerated.

*Q.* What other practice obscured the gospel light?

*A.* The indiscriminate use of indulgences which appeared to give licence to commit sin.

*Q.* To what did this degenerate condition of the Church lead?

*A.* The enthusiasm and zeal of the begging friars.

*Q.* What good points had these mendicants?

*A.* Self-denial, fervent zeal, faith in the gospel and its claims, and power to present truths in popular language.

*Q.* To whom may we have the origin of these Orders?

*A.* To Dominic de Guzman, a Spanish zealot, and Francis of Assisi. Their followers were known as Dominicans and Franciscans after their founders.

*Q.* What good did they accomplish?

*A.* They preached the gospel in places where the parish priest had never penetrated and showed so much sympathy and skill and knowledge of human nature, that they gained not only the poor but the rich.

*Q.* What ensued?

*A.* Rich and wealthy people left them large bequests and they became demoralized, hunting greedily for gain, abusing the parish clergy and upholding all papal encroachments.

*Q.* How did the Franciscans and Dominicans differ in doctrine?

*A.* The one magnified, the other disparaged the power of free will. The one denied, the other taught the Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin.

*Q.* To what did this lead?

*A.* Endless disputes between both parties and constant turmoil and agitation at the universities.

*Q.* What was the darkest blot in the mediæval system.

*A.* The systematic sale of, and traffic in, indulgences.

*Q.* What made the evil more widespread and dangerous?

*A.* The invention of a new doctrine called "superabundant merit." Saintly, excess of righteousness and good works formed, it was taught, a treasury upon which the church could draw for the benefit of her children.

*Q.* Which of the mendicants hawked these so-called pardons about the land?

*A.* The Dominicans.

*Q.* What prevented the indignation all this roused from working a Reformation.

*A.* The conduct of the Lollards, nevertheless all honest and intelligent Christians deplored the corrupt condition of the Church and only a skillful leader was required to effect needful improvements.

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