

soldier and executioner are now to be dispensed with for a time ; and the scholar and philosopher enter on the contest with no less zeal and industry than the former enemies had employed. And yet their opposition to the gospel was honest—if honest opposition could be—for they plainly said Christianity is a falsehood, and we will show it so. A respectable body, in numbers, learning, and talents, from Porphyry to Julien the apostate, engaged in the contest. But they were confronted and confuted by an Origen, a Cyril, a Chrysostom—and posterity has decided that the palm of victory belongs to those who were “ set for the defence of the gospel.” A successful attack upon Christianity was yet to be planned and executed ; or rather to be executed, for the plan was already projected. Then came *concession*, *accommodation*, *compromise*. That was a sorry hour. The bargain was begun. Christianity had obtained a name ; and like the imagery of the prophet : “ seven women shall lay hold on one man, saying we will eat our own bread, only let us be called by your name,”—the enemy hung about the borders, saying, ‘ we will eat our own bread and do our own work, only let us be called by your name.’ A foiled and superannuated Paganism was seen, with smiles and gracefulness, to offer his hand to the virgin in white. But on his head were many crowns, and his hands filled with gold. The honorable places of the world were his. The virgin looked ; and she only saw the crowns, and gold, and places of honor. And the bargain was consummated. Oh, God ! what a day was that ! The destiny of many generations was gathered up in the issues of that one dark day. The nuptials were at length celebrated by an emperor, who sought to give his name to the empire. The assimilation of the manners of the two sides of the house was now seen progressing without restraint. But, allegory aside. While the church yet in some manner confessed the truth of God and of Christ, of judgement and retribution, these truths were neutralized by their associations with a new edition of the *show*, *games*, and *mysteries* of Greece and Rome ; and the morality of the gospel was supplanted by an asceticism imported from the east. The former pontiff of Rome, the high priest of Jupiter and his vestal virgins, were reflected by a pontiff and maidens of another name. Jupiter, and Janus, and Mars, and Hercules are banished, but a St. Peter and St. John Lateran are honored with magnificent temples. All the divinities, large and small, which had their origin in the dim past, were forthwith ostracised—but they are presently replaced by canonized saints of all sorts of character from a St. Martin at his cave to a courtesan of the court.

But it would be unpleasant to trace this begun movement through all its serpentine windings ; for it loved blood, and in its slimy path there was death. There followed a long—long—dark night. It was night. The holy place where Moses stood, while beholding the flaming bush ; the courts and streets that David loved ; that goodly land, that prophets loved and wept : the once holy city, over which Jesus the Lord, exclaimed, “ O, Jerusalem ! Jerusalem !—would thou hadst known thy day !”—all—all, were trodden by the feet of infidels ! And the Papacy, with his kings, and his generals, and armies ; with