

attack on the orthodox faith so terrible. Clothed in the armor of Aristotle, the pantheism and mysticism of the East wrought mighty havoc among the schoolmen of the West. Under its baneful influence, there were found men bold enough to publicly declare that human nature could be identified with the divinity: others notably, David of Durando, maintained that all things are God. The University of Paris which was then the intellectual centre of the world received these blasphemies from the Moors of Spain and in turn disseminated them over the whole of civilized Europe. True, the Church always condemned them but condemnation did not always destroy their evil effects. It was in such company that Aristotle was introduced to the mediæval student. No wonder that Christian philosophers regarded him as a teacher of pantheism and the most dangerous antagonist of Christianity so plainly were these teachings opposed to Scripture and the traditions of the Church.

These conditions the "Angel of the Schools" was destined to change. No one was better fitted than he. Long and patient study had made him familiar with the Scriptures and the teachings of the Church. Such was his mastery of the Scriptures that he is reputed to have known them by heart. He knew the Fathers of the Church and the great men who followed them so well that he could tell in what each excelled, in what he differed from and in what he agreed with the others. He had studied and commented on the works of Aristotle until they contained nothing unknown to him. As a result he discovered that the works of Aristotle had been garbled and improperly translated, that many of the errors commonly attributed to him were not his, but belonged to his commentators, who had misunderstood the author or borrowed his name because of its undoubted weight and authority. He was confident that the teachings of the Stagiarite could be made to harmonize with the doctrines of the Church. Such harmony of truth and method would be irresistible. The Church's many points of belief would assume a oneness and unity of form, inseparably united and closely related. They would no longer repel men by apparent difficulties, but appeal to them by clearness and philosophical arrangement. It is to his perpetual fame that he succeeded in bring-