

easier and more rapid amongst those who have attained to some measure of civilisation. It was the ready means of communication, the peace and order, the education, throughout the Roman Empire which made possible the development of the early Church. Success brought with it its own dangers, for when after the conversion of Constantine (A.D. 312), Christianity became fashionable, many called themselves Christian who cared little for the faith, and the Church began to face all the difficulties resulting from its association with political power.

When once the Roman Empire was nominally Christian, the question of the conversion of the fierce pagan tribes who surged round its frontiers and constantly invaded its territories was the next task of the Church; an urgent task in the mind of the Churchman, eager to save these sinful souls from destruction, and an equally urgent task in the eyes of the statesman, since he judged it to be the best means of leading these rude and restless men to settle down and develop into peaceful and industrious nations.

The early missionaries were for the most