

about to show the power of a genius sent by him for the triumph of a cause, when with equal learning and devotion, that man takes his stand on the firm ground of truth. Laying hold of the difficulty just where St. Bonaventure left it, and plunging into the very heart of the question, the Franciscan, by a new mode of attack, armed himself with the arguments of his opponents; and in presence of all the assembled glories of cotemporary science, he pleaded, it is said, the cause of the Immaculate Conception with so much power and effect, that in a very short time his opinion pervaded the schools. The voice of Duns Scotus acted on the minds of men as an electric shock: the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was everywhere propagated with the fame of that great contest; the feast was on all sides inaugurated amid the applause of the churches; a Roman Pontiff was seen to welcome it to the Eternal City, and, encouraged by so high an example, the Benedictines, the Carmelites, the Celestines, the Trinitarians, the children of St. Augustine and of St. Bernard, and especially those who had given to the cause its most illustrious champion, all hastened to open their sanctuaries to a doctrine which was rapidly advancing towards explicit belief.

But such is the misery of human contests: even where science and devotion are brought to bear on the struggle, I know not what mysterious instinct