

nationalism of the times; and the confusion spreads and increases until a pope is born, and the heathenized Christian church triumphs and rejoices under the authority of an earthly Head! But christianity was entangled with the corruptions of full six centuries when this heaven-daring event transpired, and many a popular sin and many a fashionable vice had been committed in the name of the Christian religion between the time when the unassuming apostles began their labours and the period that a Roman Pontiff ascended a newly created throne to execute at one and the same time the laws of heaven and earth. But the mitre and the crown upon the same head was the perfection of popular christianity in the seventh century, and at once the safeguard and the example of religious popularity for all coming time till popes and priests were numbered with Pharaoh's host, and a return to the pure oracles swept away the whole refuge and remnant of delusion.

Christianity, like its author, was betrayed. It fell, too, into the hands of sinners. The pomp, the glitter, the parade that attended, served but to hide the betrayal from the common gaze. Every elevation of the doctrine of the cross by human power was deeper degradation. It was friendless in splendid palaces, and doubly destitute through the assistance of the noble and the great of the present world. Alas! Christ and his inspired servants the apostles were forgotten, and the kingly Bishop of Rome and his cardinals and chief priests reigned and triumphed.

God, however, even in these dark days, left not himself without witness. Faith was found upon the earth. Jesus still had followers. Of the popular party they were not, in the world's eye, though altogether popular and great favourites in heaven. The world loved its own, and heaven too loved its own. They walked by faith. They kept their eye on Jesus. Their motto was—"The friendship of the world is enmity with God" Popularity they left to others, and the Son of God, crucified and glorified, was their all and all. Into another world they looked for their applause, and waited in the "patience of hope" for the "reward of righteousness." May we not add, "this is the victory that overcometh the world."

But the Roman emporium continued, and popular christianity flourished. Rites and ceremonies were authorized carrying with them the highest touch of fashion and human splendor. The old pathway, so narrow and ungenteel, was abandoned. A new pavement to heaven was made, and Rome's chief ecclesiastic, the pope, stood at the first and principal entrance-gate. He kept the keys. The entrance fee too,