

the names proposed. One of those present feeling insulted because the Bishops would accept none of their candidates, and because Gregory paid no attention to the interest taken in the nominees, tauntingly recommended him to select Alexander the charcoal-burner. Gregory took the sneering layman at his word, and having made enquiries into the man's character and life, ordered him to be decently arrayed in a suit of his own (Gregory's) robes, for his consecration. While this was being done, Gregory gave them all a lecture on the sin of judging according to the appearance, and on Alexander being brought back, consecrated him.* This is but a summary of the graphic scene described by Gregory Nyssen, and it supplies another refutation of Mr. Dawson's statement, "That the Clergy and Laity *alone* were concerned in elections, and before the Canon of Nicæa, there is no trace, even in ordinations of the assembly of the Bishops and Metropolitan upon such occasions."

It appears that in the days of St. Ambrose, it rested greatly with the Metropolitan, whether a particular candidate was appointed to a See or not. St. Ambrose, after his allusion to those who, following the opinion of Simon, bought with money the grace of the Holy Episcopate, goes on to say, "You may see in the Church everywhere those whom not merit, but money, carried forward into the order of Episcopacy—a trifling and untaught people who admitted among them such a Priest." It was, therefore, no uncommon thing to find the Laity in the 4th Century so careless and ignorant as quietly to accept Bishops appointed as follows. "If you ask them faithfully who made them Priests, they will straightway answer and say, 'I was lately ordained by the Archbishop, and I gave him a hundred shillings that I might deserve to obtain the grace of the Episcopate; if I had not given them, I should not be to-day a Bishop. I gave the gold and I got the Bishopric.' (*Sectantes Simonis sententiam, Episcopatus gratiam pecuniis coemerunt et viles in ecclesia passim quos non merita sed pecunie ad Episcopatus ordinem proceperunt; nugacem populum et indoctum qui talem sibi asciverunt sacerdotem—Quos si percuncturi fideliter velis, quis eis profecerit sacerdotes, mox et dicunt, ab archiepiscopo sum nuper Episcopus ordinatus, centumque solidos dedi ut episco-*

*Vita Gregor Thaumaturgi, p. 286-91.