

and cannot, serve as an argument against the infallibility and divinity of Christ's earthly spouse. The Pope did not sanction and inaugurate the Crusades in his quality of spiritual father of all the faithful, but his being spiritual father, gave him a temporal power and influence, which in his wisdom he thought proper and just to wield in the cause of threatened and oppressed humanity. Not even as statesmen can any reproach be levelled against the popes of that time. They acted prudently, as their acts testify ; they had a just cause, as the history of the times tells us : so that any possible failure must be attributed, not to them, but to the neglect, on the part of the kings and princes allied together, to enter into the enlightened views, to adopt the policy and carry out the wishes of the Roman Pontiffs. Moreover far from throwing discredit on the wisdom and statesmanship of the Roman Pontiffs, the crusades rather redound to their honor and glory, as will be shown by this short discussion of them in their causes and in their effects. Surely to explain the marvellous phenomenon of an entire continent sending forth its marshalled armies to a strange, far-away land, there to meet a cruel and spiteful enemy, to risk starvation, or death upon the battlefield, or slavery in the dungeons of some fiendish caliph some cause is needed. The Crusaders set out for Asia with the prospect of never returning to their native land, to the endeared scenes of their childhood, to the fond embraces of loved ones at home. To explain this phenomenon no trivial causes can be assigned. Thus, to say that the crusades were the issue of foolish ambition, sordid avarice or vain curiosity is to forget the proportionate correlation of cause and effect.

True, many of the princes who went on the Crusades, may have been animated by such motives, and history says not the contrary, but that proves nothing against the necessity and advisableness of the undertaking. They could be fit instruments for good in God's design as well as others and, if anything, their ambition would induce them to expose themselves to greater hardships and privations. And of this Richard the 'Lion-hearted' is a striking example. Though full of ambition, yet none was so dreaded by the Moslems. After a great battle in which he had taken part and in which his personal valor had greatly contributed