

The study of civil law, which had been introduced in the twelfth century, was forbidden by Pope Honorius III., but the faculty of law was not extinguished, for the study of pontifical or canon law survived, and was encouraged by ecclesiastical authority. Some attempts were made to revive the study of the Roman law in 1568, under the authority of the parliament of Paris, but the University was not fairly relieved from the prohibition until the year 1678.(v)

The University of Bologna was first celebrated for its teaching of the Roman law, under the renowned Irnerius, who also taught the liberal arts, and distinguished himself by collating the scattered manuscripts of the civil law, and restoring their integrity by correcting the corruptions of the text. Shortly after this, the writings, called decretals, of the Bishops of the early Church were invested with the same authority as the canons of councils, and the Popes insisted upon the supremacy of these documents. Collections of these were soon made, and a compilation of them by Gratian, a monk of St. Felix in Bologna, was received with great favour, and was made the subject of public lectures in the schools. Thus was laid the foundation of the study of canon law in this University; and the degree of Doctor was taken either in the civil or canon law separately, or in both conjointly. The fact already alluded to of the gift of philosophical works to the University by Frederic Barbarossa, aroused the study of philosophy, which was very shortly followed by that of medicine. There had been also lecturers in Theology, among whom was Alexander III.,

v. Savigny.

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