

christian law, the persons and properties of the Florentines.

The latter, ruined, sent an embassy to Catherine, praying her to interpose herself between Gregory XI and Florence.

Catherine could not refuse—the greatest horrors menaced Italy—and the Saint placed herself en route for Avignon.

The Pope received her, seated upon the throne, surrounded by the Cardinals.

Catherine presented herself very humbly, and, certainly, it must have looked very strange that the haughty, the powerful Florence had chosen the daughter of a dyer of Siena as her mediatrix. But her prayers in favor of the rebellious were so touching that Gregory XI, in the first interview, placed in her hands the conditions of the peace, only recommending her to guard safely the honor of the Church.

Catherine had sworn to herself to obtain the return of the Apostolic See to Rome. She wished the Pope to deliver Italy from her lieutenants. She wished him to take in hand the government of the Pontifical domain, that, as a true pastor, he would commence the reform of the Church—of Cardinals and Italian prelates in the first place.—She feared not to reproach the Head of the Church with his timidity, with his excessive gentleness.

Gregory XI—Pierre du Rogier de Beaufort-Turenne—had been elected on the thirtieth of December 1370, at the age of thirty-eight years. He was learned, his life had always been very pure, very regular. Timid in character, very delicate in health, he had for his parents an infantine tenderness.

The humble tertiary inspired Gregory XI with a singular veneration. He admired her absolute indifference for the splen' ... which surrounded her, the frankness with which she had expressed herself in regard to men and things of the court of Avignon. He conversed often with her, consulted her and conducted her into the full consistory.

The confidence with which the Pope honored Catherine was not slow to greatly disquiet the Pontifical Court. And this young girl, who would have to decide the eter-