

way for the heresies of the sixteenth century, but self-interest, the love of honors and the love of riches ? What caused the shameful apostacy of the Anglican Church but the fact that there were degenerate apostles in England who, from fear of losing their property, obeyed the wicked king who trampled on the laws of Christ ? Had there been in that once noble Catholic land a store of men of the standing and authority of Fisher and of Moore to imitate their courageous spirit of self-sacrifice, the Christian Nero would never have accomplished his work. What caused Gallicanism and the schism that for a time existed between France and the Holy See in the seventeenth century ? The cowardice of the men who preferred the interests of the aristocracy to which their families belonged and the favor of the king, to the interests of the faith and the rights of the Church. When a zealous Vicar-General in those days was condemned to death by a French Parliament, — the parliament of Toulouse, — for appealing from the king's decision to the tribunal of the Holy See, not even the Eagle of Meaux raised his voice in protest ; Gallican self-interest and cowardice failed to defend the rights of the Church.