

THE CATHOLIC.

QUOD SEMPER, QUOD UBIQUE, QUOD AB OMNIBUS CREDITUM EST.—WHAT ALWAYS, AND EVEY WHERE, AND BY ALL IS BELIEVED.

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Original.

EXTRACTS FROM A POEM ON THE "POWER OF MONEY,"—
DEDICATED TO HIS LATE ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE
OF KENT. CANTO II. MONEY'S MENTAL REIGN.

Continued.

What monstrous madness this, that man has seiz'd,
Which ne'er the brutes have felt? Say from what source
Has sprung th' unnatural ill? from, Money, thine:
From thine it most proceeds, and love of thee
Immoderate grows. When once thy magic chain
Has caught, and bound, and warp'd the affection close,
Leaving no room for other tie to cling,
His fetter but with life, can ne'er be torn
From th' aching, bleeding heart, that throbs for thee.

Yet man is rational found, and sole to him
Her voice does wisdom raise, and bids him read
In Nature's wondrous volume, broad display'd,
His Maker's sure existence and his pow'r.
Dares then the puny atom so defy
His pow'r supreme, as spurn the life he gave;
And giving, bade the gift be careful kept
More than ought precious else, for 'tis himself,
His all; nor e'er he idly risk'd; as loud
And earnest, instinct warns, when danger's nigh;
Dares then the puny atom so defy
His might omnipotent, and set at naught
His wrath, as thus to scorn his mandate clear,
The clearest, strongest of his mandates giv'n,
Self-preservation; and into his house
A guest unbidden, unprepar'd, may worse,
All recking in his gore, and frantic rush
Upon his holy feast! nor dread withal
The crush tremendous of that potent Arm,
That wheels the reeling planets in their spheres;
And on his finger th' universe immense
Poises, as grain of sand, or wat'ry drop,
Through microscope view'd curious so enlarg'd.
Else plac'd diminutive beyond our ken!
And all this might does man, though rational, brave
Fearless for greed of thee! Thy gait'ning charin
To him is, Money, dearer far than ought
In earth or heav'n he hopes, or can enjoy.
Witness for thirty mites the Lord divine
Sold by th' Iscariot; though the precious blood
So meanly priz'd, in smallest drop effus'd,
Were more than ransom of ten thousand worlds:
As felt the traitor hopeless, when the noose,
Urg'd by remorse, he tighten'd round his neck,
And launch'd him desperate on th' eternal world.

So dire thine influence, Money, on the mind
Of man is seen, when full exerted found.
For thee alone his heart incessant heaves
Its ardent wish: for thee its yawning void
Like gulf, expands, thy substance to receive.
And though not all thou yield'st that void can fill,
No room for ought besides can there be spied.
Depriv'd of thee, not life to him were sweet,
Not sweet were paradise, with thee not there:
For thou'rt his god and only saviour known,
As erst thy molten calf, by Israel hail'd

His sole deliv'rer, surest, wisest guide,
In all his wand'rings through the desert drear.
Thy ponderous weight upsets his reason quite,
And drags him down to th' earth, thy native seat,
By suicidal blow, for sudden slight
From thee perceiv'd, or dreaded thy caprice:
Though, in the plunge, his best immortal part,
That's born aloft to rise, is further hurl'd.

From the U. S. Catholic Magazine.

VOIGT'S HISTORY OF GREGORY VII.

Histoire du Pape Gregoire VII., et de son siecle, d'apres les monuments originaux Par J. Voigt, profess. a l'universite du Hall. Traduite de l'Allemand, par M. l'Abbe Jager. Paris, 1838. 2 vols. 8vo.

History of Pope Gregory VII., and of his age, from original documents. By J. Voigt, Prof. at the University of Hall. Translated from the German by the Abbe Jager. Paris, 1838. 2 vols. 8vo.

THE age of Pope Gregory VII, was one of peculiar interest, crowded with great and important events. It was an age of transition, After the civil convulsions which followed the subjugation of Europe by the northmen in the fifth century, society, as if exhausted by over exertion, seems to have settled down into a species of lethargy in the tenth century, allowed by all to have been the darkest and most dreary of all the period called the middle ages. The eleventh century presents us the picture of society again struggling into form. To attain this form, it was necessary again to pass through the storm of revolution. Commotions in society are sometimes as necessary for its moral health, as storms are in nature for the purification of the atmosphere. Whoever will take the trouble to compare the tenth with the twelfth century, must be convinced that during the intervening period 'a great man has passed,' and that his passage has been marked by great events. That great man was Hildebrand, afterwards Gregory VII; and the great events are those which Mr Voigt so graphically describes in his history. This embraces the period of 39 years, from the birth of the emperor Henry IV, in 1046, to the death of Gregory in 1085.

Mr Voigt could not have chosen a more interesting or important subject, and few could have done it greater justice. His history is not confined to Gregory; along with him he portrays the various remarkable personages who flourished at the same time, and with most of whom Gregory was thrown into frequent contact. Among these, the chief is Henry IV, of Germany, the exact antithesis of Gregory in all things,—*infamous* for every thing for which he was famous. He and all the others appear before us like finished *tableaux* from a master hand—their features and forms so clearly marked, that they remain fixed in the memory, and will ever after be recognized as old acquaintances. Great men often appear in groups, like the stars in heaven; and, among the great cotemporaries of Gregory, we may mention St Peter Damian, St Anselm, bishop of Lucca, and Desiderius, abbot of Monte Cassino, in Italy; St Hugh of Cluni, and cardinal Hugh de Die, in France; Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, and William the Conqueror, in England; and Anno of Cologne, Rodolph duke of Suabia, and Otto of Nordheim, in Germany. In the south of Italy, the famous chevalier Robert Guiscard is seen extending the Roman power almost as much as William the Conqueror does in England; and the attentive reader will not fail to remark a great similarity in the

characters and fortunes of these two fierce but chivalrous Norman chieftains. He will also detect in the life, position in relation to Henry IV, splendid designs, varied fortunes, and remarkable death of the great Anno, archbishop of Cologne, many traits common to him with the great cardinal Wolsey of England; though, if the comparison be strictly followed out, the palm will perhaps be awarded to Anno. Had Henry IV listened to his counsels, and not been guided too much by the ambitious Adalbert, bishop of Bremen, and others, the history of the eleventh century would have been very different.— If the reader be fond of drawing parallels, he may find many things in the life, character, and varied adventures of the great Otto of Nordheim, to remind him of that pink of medieval chivalry, Richard Coeur de Lion. Finally, in the excellent empress Agnes, the mother of Henry IV, he will discover the most estimable traits of character; and in the famous Matilda of Tuscany, the particular friend of Gregory, he will find all the qualities which constitute a great and good princess. She combined in a remarkable degree the coolness, firmness, and zeal of Gregory, with the warlike talents and impetuous bravery* of Otto of Nordheim.

All the characters reappear under the pen of Mr Voigt fresh, and, as it were, instinct with life; and it requires but little exertion of fancy, to behold them again acting over before us their respective parts in history. Gregory VII being the great master spirit and actor, whose influence is felt by them all. Few men perhaps have been more differently-judged by their cotemporaries, and by posterity, than this great pontiff. That he was a great man with transcendent genius, and that he did great things, all readily admit; and Napoleon, an excellent judge of human greatness, showed his discrimination when he said—"if I were not Napoleon, I would wish to be Gregory VII."

By his enemies he has been represented as an ambitious man, who aimed at universal dominion, both civil and ecclesiastical, reckless of the means for attaining his object. Many Catholics have thought that he pushed the claims of his see too far. The church has erected altars to his memory, as to one of the most devoted champions of her liberty and rights, and one of the greatest promoters of stainless purity among her clergy. It is a singular stroke of divine Providence, that perhaps the best apology for the course thus pursued by the church, comes to us from a Protestant pen, and from that Germany too with which Gregory sustained so long and arduous a struggle. Mr Voigt has defended him, not, as he had been attacked, by mere declamation, but by the evidence of facts drawn from cotemporary writers, such as Lambert, Paul Bernier, Dominico, Berthold of Constance, Leo Osiensis, Herrman, Forenuni, Aventin, cardinal Arago, and others. He has thoroughly sifted the testimony of these authors, and presented the facts in a chronological order, but yet woven into a narrative almost as interesting as any work of fiction. Though a Protestant, yet he is so just and moderate, and withal so accurate, that the severe critic, Abbe Jager, who translated his work into French, found little of importance to correct, and less to add to the narrative; and besides a remarkably well written well reasoned, and highly wrought introductory essay of one hundred pages, his notes are chiefly valuable, as exhibiting the original text where Mr. Voigt had only referred to it. The manner of Mr. Voigt is very similar to that of the great

* See Voigt, (vol. ii, p. 436), for a curious instance of her skill in arms, when, at the head of her troops, she surprized and defeated Henry's troops in Lombardy.