

William, Duke of Aquitaine. Odo, the second Abbot, established discipline among its monks which afterwards became famous throughout Europe. The Abbey Church is the largest in France, 620 feet in length, with two transepts, of 200 feet and 120 feet. It was completed in the year 1093, and dedicated 1130 by Pope Innocent II., who once frequented its cloisters.

The Monks of Clugny were reformed Benedictines. The first Benedictine Monastery on record was that of Monte Cassino, in the kingdom of Naples, founded A.D. 529, by St. Benedict. (This monastery is still in existence, and it is noteworthy that its present Abbot is an ecclesiastic of American birth and education—one Father Kruger.) The Order of St. Benedict increased very rapidly, and possessed at one period 37,000 monasteries. It grew corrupt, however, from its opulence, and various reformed orders sprang out of it, including the great Order of Clugny, heretofore referred to, founded A.D. 910, in Burgundy; and the still greater order of the Cistercians, founded a century later, in the same province. The majority of the richest Abbeys in England belonged to the Benedictine orders, and in Scotland the Abbeys of Dunfermline, Coldingham, Kelso, Paisley, and others. Tanner enumerates 113 Benedictine Abbeys in England, and 73 houses of Benedictine nuns. (We may mention here that there is a Benedictine house in Pennsylvania at the present time,—St. Vincent's Abbey, at Carrolltown, and which is presided over by a mitred abbot; and in America there are now two mitred abbots of this order; together with three monasteries, six priories, and over 100 monks.)

The reader has probably noted that many of the Abbeys we have described were erected under the auspices of Cistercian Monks. The Cistercians were the great builders of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Their monastery was at Citeaux, (in Latin, Cistercium—hence their name,) near Dijon, eastern France, not very remote from Clugny. It was founded in 1113. The Cistercian order, within little more than a century after its foundation, was in possession of more than 1800 Abbeys in Great Britain and Ireland, and on the continent, so rapid was its growth in wealth. At the dissolution, in the reign of Henry VIII., when the power of the Cistercians had greatly waned, they owned 86 Abbeys and 33 Nunneries, among which were Tintern, Furness, Fountains, Kirkstall, Rievaulx, Melrose, and Sweetheart or New Abbeys. The order still exists, and owns a few Abbeys in Spain, Poland, Austria and Saxony.

The dissolution of the Monasteries is a subject of considerable interest in connection with our account of the erection and architectural character of the Abbeys, and to it we shall devote a few paragraphs.

Charges of gross and wide-spread Monkish corruption were not first made in the reign of Henry VIII. In 1489, fifty years before the famous Visitation, Pope Innocent VIII., himself granted a commission to Cardinal Morton, to investigate whether the stories of enormous corruption at St. Alban's Abbey were true. The abbot, who was a peer of the realm, was, as a result, not deposed, but he was "invited to reconsider his ways, and if possible amend them." Cardinal Morton's letter of indictment (which may be read in full in *Little's Living Age* for April 11, 1857,) charged the grossest moral delinquencies and crimes. At that time the majestic houses of God, while in their exterior of sovereign beauty, in their interiors were whitened sepulchres—as little like what they were in their early days, as a corpse is like a living man. At the date referred to, the alien priories had already been seized several times, and were at last wholly confiscated by Henry V., in 1418; and Wolsey had dissolved and despoiled religious houses to found