

most brutal sensuality. The old empire was rotting. Old Roman virility had dissappeared, and paganism had destroyed conscience, virtue and liberty. The measure of Roman iniquity was full, and Divine Providence was loosening from the leash the wild barbarians of the north, to send them in fury at their sickening quarry. "Arise, ye Goths, and glut your ire!" In the face of such a decree as this of Symphronius how could Gibbon regret the triumph of Christianity over Roman paganism? With such a black mark on its brow, how can any infidel extol it for the purpose of lowering Christianity in public esteem? Why, my brethren, the most depraved king or mob of Christian times has never done anything so vile as this Roman judge did with the sanction of imperial law. If any king or emperor or judge should now pass such a sentence, there is enough of Christian manliness left in the heart of even an apostate mob to rise in mutiny and destroy the man or the system that would authorize such brutality. Public opinion is still Christian, even though it have an infidel environment. Such has been the pervading influence of Christianity on public morals, that even infidels are dominated by it, and cannot escape its control.