## TORONTO, CANADA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1842.

WHOLE NUMBER, CCLXIX.

## VOLUME VI.-No. 9.7

## RANKE'S HISTORY OF THE POPES.\* (From a Correspondent of " The Church.")

The extreme interest and importance of the subject of this work, the whole manner in which it is executed, and its established reputation, may perhaps render acceptable to the readers of *The Church* some notice of it, however slight. It is not a collection of the biographies of the Popes during the period mentioned on the title-page; since their private history is only introduced so far as is necessary to elucidate the subject; which is a history of that struggle of the Papacy to concentrate its strength, and recover the ground lost at the Reformation, which began then and continues to the present day.—or rather began then and continues to the present day,-or rather t is a history of the external relations of Romanism dis-inctively so called. Mr. Ranke, besides bringing to his work a knowledge of all that has appeared in print conc collections of Germany and Venice, and in the private ibraries of many papal, and other noble, families of Italy. These he has investigated with the characteristic indus try of the Germans, and having thus made himself tho roughly master of his subject, he has produced a com-prehensive, clear, and original history. Perhaps the most prominent characteristic of the work is its evident honesty and impartiality, that impartiality which arises from a sincere love of truth, and can see, and appreciate, both the oth the good and the evil, some of both of which is generally to be found in all parties. Indeed, although we are compelled to differ from Mr. Ranke in some of his views, it is delightful to see a work written in such a spirit, and it is impossible to proceed far in it without being convinced that the author has a good heart as well as a clear head. He scarcely however enters into the theology of his subject: he is rather the philosophic observer of the causes which influenced the ebb and flow of men's minds during one of the most interesting periods in history. It would be impossible, in a notice like this, to give the barest outline of a history, so extensive in itself and so incorting intermediate the of the soft itself, and so inextricably interwoven with that of the different states of Europe, since it is only by condensing much, and occasionally giving general coups d'ail, that the author has been able, without neglecting any thing, to bring his work within the compass of two and a half octavo volumes. To notice some of the more remarkable

40-tr

a for

to. 48-tf

Y. 3

NY,

th

r0.

v this

ctor.

6.tf

t.) n, may

48-tf

ED.

s. d-

10 0

7 6 9 0

10

11 6

9 0 12 0<sup>4</sup>

11 6

8 0° 5 3

6 9

12 6

3 9

onto.

ED.

90

1 8

18 0

90

5 3

0 3 9

LL, oronto.

ancery in

pronto.

C. Dellara

the Pro-

pronto.

tions, &c. oronto. 33

-----

V. ROW-

y mail or r annum: ance.

LL, Esq're

NX.

After a rapid sketch of the rise, and earlier political Mr. Ranke goes on to shew the means by which the Papal power, which at this important period seemed likely These means were, First, The reform of many of the grosser abuses in the discipline of the Church, and the election to the Popedom of men of fair, sometimes of eminently pious, personal character. Secondly, The adoption of a rigorously defined creed (in the Council of Trent) of a rigorously defined creed (in the Council of Trent) which forbade any difference of opinion in the higher dogmas of Christianity. Thirdly, The institution and remorseless administration of the Inquisition to enforce institution or rather development of the order of Jesuits. Fifthly, The position of the Pope as a temporal prince, which enabled him to aid with men and money those princes who hed taken up, arms in the cause of Roman princes who had taken up arms in the cause of Roman Catholicism, though, on the other hand, on one or two in most of the states. By these means, Roman Catholicism, which, as has

overthrown, thad, at the conclusion of the thirty years' war in 1648, regained nearly the same territorial limits which it at present possesses in Europe. By the treaty of Westphalia, then concluded, the two confessions were placed upon a footing of equality in the Diet of Germany —the country which both literally and morally had been their principal battle-ground. Since that time the papal power seems gradually to have declined, till it reached its lowest state of degradation, when Bonaparte kept the pope a prisoner in France. Mr. Ranke thinks that even its most sanguine supporters can never again hone for its most sanguine supporters can never again hope for that dominion which was at one time contemplated and attempted. With regard to this opinion we may have a super-influence they exercised was immense. All the higher attempted. With regard to this opinion we may have some remarks to make when we speak of what appear to the temporal entirely from the spiritual power; situations and more important dignities, all the resome remarks to make when we speak of what appear to

nity of the empire.'

"Their purpose was to establish its independence unfrequently, for direct payment in money. Was it against all aggressions of the popes, by a solemn re- rational to expect that men so chosen could fulfil their solution. Shortly after, this was simultaneously pro- spiritual duties? Sixtus IV. gave one of the most claimed, with all due forms, by the whole body of po- important offices, the Penitentiaria (which involved a tentates; emperor, princes, and electors. They made large share of the power of granting dispensations), a common stand against the principles of papal policy. to one of his nephews, at the same time extending its "Nor did England long remain behind. No where privileges. He issued a bull for the express purpose had the popes enjoyed greater influence, nor disposed of enforcing them, in which he calls all who should

more arbitrarily of benefices; till at length, when doubt of the justice of such measures, a stiff-necked Edward III. would no longer pay the tribute which generation and children of iniquity. It followed, of his predecessors had engaged to pay, his Parliament course, that his nephew regarded his office as a beneunited with him and promised to support him in his fice, the revenues of which he was at liberty to raise resistance. The king took measures to prevent any to the highest possible pitch. nected with his subject, had favourable opportunities of consulting innumerable Manuscripts which exist in pub-farther encroachments of the papal power. We see farther encroachments of the papal power is to the inglest possible present of the ingle possible present of the inglest possible present of the ingle possible present of the ingle possible possib one nation after another awaken to a consciousness of its own independence and unity. \*\*\*\*\* Other they were granted as sinecures, from family consideinterests agitated the world. It was the period at rations or court favour. The Roman Curia sought which the kingdoms of Europe acquired compactness only to extract the greatest possible profit from the and solidity. The central power succeeded in sub- vacancies and appointments. Alexander took double duing the factions which had threatened the security annates, and levied double and triple tithes. Almost of the throne, and in uniting all classes of its subjects every thing was put up to sale; the taxes of the papal of the throne, and in diffing an classes of its subjects of the subjects of the baspie-in fresh bonds of obedience. The papacy, which as-chancery rose from day to day; it was the duty of mies he heard. An attempt was made to prove to pired to govern all and to interfere with all, soon came the director to remove causes of complaint, but he him, a foreigner, out of Pliny, that there was no diffealso to be regarded in a political point of view. The generally left the revision to the very men who had pretensions of kings were infinitely higher than they | fixed the amount of the taxes. Every mark of favour had been at any preceding period. It is common to which the office of the Dataria granted was paid for represent the papal authority as nearly unlimited up beforehand, with a fixed sum. The disputes between to the time of the Reformation; but the fact is, that the potentates of Europe and the Curia, generally were of an anti-religious tendency. the civil governments had possessed themselves of no arose entirely out of these contributions, which the

early as the beginning of the sixteenth, or even the to reduce, as much as possible. latter part of the fifteenth, century. \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*

After shewing this to have been the case in France, Germany, England, Spain, and Portugal, Mr. Ranke says: motives. Men renounced their bishoprics indeed,

"In short, throughout all Christendom, in the south crises of the struggle, and give some extracts, which may convey an idea of the character, and style of execution, of the work, is all that is proposed. After a ranid strugthe the the state of the struggle was made cally to a share of the ecclesiastical revenues and the nomination to ecclesiastical benefices and offices, that relations of the Papacy, and a more detailed account of its condition, and of the intellectual tendency of the age about the beginning and middle of the sixteenth century, fact and practice, hereditary. The natural result could; on other points they gave way. \* \* \* \* It were an error to see in these facts only manifestations to be completely swept away, acquired fresh vigour in those countries which still acknowledged its sway, and regained its influence in others which had renounced it. the whole existence of the nations of Europe, as it had done in earlier times."

The ambition of the Popes about this period to extend the Church! The shepherds have all deserted their the States of the Church, and found principalities for their connections, an object which was so unscrupulously pur-sued, contributed much to lessen their influence as the

paganism, the diffusion of Christianity over the na- Under the title (unheard of in this sense) of suffragans, important occasions, the interests of that very position came into conflict with the Pope's interests as a spiritual head, and materially contributed to thwart them. To these must be added, though partly as a consequence of the others, the vigorous co-operation of the civil power in most of the accomplish some great object, is among the qualities which confer the greatest dignity on man; and this it was which sustained the popes in their Sixtus IV., himself a Franciscan. The right of hearlofty course. But these tendencies had passed away ing confession, of administering the sacrament of the been observed, seemed at one time likely to be entirely overthrown, thad, at the conclusion of the thirty years' overthrown, that, at the conclusion of the thirty years'

but I have learned that virtue without force is ludi- venues, were in the hands of the great families, and

measure for the maintenance 'of the honour and dig- as secular property. The Pope nominated Cardinals impossible to deny that it was little answerable to the from personal favour, or to please a prince, or, not character and position of the head of the Church .--These incongruities were not observed during his lifetime; but when they afterwards came to be compared and considered, they could not fail to strike all men. "In such a state of things, genuine Christian-

Ehutch

mindedness and faith were out of the question; there arose indeed a direct opposition to them.

"The schools of philosophy were divided on the question whether the soul was really immaterial and immortal, but one spirit, diffused through all mankind, or whether it was merely mortal. The most distinguished philosopher of the day, Pietro Pomponazzo, declared himself the champion of the latter opinion : he compared himself to Prometheus, whose vitals

were preyed upon by a vulture for having stolen fire from heaven; but with all his painful toil, with all his acuteness, he arrived at no other result than this, 'that when the legislator decreed that the soul was immortal, he had done so without troubling himself about the truth.' It must not be supposed that these opinions were confined to a few, or held in secret; Erasmus expresses his astonishment at the blasphe-

"While the common people sank into an almost pagan superstition, and looked for salvation to mere ceremonial practices, the opinions of the upper classes

"How astonished was the youthful Luther when small share of ecclesiastical rights and privileges as Court of Rome strove to increase, and every country he visited Italy! At the very moment when the sacrifice of the mass was finished, the priests uttered words of blasphemy which denied its efficacy. It "The nominees of such a system were, down to the was the tone of good society in Rome to question the very lowest class, of necessity, actuated by the same evidences of Christianity. 'No one passed' (says P. but retained the greater part of their revenues, and Ant. Bandino) 'for an accomplished man, who did sometimes even the collation to the dependent bene- not entertain heretical opinions about Christianity; fices. Even the laws enacting that no son of an at the court the ordinances of the Catholic Church, ecclesiastic should inherit his father's living, that no and passages of Holy Writ; were spoken of only in priest should bequeath his living by will, were evaded. a jesting manner; the mysteries of the faith were

As every man, by dint of money, could obtain as co- despised." "Thus every thing has its place in the chain of events; one event, or one state of opinion, calls forth protestant party thence gained an immense step; it another: the ecclesiastical claims of princes excite the acquired a legal existence." temporal claims of the Pope; the decay of religious institutions produces the development of a new tendency of the human mind; till at length the very grounds of belief are assailed by public opinion." In Germany the tendency of men's minds was different:

"In Italy men were captivated by the beauty of

cients; they succeeded, as we have shewn, in creating siastical council would have power to remove the a national literature. In Germany these studies took a religious direction; the names of Reuchlin and The councils had maintained their popularity precisely Erasmus are well known. If we inquire wherein con- because the Popes had shown a very natural aversion sists the highest merit of the former, we shall find to them; from that time every fresh act of opposition that he was the first writer of a Hebrew Grammar, a raised their fame and credit. In the year 1530, Italian poets did of their works, 'that it would be public opinion. He promised to convene a council more durable than brass.' As he opened the way to within a certain short space of time.

effect far exceeding even his own expectations.

"Nor was it any longer possible to satisfy the Ger- contracted a more intimate alliance with the Landnans with what had been formerly called a reformation grave. These were the most fortunate days in the of the head and the members. And even such a one, life of Philip of Hesse. The prowess and prompti-

tude with which he had restored to his rights an ex-We have stated above that the Pope's interests, as a pelled German prince, rendered him one of the most We have stated above that the ropes interests, as a temporal prince, sometimes interfered with his ecclesias-tical claims. The tortuous policy of preceding Popes having resulted in Charles V. becoming possessed both of Naples and of Milan, Clement VII., the successor of Naples and of Milan, Clement VII., the successor of Adrian, who feared this preponderance of the imperial influence on religious differences; —the supreme court power, formed a league to drive him from Italy. The (Kammergericht) was enjoined to hear no more suits consequence of this rupture with the Emperor was not only the sack of Rome at a subsequent period by the "I know pot if any other sincle areas

"I know not if any other single event contributed so decidedly to establish the ascendancy of the protestant cause in Germany, as this Hessian enterprise. "At the moment when the troops of Clement VII. The injunction to the Kammergericht involves a legal marched into upper Italy, the diet had met at Spires, security for the new party, which was of immense importance. Nor was the effect long in manifesting itself. The peace of Kadan may, I think, be regarded that Ferdinand of Austria, who commanded in the as the second great epoch of the rise of the protestant power in Germany. After an interval of less rapid progress, it now once more began to spread with astonishing vigour. Wirtemberg, which had just been conquered, was immediately reformed; the German provinces of Denmark, Pomerania, the march of Brandenburg, the second line of Saxony, one line of Brunswick, and the Palatinate, soon followed. Within the space of a few years the reformation of the Church had broken ort between them. Never did the towns extended over the whole of Lower Germany, and esdeclare themselves more freely; never did the princes tablished itself for ever in Upper Germany.

"And an enterprise which led to such results, which so incalculably advanced the new schism, was undercontained the new ordinances, and to acknowledge no taken with the privity, if not with the approbation of rule but the Holy Scriptures. Although there was Clement VII.!

> "The papacy was in a thoroughly false and untenable position. Its worldly tendencies had caused a degeneracy which gave rise to innumerable adversaries and dissidents; its adherence to this course-the continued mingling of temporal and spiritual interestsbrought about its utter downfall.'

Yet perhaps the most interesting part of the whole work is the account of the attempt at an ecclesiastical Reformation, the establishment of a new Church in Germany. This decree was immediately adopted in seemed nearly brought about, for the commissioners from Saxony, Hesse, and the neighbouring countries. The either side actually agreed on some of the principal points in dispute, at the conference at Ratisbon, in 1541, under the pontificate of Paul III., who succeeded Clement. Nor was this hope so extravagant, when we reflect that the Council of 'Irent had not yet been held, that the yoke of the creed of Pius IV, had not yet been imposed on any part of Christendom, and that, amidst all the corruptions of the Church, a partial return to a more pure and prim tive faith had taken place extensively, even in Italy and Spain.

## CONFIRMATION.

Calcutta.)

The word Confirmation means strengthening or establishing. It is applied to the religious rite of monument of which he hoped, as confidently as the Charles determined to take advantage of this state of laying on of hands, because the young person then confirms and ratifies, in his own person, the vows which

had been made for him at his baptism; and the Bishop more durable than brass. As he opened die and the bishop within a certain shore opened with the see of confirms and strengthens him in his pious resolutions, attention to the New. He first printed it in Greek; Rome, had long wished for nothing so much as a spi- by prayer and imposition of his hands. The simple vows, and adorn their Christian profession, and may It remarkable, that as early as the year 1513, the Bohemian brethren made advances to Erasmus, the turn of whose mind and opinions was so totally diffe-This rite is derived from the practice of the Apos-St. John, were sent to lay their hands on these new them, and they received the Holy Ghost. Acts xix. 1-7. And though the extraordinary gifts of the to the great purposes of sanctification, as in the first unscriptural and superstitious ceremonies; but this

Alps, the progress of the age was in a direction hostile price of all saleable offices in the court fell considera- tles. We are informed, that when the inhabitants of to the ascendancy of the Church. On one side it was bly. This is a strong proof of the danger to the ex- Samaria had been converted and baptized, and had connected with science and literature; on the other, it isting order of things which such a measure was received the Word of God, the Apostles, St. Peter and arose out of biblical learning and a more protound thought to threaten. theology. There, it was negative and unbelieving; "But Clement VII. had also personal causes for converts, that they might receive the Holy Ghost. here, positive and believing. There, it sapped the apprehension \* \* \* \* \*. Although he did not di- Acts viii. 14-17. And the disciples of Ephcsus, very foundations of the Church; here, it laboured to rectly reject the proposal, (which indeed for the ho- after they had been baptized in the name of Jesus, build it up anew. There, it was ironical, sarcastic, nour of the holy see he dared not do,) it may well be were confirmed by St. Paul, who laid his hands upon He therefore formed a strict alliance with Francis I: of France, (Charles's great rival,) to whose second son he betrothed his niece, Catherine of Medici, and backed by "Nor was this the only result of that alliance. ages of the Church; and indeed it seems evident that Another unexpectedly arose, of vast and permanent the Apostle Paul alludes to the continuance of this rite, importance, especially to Germany. The combina- as an ordinary means of strengthening the faith of tion to which it immediately gave birth, in consequence Christians, by joining it with Baptism, and describing of the intimate blending of ecclesiastical and temporal interests, was most extraordinary. Francis I. was God. Heb. v. 12; vi. 1, 2. It is a point beyond all then on the best footing with the Protestants. By doubt, that such has been the opinion of the Church contracting so strict an alliance with the pope, he now, from the very times of the Apostles. Tertullian, who to a certain extent, united the protestants and the pope flourished only 80 years after St. John, and is very within the same system. And here we see in what careful in relating the practice of the primitive Church, consisted the political strength of the position which has these words : "After Baptism succeeds laying on the protestants had taken up. The emperor could of hands, by prayer calling for and inviting the Holy not intend to reduce them again to direct subjection Spirit." De Bapt. c. 8.-St. Cyprian, who flourished to the pope; on the contrary, he made use of their about 60 years after Tertullian, remarks on the history agitation as a means of holding bim in check. On of the Samaritan converts, "the same thing is practised the other hand, it gradually became manifest that the among us, that they who are baptized in the Church pope did not wish to see them entirely at the mercy are presented to the governors of it, that by their of the emperor: the connexion of Clement VII. with prayers and imposition of hands, they may obtain the them was therefore not wholly unconscious; he hoped Holy Ghost, and be perfected with the seal of Christ." to profit by their opposition to the emperor, as a means Epist. 73. "And though," saith St. Augustine, of furnishing that monarch with fresh occupation. It Tract 6, in 1 Ep. John, "the speaking with tongues was remarked at the time, that the king of France and working of miracles do not now attend the laying made the pope believe that the leading protestant on of hands, as in the days of the Apostles, yet any princes were dependent upon him, and held out hopes one may know now whether he has received the Holy that he would induce them to abandon the project of Ghost, by the love he bears to his brother, and his a council. But if we do not greatly mistake, his con- desire of the peace and unity of the Church of Christ." nexion with them extended much farther. Shortly And St. Jerome speaks of it distinctly, as recommended after his conference with the pope, Francis I. had an by the custom of the whole Christian world; and then interview with the Landgrave Philip of Hesse, the ob- adds, "Where persons are baptized in the inferior ject of which was to restore the Duke of Wirtemberg, towns by priests and deacons, the bishop travels out to who had been driven out of his states by the house of them, to lay his hand upon them, and invoke the Holy Austria. Francis having consented to furnish subsi- Spirit." Tom. il. p. 56. Indeed, the ceremony of dies, Landgrave Philip proceeded to the execution of imploring the divine grace by the laying on of hands, the enterprise, which he accomplished with surprising seems to have been derived from the pious and simple rapidity. The design certainly was that he should practice of the Patriarchs, to have been preserved advance into the hereditary states of Austria; and it among the usages of the Jews, adopted and authorised was universally suspected that the king intended to by our blessed Saviour, employed by the Apostles, and believers : hence his writings produced an incalculable attack Milan again from the side of Germany. A continued in the Church to the present time. In fact, effect; in a moment Germany and the world were still farther view of the matter is disclosed to us by the observance is so natural, so pleasing, so important, Marino Giustiniano, at that time Venetian ambassa- and so free from superstition, that, if there were less some abuses had begun to take place at Rome. After Leo X., Adrian of Utrecht, who had been preceptor of ment in Germany was concerted by Clement and be safely allowed to rest on the obvious ground of its Charles V., was elected Pope. He retained his own name as Adrian VI.: "It was long since the election had fallen on a man their troops upon Italy, and that the pope would have young persons coming forward, in the presence of the more worthy of his high and holy office. Adrian was secretly co-operated. It would be somewhat rash to Church, to join themselves publicly to their Saviour, of a most spotless fame; upright, pious, industrious; regard this assertion, however confidently made, as an in the bonds of his covenant, and to seek the paternal of such a gravity that nothing more than a faint smile authentic fact; farther proofs are required. But even prayers and blessings of their Bishops on their tender was ever seen upon his lips, yet full of benevolent, if we do not attach credit to it, the aspect of things is and newly-formed resolutions. Every visible Church pure intentions; a true minister of religion. What a undoubtedly most remarkable. Who could have ima- of Christ has accordingly retained either this rite of contrast when he entered the city in which Leo had gined it? At the very moment that the pope and the Confirmation, or some other analogous to it, by which held his prodigal and magnificent court! A letter is protestants pursued each other with irreconcileable those who were devoted to God in their infancy, might extant, in which he says that he would rather serve hate, that they waged a religious war which filled the be confirmed in their pious designs of personally fol-God in his priory at Louvain than be Pope. \* \* \* \* world with animosities, they were nevertheless bound lowing the Saviour, and might be admitted into the "No man could more earnestly desire to heal the together by common political interests. In the former full communion of the body of Christ. The corrupt distempers which he perceived in Christendom than complexities of Italian affairs, nothing had been so Church of Rome has indeed debased this primitive did Adrian VI. \* \* \* \* But to reform the world is injurious to the pope as that equivocal, crafty policy ordinance, as it has almost every doctrine and pracnot so light a task. The good intentions of an indi- which he pursued; it now bore him still bitterer fruits tice of the Scripture, and has loaded it with many to it. Abuse strikes too deep a root; it has grown "King Ferdinand, menaced in his hereditary pro- may only serve the more to recommend to us the with the growth, it lives with the life, of the body to vinces, hastened to conclude the peace of Kadan, in native and lovely character of the rite itself, as it is

The protest against the revocation of this edict by a subsequent diet was, as is well known, the origin of the name Protestant. At a later period, another important result arose from another of Clement's political alliances. Charles insisted on the Pope's calling a general council: "Whether justly or unjustly, I shall not discuss; it form, and their first essays were imitations of the an- was universally admitted that nothing but an eccleenormous errors which had crept into the Church .-- (By the Right Rev. Daniel Wilson, D.D., Lord Bishop of

how difficult, how impossible to achieve !"

party by the Diet of Spires in 1526:

mperial troops, but the legal recognition of Luther's

in order to come to a definitive resolution concerning

the errors of the Church. That the imperial party,-

emperor's place, and who himself entertained views on

Milan,-should feel any great interest in upholding

the papal power on the one side of the Alps, while

they were vehemently attacked by that power on the

other, would have been contrary to the nature of

things. Whatever had been the former intentions or

professions of the imperial court, all show of respect

or amity was put an end to by the open war which

press more urgently for redress of their grievances .--

The proposition was made to burn the books which

some opposition, yet never was a more independent

decision taken. Ferdinand signed a decree of the

empire, in virtue of which the states were at liberty to

guide themselves in matters of religion, as each could

answer it to God and the emperor-that is, to act

according to its own judgment: a decision in which

no reference whatever was made to the Pope, and

which may be regarded as the beginning of the real

Reformation, the establishment of a new Church in

his paraphrase and commentaries upon it have had an ritual check on its domination; Charles was therefore design of it is, that those who have been devoted to secure of the most powerful allies in a council convened God in infancy in the sacrament of baptism, may, when "Whilst in Italy, the public mind was alienated under such circumstances. It was assembled at his they come to years of discretion, take upon themselves from the Church, and even hostile to it,—a somewhat instigation, held under his influence, and its decisions the solemn engagements which were made for them similar state of things prevailed in Germany. There, were to be carried into execution by him. These by their godfathers and godmothers, by a public and similar state of thought which can never be wholly would point in opposite directions; they would affect direct acknowledgment and confirmation of their baphat freedom of thought which can hevel be world of letters, the Pope no less than his adversaries; the old idea of tismal covenant with God, before the Bishop and the and in some cases amounted to decided infidelity. A a reformation of head and members would be acted whole Church; and that they may receive the benefit and in some cases amounted to decided indexity. a large may receive the other in the other in the other in the other is the other in the other is th rious sources, though rejected by the Church, had stances give to the temporal power, -above all, to ancient and scriptural rite of laying on of hands, in never been eradicated; this formed part of the literary that emperor himself! This then was the prudent order that they may be so confirmed and strengthened movement in Germany. In this point of view I think course ; it was perhaps the inevitable one, but it was also by God's Holy Spirit, as to be enabled to perform their it remarkable, that as early as the year 1513, the in conformity with Charles's highest interests.

of the author. In the mean time we proceed to make crous-that the pope of Rome without the hereditary their dependents, the favourites at princely and papal some extracts.

It is commonly said, and with truth, that the invention abuses of the Church, brought on the Reformation; in fact the power of the Pope had been declining from the beginning of the fourteenth century, and at this time was considerably reduced. Our author remarks:

"There are periods in the history of the world which excite in us a peculiar and anxious curiosity to search into the plans of the divine government, to investigate the phases of the education of the human

"However defective may be the civilization we have delineated (that of the dark ages), it was necessary to the complete naturalization of Christianity in the West. It was no light thing to subdue the haughty spirits of the North, the nations under the dominion of ancestral superstitions, to the ideas of Christianity. It was necessary that the religious element should predominate for a time, in order that it might gain fast hold on the German mind. By this at the same time, was effected the intimate blending of the Roman and Germanic elements. There is a community among the nations of modern times which has always been regarded as the main basis of the general civilization; a community in Church and State, in manners, customs, and literature. In order to produce this, it was necessary that the Western nations should, for a time, form, as it were, a single state, temporal and spiritual.

"But this too was only one stage in the great progress of things. As soon as the change was accomplished, new consequences appeared.

"The commencement of a new epoch was announced by the simultaneous and almost universal rise of national languages. With slow but unbroken course they found their way into all the various branches of intellectual activity; the peculiar idiom of the Church receded before them step by step. Universality gave place to a new and noble kind of individuality. Hithereto the ecclesiastical element had overpowered all and not without traits of magnanimity, but voluptuous national peculiarities : under a new character and aspect, but once more distinct, they now entered upon a new career.

"It seems as though all human designs and actions were subject to the silent and often imperceptible, but mighty and resistless, march of events. The previous state of the world had been favourable to the papal domination. But the moment we are considerecclesiastical power; they arose in opposition to it. first decisive stand against the pretensions of the Popes. They unanimously resisted the bulls of excommunication issued by Boniface VIII. In several hundred acts of adhesion, all the popular authorities expressed their assent to the measures of Philip the Fair.

"The Germans followed. When the popes attacked the empire with their old animosity, although it had lost much of its former importance, the electors, determined to secure it from foreign influence, assembled on the banks of the Rhine, in the field of Reuse. to deliberate in their chairs of stone on some common

\* "THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE POPES OF ROME, DURING THE SIXTEENTH AND SE-VENTEENTH CENTURIES, by Leopold Ranke, Professor in the "It was obviously improved the church, he observes: tin, in 3 vols. London. John Murray, Albemarle Street." only a thirtieth did. In 1561 the Venetian ambassador Mi-cheli did not find a single Province in France free from Protestant doctrines; he says "three-fourths of the kingdom were filled with them." "Not only the most exalted posts in the Church, de emendanda ecclesia, & but all, from the highest to the lowest, were regarded conscriptum, anno 1538.

possessions of the Church, is only the servant of kings courts; the real management of Church affairs was of printing, and revival of the study of classical literature, at the end of the fifteenth and beginning of the sixteenth ence in the council to determine the election of Pope Popes protected them. The sale of indulgences, centuries, were the principal causes, which, with the gross Felix, does not think it so much amiss that a pope which at this time was so amazingly extended (Alexbut should have sons to take his part against tyrants.

was the advice of him who was regarded as the wisest quity must bring with it the ruin of the world.'" matter, for his daughter was married to a son of the pope. But he would never have ventured to imself so unreservedly, had not these views been notoriously prevalent among the higher classes. \* \* \* \* turn, which it retained."

Of Cæsar Borgia, the son of the monster Alexander VI. had grown up in the elements which formed the

"There was a moment when Rome and the papal states were in Cæsar's power. He was a man of the greatest personal beauty, so strong, that at a bull-fight he cleft the head of a bull with one stroke; liberal, and sanguinary. Rome trembled at his name. Cæsar wanted money and had enemies; every night murdered bodies were found in the streets. Men lived

could not reach were taken off by poison. "There was but one point on earth where such a

the plenitude of secular power was united to the sustood in their former need of the impulse given by the preme spiritual jurisdiction. This point was occupied by Cæsar. There is a perfection even in depravity. Many of the sons and nephews of popes at-It was, as is well known, the French who made the tempted similar things, but none ever approached Cæsar's bad eminence: he was a virtuoso in crime. Was it not one of the primary and most essential tendencies of Christianity to render such a power impossible? and now Christianity itself, and the position of the head of the Christian Church, were made subservient to its establishment.

"There wanted, indeed, no Luther to prove to the world how diametrically opposed to all Christianity were such principles and actions. At the very time we are speaking of, the complaint arose that the pope prepared the way for anti-Christ; that he laboured for the coming of the kingdom, not of heaven, but of Satan. \*\*\*\*\*\*

On the intrusion of a secular spirit into the affairs of

"It was obviously impossible that the entire insti-University of Berlin, translated from the German by Mrs. Aus- tution of the Church should not partake of the cha-The Venetian Ambassador in 1558 reckons that only a racter and inclination of its head; that it should not tenth of the inhabitants of Germany adhered to the old religion. co-operate to give activity and effect to his designs, In Austria, now one of its strong-holds, it was asserted that or that it should not be reacted upon by the very

and princes.' This orator, who had sufficient influ- in the hands of the Mendicant Friars. In this the ander VI. being the first who officially declared that "This matter was at a later period viewed in a dif-they delivered souls out of purgatory), was conducted ferent light in Italy. It was thought in the regular in part by them. They too were sunk in utter worldorder of things that a pope should promote and pro-liness. What eager grasping for the higher posts! vide for his family; people would have despised one What atrocious schemes for getting rid of opponents who did not. 'Others,' writes Lorenzo dé Medici to or rivals at the time of election! The former were Innocent VIII., 'have not so long deferred their en- sent out of the way as preachers, or as administrators deavour to be popes, and have troubled themselves of a distant parish; not only poison, but the dagger little about the decorum and modesty which your ho- or the sword were unscrupulously employed against liness has for so long a time observed. Your holiness the latter. The comforts and privileges of religion is now not only excused in the sight of God and man, were sold. The Mendicant Monks, whose regular but men may perhaps even censure this reserved de- pay was very small, greedily caught at any chance meanour, and ascribe it to other motives. My zeal gains. 'Alas!' exclaims one of the prelates of the and duty render it a matter of conscience with me to day, 'who are they that make my eyes to be a founremind your Holiness that no man is immortal; that tain of tears? Even those set apart have fallen away. a pope is of the importance which he chooses to give The vineyard of the Lord is laid waste. If they went himself; he cannot make his dignity hereditary; the alone to destruction, it were an evil, yet one that honours and the benefits he confers on those belong- might be borne : but as they are spread over all ing to him are all that he can call his own.' Such Christendom, like veins through the body, their ini-

adjutor whomsoever he pleased, benefices became, in

was, that the performance of religious duties was in

general completely neglected. In this brief state-

ment, I shall confine myself to the remarks made by

well-intentioned prelates of the Court of Rome itself.

What a sight,' exclaimed they, 'for a Christian who

traverses the Christian world, is this desolation of

flocks, and have left them to hirelings.' \*

Ranke observes:

" In the midst of this full tide of study and pro-The first who with deliberate purpose and permanent duction, of intellect and art, Leo X. lived in the effect, acted upon this idea, was Sixtus IV. Alex- enjoyment of growing temporal power attached to the ander VI. pursued it with the utmost vigour, and with highest spiritual dignity. His claim to the honour of singular success. Julius II. gave it an unexpected giving his name to this age has been disputed, and had learned to understand the Scriptures for himself. perhaps he owed it less to merit than to fortune. He

from prejudice, and susceptibility of mind to foster and to enjoy its glories. If he had a peculiar delight in the Latin writings of direct imitators, he could not withhold his interest from the original works of his contemporaries. In his presence the first tragedy was acted, and even (spite of the objections to a play imitated from Plautus) the first comedy in the Italian language. There is scarcely one of which he did not witness the first representation. Ariosto was one of fear that his turn would come. Those whom force the acquaintances of his youth. Macchiavelli wrote Luther, with singular acuteness and perspicuity, held several things expressly for him. For him Raffaelle filled chambers, galleries and chapels, with human state of things was possible; that, namely, at which beauty raised to ideal perfection, and with life in its purest expression. He had a passionate love of music, yet unfolded all those positive results with which it which just then began to be cultivated throughout Italy in a more scientific manner. The walls of the palace daily echoed with the sounds of music; the Pope was heard to hum the melodies which delighted him. It may be that this is a sort of intellectual sensuality; if so, it is at least the only sensuality be-

coming a human being. "Leo X. was full of kindness and sympathy: he rarely refused a request, or if he did, it was in the gentlest manner, and only when it was impossible to grant it. 'He is a good man,' says an observing ambassador to his court, 'very bounteous and of a kindly nature; if he were not under the influence of his kinsmen, he would avoid all errors.' \* \* \* \* "The number of inhabitants (at Rome) increased a third in a few years; manufactures found their profit -art, honour-every one, security; \* \* \* \* hence was the court more lively, more agreeable, more intellectual; no expenditure was too great to be lavished on religious and secular festivals, on amusements and theatres, on presents and marks of favour. \* \* \* \* "The debauchery of Alexander VI. must ever be contemplated with loathing. Leo's gay and graceful court was not in itself deserving of censure; yet it is

\* Consilium delectorum cardinalium et aliorum prælatorum "Not only the most exalted posts in the Church, de emendanda ecclesia, Smo. Dno. Paulo III. ipso jubente

rent from their own. And thus, on either side the I find, that at the first serious report of a council, the arose out of biblical learning and a more profound thought to threaten.

obsequious to power; here, it was earnest and indig- imagined with what heart he entertained it." nant, and girded itself up to the most daring assault that the Church of Rome had ever sustained.

"It has been represented as a matter of accident that this was first directed against the abuses which him resisted the demand for a council : attended the sale of indulgences; but as the alienation of the most profoundly spiritual of all gifts (which was involved in the system of indulgences), was the most striking symptom of the disease pervading the whole body-the intrusion of worldliness into religious things -it run most violently counter to the ideas entertained by the earnest and spiritual German theologians. To a man like Luther, whose religion was one of inward experience; who was filled with the ideas of sin and justification which had been propounded by German theologians before his time, and confirmed in them by the study of the Scriptures, which he had drunk in with a thirsting heart, nothing could be so shocking as the sale of indulgences. Forgiveness of sins to be had for money, must be the most deeply offensive to him whose consciousness of the eternal relation between God and man sprang from this very point, and who of Rome by denouncing this particular abuse; but the world around him, and he possessed sufficient freedom ill-founded and prejudiced resistance which he experienced led him on step by step. He was not long in discovering the connexion which existed between this monstrous practice and the general corruption of the Church. His was not a nature to quail before the last extremity; he attacked the head of the Church himself with dauntless intrepidity. From the midst of the most devoted adherents and champions of

papacy, the Mendicant Friars, arose the boldest and most powerful assailant it had ever encountered .--up to view the principle from which the power based upon it had so widely departed; he gave utterance to an universal conviction; his opposition, which had not was pregnant, was pleasing to unbelievers, and yet, while it attracted them, satisfied the earnestness of

filled with them."

vidual man, stand he never so high, are wholly unequal in his spiritual jurisdiction. which it clings. \* \* \* \*

He therefore formed a strict alliance with Francis L.

which he abandoned Wirtemberg to its fate, while he retained in our Protestant Church.