

Emperor saved the civilization of the West. The futile attempts of the Emperors to realize what was only an idea, the political union namely of Germany and Italy, was the salvation of Teutonic freedom on the continent. It led inevitably to the mortal strife between the two co-ordinate powers, State and Church, and ended, as you know, in the victory of the Church in the great quarrel on the question of investitures. From this struggle, which lasted roughly for two centuries, 1050-1250, dates the culmination of the power of the Papacy. From this struggle dates the fear and hatred with which henceforward the German people regarded the tyranny of Rome. From this struggle dates the rise and influence of the free cities of Germany. When Henry IV. was excommunicated by the Church and deserted by his knights, the citizens of Worms and Liege remained faithful to their allegiance. To resist the encroachments of Italians soon became the test of Teutonic freedom. From this struggle dates the beginnings of Italian literature. The year of Dante's birth, 1265, is the year of the destruction at Benevento of the power of the house of Suabia by Charles of Anjou. The awful spectacle of the two divine world powers in mortal conflict is the inspiration of Dante's poetry. That victory of the Pope and the French destroyed the Empire in Italy; but it began that connection of the Papacy with France which led to the great western schism, and to that secularization of the Church which lasted on for three centuries until the Council of Trent in the middle of the sixteenth century.

I do not think in a general sketch of this sort it is necessary to say more on the growth of those powers, in the revolt from which the Reformation consisted. The mortal conflict for two centuries of the Church and the Empire partially exhausted the powers of both: henceforth their life is a life of exhaustion, and during the three centuries of exhaustion, dating from 1265, those forces gradually grew up which were to overthrow the influence of both. What those forces were I now proceed to mention briefly. Note, however, first of all the great forces which controlled Europe.

(1) The Church, with the Pope at its head, with Europe mapped out into Provinces, dioceses, and parishes; an organised system descending directly from the old Empire, and, if we