

Had Philip's short reign of four years been lengthened, this might have ripened into conviction, with consequences antedating Constantine. But the legions again revolted in favour of Decius, and in the resulting civil war Philip was slain. The persecution kindled by Decius found Origen at Tyre, and there, after suffering innumerable atrocities and indignities, he died in 253 A.D.

The grudge which Demetrius, his Patriarch, bore him, arose perhaps in part from the natural jealousy of being in his larger sphere outshone by a subordinate of commanding genius. There were, however, graver differences arising out of the growing tendency, which Origen resisted and Demetrius fostered, to formulate the Church Visible into a rigid network of dioceses in which the Bishop could say, "*L'Eglise c'est moi.*" Alike at Rome under Zephyrinus and Callistus, and at Carthage under Cyprian, we observe advances in centralization at the expense of Christian liberties. The larger and more liberal spirit was represented by Hippolytus in Italy, and by Origen in Egypt; but the tactical advantages of central organization threw more and more weight on the other side. Origen looked to the moral influence of holiness as the chief factor in Church government; the Patriarch rather to official authority and coercive anathema. Origen distinguished the ideal, perfect, and glorious Church, "not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing," from that compromise with human imperfections of which the parables of the Tares and of the Draw-net are the fixed illustrations.

Demetrius, with Cyprian and many another after him, ascribed to this latter the privileges and attributes of that former, and exalted into a cardinal virtue obedience to the Church rulers of the day.

Of all known literary losses sustained by Christianity since the Apostolic age, the greatest is that of Origen's *Hexapla*. And the recovery of even the least precious of his lost writings would be like the salvage of Crown jewels. In the *Hexapla* the foundation of all Biblical criticism was laid; and as it included a revision of the LXX. Text, which it found encumbered with the corruptions of four uncritical