

Pope exalted and the Saviour dethroned !!! Alas for weak, vain, easily estranged man, when, in the name of religion, a crown glitters upon the brow of sectarianism, and religion itself is driven as a fugitive into the remote corners of the earth.

But what use had the counterfeit and humanized christianity of these times for the example of Jerusalem, the authority of God's Anointed One, or the inspiration of the oracles? When charming Italy is famed through the earth, why go to Judea's wilderness? When the splendor of Caesar's capitol enchants and captivates, why look toward the city of David? When the chief Bishop of the church, "Lord God the Pope" speaks, why turn an ear to the Redeemer on Calvary or after he was laid in Joseph's tomb? When councils with their hundreds of bishops assemble, why listen to the humble, feeble, apostolic Twelve? When the writings and doctrines of pious men, of sound men, of learned and great men are at hand, why examine the old oracles and the stale revelations of the Spirit? When customs and ceremonies, flattering to human pride, are not only sanctioned but established by solemn authority of the "vicar"; why learn the ordinances and practices of the church as constituted by the labours of the ambassadors of Jesus? When the Pope can forgive sins and bestow salvation, and at the same time give liberty to the lusts of the flesh, why apply to the Prince of Life or go up to his cross? When prayers to saints, the worship of images, and a Godless life can secure the glory of the eternal world, why pray to the God of the gospel, why pay homage to the 'Holy One of Israel', or why keep "unspotted from the world"?

Thus taught Rome—thus taught the Pope—thus taught the holy Councils—and such therefore was the popular faith. The religion of Jesus was counterfeited. The Imperial City became infallible, the Pope infallible, the Councils infallible, the writings of the Fathers infallible—"the mystery of iniquity" was openly at work—and hence Christ, his cross, his grace, his apostles, his revelations from heaven, and the purity of his church were impiously spurned from the proud spiritual metropolis, or insultingly trampled under foot.

Two things were needed to keep up the grand-apostacy—priests and the power of lucre. Once seated on his pontifical chair, the successor of Peter, to guide the destinies of the church universal, needs, above all things, the influence of a host of clerical agents and the influence of large sums of money. Hand in hand these two sources of power proped the pontiff's seat and supported the papal see. When the Pope,