

The Bible ruled and from the seventh to the seventeenth century Europe stood still. "For six hundred years," says Buckle, "Christianity gave to the world no scientific man."

It would take a good many longer volumes than the Bible to describe the awful conditions under which men lived in those times. Ignorance beyond belief, and filth beyond description, were found on every hand. With hypocrisy at the altar and tyranny upon the throne, between taxes to the state and tithes to the church, the common people were little better than the beasts of the field, and certainly much less cleanly and comfortable.

It has been demonstrated by men who have given attention to the subject that a population, unrestricted, will double itself in twenty-five years, but under the rule of the Bible and the religion founded upon it the population of Europe did not double in a thousand years.

Outside of Mohammedan Constantinople, there was not a public bath or sewer on the whole continent, and dogs and swine fought and snarled over favorite morsels of carrion in the public streets of great cities, and he who stepped over his threshold on a rainy day went to the ankle in the putrifying remains of animal filth and decomposing vegetable refuse.

The natural result of this kind of thing was, that every now and then a pestilence would break out and sweep the people into their graves by the million.

The Oriental bubo-plague ravaged Italy sixteen times between the years 1119 and 1340.

In 1348 the great plague known as the Black Death broke out and in six years carried off 25,000,000 people.

Medical science there was none, and in accordance with the ignorance of the time it was universally ascribed to a conjunction of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

The medical schools of former ages were suppressed as being out of harmony with the genius of Christianity.

From the beggar by the wayside to the king on the throne, everybody was infested with itch and vermin, and shortly after the discovery of America, syphilis turned the whole continent into a veritable charnel house. Even the Holy Father Leo X., Vicar of Jesus Christ, contracted the shameful disease.