

people with injustice and tyranny, he could be lawfully dethroned and cast down from his place of power.

Some historians try to tell us that the Renaissance of the Fifteenth Century restored the unity of civilization broken by the Mediæval time. No statement could be more unjust and erroneous. Between the civilization of ancient Rome and that of modern Europe there can be possibly no comparison, for they are things of entirely different kinds. The periods embraced between the Fifth and Thirteenth Centuries, saw a new creation of every sphere of life on entirely new principles. The fact that some of the Greek and Latin poets of the old day received a new impetus at the time of the Renaissance, can in no sense mean a resuming of prechristian civilization.

The old Roman scheme of society recognized only two classes of men, slaves and citizens. But in the Thirteenth Century we see the conception, birth and growth of an entirely new order in human society—an order that could never have been evolved from the old Roman system—the great Middle Class. The birth of the Middle Class is one of the most momentous events in history. This new class of men was destined to control, and now actually does control the affairs of the world, for its power rests on worth and intelligence rather than on wealth or birth.

As a necessary consequence of the birth of the powerful Middle Class, there immediately rose popular representative government, the world's most cherished political treasure. And we owe it to the Thirteenth Century, that age of vast creative genius. Every school-boy knows well those two red-letter dates in the History of England, dates which mark the beginning of her greatness as a nation—1215, when Stephen Langton secured to Englishmen for all times that guarantee of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the Magna Charta; and 1254, when Simon de Montfort summoned two discreet representatives from each town and city and begot the English Parliament. What precious institution has England that she does not owe to the sons of her prereformation days?

W. A. MARTIN, M.A., '02.

(To be continued.)

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