

begun here by Ulrich Zwingle, simultaneously with, but independent of the movement inaugurated by Luther in Germany. From those days until now Zurich has remained a stronghold of Protestant ideas. We may here mention some of the chief events and landmarks in Zwingle's life.

Among the mountains of Switzerland, where freedom ever had her home, were many lovers of religious liberty and many leaders of reform. But towering above them all, like the snowy Jungfrau above the Bernese Alps, shines afar the majestic character of Ulrich Zwingle. On New Year's Day, 1484, seven weeks after the birth of Luther, in a lonely chalet overlooking Lake Zurich, lying far below, the future Swiss Reformer first saw the light. His boyhood was spent as a goatherd amid the mountain solitudes. "I have often thought," writes his friend Myconius, "that being brought near to heaven on these sublime heights, he there contracted something heavenly and divine." In the long nights of winter, while the storm howled aloof, the boy listened with thrilling pulse to the stirring tale of Tell, and Furst, and Winkelried, and to the Scripture stories and quaint legends of his pious grandmother. As his father was the well-to-do amman or bailiff of the parish, young Zwingle was sent to school successively to Basle and Berne, and to the University of Vienna. He studied literature, philosophy and theology, and developed an extraordinary talent for music. He read his first mass in his native village in his twenty-second year.

The Swiss cantons then, as often since, hired their sturdy peasantry as mercenary soldiers to the great powers of Europe. Twice, Zwingle accompanied, as chaplain, the troops of his native canton to the Italian war. He came back, like Luther, disgusted with the idleness and profligacy of the Italian monks, and with the corruptions of the Italian Church. By tongue and pen he remonstrated with his countrymen against the mercenary shedding of their blood for a foreign power, and sought to revive the ancient spirit of liberty. He devoted himself with intense zeal to the study of the Scriptures in their original tongues, which quickly loosened from his mind the fetters of Rome.

In 1516 Zwingle was transferred to the vicarship of Einsiedeln on Lake Zurich, long the richest and most frequented pilgrimage church of Europe. As many as 150,000 pilgrims were wont to visit it annually. The object of adoration was an ugly black doll, dressed in gold brocade and glittering with jewels—Our Lady of Einsiedeln. Zwingle's whole soul revolted against the flagrant idolatry. He boldly preached Christ as the only sacrifice and ransom for sin "God is all around you and hears you,