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ROME AND THE ROMAN CONFLICT.*

II.

THE basilica of St. John Lateran derives its name from a rich patrician family, whose estates were confiscated by Nero, when their head, Plantius Lateranus, was put to death for taking part in the conspiracy of Nero. It afterward became an imperial residence, and was given by Constantine to Pope Melchiades in 312, confirmed to Sylvester, and on the 9th of November, 324, the building was consecrated, Constantine having laboured at it with his own hands. In 896 the basilica was overthrown by an earthquake, but was rebuilt by Sergius III., 904-11. It was then dedicated to John the Baptist. In 1308 it was burned down, but rebuilt, to be again destroyed by fire in 1360, when it remained for four years in ruins, to be rebuilt in 1370 by Urban V. It has undergone many changes and decorations since. The church is rich in relics, tombs, frescoes, paintings, and statues.

The palace of the Lateran was the residence of the Popes for more than one thousand years. Here were held no less than five general councils of the Church, and here were stormy scenes in the lives of the Popes, that affected not only the city, but all

* *The Roman Conflict: or, the Rise, Power, and Impending Conflict of Roman Catholicism, as seen in Ancient Prophecy, Ceremonial Worship, Mediæval and Modern History, with a Sketch of Protestant Claims and Destiny.* Copiously illustrated. By the Rev. JAMES SHAW. 8vo, pp. 603. New York: Phillips & Hunt; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. From this book the engravings illustrating this article are taken.