

group of students, and each looks at the other with the amused and indulgent look of happy youth. A waiter steps up to the old man and leads him to a side table. After a moment he is eating a dish of macaroni and the jests and laughter of the youthful generation are going on as before.

"Found here, wasn't it, Luigi—the fountain, you know?"

"It was found in the cellar, sir, right under where you're sitting."

The old gentleman raises his head as if to listen, but a band of music goes banging through the piazza and it drowns all voices. When silence is restored a middle-aged man in the cassock of a priest, sitting near to the students, joins in their conversation.

"Just so, and you young people of the future ages have got to think of us old folk who have fought the fight before you. Tremendous things ahead of you. Yes, and tremendous things behind you too."

"Came along pretty rapidly at last, didn't they, Monsignor?"

"Seemed to, but didn't really. Natural law had been doing her own work towards unity for centuries before man began. Mountains, seas, language—all the barriers had been going down. St. Gothard tunnels, Channel tunnels, Suez canals, connections of the Danube and the Rhine, the telegraph, the railway, commercial treaties, trusts, international exhibitions—what were they all doing but obeying the irresistible natural law which works out the brotherhood of men?"

"But the Church, Monsignor—you allow that things went rapidly in the Church?"

"Not at all. The great Pope who gave up temporal power was only the sequel to the Pope who failed to found the Holy Roman Empire, as well as the Pope who established infallibility and thereby destroyed absolutism. But 'My Kingdom is not of this world' is a maxim older than any of the Popes, and the Church has never known fifty such peaceful and prosperous years as since it went back to the Gospel which forbade all formal interference of religion in worldly affairs."

"But, Monsignor, won't you allow that monarchy dropped out rapidly?"

"At last it did, but the theory of the state-idol was dead from the days when humanity destroyed the monstrous abortion of divine right. What remained was only the ghost of monarchy, and it was easy enough to lay that."

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