

because it has a definite and distinct constitution. A vast population, possessed of floating forms of public opinion, never creates a kingdom, but that population combining in opinion, and giving birth, first, to a constitution, then to a government, and then to laws—that creates a kingdom.

Now if you judge Christianity by these rules you cannot fail to recognize it as a kingdom. Once it did not exist at all, but Christ created public opinion, and in due time that opinion asserted and concentrated its power, and as a consequence gave birth to a constitution, to a three-fold form of government, and to laws and statutes and regulations in connection with that government. These are plain historic facts, that may be judged altogether apart from the question of inspiration and the many kindred subjects that group themselves round that most important one.

And these facts are sustained by the after history of the world in connection with the Kingdom or Church of Christ. It is acknowledged on all hands that Pagan Rome never waged war against abstract forms of religious opinion, but she was a deadly foe to antagonistic organizations, religious or otherwise. The slightest hint of organization in any of her colonies, made the tramp of her soldiers to be heard in desert and forest, on mountain range and streets of cities; and that tramp was ever the forerunner of ruthless desolation and destruction—a desolation known and dreaded throughout the whole of the then civilized and uncivilized world. And so it needed but a few years to run after the Ascension of our Blessed Lord, for the Church to present such an antagonistic organization to the Roman government. But it was not because a few men chose to believe that Christ was the One True God, and in secret prayed to Him, and in darkness communed with Him, that Rome stirred herself to persecute the Christian Church. And it was not the solitary figure of Jesus sitting on the Mount, and giving utterance to noble and lofty sentiments that raised the sword of Cæsar against Christ's body—the Church. Nay, Rome saw in an unmolested Christianity, the never-dying seed of a harvest of independence, that no Roman sickle could reap, and no force of Roman arms destroy.

Hence the persecution, cruel, red-handed, vindictive; impossible