

It is to be counted one of the most startling coincidences of all history that precisely such culmination and catastrophe did occur from 1866-70. Let us, however, first go back a little in the history. In 1846, twenty years before the 1260 years expired, an event occurred that was most significant. On June 16th Cardinal Ferretti succeeded Gregory XVI., under title of Pius IX. The history of that pontificate is so remarkable that it has been considered worthy of a special record. It was a period of revolution. Less than two years after Pius IX assumed the tiara, Count Rossi was murdered and the Pope was fleeing to Gaeta (November 24th, 1848), and a republic was established at Rome under Joseph Mazzini. The French undertook an expedition to Rome to restore the exiled Pope, and after their repulse, under Garibaldi, at length compelled the city to surrender, July 3d, 1849, and, under protection of Louis Napoleon, Pius IX. returned to the Vatican, April, 1850. He came back an absolutist of the worst stamp, prepared for the most aggressive measures and the most arrogant assumptions. He coolly divided Protestant Britain into Roman Catholic dioceses, gave new life to the Jesuit order, granted indulgences to earthly saints, and canonized saints in heaven. The most astounding of all his acts was the summoning of the Vatican Council on December 10th, 1854, that proclaimed the dogma of the "immaculate conception." The Virgin Mary's claim to worship was thus reinforced by affirming that she was not born in sin, needed no mediator, and could therefore be safely associated with Divine honors. This has been justly called the "most violent strain of papal prerogative to be found in the annals of the papacy." For the first time, and with unbounded arrogance, a Pope added on his own responsibility an article of faith which no one could reject without forfeiture of salvation; for Pius IX. called together his bishops not to *decree* this dogma, but to *promulgate* it! Of course the implication was that the Pope himself was infallible.

Then followed during those memorable years the Austrian invasion of 1859, with Louis Napoleon's victory at Magenta and Solferino. Victor Emmanuel comes to the front, and Count Cavour, and in 1861 the Italian Parliament proclaimed Victor Emmanuel King of free and united Italy. In 1866 he became responsible for the integrity of the Pope's dominions, and the French forces withdrew. Again for a time the French troops occupied Rome, and under shelter of their presence Pius IX. called another Vatican Council on December 8th, 1869. A thousand ecclesiastics in august procession and gorgeous apparel moved up the nave of St. Peter's, with a disgraceful disregard of order and decorum that would have dishonored a political caucus; by Jesuitical intrigue and violent measures, on July 18th, 1870, the Roman pontiff was declared possessed of infallibility, and thus the summit of papal arrogance and blasphemy was reached, for there was one who sat in the temple of God showing himself that he is God. At the time when this result was reached, a thunderstorm was rolling over the Vatican as though Heaven itself were remonstrating against