

is some sort of analogy between the *interrex*, after consultation with the *patres*, nominating a King to the people, who accepted him as their chief, and the Pope, after consultation with his advisers (who would be the principal *presbyteri* of Rome), presenting Charles as Emperor to the acclaiming people in S. Peter's. From the Constantinopolitan point of view, however, Leo III. was a rebel and Charles a mere usurper. In the fourth and fifth centuries there had been two imperial lines conjointly governing a single realm. From the eighth to the fifteenth century, there were again two imperial lines, but they were rivals and hostile. The claims habitually maintained—and the habit is only more clearly marked by sporadic instances of mutual concession—were mutually exclusive.

In practice, we read, write, and speak of an Eastern and a Western Empire. But it should be remembered that in the Middle Ages the Empire was thought of as one and unique. It was just because of the persistence of this idea, which had been inherited from the ancient days long before Charles and Leo III., that the Germanic and Grecian claimants of the Imperial title disputed each other's legitimacy.

This idea of one Empire, and one only, was closely and intimately related to the idea of a Catholic Church. In the Catholic Church, the Popes claimed supremacy, and finally declared that to call in question their supremacy was to sever oneself from the communion of the Church, *extra quam nulla salus*—outside whose pale there was no hope of salvation. The Patriarchal Churches of the East were not eager to break off communion with the Roman See, but they would allow its occupant nothing more than such "precedence of honour" as was appropriate to the Bishop of the "elder Rome," as president of the Church in an imperial city. This was the position taken up—much to the displeasure of Leo the Great—by the Council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451, and this has been the position of the Eastern Orthodox Churches to the present day.

The decisive rupture between the Churches of Rome and