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| A Brief History of the Popes. <br> The wisdom of nations has caused blind fanaticism to dizappear, reason and tolerance have replaced the relig. lous passions which drove men to extremes and caused them to resemble tigers gorged with blood rather than human beings. <br> The pride of the popes having reached such a height, declared themselves the representatives of Christ upon earth, and arrogated the right of giving away kingdoms, deposing kings and emperors, annulling treaties, state laws, constitutions, and absolving from oaths of allegiance and obedience to the persons and the laws of the princes whom they excommunicated. <br> But the darkness has disappeared, murder, assassination, misery and deg. radation have given place to truth, eternal truth as contained in God's Holy Word and Blble, and men no longer, as of old, groan under the heel of the tyrant and despot, but now believe in liberty of conscieace, freedom of the press and the free public schools of America. <br> The Romish church claims St. Peter was the first pope of Rome, and its appeal in support of this position is to the words of our Lord in the 16th chapter of Matthew, 18th and 19th verses: <br> "And I say to thee that thou art Peter, and upoa this rock I will bulid my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." <br> Now the rock here referred to is not Peter. The words Petros and Petra, or rock, are not identical; the former is masculine, the latter is feminine; one is a rock, the other a stone. <br> The passage above quoted should read: "And I say unto thee, upon this rock I will build my church and thou shalt receive a new name, Petros, a stone hewn out of the rock, because thou hast announced it." Christ did not build his church upon poor, erring Peter-a man-but upon Christ the solid rock; all other ground is sinking sand. <br> Again, Romanists claim that St. Peter reigned as Pope of Rome for twenty-five years, and they refer us to tradition to answer that question. <br> Now, it the apostle Peter had been the founder of the church in Rome, it is inconceivable that the apostle Paul, who must have known the fact, and was ever ready to give due honor to others, should have made no mention in his epistle either of an organized church or of l'eter, its alleged founder. Paul makes special mention in the 16th ehapter of his epistle of the names and labors of Priscilla and Aquila, of Mary and Urbane, of Tryphena and Try- | phosa, and Persis and of all the saints, but he says nothing of a church, bishops, deacon, or apostle as having or having had up to that time any connection with Rome. He evidently regarded the Romans as needing apostolle instruction, oand, much as he avoided building on another man's foundation (Rom. xv, 20) he had no suspicion that he was offering a slight to the "prince of the apostles," or intermeddling with the affairs of his diocese, either when he wrote the Epistle to the Romans or when he signified his desire to go and labor among them that he might have some fruit among them also, even as among other Gentiles. (Romans i, 13). <br> How do Romanists account for Paul withstanding Peter, the so-called pope, because he was to be blamed? "I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed." (Galatians ii, 11). <br> Think of a priest of the holy (?) church withstanding Leo to the face! Shades of St. Patrick, excommunication and extermination would be the result of such an act of disobedience to the holy father. <br> I could give numerous proofs of Peter nevar having bean pope, or wearing a tlara or triple crown, such as the present pope wears on state occasions. Peter never arrogated the right of giving away kingdoms, deposing princes, or ever sat in a chair of universal authority. Let us giance into the history of some of these so-called popes of Rome. <br> Constantine first placed Christianity upon the throne (by Christianity I mear Romanism). From thence we see Romanism animated by a furious zeal, persecuting without pity, engaging in extravagant quarrels and constraining the pagans by fire and sword to embrace Romanism, and pagan idolatry became the religion of the popes of Rome. <br> The priesta' hatred of Pope Athanasius terminated by crime a life which had been glorious to religion and dear to humanity, for Pops Athanaelus by his jnstice and toleration orlmed the religious quarrels which separated the churches of the East and the West. <br> Pepin, King of France, allied himself in succession with Popes Zachary and Stephen. In order to vell from the eyes of the people his usurpation of the crown of France and the murder of his brother, he surrendered to the popes the domains in Romagna taken from the Lombards. <br> Stephen IIL., a hypocritical priest, does not delay to signalize his new power by excess of the most frightful ambition. Under Stephen VI. fury is at its helght. The clergy are divided into factions, and the pope was chosen in the midst of the carnage. The pontiff after his victory put out the eyes and tore out the tongue of Constantine II., his predecessor. | Paschal I. put out the cyes and cut off the heads of Theodorus, a high officer of the Roman charch, and of Leo, his son in-law, because they had remained faithful to Lothaire. On the death of this popish scoundrel the people endeavored to prevent his burial, and wished to drag his dead body through the streets of Rome. There was no tce-kiosing at that time. Eugenius, the successor of Paschal, oceupied himself in securing from the sepulchres of Italy petrified bones, which were sold as relics of saints in France, Germany and England. Leo IV, bad the impudence to assure the blshops of immunity for the most frightful crimes. After the death of Lso a woman mounts the chair of St. Peter, celebrates mass, creates bishops, and gives her feet to be kissed by princes and people. <br> The Popess Joan tosame enclente by a cardinal and dies in the pangs of childbirth in the religious, procention of monks and nuns on Corpus Christi festival. <br> Another pope, Stephen VII., driven by a pitiless rage, orders the sepulchre of Pope Formosus to be despolled, causes them to take out from it the dead body, and, horrible to relate! has it brought into the synod assembled to degrade him. Then this frightful body, covered with the pontifical habits, is interrog -ted in the midst of scandalous and infuriate clamor. <br> "Why hast thou, being Bishop of Pontus, usurped through ambition the universal See of Rome?" Then the pope orders his three fingors and head to be cut off, and his dead body to be cast Into the Tiber. <br> And so I might go on with a whole list of these infallible (?) scoundrels, but I do not wish to disgust you, gentle reader, with the recitals and deeds of these inhuman monsters. <br> I often think and wonder to myself how the poor old factotum on the Tiber, Lso XIIL., feels when he gazes at the pictures of his predecessors. What a feeling of a sense of shame and mortification and horror must creep over him as he gazes with vacant look in his eyes at the monsters in human form portrayed on the walls of the Vatican palace. How must the old hypocrite feel when he beholds the faces of Sergius and Gregory V., and Hildebrand the monk of Cluny, the polsoner of Pope Alexander II. Well may he thank his stars that he lives in a more enlightened age. <br> I refer my readers to Pope Adrian's history, Alexander, Celestin III., Innocent III., Gregory IX., Clement IV., Boniface VIII., Clement V. and John XXII., and a number of others too numerous to mention, who were the most diabolical scoundrels on record. And so we may go on to the last of the popes till Pius IX., who was a grasping, avaricious, and a proud but suc- | cessful diplomst. Aided by the Jesults by whom he was trained, he declared In 1854 the doctrine divine! y revealed that the Virgin Mary was conceived without the least stain of original sin, or the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. <br> In 1870 he declared bimself and all his predecessors infallible; that is, that whatever any pope said regarding fatth or morals he cannot err as head of the church. What blasphemy and presumption on the part of these infullible popes: <br> In concluslon, let me say that the time is not far distant when Rome, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth, shall fall, and the oppressed ones of earth, the slaves of a forelgn potentate, the merchants of the earth, shall weep and mourn over her, and they shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing and 6aying, Alas, alas, that great clty Babylon, for in one hour if thy judg. ment come. <br> Let us rejoice, then, Protestant Americans, for God hath avenged you on her. And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. <br> Henry A. Sullivan, <br> Formerly known in the Roman CathoHic Church as Brother Rupert, of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. <br> What C. A. Potter Says. <br> Omata, Neb., Aug. 31, 1895.-The Howard Medicine Company: Gentle-men-I desire to say to all who feel the strength of their manhood slowly slipping away, whose ambltion is at its lowest ebb, whose mind is beclouded, and the senses dulled, when you feel dyspeptic, and lose your self-respect, that your blood is out of order, and all you need is some of Howard's Vegetone Blood Powder to tone up your system. It will act almost instantly upon the blood; you will feel the renewed life and vigor coursing through your system; you will feel the old-time grip in your hands; your mind will be as active as ever; your friends will observe the flag of health flying in your face, and you will feel like a new being. I have not felt so well for five years as I do since taking one pacikage of your Blood Powder, and I feel as strong and actíve as ever. I y 'toh 15 pounds more than ever in my wife. The change is so ever in my life. The change is so marked that meeting my friends. I ment when meeting my riends, 1 recommend Howard's Vegetone Blood Powder to be, as I believe, the greatest blood-purifier on earth. <br> C. A. Potter. <br> A council of the A. P. A. will soon be organized in Maryville, Mo. A list of fifty names has been secured from the bast citizens in the town. |
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