

**THE PAPACY, THE
IDEA AND
ITS EXPONENTS**

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The papacy, the idea and its exponents by Gustav Krüger

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GUSTAV KRÜGER

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THE IDEA AND ITS EXPONENTS

BY

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NOTE

As no satisfactory short history of the Papacy, covering its entire development, at present exists in English, it is hoped that this volume, by one of the foremost German authorities on ecclesiastical history, may prove useful in its translated form.

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHAPTER I	
INTRODUCTION	7
CHAPTER II	
THE BEGINNINGS	13
CHAPTER III	
TWO GREAT POPES	28
CHAPTER IV	
THE COMPACT WITH THE FRANKS	45
CHAPTER V	
STORMY TIMES	58
CHAPTER VI	
GREGORY VII. AND HIS SUCCESSORS	78
CHAPTER VII	
AT THE SUMMIT OF POWER	99

	PAGE
CHAPTER VIII	
THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY AND THE PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH	120
CHAPTER IX	
THE POPES AS PATRONS OF THE FINE ARTS	141
CHAPTER X	
THE GERMAN REVOLUTION	160
CHAPTER XI	
FRESH TROOPS	180
CHAPTER XII	
DEFEATS	199
CHAPTER XIII	
RECONSTRUCTION	219
CHAPTER XIV	
THE FUTURE IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESENT	249
BIBLIOGRAPHY	267
LIST OF ROMAN PONTIFFS	269
INDEX	271

THE PAPACY

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

IN his famous essay on Ranke's "History of the Popes" Macaulay writes: "There is not, and there never was on this earth, a work of human policy so well deserving of examination as the Roman Catholic Church. The history of that Church joins together the two great ages of human civilisation. No other institution is left standing which carries the mind back to the times when the smoke of sacrifice rose from the Pantheon, and when cameleopards and tigers bounded in the Flavian amphitheatre. The proudest royal houses are but of yesterday, when compared with the line of the Supreme Pontiffs. That line we trace back in an unbroken series, from the Pope who crowned Napoleon in the nineteenth

century to the Pope who crowned Pepin in the eighth; and far beyond the time of Pepin the august dynasty extends, till it is lost in the twilight of fable. The republic of Venice came next in antiquity. But the republic of Venice was modern when compared with the Papacy; and the republic of Venice is gone and the Papacy remains. The Papacy remains, not in decay, not a mere antique, but full of life and youthful vigour."

In 1840, when these winged words were written, men's minds were full of the extraordinary increase of power which the Papacy, seemingly doomed to decay at the time of the Revolution and of Napoleon, had gained under the Restoration. Since then two generations have passed. The year 1870 has intervened, with its triumph and its defeat. The jewel of Infallibility has been added to the papal tiara by Pius IX., and that at the very moment when the movement for Italian unity robbed him of the temporal crown. To-day Rome is still a world-power, and the successor of St. Peter does not shun the fight, but looks forward—even in the most difficult circumstances of the present time—to that victory which grace from on high shall give him.

Two hundred and sixty Popes have sat in Peter's Chair. It is not our intention to tell