

**THE VATICAN AND THE WAR; A RETROSPECT
AND FORECAST: BEING A REVIEW OF THE PAST
ATTITUDE OF THE VATICAN TOWARDS CIVIL
AND RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT, AND AN
ANALYSIS OF HER LATEST
UTTERANCE UPON THESE MATTERS AS
RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN WAR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649746071

The Vatican and the War; A Retrospect and Forecast: Being a Review of the Past Attitude of the Vatican Towards Civil and Religious Government, and an Analysis of Her Latest Utterance Upon These Matters as Related to the European War by Dr. Percy T. Magan

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DR. PERCY T. MAGAN

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Pope Benedict XV

The Vatican and the War

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the past attitude of the Vatican towards
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BY
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"If there has ever been, and if there still be a question reaching far into
the future, it is the question of church power."—*Hon. W. E. Gladstone.*

"Take thou the tiara adorned with the triple crown, and know that thou
art the Father of princes and of kings, and art the Governor of the world."—
Coronation Service of the Pontiffs.

SOUTHERN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Atlanta, Georgia

Fort Worth, Texas

D622
M23

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AUG 21 1915
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German Artillery Bombarding Rheims

CHAPTER I

“WHAT MEANETH THE NOISE OF THIS TUMULT?”

EVER since that sultry summer afternoon when the roar of cannon around ill-fated Liege announced that Europe at last had crossed the Rubicon, men and women everywhere have ponderingly inquired in the language of Eli, the aged seer, “What meaneth the noise of this tumult?” The blast of the bugles resounded around the earth calling mighty nations to the fray. The most costly, the most hideous, the most destructive war of all the ages was on. Men gasped and held their breath, stunned as it were, at the appalling suddenness and terribleness of it all.

In a moment of time all things seemed to have been thrown out of their natural harmony and precipitated into a horrible melting-pot. The fires of war had been



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Wogo Tankositsch, who laid the plot for the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, which brought on the European war.

lighted—on a scale infinitely more vast and terrible than ever before in the history of the world. Men knew that the most fearful, the bloodiest holocaust of all times was about to be staged. They thoroughly realized that the mightiest destruction of homes and farms, of villages and of cities, the world had ever seen was now to commence. Full well men understood that a killing, the most gigantic of all the ages, was to be enacted. In their minds they conceived, in part at least, how sickening the toll of the war would be.

In this they were not deceived, for murder, lust, and rapine have prevailed on a scale unparalleled in the history of any war between civilized nations during the

last three hundred years. The flight and continued voluntary exile of thousands of Belgian refugees reveals the awful situation in that unhappy land. There is no historical parallel in modern times for the flight of so large a part of a nation before the invader.

Men asked themselves: Is this the baptizing wherewithal the twentieth century is to be baptized? All the hopes which had been so fondly builded upon the peace societies, the Hague Tribunal, arbitration treaties, upon the religion, culture, and civilization of a refined and enlightened age, had been stricken to the dust, and the Old World, in less time than it takes to tell it,



Belgian refugees

had, to use the expression of Lord Roseberry, "rattled into barbarism."

So men have been perplexed, and many a heart has cast about in an endeavor to find out whether these wars and rumors of wars are those foretold in Scripture, or whether they are only accidental and uncorrelated events. The spirit of many a man has been set to thinking and wondering whether indeed the judgments of God are abroad in the land. It is with the hope that some of these questions may in a simple manner be answered from the Word of God, and that the times in which we live may be pointed out and made clear, that these lines are written.

To many the events of the world's history appear only as a tangled mass altogether without form and void. To such the annals of mankind are but the weary record of one political or ecclesiastical intrigue after another; of the selfish graspings first of this nation or sect, and then of that; of the rise and fall of dynasties, monarchs, and prelates; and of war following war in quick succession, with all its attendant misery and woe and its

train of shattered circles, broken hearts, and cruel death.

It is only too true that gazed upon from that angle of vision the story of our race soon palls upon the mind, and the past brings only a sickening sensation which in turn causes to be inborn within us a deep desire for the awakening of a holier day.

But there is a better angle of view from which to study the world-shaping events of history. There is a divine philosophy in this science. History is not a dead letter of events. It contains both letter and spirit; and while the letter killeth, the spirit giveth life.

God is in all history, and the print of his hand and the mark of his stately step can be traced throughout its pages. And when God is seen and acknowledged and proclaimed in all the affairs of men, churches, and nations, the tangled mass will be unraveled.

We may go down into the amphitheater of history, we may view the struggles of men and of nations, we may watch them developing their political, diplomatic, and ecclesiastical schemes and plans, and joining battle in violent collision in legislative halls and on fields of blood, and our ears may shrink from the strange din of arms—"yet if we will only search and see, we can everywhere discover the majestic form of the God of all the earth."

And the Bible, the revealed Word and will of God, calls for and substantiates this view. Six times in two short chapters of the book of the prophet Daniel, in slightly varying language, is the truth expressed that "the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men." Dan. 4: 17, 25, 26, 32, 37; 5: 21.

And Job wrote:

"With God is might and sufficiency; the beguiled and the beguiler are his. Counselors he leadeth captive, and judges he maketh distracted. The authority of kings he dissolveth, and bindeth their loins with a cord. He leadeth the chief officers of the state captive; and stout warriors he overthroweth. He bewildereth the speech of the trusty statesman. He taketh away the wisdom of the senators.