

**THE REBIRTH OF
EUROPE, A STUDY
OF THE MIDDLE AGE**

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The rebirth of Europe, a study of the middle age by Martyn Summerbell

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MARTYN SUMMERBELL

**THE REBIRTH OF
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THE REBIRTH OF EUROPE

A Study of the Middle Age

By

MARTYN SUMMERBELL, Ph.D.

President of
Palmer Institute—Starkey Seminary

Author of

RELIGION IN COLLEGE LIFE
FAITH FOR THE COLLEGE MAN
CHRISTIAN HOME TRAINING
CHRIST IN WORD AND WORK

Christus Regnat in Mundo

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PREFACE

OUR modern world, with its keener sense of spiritual values, and its finer conception of personal and national responsibility, differs from the old Roman world as much as if our race had been removed bodily to Jupiter or Saturn. As much? Better to say more: for with the merely physical transfer all the old ways and habits of thought would have been retained, and perhaps intensified; as was the case with the Greek colonists, who made their new homes in Asia even more Grecian than Athens itself.

But the modern world presents a wholly different view of life from that which prevailed in the classic age, and a different outlook toward the future.

No doubt some remnants of the old customs and the old spirit still linger, especially in the countries that cling to their kings and kinglets, for the past has more "dead hands" than the octopus has live ones, but they are losing their grip with every new-coming generation.

The Middle Age had much to do with the amazing changes which have been wrought, and this study is the result of an effort to trace the interaction of barbaric rage and rapacity with the old

PREFACE

culture, and the remaking of civilization under the beneficent touch of the cross.

The book is not intended for the class room, but rather as a companion for the library and the quiet hour, when the reader desires a clearer view of a period that is shrouded in mist and darkness. When the occasion for the existence of some of the abuses that still plague us is better understood, and it is realized that such occasion has passed away, the rationale for securing their abatement may become more apparent.

MARTYN SUMMERBELL.

Lakemont, New York.

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CHAPTER I

DECLINE OF THE ROMAN IMPERIUM

BETWEEN the Roman civilization and our own there stretches a broad gulf which is commonly styled the Dark Age. During the long period of its supremacy the Roman power had been stern, forceful, commanding: and above everything else it was ferociously aggressive. Wherever its foot was set, it became the dominating influence and held the forefront of observation and action. Its main watchword was "law and order," and with every new advance of its legions the new province that has been added to the Roman map began to turn from its former trade of making war to the more wholesome cultivation of the arts of peace. The lesser hamlets expanded into towns, and these were connected with each other, and with Rome, the capital, by solid highways paved with stone, over which coursed the light carriages of the higher officials, and upon which tramped the legions as they hastened on to wider conquests. These substantial Roman roads were characteristic of their builders, for they ran straight to their destination, were firm and enduring, and they exerted a practical influence toward improvement in living. Some of