

**HISTORY OF MODERN ROME:
FROM THE TAKING OF
CONSTANTINOPLE
(1453) TO THE RESSTORATION
(1850) OF POPE PIUS THE NINTH**

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History of Modern Rome: From the Taking of Constantinople (1453) to the Resstoration (1850)
of Pope Pius the Ninth by Various

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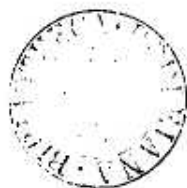
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HISTORY OF MODERN ROME.

WHEN the Roman Empire in the west fell before Odoacer, King of the Heruli (A.D., 476), there was not in Europe even one great nation under a regular government. Italy was possessed by a mixed population of Italians, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, and Huns. During the numerous changes and the anarchy which followed on the absence of a controlling power, the Christian Church was held together chiefly by that independent spirit which has always rendered the educated Christians inclined to follow the precept, "be not ye called masters;" and secondarily, by the gradation of ranks in the government of the Church, and by that government always leaving much of its details to be shaped according to local custom, and according to the necessity of the

occasion. None of the bishops of Rome had originally any political jurisdiction over any territory. When the Greek Emperor, Leo Isaurus, published an edict prohibiting the use of images in public worship, which edict was distasteful to and resisted by the people of Italy, the Bishops or Popes of Rome constituted themselves the leaders of the Italians, and called the Lombards to their aid. These allies responded to the call for reasons of their own, and the distressed Popes were obliged to beg help against the Lombards from Pepin, King of the Franks. Pepin invaded Italy, and compelled the Lombards to relinquish the territories they had taken in Central Italy. These territories, including Rome and the Greek exarchate, were given by Pepin to "the holy church of god and the Roman republic." This gift (756) founded the temporal strength of the Papacy. Charlemagne, son and successor of Pepin, acted as defender of the Church, delivered Pope Adrian the First from the attacks of the Lombards, defeated their king, annexed the Lombard territories to his own, assumed the Lombard crown, and confirmed (773) to the Church the donation of his father Pepin. The Pope in return acknowledged Charlemagne as patrician of Rome and feudal chief of Italy, with the right of ratifying the election of each new nominee to the Papacy.

For some time there had been a dispute going on between the Popes of Rome and the Patriarchs of Constantinople relative to the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Bulgarians, which Photius, the Patriarch, claimed on account of their being a portion of the Greek Empire, and formally annexed them (861) to his patriarchate. The Pope, Nicholas the First, called a Council (862) at Rome and excommunicated Photius, who assembled (866) a Council at Constantinople, excommunicated the Pope, and pronounced the creed of the Western Church heretical. Since that time the two Churches have been divided. The Greek Church is that acknowledged by the Christians of Greece, Turkey, and Russia. It differs from the Church of Rome chiefly by rejecting purgatory and the celibacy of the clergy.

Germany was the most important part of Charlemagne's dominions. One of the emperors, Otho the First, surnamed "the Great," conquered Italy, and rendered its king (951) a feudal subject of the German crown. Subsequently, the reigning Pope, John the Twelfth (962), conferred on Otho the title of Emperor of the West. Some time after this event Otho caused John to be deposed (964), and a new Pope to be elected, from whom, and from the clergy and people of Rome, Otho at the same time obtained a promise, confirmed by an oath, that they would