

and the total estimate of results is not easy but in general the result was a rivalry of church and state that, for the most part, did not afford much good for the common citizen. The populace would become a bauble for the royalty. Perhaps a better degree of political order was attained than would have been otherwise true and a check was brought into the ecclesiastical structure as well but a great deal of confusion also occurred and both state and church were somewhat weakened by the incessant hostility the arrangement created. This is my estimate of it in a few words.

B. Development

1. Early Roman Claims

Fundamental to the founding of the Empire, so to speak is the understanding of two of the basic premises in the Roman ideology:

--**The Primacy of Peter**..the understanding of his place among the apostles,

--**The Chair of Peter**..the authority of Peter in Rome being passed on to his successors and so to the church at large.

With those items in mind we may sketch quickly some moves in the position of the Roman Bishops along the lines of attempting to establish an over-lordship on the church at large.

Victor I (d. 198) attempted to settle the Easter controversy by excommunicating any who disagreed with the Roman custom (a Sunday observance). He was dissuaded from this by Irenaeus but it was clearly his attitude and presentment that the Roman Bishop had this authority.

Fabian (d. ca 251) a very capable leader whose reputation for ability led to the eventual publication of the "Decretals of Fabian", early claims for the superiority of the Roman bishop to other bishops. These were later shown to be forgeries but had a lot of weight in their time.