

2. Struggles:

a. The Albigensian problem

The Albi, also known as the "Cathari" (the clean) was something of a Neo-Manichaean group featuring much of the gnostic ideals of that company with an apparent metaphysical dichotomy, an abnegation of marriage and a dualism of membership with the "perfected" society and the mere "believers". Centered in southern France (they had a patron in Raymond of Toulouse) the group enjoyed considerable growth but was condemned, made an object of the Inquisition, fought against in war and eventually removed...but with much bloodshed and battle.

b. In the eastern church the battles had been with the Paulicians and the Bogomiles of whom I will speak but briefly.

c. Internally the church was troubled with the rivalries of the different schools and the jealousies of the orders while trying to handle the problems of the papacy, et al, at the same time.

3. The Inquisition

Developed between 1225 and 1240, the Inquisition had an original purpose of eliminating the Albi and then secondary purposes developed on dealing with heretics and other parties suspect by the church. These special functions were given by Gregory IX (1227=1241) or were at least endorsed by him. The Dominicans became the great servants of the Inquisition and its excesses as time went on are known to all readers of historical fiction and even some true stuff!

4. The Babylonian Captivity...

We have previously discussed this part of history in our chapter on the Holy Roman Empire and will, at this point, only add a few notes.

E. Summary and Conclusion

*Raymond of
1090-1153*