

France is the very center of the University movement and the king is proud of the famous schools: the Sorbonne and the University of Paris, although the faculties are often involved in academic disputes and in-fightings. The Sorbonne, in particular, nourished the Roman orthodoxy while insurgent Protestantism would find a benefactor in the King's sister, Marguerite.

England

Political
Order
Continued

Under the rule of Henry VIII (1509-1547) England was growing in national force. It had survived a number of civil wars (the War of the Roses just concluded) and the long, economic ruin of the fighting in France. With this had been much indecisive national policy that had kept England in an inferior position. It was a very loyal country for the papacy but as with the other nations of Europe, was more involved in its destiny than in that of foreign powers in the papal chair. From a champion of Rome, England will become, in some ways, her greatest foe.

The universities at Oxford and Cambridge were the northern European centers of humanism. Colet was the distinguished leader of the movement and counted among his students Erasmus of Rotterdam.

The Italian States

The Italian states did not constitute a single national entity but represented the different duchies, dukedoms, city-states, etc., that made up the community of the Italian peninsula. The Italian nation as such did not come into being until the last century. But the Italian states per se provided some forces for the papacy although much of the time they were feuding among themselves. The art and humanitarian interests of the Italian states were keen and they did much to promote the renaissance as they tried to outdo one another. Military prowess was hindered by rivalries and petty jealousy but these same forces actually enhanced the work of art. Renaissance humanism had given to Italy great universities like that of Padua in addition to the development of culture.

Squarely in the middle of the peninsula were the Vatican states...a cluster of territories temporarily ruled by the Vatican. These states gave both military strength and money to the Vatican and were capable of waging war with other Italian states and