

THE ART OF RAPHAEL, THE PRINCE OF PAINTERS



Part of one of the Raphael frescoes in the Vatican. The whole picture represents Pope Leo I turning back Attila, the King of the Huns, from the walls of Rome, with the miraculous assistance of St. Peter and St. Paul.

had great success in the monasteries of Switzerland ; Nicholas V, the first humanist Pope ; and a host of others who, before the age of printing, rescued from the neglect of the Middle Ages the priceless works of the ancient Greek and Latin authors.

Two agencies chiefly helped to spread the Renaissance beyond the Alps. The invention of printing, about 1450, was one of these (*see* Printing) ; Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466-1536) was the other.

A Famous Dutch Humanist

Charles Reade's "Cloister and the Hearth" tells the story of the unhappy parentage of this great Dutch scholar. Thrust into a monastery while still a mere boy, he became by his brilliant talents the protégé of princes and prelates. He spent his manhood in furthering the revival of Greek and Latin learning in France, England, Switzerland, and Germany.

His "Handbook of a Christian Soldier" was a manual of practical piety which ran through edition after edition. His "Praise of Folly" (*Encomium Morie*), a satire on clerical and lay shortcomings, written in England, while resting in the house of his friend Sir Thomas More after a visit to Italy, set all Europe laughing. On the other hand, his printed edition of the New Testament (1516) spread a knowledge of Christ's life and teachings.

Scores of scholars north of the Alps worked to the same ends ; the newly founded German universities and the magic art of printing carrying the seeds of this revival of learning far and wide over western Europe.

Parallel to this awakening of the human intellect was a great development of the fine arts. After centuries of stiff symbolic representation, artists began again to study Nature herself and to work from the living model. New ideas of

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