

Church History Sr. 8

people tried to find an escape from the very disorderly condition of the times by coming into the monasteries and devoting themselves to work under direction and to seeking peace and comfort in the solitude that the study of these things put before them there in the performance of religious exercise. There were a great many monastic orders formed during this period--so many that shortly before 1200 the popes decided that there were enough already and began to be very much opposed to the forming of more monastic orders. Now, I've mentioned Bernard of 1091-1153, great Christian saint, great reformer of the church, a man of wide influence but who doesn't affect us today particularly except through that wonderful hymn of his which is included in most of our hymn books today. Then D, the papacy in this period.

We don't need to say so much about the papacy in these four hundred years because I believe we have covered that rather thoroughly, two years ago in the fall, in our class, two and a half years ago. I don't know whether I said much at that time--I don't believe I did--about Nicolas I. You probably ought to know a bit about him--Nicolas I who reigned from 858 to 867, who was the only important, the only really powerful pope, the only strong character in accomplishment between Gregory I and Gregory VII. Nicolas I, from 858 to 867 made great use of the pseudo-Isidorian decretals which had been forged shortly before this time. There was great discussion as to who forged these. These decrees of pseudo-Isidore--we call them pseudo-Isidore because they weren't by Isidore but they claimed to be. Isidore was a bishop in Spain four hundred years, three to four hundred years before this time and in the name of Isidore there was issued a series of supposedly the decrees of many bishops before his time and also the actions of many bishops of Rome before his time and of these some are genuine actions but the great bulk are forgeries and even in the genuine things there were inserted passages which were very evidently an attempt to increase the power of the Bishop of Rome; some say it was done by those who had this as their motive, others say it was done by those who wished to strengthen the local authorities to get the supreme authority in that area, by claiming that they had a right to appeal to the Bishop of Rome and that