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degeneracy of the Church of Rome was very low. But the degradation during that following half century when you would have --at one time there was a wicked woman in Rome named Marozia who had three of her paramours, one after the other, that she made pope and then after the death of the third one of them she made one of her illegitimate sons pope, and that was the sort of thing that went on during the period. As himself says, the churches at Rome had more the atmosphere of a brothel than of a church, during the reign of some of these men. You cannot describe this degeneracy in stronger language from any view point than describes it here, and it got to the point that there actually, at one time, three different factions at Rome. Each had its own man who claimed to be Bishop of Rome and all of them men of low character and each claiming to be the bishop and they would have killed each other off and it would have been the end of Christianity in Italy and of any claim to power there but the German emperor intervened and the German emperor intervened, not as had been done once or twice before, simply by coming down and putting in a man and then leaving him to be poisoned or killed, as it happened occasionally before, but that he intervened this time with the help of the monks from Cluny, and here you have a material force, a strong military force of the emperor, and you have a group of men with a strong ideal and a determination to see their ideal through in the monks from Cluny, and one of these monks in particular, a monk named Hildebrand, was the one who had a very high ideal for the papacy. He wanted the Bishop of Rome to be a man who would be respected, not only in Rome (none of them previously had been respected in Rome), he wanted him to be respected in Rome, in Italy and throughout Europe. He wanted his power to be recognized as superior to that of the local bishops, even superior to the emperor himself. I doubt if Hildebrand said much about this to the emperor at this time but his mind was full of it, and so the emperor appointed a series of German bishops, one after the other, as pope and Hildebrand stood beside them with advice and counsel and represented them from time to time and Rome was cleaned up pretty well for a time by these Cluniac monks who became bishops of Rome. The city was cleaned up, the popes