

But when any of the others, particularly the bishop of Const° would use terminology it ~~sounded~~ sounded as if he were the very head of the Chn° church, there was nothing too strong for Greg° to say, not merely in rebuking him, but in rebuking the influence of anybody who would make such a statement.

Now, ~~Greg~~ Greg° made one very serious error in his dealings with Const°. an error which many of his admirers called "the one great blot on his career." That is, that when he was having considerable argument ~~with~~ with an emperor, the Emperor Maurice ~~Maurice~~ (?), not a man of any great importance in our history, but who seems to have been a fairly good man, and he was arguing with him against the authority that he <sup>felt</sup> ~~thought~~ his bishop of Const° was entitled to M° died, and a man named ~~Phocas~~ Phocas an ignorant, vulgar cruel and deformed upstart, ~~is~~ is what Schaff calls it; he has a few other epithets - Phocas murdered ~~Max~~ Maurice and his whole family. ~~wife~~ wife, six sons and three ~~his~~ daughters, and became emperor, and Greg° hastened to congratulate him and his wife, who was not much better, in most enthusiastic terms, calling on heaven and earth to rejoice at their accession, and villifying the memory of the dead emperor as the tyrant from whose yoke the church was now fortunately ~~spared~~ ~~spared~~ spared (?). Schaff says that this is a dark spot, but the only dark ~~and~~ and inexcusable spot in the life of this pontiff. He seems to have acted in this case on the infamous maxim that the ~~an~~ end justifies the means. ~~in~~ I don't think we need to go as far as that. His defenders mostly say he didn't know the real details of how ~~Phocas~~ Phocas became emperor, and I think we can give him credit for - I ~~think~~ think we can say that like most human beings in an argument or ~~or~~ a controversy with someone, they are apt to go to an extreme, and he was very angry against Maurice the emperor, and when he heard Maurice was dead, and this man had seized the throne he felt so happy about it that he wrote these strong letters of praising him and telling how happy he was without having yet been fully informed of just how he had done it. Now of course we ~~can~~ can't prove that = ~~in~~ one way