

Church History Sr. 11

thousands of people and burned their cities and left a terrific devastation there but before the crusade against the Albigenses Dominic had been there personally trying to convert the people away from their heresy and he established his order to fight heresy but eventually it came to be fighting heretics more than fighting heresy so that his order became the great Inquisitors, the leaders of the inquisition, to a very large extent. The men in his order put after their name O. P. , the Order of Preachers. His order was supposed to be the preachers. The average monk or bishop paid little attention to preaching in those days. Dominic's men were trained to preach and they went out preaching all through Europe and the Franciscans and the Dominicans became the wandering preachers and became, many of them, professors in the universities and leaders in the church life from this time on and exerted a tremendous influence. Well, we discussed them more in detail two years ago. They were such an important force through the middle ages and are today that it is worth our touching on them briefly again here.

Now C is Scholasticism. And scholasticism is a movement which was at its height in the 13th century. Scholasticism is a movement which the Roman catholic church thinks very highly of and the average modern book criticises them tremendously, reduces them to very low estate, and actually both are false. The Scholastics were men of great intellect who took their stands from the view that what the Bible said and what the popes thought was true but what wasn't there taught they tried to explain. So they tried to explain from the study of the Bible of the papal statements, of the statements of the fathers and of . They tried to explain the universe, and one of them, Thomas Aquinas, who lived from 1227 to 1274, who was a Dominican, is today the man who has more influence in the thinking of the Roman catholic church than any pope in the whole history of the papacy. They call him St. Thomas Aquinas and they study his writings today more than they do/any pope or of any other individual in the whole history of the Roman catholic church. I would say that just as the Jews pay more, far more attention to the Talmud than they do to the Old Testament, similarly the