Church History Sr. 8

to be of any great influence, but the other, which probably was necessary if the papacy should become anything more than a puppet of the emperor was the reform of the Abbey of Cluny. Wow in this -- I'll discuss them briefly in reverse order. In the Abbey of Cluny, the Abbey of Cluny and the others which were subject to its arch abbott and were following its general rule, the attempt was being made to improve the condition of the churches. Everywhere they found the bishops and the presbyters and the leaders were appointed by the kings or by the nobles and they appointed their relatives or their friends or people who would pay them something. Often these offices were bought with high fees and then in turn the people were gouged to get the money back which was paid for the office. Simony, so-called, was very common and very--the situation had fallen very low, and in Cluny the thought constantly occurred to the monks, "If we could only get the situation where the Bishop of Rome, who is after all the only bishop in the West from whom you could hope to secure a recognized authority superior to all these others, where he would be a godly man and a man with the power to tell these different rulers to take their hands off the church and where he could see to it that the church had good men that put the church first as its leaders, that would be a tremendous means of reforming the whole church." That is the way that it im pressed these monks at Cluny, and for this reason they were constantly, as over against the officials in their own area, they were constantly trying to emphasize the authority of a leader of the church at a distance as being higher than the local secular leaders in the area who were interfering with the church. This was the attitude of the monks at Cluny. Charlemagne, as you know, controlled most of Germany and France, and then he conquered Italy. Charlemagne's line had fallen into decay in the course of a few decades. There no longer was anyone in the line who claimed to be emperor and if France a man unrelated to Charlemagne, Hugh Capet had become king of an area around Paris and was rapidly extending his power in France and the large part of France was giving him subjection and every king of France from that time on to the present day, every king that France has had has been a descendant of this Hugh Capet. / Well this Hugh Capet