

pope in her castle at Canossa. Adelaide helped mediate the dispute and acted as a guarantor of the resulting settlement. But this agreement did not quell the revolt against Henry IV in Germany. In March 1077 his opponents elected Rudolf of Swabia, Adelaide's other son-in-law, as emperor in his place. Her two sons-in-law thus headed opposing sides in the civil war that was convulsing the empire, until it was cut short by Rudolf's death in 1080. And though the civil war ended, the dispute between the emperor and the pope went on unabated; the agreement that Countess Adelaide had helped to mediate between them proved to be only a truce in their long-drawn conflict.

Countess Adelaide's own attitude to the issue of Church-Empire relations was exemplified in her good relationship with the bishop of Turin, which continued the tradition of cooperation between her father and Bishop Landulf. Bishop Cunibert had come to the diocese of Turin in 1046, about the same time that the countess had entered the political arena, and his moderate views on religious reform were very close to Adelaide's. The best remedy for the ills that afflicted the Church, he believed, lay not in following the dictates of reforming pontiffs, but in ensuring that bishops like himself performed their duties conscientiously, and that the clergy acted collectively to uphold standards within their order. His unreceptiveness to reforming initiatives earned him the rebukes of Peter Damian, who also upbraided Adelaide for the same reason. In 1066 Bishop Cunibert was confronted by an outburst of reform in his own diocese, when the monks of San Michele della Chiusa elected a reformer as their abbot. The abbey, situated dramatically on a steep rock above the entrance to the valley of Susa, had been founded about a century earlier on the site of an old chapel dedicated to St Michael. Since its foundation it had developed rapidly into an important center of Christian learning, attracting endowments from pious benefactors. The monks refused to acknowledge the bishop of Turin as their superior, claiming that their institution was responsible to the pope alone. Cunibert's clash with them, besides being a conflict between a religious traditionalist and adherents of the reform movement, was thus also a dispute over the bishop's claim to exercise jurisdiction over a powerful monastery within the confines of his diocese. Bishop Cunibert refused to recognize the abbot's election, but the monks took their case to Rome and secured a favorable judgment. Cunibert rejected the papal verdict as outside interference in his diocese, and with Countess Adelaide's backing continued to assert his claims to jurisdiction over the monastery. His defiance led Gregory VII to suspend him: undaunted, he led two armed attacks against the monastery, seeking to impose his own candi-