ITALY.

THE MANIN FESTIVAL IN VENICE—ARBITRARY ACTS OF THE GOVERNMENT—HEAVY TAXATION—THE AMERICAN CONSUL IN ROME.

From Our Own Correspondent.

FLORENCE, March 24, 1868.

I was half inclined to take a trip to Venice to see the funeral, or, as the Italians say, the "Manin Festivals;" but it was rumored that the *macinato* tax debate was near its end; so I trusted to a friend's eyes to see and describe it. This particular friend, and indeed all who have returned, affirm that the scene passes all description, especially the torch-light procession along the Grand Canal. So, if it is impossible for them to describe what they have seen, it is still more so for me to succeed by repeating their mere descriptions. One can easily imagine the sad welcome given by the children of the lagunes on the anniversary of the first expulsion of the Austrians to the remains of the man who, when a King had handed Venetia back to her oppressor, decreed that "she should resist the Austrian at any cost." Never were circumstances more favorable for a good patriot to do his country great service, and rarely has a man availed himself of them more fully than did Manin. Imprisoned during the first months of 1848, he was liberated by the people on the 18th of March, and aided them to unfurl the *Republican* banner to the cry of Venice and St. Mark. When Lombardy voted the fusion, Venice reluctantly followed her example; but when it was known that Charles Albert, four days after accepting the Venetians as his subjects, offered to hand them back to Austria if she would leave him Lombardy, when the Piedmontese fleet was withdrawn from the Adriatic, and panic fell upon the people, then Manin rose equal to the hour, and from the balcony of the Ducal Palace shouted, "For forty-eight hours I govern." No mock humility, no cowardly resignation; he felt that if panic spread, Venice was lost; so seizing the helm, he assumed the command of the abandoned vessel, and till famine and cholera gave the victory to her besiegers, he was the life and soul of the Provisional Government. For this the Venetians worship him; for this all Liberals accord him earnest homage. Strange to say the Moderates are equally loud in their praise, but it is not the Manin of 1848 and 1849 whom they applaud, it is the exile in Paris, who, yielding to the influence of Cavour, lent his influence to Pallavicini and La Farina to establish Moderate committees, and raise the cry: "Italy and Victor Emmanuel." In 1854. It was Manin who won Garibaldi over to the monarchical flag, and with him the stancheat hearts and stontest hands in Italy. I saw him in 1856, being the bearer of a letter from Garibaldi in the *Maison Blanche*. "Do you really believe in the House of Savoy?" "Believe what of it?" "That it will make Italy free?" "No! the Kings of that house only care for the Valley of the Po. Let them get that, the army exists, and we shall force them to do the rest. We want a flag, and this is the only one now possible." He was skeptical and disheartened; the changes he had witnessed in France had diminished his faith in the success of popular insurrections. Reduced to poverty, he was obliged to give daily lessons for his daily bread—another proof of Republican honesty—for when the Venetian revolution commenced he was a prosperous, not to say rich, man. Then came the death of his wife and child, and then Manin died with scarcely a Pisgate view of his promised land. Ary Scheffer, his favorite friend, gave him and his wife and child a temporary resting place in his own tomb, but from the hour of his liberation it was Venetia's resolve that his last wishes should be fulfilled, and that Manin should come home. And now he has returned; his ashes, given back by the liberal Frenchmen who yet loved him well, borne with triumphal honors through the northern cities of Italy, arrived in Venice on Saturday, the 20th, and escorted by 147 deputations, by the civil and military authorities, and National Guard, were conveyed along the grand canal in the presence of the assembled thousands bearing banners draped in black, with mourning, and yet joy in all their hearts. Manin had returned, and the Austrians had departed. I shall not translate the long, too long, speeches of *De la Forge*, Rufini, Herald, Calucci, Legrave, Foreade, Barbiroli, and Menotto. The French were generous; the Italians cared more to exalt the virtues of the Moderates than to describe Manin as he was. The Director of Police, on the 18th of February, 1848, spoke thus of him: "He enjoys public esteem for the morality of his life, for his distinguished talents, and for his disinterested character," and no one ever more aptly drew Manin's portrait. His son was present at the ceremony. A Garibaldian in 1860, wounded at the entry into Palermo, he is now a stanch Moderate. Sad indeed must it have been for him to receive the lifeless remains of father, mother, sister—sadder still to have left them longer in a foreign land. "To lie in St. Marco," was Manin's last desire. It is fulfilled. Victor Hugo is the only one who, in garlanding the dead, has not forgotten to honor the living.

The arbitrary acts of the Government become every day more intolerable. Contrary to the law on superior education, which places regular University professors above ministerial interference, Signor Broglio, Minister of Public Instruction, has suspended from the exercise of their functions: Ceneri, Professor of Jurisprudence; Carducci, Professor of Literature, and a well-known writer; and Piazza, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Bologna, merely because, to the students who crowd their classes, they are supposed to infuse a dose of liberalism into their scientific lessons. The press is indignant, and the question is about to be brought before the Chambers. Also, in the University of Parma, Sig. Ferrero Gola is suspended for his supposed contributions to the Liberal newspaper, *Il Presente*, as he occupies an occasional chair—that of Political Economy and International Law—the act is not illegal, but is a specimen of the ministerial tendencies.

The *Nazione* and *Perseveranza* justify the act of the minister by affirming that the Casate law does admit of the *suspension* of Professors for two months, until their cases can be brought before the Superior Council, but forget to add that this can be done only when Professors "have lost public esteem by dishonorable acts, or when their teachings or their writings are contrary to the truth on which religious and moral order reposes, or have attempted to undermine the principles or the guarantees which are the foundations of the civil constitution of the State; when, in short, despite repeated admonitions, they have persisted in insubordination to the authorities, and in the transgression of University laws and regulations.

Now all that can be said by the worst enemies of Ceneri Piazza and Carducci is that they attended a banquet held on the 9th February anniversary of the proclamation of the Roman Republic, and that they signed, with other citizens, an address to Garibaldi and to Mazzini. The students of the Bologna University are in full revolt. They have held a public meeting and chosen a committee to draw up an address to Parliament, to be signed by all the students, and have decided that all said students will abstain from frequenting the classes of the University until the committee shall give contrary directions. Several papers affirm that Sig. Broglio has ordered that the University be closed for the time being. This is a serious step, as all the students will lose a year, if being forbidden to continue their studies in any other University.

The Government pretends to be alarmed once more at the projects of Gen. Garibaldi, and keeps *carabinieri* and troops both at the Maddelena and on the Island of Caprera itself. A friend who has been passing some months with him, and who returned a few days since, assures me that he has no thought of stirring; that he is broken in health and depressed in spirits; is writing a second novel, and cultivating his farm under the superintendence of a Scotch gardener, who, with his wife, has left his native mists to teach high farming to the imprisoned hermit. Teresita, with her husband and numerous family, is in Genoa; Ricciotti is gone to London to seek employment; Menotti is soon to take to the island home a bride, a handsome, well-to-do lady of Leghorn. S. Giuseppe, the saint-day of both Mazzini and Garibaldi, passed as silently as the king's own birthday. The people are disheartened and dismayed. The power to believe in anything, or to be enthusiastic about anything, seems to have died out from among them.

All the Italian papers reproduce eagerly the articles and documents of your impeachment business; the Moderates side with Johnson as they did with the South—the *Opinione*, perhaps, excepted; the Liberals side with the impeachers, and will rejoice that a man who has done his best to bring the great Republic into discredit should be put aside, condemned to deserved oblivion.

The *Nazione* reproduces as "singular and most strange" the telegram to *The Daily Telegraph* announcing that Mr. Seward has handed to the Senate the correspondence concerning Mr. Cushman, and that the Minister has reproved the Consul for going as a spectator with the Papal army against the Garibaldians, and makes the following "singular and most strange" remarks:

"The representative of the Republican Government, the son of Young America, who associates himself with the marvels of the Chassepot guns, who cannot resist the desire to kill up *for stage* of some followers of Garibaldi is in fact worth noticing, a teaching that ought not to be lost. But this is not all. It was natural that the Government of the United States should punish a representative who had abused his office, should at least recall him, but it is not without a reason that Mr. Seward governs under the Republican regime; he has administered to his agent a slight reproof, just to do something, has admonished him as one does admonish youth not to fall in the same error a second time, but as to taking severer measures he has not even thought of them; the classic soil of liberty cannot, of course, show itself too rigorous toward a diplomat who takes a fancy to do a soldier's work. The Republic authorizes the possession of arms—and also their use."

I translate this paragraph without comment, even as I have never alluded to the vexed Cushman question which was raging when I was in Rome on the 4th November and has been the topic of animated debate in American circles ever since. The accounts given of the affair were too conflicting for a stranger to judge between them, moreover the vanquished of Mentana are too grateful for the kindness shown them by *all* your countrymen and women to lay any stress on a solitary act of a subordinate—not a Consul—as the *Nazione* calls young Cushman.

You will be glad to hear that, thanks to the exertions of the ladies committee of which Mrs. Marsh is Treasurer, the last wounded have been transported from the hospital of St. Onafrio in Rome to their respective homes. If the *Nazione* could listen to their present gratitude to the Americans in Rome it would perhaps find these also "a fact to take note" of "a teaching not to be forgotten."

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

A new edition of the *Practical Treatise on Banking*, by JAMES WILLIAM GILBERT (Henry C. Baird, Philadelphia, and Bankers' Magazine Office, New-York), contains the "National Bank Act" now in force, and the "Annual Report of the Condition of the National Banks" for 1867.

The Fate and Fortunes of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, and Rory O'Dowd, Earl of Tyrconnel, by the Rev. C. P. MEEHAN, is republished from the English edition by D. & J. Sadlier & Co. It forms a curious antiquarian monograph, relating the history of the celebrated chiefs of two of the most eminent Celtic tribes, and throwing fresh light on an eventful period in the annals of Ireland.

A Manual of United States Surveying, by J. H. HAWES (J. B. Lippincott & Co.), describes the system of rectangular surveying employed in subdividing the public lands of the United States, with instructions for subdividing sections and restoring lost corners of the public lands. It has been prepared with a view to supplying a general want, that is indicated in the letters constantly received at the Land Office requesting information in regard to the system of Government surveying. The author for several years has had special charge of this department, and has become familiar by long experience with the principles and methods of the system, of which he here presents a complete practical exposition. An appendix to the volume contains ample information with regard to purchasing and settling lands under the various and laws.

The Catholic Publication House have issued the life of *Saint Columba, Apostle of Caledonia*, translated from the third volume of the Count de Montalembert's "Monks of the West." It exhibits the pious energy and missionary zeal of the first great apostle of Great Britain in an impressive light, selecting the most remarkable personal incidents in the general tissue of his life from the crowd of legendary details of an ascetic or supernatural character. It is an attractive picture, as described by the sympathetic pen of his eloquent biographer—that of "the tall old man, with his fine and regular features, his sweet and powerful voice, the Irish tonsure high on his shaven head, and his long locks fallen behind, clothed with his monastic cowl, and seated at the prow of his coracle, steering through the misty archipelago and narrow lakes of the North of Scotland, and bearing from isle to isle and from shore to shore, light, justice, and truth, the life of the conscience and of the soul."

The second volume of *The History of the Navy During the Rebellion*, by CHARLES B. BOYNTON, D. D., completing a valuable contribution to the record of the War, is published by D. Appleton & Co. The author has presented a succinct and readable narrative of the series of events which, under the conduct of our naval commanders, exerted such an important influence on the success of the Union cause. In preparing the work, he has relied upon documents in the possession of the Navy Department for the principal part of his materials, while it has been enriched by the communications of the chief officers of the Navy. His labors have been exerted in a sphere that has been left comparatively unoccupied by the historians of the War, and bring before the reader in detail a variety of enterprises and incidents which, to a great degree, have been lost sight of in the brilliancy of successful military operations. The work, though by no means a model of narrative composition, is written in a style of earnestness and dignity, and is occasionally eloquent in the expression of patriotic sentiment.

The Philosophy of Mathematics, by ALBERT TAYLOR BLEDSOE, LL. D. (J. B. Lippincott & Co.), is devoted to a discussion of the elements of geometry and the infinitesimal method. In the opinion of the author, late professor of mathematics in the University of Virginia, the usual elementary works on the differential calculus are so imperfect in their exposition of the first principles of the science, as to darken and bewilder the mind of the student, instead of presenting the subject in the clear light of analytic demonstration. He aims at exhibiting the elements of the higher calculus so clearly, that the ultimate results of the method shall be seen in strict logical sequence, forming an integral and harmonious body of mathematical science. In the execution of this purpose, he traces the progress of the infinitesimal analysis from its first elements in the Greek geometry, to its fruitful developments in modern investigation, showing the difficulties which it has met with, and the manner in which it has surmounted them. The successive methods which have been adopted from Euclid and Archimedes to Cavalieri and Pascal, and from the last named analysis to Newton and Leibnitz are fully discussed, tracing the science to the simple postulates in remote times from which have proceeded the magnificent results of modern inquiry. The work is written in a vigorous, and occasionally in a vehement, polemical tone, appealing to the love of controversy, as well as to the taste for scientific discussion. Newton and Leibnitz do not escape a stringent criticism at the hands of the learned Professor, while the more recent writers on the subject, including the familiar names of Davies, Hackley, Dodd, Ray, Perkins, Whewell, are mercilessly dissected by his bold analysis. Even of Comte, whom Mr. John Stuart Mill regards as having "created the philosophy of the higher mathematics," the author remarks, that he discusses the "transcendental analysis," "with his usual verbosity, without adding a single notion to those of his predecessors, except a few false ones of his own." Doubtless the book is adapted to make a stir in the scientific world, but the lovers of truth need not apprehend any disastrous consequences from the agitation.

The Mastery Series, by THOMAS PRENDERGAST, reprinted from the English edition by D. Appleton & Co., is a new system of learning languages, which is claimed by the author to be equally applicable to Latin and Greek, and to French, German, Italian, and other modern tongues. The gist of the method consists in the frequent repetition of the most difficult idiomatic phrases, at short intervals, until they are effectually impressed on the memory. No use of either grammar or dictionary is allowed, until the student has acquired a perfect familiarity with the phrases, when it will be found, according to Mr. Prendergast, that he has already mastered the essential principles of the language, almost without a conscious effort. The beginner is not allowed to compose any sentences for himself, but is presented with a copious variety of combinations, in which the peculiar difficulties of foreign construction are embodied, and which he is required to commit to memory, without asking for their reason or law. These sentences, in their turn, become models for other sentences, which are successively brought to his notice, as he advances in the study. A literal version of the different combinations is kept constantly before him, and the whole exercise is reduced to retranslating them from memory, with the words of each new lesson interwoven among them. The method, it is contended by the author, is founded on nature, and imitates the process by which every child learns his native tongue. But there is this obvious difference, at the outset, that the child naturally practices the most simple phrases, and postpones the acquisition of complicated and difficult idiom to a more mature age. In this system, on the contrary, not only the familiar phrases which express the hourly recurring wants of every day life are not made use of, but the most formidable peculiarities of the foreign idiom are made prominent at first, and constantly rehearsed until they are imprinted on the memory by dint of mechanical repetition. The obvious principle of nature by which progress is made from the simple and easy to the complicated and difficult is entirely neglected. Instead of lifting the calf in the beginning, the pupil is compelled to try his strength on the full-grown ox at once. He will be lucky, we think, if he does not break his back in the attempt. Let any one compare the admirable method of learning the German language by the late Professor Peissner of Union College, he will feel the full force of our objection. Nor is it so easy for adult students, to whose wants this system has particular reference, to commit to memory, and repeat parrot-like, a multitude of phrases, while kept in total ignorance of the law of their construction. The child catches up words and phrases from imitation without reflection. The more advanced pupil has a constant tendency to examine the law of construction, and to aid his memory by general principles rather than by special examples. It is next to impossible to remember the minute, and apparently arbitrary, changes of idiom, that perpetually recur, without some knowledge of the law of language on which they are founded. If a student could blindly commit to memory all the idiomatic phrases, which are here presented, he would doubtless be prepared to handle the language to considerable advantage; but, we suspect, that in practice, it would be about as easy to catch the swallow by putting salt on his tail. Still there is no harm in making the attempt, and we hope students and teachers will try the experiment. It is certainly a recommendation of the system that it proposes no royal road to foreign languages. The humbug of a cheap and easy way of studying the classics, or French and German, is not promised. Success is made to depend on constant and persevering practice, compared to which study in general is nothing but play. As manuals for exercise and review, for students who have already made considerable progress in the languages, we think these works might be turned to excellent account; but for the reasons stated, we have little confidence in their utility for the instruction of beginners.

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