

SOME NEW BOOKS.

The Making of Modern Italy.

The latest volume in the "Heroes of the Nations Series" (Putnam's) is Cavour and the Making of Modern Italy, 1810-1861, by PIERRO ONSI. Those who remember the "Modern Italy" by the same author in the "State of the Nation" series, and how admirably workmanlike and satisfactory that compendium was, will turn to this new and kindred volume with an expectation of instruction and interest. They will not be disappointed. The present work has all the qualities of its predecessor in the judicious proportioning of its plan, in its clearness of exposition and in the unflagging spirit with which the story is told.

Cavour was without doubt one of the indispensable factors in the making of modern Italy. The other two, according to the author, who agrees in this with all the other authorities, were Mazzini and Garibaldi, to whom he afterwards adds King Victor Emmanuel. The first three were all born in the first decade of the nineteenth century. Mazzini in 1805, Garibaldi in 1807, Cavour in 1810. What is more curious is that they were never in an real sense collaborators. Mazzini, one of the purest of patriots and most unselfish of men, yet saw nothing to be achieved for the regeneration of his native land except by conspiracies and revolutions, while Cavour's point of view was that of an annoying interference with the policy of gaining the end by aggrandizing what he knew as the kingdom of Piedmont, but what was more commonly known in his time as the kingdom of Sardinia, and giving to it the hegemony of the other petty states into which, when his career began, the peninsula was subdivided. This he intended to do by playing upon the interests and "feelings" so far as they were not merely antipathies, of the greater Powers of Europe. He endeavored to effect his end by making alliances with such of them as could be thus managed, and securing the neutrality of the others, always excepting Austria, with which he perceived that no accommodation was possible, but there had to be a fight to the death. Garibaldi was as much in favor of action as all hazards as Mazzini himself, and had as little pretension to be called a statesman. It was not only a grievance to him that after he had made the famous and memorable "expedition of a thousand" into that one of "the two Sicilies" into which the Bourbon Kingdom of Naples and Sicily divided, he had to see his own number of troops from it, Cavour should have prevented him from going on with the conquest of the other "Sicily," the kingdom of Naples. It was upon this occasion that Cavour made the famous phrase, "The macaroni is not yet cooked, but we will eat it as oranges." A still more bitter grievance of his was that Cavour had consented to the treaty by which Piedmont had ceded to France not only the Savoy from which the reigning house of Piedmont took its name, but also Garibaldi's own birthplace of Nice. Later afterwards Garibaldi passionately declared in the Chamber at Turin that he could never shake hands with the man who had made his a foreigner. In the Chamber with great self-control, answered that in assisting the King and moving Parliament to approve the cession of Nice and Savoy to France he had discharged the most painful duty he had ever performed, and added: "If Gen. Garibaldi declines to forgive me for this action I do not bid him to forgive me, but I will arrange a reconciliation and succeed in bringing the two together." Cavour wrote of the interview: "We separated if not as friends, at least without nursing a resentment." And within a month of Cavour's death Garibaldi wrote him: "Let Victor Emmanuel be the arm of Italy and you the brain."

The preliminary account of Italy in the eighteenth century is really necessary to an understanding of the events of Italian history in the nineteenth. After the dissolution of the Roman Empire there had not been, until the formation of the modern kingdom of Italy, any Italian unity or nationality in a political sense. Carlie's expression, uttered long before the unity was accomplished, has its truth: "The noble Italy is actually one. Italy produced Dante. Italy can speak." The history of Italy just before the creation of modern Italy just as there was the like settlement of German nationality long before the establishment of the German Empire, but in neither case corresponding to any political organism. At any time for a thousand years or more Metetrich might have made his geographical expression "Italy is merely a geographical expression" with as much accuracy as when he did make it. The map of Italy before the French Revolution, appended to this volume, shows how the peninsula was as much subdivided and parcelled out among petty rulers as Germany itself, with the additional aggravation that many of the petty rulers of Italy had been imposed upon her from without, whereas the petty rulers of Germany were at least Germans. It was the French Revolution that inspired the Italian revolutionary spirit, and it was in the cisalpine republic formed by the revolting inhabitants of Modena and Reggio and those of Bologna and Ferrara, taken from the Pope by the French, that the Italian tricolor made its first appearance, a tricolor inherited from the French but substituting green for blue. This was in 1797. Napoleon's triple partition of Italy does not seem to have taken account of the political or the facts of the case. It is no wonder that it should have disappeared as soon as its author lost his power. Murat, Bernadotte succeeded in keeping Sweden, after the Restoration and the Congress of Vienna, if he had not been rash enough to invite not only his own Neapolitans but all Italians to take part in a war for independence without getting any favorable response to his invitation. He took from Sicily that Murat returned to reconquer it and expiated his error with his life.

The house of Savoy stood out, not long after the restoration of the Bourbons in France and in Italy, as at once the most important and the most Italian of the reigning houses of Italy, and its kings and queens, the most important political entity in the peninsula. Cavour, born in Turin in the house in which he died, the son of a reactionary nobleman, was and remained all his life a patriotic Piedmontese, and his aspirations for Italian unity were but the enlargement of his local patriotism, since all his projects involved the aggressive extension of the favored dynasty without getting any favorable response to his invitation. He took from Sicily that Murat returned to reconquer it and expiated his error with his life.

The revolution of 1848 in France was far more fruitful of revolutions elsewhere than that of 1848 in France. Throughout Europe it became the "revolutionary year" in which attempts, successful and unsuccessful, were made in almost every country to secure a constitutional government under which the representatives of the people should have some share in the making and administration of the laws. Charles Albert of Sardinia, who is the subject of this book, was a man who did not wait for actual violence in order to grant the reforms on which his people seemed to be intent. He decreed a free election of communal and provincial councillors, promised an improvement in the administration of justice and in the procedures of the police and lifted the absolute embargo upon the printing of political arguments. At once there appeared at Turin the Risorgimento, a daily newspaper, "economical, political, scientific and literary," of which the title sufficiently denotes its progressiveness in politics and of which the editor was Camillo Cavour. It was the first political newspaper printed in Piedmont. Charles Albert followed his previous course by promulgating a constitution, some three weeks before the revolution broke out in Paris, a priority which explains why the new instrument should have been modeled upon the French Constitution of 1830. A similar constitution was granted to Tuscany by its Grand Duke. Even Ferdinand of Naples was frightened into making promises of reform and liberty. Venice proclaimed a republic, with Daniel Manin as President. A sudden uprising drove the Austrian army to its fortresses in the famous Quadrilateral. Cavour loudly called in his journal for war, and Piedmont went to war and actually captured Peschiera, giving occasion for Clough's lines:

What voice did on my spirit fall,
Peschiera, when thy bridge I crossed?
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