

Italian Campaign

A Leaf From the Roman Notebook of William J. D. Croke, L.L.D.

MR. HALL CAINE gave two bachelor literary farewell dinners on the eve of his departure from Rome, which took place yesterday. The practice is, as far as my memory serves me, novel in Rome, but this is not what I want to call attention to about them. It is to their representative character as signifying the sweep of his inquiries about Rome. If he had these guests for close friends, he must have had many more acquaintances during the second long spell which he devoted to the preparation of a novel about Rome. One of the dinners was "black" and the other "white."

The other dinner covered all the shades of "liberalism." Baron de Bidd, Minister of Norway and Sweden to the Quirinal, who is not less versed in diplomatics than in diplomacy, being the historian of medieval Sweden in Rome, as well as an important statesman, Douglas Slien, a novelist and prolific author, and founder of the Vagabonds, the Authors and the Argonaut clubs; Ugo Ojetti, one of the foremost Italian critics, and a confederate and novelist of distinction; Riccardo Pietromanni, the essayist; Deputy Maggiorino Ferraris, the editor of the leading Italian review, La Nuova Antologia; Wickham Steed, a writer and journalist; the present writer; Baron the Deputy Sonnino, the Sphinx and Pyramid of Italian political life, who is a Protestant and a Jew, an Italian and an Egyptian, the leader of the Constitutional party, the creator of Italian finance and the mainstay of Italian institutions, and Deputy Ferrarini, the anti-dynastic party, a sociologist and anthropologist, and the most beautiful politician in the world, all women say.

The guests were gathered in every compass of the Quirinal, in Rome, "Black" and "White" and "Gray" and "Red" sat at his table after having contributed to his information.

I have made notes of the most important parts of this information communicated to me in an interview, and I give them without binding myself too severely in the matter of exactness of expression in every case.

One of the first points touched upon was the inevitable race question. To my inquiry as to what, in his view, were the salient characteristics of the Latin race, he answered that racial differences were merely surface differences. For instance, he said, I have had six months of domesticities in this Roman household; six months of insight and contact with the great family which peoples Italy and centers in Rome, and I have found men in Rome diversified in nothing substantial from men in Poland and the Isle of Man, the United States and England. But where there is diversity, even incidental diversity, there is interest, and the interest of this kind to be found in Rome is very strong. First and paramount among the diversifying influences is the religion which has its capital and mother church in Rome. Have you not sometimes walked from numbers in travel and returned at a glance with a fabulously storied city, of which you had always before read and dreamed, but which you had never seen?

Even so, Rome could be recognized as the center of the great Catholic religion by the from another planet, were he to land in the Eternal City. He would understand after a glance at its moral character that this was the Rome of spiritual domination. Religion is the chief factor of the differences which distinguish the Roman from the Russian, the Laplander, the Hindu and the American. It permeates the life of the people by its dogma, its morality, its legend, its poetry, its ritual, its saint lore. It colors all the lives of the Romans. This has been one of my pleasures: to observe its influence in the life of the Romans, especially of the lower orders.

"I often think," he continued, "that some of my literary brethren sit too much in their libraries working out stories by sheer effort of imagination, at pains and toil which are unnecessary. Around us there are the police courts, where stories are lived out, not written but displayed. Man is there as if under the examination of the literary artist. The fact is that, looking clinically, continually, looking with little microscopic lenses into the heart, turning searchlights upon the secret places of human passion, I have largely availed myself of this opportunity to study the people of Rome, have followed the law and the letter, and have studied and thoroughly. (These are the process-creatures of the year.) I have studied much and learned much. It was very easy for me to forget that one was not in England or in America, so like is human nature and so incommensurable are the differences of race and nationality. Where I find a wide difference is in the attitude of the people toward the law. I am at one with Mr. O'Connell in his essay on the essential Christianity of our law and of the law of America, and on the essential paganism of the old legislations. Christianity had profoundly modified and substantially altered the legislation of the world before the time when the Declaration of Independence was drawn up. I find that the law here rests far too much on a pagan basis. It is the expression not of the conscience of the people, but of the ruler of the people.

"As to military law, I find it is much the same here as in England or America, except for this difference. The procedure is identical, I have followed with the closest attention the action of the military tribunals and studied the files of the processes of 1888, the year of the uprisings. I am convinced that the uprisings were not overruled. They were general. They indicated a condition of unrest in the classes of society. To me they were interesting because of the light which they threw on the heart as well as on the working of Italian life, and because they may occur again. Not only the so-called anarchists were interested, but also the Catholic party. This last was a vast organization, purely religious in character and intended for the service of religion in economic and other spheres of work.

"Let me illustrate its origination and development by an old story. Some peasants lived peacefully in a cordoned unit one day Farmer Brown noticed that the corn was rich and ripe and would spoil if left uncut. But there was so much of it! He resolved to call his neighbors to his aid. The young peasants had heard him tell his sons of his intention, and they informed their mother in alarm on their return home. But nothing came of it, for the neighbors would not stir. Again Farmer Brown looked at the field, and as his neighbors had proved laggards he determined to get his cousins to help. The birds, hearing him decide thus with his sons, took fresh alarm; but again, when the mother bird returned they were calmed by her explanations that the cousins would probably never give a helping hand. But Farmer Brown came a

and the length and severity of their sentences spoke for the completeness with which they carried out their work.

"And what was to be done, the revolution over? The Premier, Di Rudini, fell out of favor. Baron Sonnino was clearly indicated as his successor. He had an interview with the King. What passed between them cannot be substantiated, but it is clear from preceding and succeeding events that he made a requisition in favor of the introduction of a quasi-military form of government, for General Pelloux, who was called to form a Cabinet, had had Sonnino's support and by it has held power from day to day up to the present moment. Sonnino as Premier meant government as the expression of the people; Sonnino as the mainstay of the Cabinet meant parliamentary support for the rule of a general.

"The chief element of legislation has been a public safety bill, on the face of which is written the suppression of the socialist and anarchical organizations. But the clerical associations stand on a parity with these, and it looks remarkably likely that the measure was aimed at clericalism expressing itself in Italy. It would not have been in accordance with common sense to have declared war on the Vatican. If the outside world got the idea that a religious war was being waged Italy would be as Russia was when it committed its most unpopular act through endless years—the enforcing of the measures against the Jews. I went to Russia at that time as a sort of informal friend of the Russian-Jewish committee to look at events from the Christian point of view, and my conclusions were that the persecution was not primarily a religious one, but that it was essentially an economic persecution though religion inevitably entered into it.

"So it was with the Holy See after 1870. When it saw the temporal power torn from it, it thought at first that a concert of its neighbors and friends, the great nations, would be formed for effecting a restitution, but this did not come to pass. Then it thought that its cousins, the Germans, the Catholic powers—France, Austria and Spain—would intervene, but they did not. Therefore, in hault honneur et courage it set about the regeneration of Italy. It was to take every legitimate means to educate the young and to organize the Catholic millions. A complete

beautiful organization grew up under the magic of its touch and thrived under the warmth of its breath. The parish had its clubs for men and boys, for social work and ascetic work, for money lending and monthly communions. These parish organizations were unified in a district organization. Each district organization was compact in that of a diocese; every diocese was in communication with Rome, and in the very hands of the Holy Father. The passive attitude of the people had not changed in a few decades of constitutional government.

"The farmer and the laboring man, even when they had understood the principles of representative government, had had to delegate some one else to represent them in the National Parliament. Landlords and lawyers crowded the legislative halls, and their interests could not have been absolutely identical with those of the people whom they represented. Hence occurred the inevitable errors of representative government acting in a country which was new to it. Disaster—I say it not to blame—followed disaster during thirty years. There were also some of those corruptions which are worse than errors and disasters. The climax of this extremely complicated and critical condition came in 1888. There were general uprisings, and the new order, shaken to its very foundations, passed through the crisis only on account of the promptness and energy of the repression.

"Now the same conditions of unrest were verified in the case of the clerical party as in those of the other parties. A few men like Don Albertario put in words that their party is intimately involved in this project of law which puts under the control of the Government every exercise of public liberty."

Hall Caine did not deny the possibility that the clerical organs may have been silent from prudential motives. He then dealt with the accusation of clerical complicity in the uprising.

"Expressing the natural discontent of the people under heavy taxation, the clerical papers had given expression to the view that it would be better for Italy if the temporal power had been restored to the Pope. The answer of the Government is the public safety bill. Who rose in opposition to it? Not the clericals, because they were unrepresented in the Parliament, being forbidden by the Holy See to be either electors or elected. Ne eletti ne elettori. Only the anti-dynastic parties. These have ceased to have any faith in the clericals since 1888. Until that year they were disposed to have some. I do not mean to say that there was any compact between them, but there was an understanding based on a very faulty foundation—a community of interest to oppose. But there was nothing positive in common except marked opposition; nothing in the ultimate aims of both parties except to effect or help in effecting a change of the present order of things. Each was willing to accept the aid of the other for the time being, with a sort of

simple, elementary passions, the love of men and women, hatred, revenge, pity and so forth. Can you not fancy the play of these in the circumstances which I have described?"

The mention of the conflict between the two powers in Rome led Mr. Hall Caine to say: "In any estimate of the forces of the conflict between the Vatican and the Quirinal in Rome, certain things must never be lost sight of. The first of these is that Italy is a very young country, that in only thirty years of its life it has had to do the work of centuries to put itself abreast of other nations and to attain this in the presence of a constant adversary at home, the Vatican having withheld itself from all participation in the national life. The next thing to be remembered is that this adversary within its own gates has the experience of many centuries, with all the strings of power which still remain in its hands, although it is a fallen sovereignty. In the light of these facts (for one would say that on its own lines) Italy has done a very great deal."

"Then I gather that you do not share the prevailing opinion of the nations that the Latin race is decaying?"

"How can I regard that as anything but an exaggerated statement or a blunder in the face of the work that Italy has done since 1870, and with the memory of men like Mazzini, Garibaldi, Cavour and Crispi—no mention in one group not a few with whom I have but little personal sympathy. Say that it is the spirit of the Eternal City which gives this perennial youth to the Latin race. The fact remains that such extraordinary things have been done and are being done as are almost sufficient to justify the Utopian theories of present prophets like David Lazarus, who dreamed the dream of a world republic that was to have a

girl, but young in experience as well as in years, and with a head easily turned by the frivolities of the world. She marries Philip because she loves him; also in the hope of going to London with him on a trip that he contemplates taking to pursue the study of architecture. Her father is an American devoted to American customs and has always opposed his children going to England, but as Philip's wife his daughter is freed from his authority, and she thus hopes to realize at last her long cherished dream of enjoying the gayeties of London life. The trip is prevented by the breaking out of the war of Independence and the enlistment of Winwood in the Continental army—much to his wife's disgust.

Philip is away many years and rises high in the service of his country. His wife, although at home with her family and under the strict eyes of her brother Tom and Philip's best friend, a Herbert Russell, who is supposed to be the narrator of the story, is beset by many temptations through the attentions paid her by the English officers quartered in New York. She plans with a Captain Falconer of the English service and a renegade brother who is acting as a spy against the English in the Continental army to capture General Washington by a bold cavalry stroke. The plot falls through owing to an unexpected visit from Winwood to his home on the very night that the scheme is to be carried out. One of the reasons for the failure of the scheme is between Winwood and his wife. He has forced his way through the British lines, in constant danger of being shot or else taken and hanged as a spy, and all for the sake of a few hours with the woman he has loved. He has been in the army and his parting had been a cold one from her side, but he thinks that time must have softened her feelings toward him and he fully expects to be received with open arms. When in fact she escapes, and finds her alone in her room he is surprised and shocked by her chilly demeanor toward him. A war of words finally ensues, and he succumbs to the temptation of the renegade brother, who is ready on foot to take General Washington. He sees a way to avert the danger by instantly giving the alarm, but his wife, realizing too late her mistake in telling him, endeavours to call the English back to prevent his escape. Philip manages to get away, but only after a fierce struggle. Duty with him is ever first and his love for his wife second.

After the failure of the conspiracy the renegade brother is suddenly arrested at home and accuses Philip's wife of clandestine relations with the gay and handsome Captain Falconer. A duel ensues between Falconer and the younger brother, resulting in the death of Tom. Philip's wife is driven from the house by her father and embarks for London with the renegade brother, who expects, through her beauty and fascinating manner, to wed her to some rich noble and make his and her fortune. The story finally ends with Philip and his friend Russell arriving in London at a stage door entrance just in time to save the erring but now thoroughly repentant wife from being carried away by the wicked Falconer. Winwood and his wife meet in a duel and a charming reunion between himself and wife takes place. Incidentally the reader is told that the renegade brother is soon to swing merrily from the gallows tree, and the book closes with the true remark quoted above: "transient vanity" and "steadfast love and courage."

Mr. Stephens' story is melodramatic, but entertaining nevertheless. It will prove especially interesting to old New Yorkers familiar with the ground where the scenes are laid, and even to the casual reader the points of American history brought forth will prove of benefit if not of startling interest. One thing is certain; his characters cannot handle the sword in the manner of our friends from the pens of Conan Doyle, Stanley Weyman or Mary Johnston. The duel between Falconer and Winwood is looked forward to by the patient reader for many chapters, and when it finally arrives it seems very tame. Certainly the result is entirely satisfactory, but in the description there is not enough of the flash of steel and bellows swordplay to make you catch your breath or send the blood one whit faster through your veins—it is a little too much in the order of "they met and the villain was killed." (Published by L. C. Page & Co., Boston. Price \$1.50.)

"Some People We Meet." A little squiblet from the pen of Charles F. Rideal and illustrated by Jesse A. Walker with some fine pen drawings appears under the title "Some People We Meet." It is a collection of character sketches of well known types, two pages devoted to each type, one for picture and the other for description. The subjects presented are: "The Specially," "The Man 'Wot Goffs," "The Lam-Law," "The Rev. Hiram B. Montgomery," "Jackie," "Bob Tougham," "A City 'Gent.," "Mr. Levi Vindermemmelmer," "Mr. Tammany Todd," "Mr. Sempronius Yards," "Mr. Dick Dummer," "Mrs. Whirlingay Whiz." The book makes a pleasant half-hour's reading, for the drawings are piquant and the writing is epigrammatic and bright. (Published by The Abbey Press, New York. Price 25 cents.)

United States History Supplement. A supplement to the "History of the United States" series, has just been issued by Harr Wagner. It has been prepared to bring the present State book up to date, and with this end in view has been made as near uniform as possible with the book now in use in California schools. The declaration of war, the peace protocol and several other documents are printed from the original text. As it will be several years before the State publishes a new history, this supplement should prove a great convenience to teachers or any one interested in current history. (Published by The Whitaker & Ray Company, San Francisco. Paper, 25 cents.)

Books Received. THE SONG OF THE SWORD—By Leo Dittreichstein. G. W. Dillingham Company, New York. \$1.50. CONFESSIONS OF A HARDIE—By Courtney Wellington. G. W. Dillingham Company, New York. \$1.50. MATTHEW DOYLE—By Will Garland. G. W. Dillingham Company, New York. \$1.50. DAVID AND HIS FRIENDS—By Louis Allen. Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York. \$1.50. LIVES OF ALEXANDER AND CAESAR—Putnachs. Cassell's National Library, New York. In paper 19 cents. BISHOP PENDELLE—By Fergus Hume. Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago and New York. THE DIVINE ENCHANTMENT—By J. G. Nehardt. James T. White & Co., New York. GEORGE—By S. E. Kiser. Small, Maynard & Co., Boston. THE COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN REPUBLICS—By William Scruggs. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. \$2.50. STEPHEN DECATUR—By Cyrus Townsend Brady. Published in the Beacon Biographies Series by Small, Maynard & Co., Boston. 75 cents. THE PEACEMAKERS—By John Strange Winter. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. Paper 50 cents. SAN FRANCISCO—A selection of sixty-four paragraphs of representative views, in paper 50 cents. The same in volume of thirty-seven views, in paper 25 cents. Published by Frederic M. Dewitt, 218 Post street, San Francisco. AN AMERICAN COLONEL—By Hon. Jere C. Wood. Wolf Publishing Company, Akron, Ohio. THE SWORD OF THE KING—By Ronald Macdonald. The Century Company, New York. \$1.50. PROBLEMS OF EXPANSION—By Hon. Whitelaw Reid. The Century Company, New York. \$1.50. THE LAST OF THE PLATOONS—By George Cary Eggleston. Lotrop Publishing Company, Boston. \$1.50.

Illustrations from Philip Winwood

by Robert Neilson Stephens



HE IS A—AN ACQUAINTANCE.

OUR MOTIONS, AS WE TOUCHED OUR LIPS TO THE BOTTLE, WERE UNUSUAL. MARGARET LAUGHED.

HE FINALLY DECIDED TO GIVE HER A MORE EFFECTUAL BLOW.

IT WAS PHILIP'S CUSTOM, AT THIS TIME, TO ATTEND THE FIRST NIGHTS OF THE PLAYHOUSES.

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