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THE GERMAN WAY

Along the roads where Roman legions
sleep
The Hapsburg eagle and the German
sweep;
They shall not wear the glamour that
they claim,
The pomp of Caesar and the Roman
name.

Italia stands and shall, embattled yet,
Where silver eagles flashed in suns
now set;
The eagle's note, hear Roman Virgil
speak:
"To smite the proud and to exalt the
weak."

The weak, the little cowering peoples,
know
The German metal and the German
blow;
But let true mettle ring, "They shall
not pass!"
Her talons fly like shards of brittle
glass.

Where armies fester and where states
decay,
Where maggot spies have made a
mellow prey,
With sounding vans the German
vultures light,
To rob the jackal and defraud the
kite.

"VOX POPULI SUPREMA LEX"

The recent Italian reverses have beyond a doubt caused an extraordinary amount of trepidation amongst the Entente Allies; and the stand at present being made by the Italian forces seems to have been scarcely expected in many well-informed military quarters. It is only when we reflect upon the history of Italy, and the character of her people, that we appreciate the stand made by her is not by any means extraordinary.

The formation of the Italian Empire, although in some respects resembling the formation of all other Empires, differs in many others. The might of the sword was not the predominating factor in even early Italian Imperial development, but rather the power of reason leavened with great insight and wisdom. The Roman people of old were masters of the world and none dared say them nay, or, as Macaulay so beautifully expressed it,

"When Rome, the mistress of the world,
Abroad her eagle wings unfurled—"

Yet the magnificence and grandeur of that mighty Empire eventually became dimmed and gradually flickered out at last.

A new Rome then arose amidst the ruin and debris of her former splendour, followed in turn by a new Italy, for there seethed and churned in the magnificent brain of one Walter Cavour, a Roman statesman (withal a short, pot-bellied man of decidedly scorbatic visage) the dream of an Italian empire, freed from the narrowness of ancient, dogmatic, mediaeval Rome.

He, by unremitting effort, sound judgment, and self-sacrifice, laid the foundation of modern Italy surely and firmly upon a rock of democracy.

The renowned achievements of Garibaldi, though they have obtained a prominence they well deserve can never, we hope, obliterate

or deface the magnificent efforts of Cavour.

The grim power of the sword and the sordidness of commercialism seem to have had no place in the vision of this externally unattractive individual. The lust for domination, so obvious in Prussian Imperialism, tinged as it is with the most sordid commercial greed, found no place in his programme, but only the welfare of the Roman people as a self-contained empire.

He browbeat no one; he was never known to hector; yet as we have said he created the modern Italy by force of patriotic principles: So that modern Italy, except for some sporadic outbreak, has been practically free from internal struggle.

Italy holds many socialists of advanced type and always has produced her full quota of anarchists; but no one who has been a student of psychology can deny that reason is the foundation of socialism; (though we disclaim any leanings in that direction) and anarchy, though incited by feelings of revenge, which our greatest philosopher, Francis Bacon, describes as a "kind of wild justice", is only an extreme form of reason.

For the rest the Italians as a whole are a deep thinking, practical people, and of steadfast courage, not prone to be misled or discouraged by mere temporary reverse; and when this is taken into consideration, it is easy to see that a nation so powerful in her own assurance, and so accomplished in arts and arms, would not long continue to flee before an enemy, however powerful, whose victory would mean, for her, subjugation, the disruption of her Empire and her past glorious work together with the destruction of hopes of her future.

Our readers may twit us by telling us that it is easy to be wise after the event, but what we maintain is, that Italy has been indeed true to her national character.

THE ELECTION.

We make no apology to our readers for going to print with extra pages dealing with the election.

We maintain that party politics have no right to interfere in this issue. As soldiers we have the right to demand that the war, and the carrying on of the war only, is the one question at stake.

Our mind is made up that the only way to "carry on" is to put into power a government that has pledged itself to maintain our armies at the front.

The Union Government is our choice, composed as it is of the best men in the country, of all shades of political opinion, who have had the courage necessary to stand together in a crisis with the cry of "win the war".

The opposition to this Union Government has for its platform the protection of the slacker, the disruption of our forces in the field and the aggrandisement of our enemies.

We want nothing to do with politics! We will have nothing to do with politics! We have nothing to do with party! We support merely those who are willing to sink their party aspirations in our and the public's weal. "WIN THE WAR" is our policy; otherwise we would be elsewhere than where we are.

OTHERS TAKE THE HINT, PLEASE

The members of the band, fourteen in number, have ordered twenty copies of "Knots and Lashings" per week.

This is the kind of support we want. (Ed.)

THANK YOU, MEN

The Ladies of St. James Church Guild wish to thank the officers and men of the Depot who attended the sale and concert on Saturday, December 1st, in such large numbers, and who generously patronized the various booths, (especially the afternoon tea.)

The ladies wish especially to thank Spr. Dixon and the men who so kindly assisted with the program in the evening.

They would also like to remind the men that Baldwyn Hall is always at their disposal, both afternoons and evenings.

CONGRATULATIONS.

"Knots and Lashings" extends its hearty congratulations to—
Captain H. H. Pinch, C.E.
Acting C.S.M.I. W. C. Carson.
Acting C.S.M.I. W. J. Whiting.
Sergeant H. P. McIntyre.
Orderly Room Clerk D. M. Brown.