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## The Unification of Italy;



THE complete failure of the Revolution of 1848-1849 and the reaction following it left all Italy, excluding the Papal territory and Piedmont, under the direct rule of an Austrian prince. Charles Albert's abdication placed Victor Emmanuel on the throne. He had to choose between two courses: either follow the general reaction throughout Europe, or preserve the tri-colour flag, thereby incurring the hatred of Russia, Austria and of Central Europe. He chose the latter course, paying more attention to his own judgment than to his advisers. Victor Emmanuel's position was made stronger by the fact that his advisers wished for a constitution of their own, and that even his subjects swayed more to him than to their church. European equilibrium kept the kingdom intact, while Napoleon III promised assistance if the integrity of Emmanuel's domain was threatened.

Emmanuel's first task was to make a permanent treaty with Radetzki. The dissolution of parliament took place a second time before the treaty was signed. From that time on the policy of d'Azeglio was to bring the state before the eyes of Europe, to strengthen their military force, and to show that Piedmont was progressive. Immediately the Liberals began to oppose foreign intervention by means of the press, yet they did so gradually, since Piedmont was yet young in its preparations. In 1852 Prince