

question which touches the nerve of the North-West heart: *i.e.*, "medical aid and nursing provided for outlying districts." This is one of the crying needs of the prairies. What appeals more to the heart of woman than the knowledge that a sister (tenderly reared) having followed, aye, we may say kept step with, husband or father in the weary march westward to build and make a new home; separated by new and dear ties from the old friends and the comfortable home; face to face with loneliness—and sometimes with death, for the supreme hour of motherhood sways the pendulum between the gates of life and death—ten, fifty, often an hundred miles, from any human creature! Picture the desolation of such an hour! No medical attendance—often no attendance whatever; the result, perhaps ill-health for the remainder of life, nervous and ailing children, and sometimes, as the price of pioneerhood, if not long years of suffering, often a prairie grave! This clause appeals to womankind more than any in the Constitution; certainly to women in the West. Further on we find another clause: "Preventive causes of present increase of insanity." This, out here, may be traced directly to the same thing; the scattered and thinly settled spots in the prairie-land. Insanity is too often the result of loneliness and fear.

To the women of Canada as a whole this cry should go. To our Dominion Government this cause must appeal. Upon the women of the West depends the upbuilding of a nation. They have resigned all that they held dear—friends, comfort, affluence often, and home—for what? To take upon their shoulders the cross of sacrifice, and words are weak and pen too feeble to tell how heavily it sometimes bears! Here, upon the prairies, breast the story, half in song and half in sorrow, is written; and here and there tears have blotted the brave record! Oh, may this little word awaken not only our sister women, but the rulers of the land. May they give a strong and sympathetic support, as well as a generous aid to a cause so wisely advocated and so womanly upheld by our beloved President, Lady Aberdeen.

MARY MARKWELL.

Regina, Assa., Aug. 6th, 1896.

Cavour.

(Concluded.)

IN a year after his entrance to Parliament, Cavour was called into the Cabinet, where to his extreme surprise the unreasoning liberals renewed their opposition against them. They were too blind to perceive that, if nothing else, this assurance at least was theirs—while he was in high office his desire to injure their holy cause was very much less than that of any other possible aspirant to the position. And in their ignorance they followed him with fatal persistence until at length he fell. He could easily have triumphed over them, but he discerned no gain to be derived from continuing with them a personal quarrel. If they had not the wisdom to consider principles instead of persons, he was content to allow them to make their ignominious choice. In 1851 he resigned his cabinet position and again visited England—the country where he had learned the principles which had served his land so well.

In 1852 the young statesman became Prime Minister of Sardinia. Through the great years of European unrest, this little island, in the loneliness of her solitude, had evolved plans which were terrifying to the European world. The Italian states had for centuries been sundered. They had fought among themselves only for the victor to fall before a stronger foe. They had plundered one another only to surrender their plunder to some pope or some king. Nature had destined them for absolute union, but the keen practice of the Roman Catholic Church, whose agents beheld Roman union in Italian division, had kept them for many generations apart. Mutual jealousy too aided the Church in continuing the feuds which prevented union. Under the Great Napoleon the Italian states might have become united, but the wide schemes of conquest of the greatest of commanders were too vast to permit of his descending to the trivialities of details, and in his inattention to essential details, not only was the union not accomplished, but he lost the crown of Italy. That the states of the peninsula might unite for common protection when some invasion of unusual dimen-

sions threatened all Italy was only too clearly revealed to the hostile nations across the Alps, and with a cunning which transcended their virtue they regulated their predatory excursions with such a delicate precision that on no occasion was sufficient justification given to cause the Italians to unite to defend their devastated country against a common foe. The deep minds of Europe knew well the limit to which plundering a state could be carried before it assumed the proportions of an international crime. Beyond that limit they did not go. Consequently the Italian states remained in that condition in which they had been since the splendid glory of ancient Rome had vanished from the earth. To engage in the hopeless undertaking in which Mazzini had failed—to join the separated provinces of Italy—was the great problem which Sardinia, with the assistance of the genius of Cavour, had heroically undertaken to solve.

Italy's division was the source of a vast amount of strength and of wealth to the numerous neighbouring nations. Austria, the last of the long line of invaders, was now in turn drawing that nourishment from its fertile soil which it had refused to give to its sons. To banish those restless and menacing enemies of prosperity from Italy was the first task of the great statesman. With this aim Mazzini had suffered and starved, had plotted and planned, had been exiled from the shores of more than one abandoned kingdom, and had been sentenced to death by the tribunals of others. The plans by which he sought to accomplish his ends were to sow dissention in the ranks of the Austrians, and cause internal strife to weaken their power. That another and a vaster plan was more effective, Mazzini never dreamed. Cavour was the first to profit by the knowledge he had gained—that the weakness of the enemy was useless unless his forces were strong. To strengthen his own forces he committed that patriotic treason, that justifiable crime, which in a moment estranged from his faith the support of the Mazzinists, who comprised one-half of the population of Italy, and won for himself the violent anathemas and the lofty condemnation of the passionate enthusiast himself. Cavour's plan was to import into Italy several companies of foreign battalions, add their numbers as auxiliaries to the Italian army, overcome the wary Austrians by means of the allied powers, and then return the foreigners to their homes before they settled on the land they had redeemed. To effect the negotiations for this great alliance, consummate prudence was required. Cavour, who in a crisis like the present, conducted the delicate portions of his diplomatic tactics himself, went to Paris and soon had perfected the plans whereby the Emperor of the French engaged for a consideration to furnish the Italian emancipator with a sufficiently formidable force to expel the Austrians from the lovely fields which had been fertilized so frequently with blood.

Early in May, 1859, the French army was admitted into Italy and united with the forces of the Italians. Victor Emmanuel led the native warriors, while the emperor of the French commanded the allies. From the hour that the two monarchs stood at the head of the columns Austrian dominion beyond the Alps was doomed. In the three weeks' campaign the emancipating army had driven the aliens from the desolated districts of North Italy, and the Battle of Magenta, the taking of Milan, the Battle of Solferino, and the battle of San Martino among the splendid victories of the allies, alone remained to mark the military history of the Austrians beyond the confines of their country.

But a deed of treachery was done just at this period which required all the skill of Cavour's great genius to prevent the sundering of the new-made bonds of union which had been scarcely firmly formed. Napoleon, Emperor of the French, probably feeling that his share of the plunder would be less than he had expected, withdrew after San Martino from the further prosecution of the campaign. A crisis arose which, but for the exercise of an activity on the part of Cavour, that was scarcely consistent with the transcendent calm of genius, might have terminated in the return of the Austrians across the banks of the Mincio. The intelligence of the treachery of Napoleon had not been transmitted to Paris before relays of hurrying messengers communicated it to Cavour. In an instant the great statesman was at the seat of the treason. There for a time he laid aside the mask of the sage, and there alone at Villafranca he defiantly threatened the fickle Emperor with the terrible fate of his illustrious predecessor and namesake. Those who say that