

## Pictures of Italian Life.

THE sights and personalities of Italy—the dinners, fetes, fashions, and the bright pageantry of court and Vatican—are presented in attractive fashion in a volume made up of the letters written by Madame Waddington, daughter of Charles King, President of Columbia College, New York, and wife of M. Wm. Henry Waddington, some time Premier of France, and a noted diplomat. It is divided into two parts, Part I. containing the letters written by Madame Waddington to her mother and sister during a winter's sojourn in Rome in 1879-80, and Part II. relating the incidents of a visit to Rome twenty years later, after the death of M. Waddington. There are pen pictures of the Popes, Pius IX., Leo XIII., and Pius X., and the picture of the latter has a contemporary interest that makes it seem worth transcribing.

"He was dressed of course, entirely in white. He spoke only Italian—said he understood French, but didn't speak it easily. He has a beautiful face,—so earnest, with a refined, upward look in his eyes, not the ascetic appearance of Leo XIII., nor the half malicious, kindly smile of Pius IX., but a face one would remember. . . . He was much interested in what Bessie told him about America and the Catholic religion in the States—was rather amused when she suggested that another American cardinal might perhaps be a good thing. He gave me the impression of a man who was feeling his way, but who, when he had found it, would go straight on to what

he considered his duty. . . . As we were leaving I explained that I was a Protestant, my son also, but that he had married a Catholic, and I would like his blessing for my daughter. He made me a sign to kneel and touched my head with his hand, saying the words in Latin and adding, "E per Lei e tutta la sua famiglia" (for you and all your family).

It seems from this brief quotation, that the style is vivacious, clatty and bright—just such a style, in a sentence, as a clever American woman of the most exclusive social circle might be expected to write in a family letter. The accounts of intimate acquaintance with such notable personalities as Cardinal Howard, Mr. Wm. Story, the distinguished sculptor, and the portraits of Queen Margherita of Italy, Victoria, Crown Princess of Germany, Cardinals Antonelli and Merry del Val, unite to form a fascinating and picturesque narrative of Italian life.

As might be expected, in an epistolary style, there are occasional lapses in taste which a more careful editing would have removed. Examples are, "Two swell porters were at the door" (p. 241), and "I am tired from the the quantity of people we saw at the Schnyler's" (p. 48). The volume is profusely illustrated with views of places and persons. The book must prove a diverting supplement to Baedeker for those on tour in Italy—in prospect or retrospect.