

Carthage that im-
as the hardy cap-
works of archi-
side was softened,
ors of the Forum
given dignity and
philosophy. Un-
poems of so many
luth and simplicity

was, after dreadful
and the world be-
and perilous emi-
luteness; yet also
poetry and all the
model, and carried
er, of successive
more than the bar-
ernment.

y and to mankind,
barbarians of the
ss of the empire,
some time by the
length they burst
erence to the East
n defence. Rome
was successively

the western empire
nder Theodoric the
sh swarms of bar-
given their name

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ected. When the
Italy fell to the
afterwards found

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By degrees, also,
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tinued at the same time to make her soil one of the great theatres of contention. Italy has reason more and more to deplore "her fatal gift of beauty," which became so fruitful a "source of present woes and past;" she was branded even with the appellation of "slave of slaves." Rome herself lost her spiritual greatness, which was withered even in Catholic countries by the progress of reformation. The late revolutions of Europe, though they produced in Italy many eventful scenes, can scarcely be considered as forming an era in her destiny. They had only the effect of sealing her degradation by extinguishing what remained of the independence of her once great republics, Venice and Genoa. The Italians are said to regret the lost name of the kingdom of Italy given by Bonaparte to the northern districts, though accompanied not with any portion of political freedom, but with some beneficial regulations of law and police. In general a great body of the Italian people manifest a deep sense of the fallen state of their country, and an eager desire to seize any favourable occasion to revive its ancient glories; but as yet the iron hand of Austrian military power has crushed in the bud every tendency of this nature.

SECT. IV.—Political Geography.

The political state of Italy presents nothing on which the well-wishers of that country can look with much satisfaction. It is chiefly divided among five potentates: the Emperor of Austria, who holds Lombardy and Venice, to which may be added Parma and Placentia, the appanage of Maria-Louisa; the king of Sardinia, who has Piedmont, Savoy, and Genoa; the Grand Duke of Tuscany; the Pope, temporal ruler of the States of the Church; the King of Naples and Sicily. Beside these, the Duchies of Modena and Lucca, the principality of Monaco, and the republic of San Marino, form separate, though they hardly deserve the name of independent, states. The constitutions of all these sovereignties possess an unhappy simplicity; the will of the ruler operating unchecked by any legal or constitutional limit. Neither the great civic nobles of the commercial states, nor the feudal nobility of the country, have any effective influence in the administration. They only exercise, by their immense fortunes, a pernicious influence in checking the operations of police, throwing the public burdens on the industrious classes, and depriving them of the just protection of the laws. The police over all Lower Italy is in the most imperfect state. Bands of almost licensed robbers occupy the mountain districts, and make frequent inroads into the plain; thus rendering a great part of their territory unfit for the residence of the cultivator.

The only tie between the separate governments of which Italy is composed consists in the paramount influence of Austria; the power of all others which sets itself in the most fixed opposition to political reform. The Emperor of Austria has his brother Grand Duke of Tuscany, his father-in-law King of Naples, one of his daughters Duchesses of Parma and Placentia, and the family of Sardinia bound to him by close ties of consanguinity. What is of more consequence, his troops also are in a position to overcome any one of them which should adopt measures contrary to the views of this high potentate. Being otherwise unconnected with each other, and none of them powers of the first rank, they present no political features which may not be exhibited in describing the local divisions of Italy.

SECT. V.—Productive Industry.

The productive wealth of Italy has suffered greatly in the decline of her other sources of prosperity. Yet such is the felicity of her soil and climate, and so considerable are the remains of her industry, that the entire produce of her land and labour is still ample and valuable.

Agriculture, as Smith has observed, is one of those plants which take such deep root, that only extreme tyranny and misrule, and scarcely even these, can eradicate them. Italy is now dependent upon other countries for the superb fabrics with which she formerly supplied them; her ships no longer cover the Mediterranean; her merchants, who were once her nobles and her princes, retain only the shadow of mighty names. But the plains of the Po, the Arno, and the Garigliano are still cultivated like gardens; and the agricultural produce, after supplying a very dense population, affords a large surplus for export.

Culture in Italy is conducted by a class of farmers to whom we have nothing analogous in our part of the world. The stock is furnished half by the landlord, and half by the tenant; and the produce is equally divided between them. The lease is only from year to year; but a tenant who pays his rent, and does not give any serious offence, is never removed; Mr. Forsyth considers the productiveness as being invariably in proportion to the smallness of the property; the cause of which probably is, that, under a system of management where the landlord co-operates, the part of those holding large estates committed to stewards and substitutes is commonly very ill done, and their avidity for money shows itself only in extortion. The property of the great ecclesiastical nobles of Rome has thus been converted into a pestilential desert. In Lombardy and Tuscany, however, the mercantile intelligence of the opulent owners has been employed in important rural improvements; the wealth of these districts is chiefly due to the astonishing works constructed at an early period for the purpose of irrigation. Several of them were executed at periods prior to the era of authentic