

at the time, that the struggle which cost him his life was the effort, in which he proved successful, to prevent further dismemberment by France of Italian territory after the cession of Nice and Savoy. Napoleon had been the first to encourage the national designs of the Sardinian Court. It has always been understood, that at the memorable meeting at Plombières, in which the Austrian campaign was decided upon, and at which it was resolved that in return for Nice and Savoy, France would assist Sardinia to reach the Adriatic, Napoleon had considered it to be tacitly understood that these limits would not be exceeded; he did not then foresee the almost incredible discomfiture of Bomba and the annexation of Naples and Sicily. When, however, these vast results, due to the courage and popularity of Garibaldi, helped by the cowardice and misrule of Francis II, had been obtained, and that Victor Emmanuel found himself in consequence the really formidable monarch he has since continued to be, the Emperor took alarm and sought to weaken his power by obtaining still further cessions of territory. The loss of Nice and Savoy, however, though in itself of no great importance, had in its consequences proved too painful to Cavour. He had, goaded almost to madness by the reproaches heaped upon him, declared in the Italian chambers: "I swear that not another inch of Italian ground shall be ceded;" and by that declaration, let the consequences be what they might, he was resolved to stand. Napoleon found himself forced to yield for the moment, but he soon sought other means of attaining his ends. It will be remembered that very shortly after Cavour's death, Lord John Russell stated in the House of Lords, that he had received a communication from the French ambassador to the effect that a proposal had been made to the French Government by the Austrian and Spanish ambassadors in Paris, in general terms, that the Roman Catholic powers should act in concert in protecting the temporal power of the Pope, and that the general proposal had been answered in the negative. This announcement was received with cheers. It was only afterwards that it became known that the proposal had in truth originated with France, but in terms which the other powers would not accede to, France reserving to herself full power to solve the Roman question at some future period. The proposal refused was the amendment of the other powers, depriving France of such unconditional authority to come. The notification of the first despatch of the French Government to the Count of Turin occasioned the great agitation which brought upon Cavour the fatal stroke of apoplexy. For years a struggle had been going on between the Italian statesman and the French Emperor. Napoleon won the first game by the peace of Villa-Franca; Cavour carried the next by the unexpected acquisition of Tuscany, Parma, Modena and the Romagna. The cession of Nice and Savoy had been stipulated in return for the humiliation of Austria and the acquisition of Lombardy. The annexation of Naples and Sicily, though obtained not without duplicity and somewhat machiavelian dealing, was a great triumph for the Italian. The next move of the Frenchman resulted unexpectedly in the death of his antagonist. Head against head, and will against will, Cavour was quite a match for Napoleon. But it was an unfair struggle, when, with Italy still only a sapling, he had to strive with Napoleon and an army of 600,000 men. The very death of Cavour, however, proved of value to his country, and told against the Emperor of the French. In order to avert the odium of the Italians, now led by the implacable Garibaldi and his party, he, for the moment, became as friendly as he previously had been hostile; and, immediately upon the