

not, nor could they foretell—and had sought to relegate Sardinia to a secondary place in the conference. Their efforts, as may be easily imagined, proved useless; the ally and co-associate of England and France on the hard-fought fields of the Crimea took rank side by side with them on an equal footing in the deliberations of the great powers. The vehement accusations of Cavour against Austria, the representations of her cruelty and oppression, the illegality of her occupation of Venice, and virtual control of the Adriatic, her bands of spies, her overflowing gaols and endless proscription lists were held forth before the face of Europe, her duplicity and tyranny unveiled, and a denial of the allegations challenged. The Austrians were nonplussed, but only for a moment; remembering that they were dealing with so small a State, they soon became defiant, insolent and overbearing in their manner, as to her they in the past always had been. Then, for the first time, was the bandage completely removed from their eyes, and the significant words of Lord Clarendon taught Austria that Sardinia, backed by England, could no longer be bullied with the impunity of days gone by.

“If your intention,” he exclaimed, with great vehemence and warmth, “is really to make no promises, to give no pledges, to enter into no engagements with regard to Italy, it will be to throw down the gauntlet to liberal Europe, that, at no distant day, may take it up. This question will then be decided by the most energetic and vigorous measures. It is a great mistake to suppose our forces are exhausted.”

On his return to Turin, Cavour was received with the greatest marks of consideration. Addresses poured in upon him from all sides; busts, statues, medals, were erected and struck at public expense to commemorate the event, and well might the Italians rejoice to show him honor. That conference had settled the future of the Italian nation, and its

happy result was due to the skill, forethought, determination and ability of one man, of Camillo Cavour. Events now press upon each other with astonishing rapidity. The Paris conference ended in August, 1858. The relations of Austria and Sardinia had for some time been anything but amicable, and the former began to prepare for war. Deeming her preparations sufficiently advanced, on the 23rd April, 1859, Austria demanded the disarmament of Sardinia and the dismissal of the volunteers from other states within three days. At the expiry of the three days, the demand was formally refused and war declared. France joined Sardinia on the 12th May, and on the 20th the allies were victorious at Montebello; Palestro, Magenta, Malignano and Solferino followed, and in a little more than one month, completely humbled and beaten, Austria was forced to sue for peace. The peace of Villa-Franca, though it added Lombardy to Sardinia, was a sore blow to the hopes of Count Cavour. Six months after, Tuscany, Parma, Modena, and the Romagna joined Sardinia, and acknowledged allegiance to Victor Emmanuel. In October, 1860, Naples and Sicily, conquered by Garibaldi, were also joined to the Sardinian crown, and on the 18th February, 1861, the first Italian parliament was convoked, and Victor Emmanuel proclaimed King of Italy, and Italy formally recognized by Great Britain the following month.

Thus was accomplished the vast undertaking Cavour set before himself when first he entered public life, in so far as he was permitted to see it fulfilled; its final completion with the annexation of Venetia, in 1866, and of the papal territories, with the triumphant entry of the King in Rome, in 1870, he did not live to witness. He had been called long before, to rest, wearied and worn out by the exertions, anxieties and responsibilities which had for ten years been weighing upon him. It was said