

are confronted with the most awful power in the world, with the power that crushed Napoleon I., and made Napoleon III. totter. You sneer at the Pope but take care lest another sneer at you and retort with the same argument on which you now rely. Whoever goes to the Capital, passes by the Tarpeian rock; he who would ascend to the former, runs the risk of falling from the latter." Hence it was clear that the occupation of Rome was condemned by many who were in every sense "Italianissimi." In fact it was by no means the act of the Italian people as a whole. It was an anti-religious rather than a national movement, and was prompted not by love of Italian unity, but by hate of Roman Catholicism. It does not follow as some falsely imagine — that an Italian, to be a Catholic, must be an enemy of the political unity of his country. History shows that the Guelph, *i.e.*, the Papal, party, was ever opposed to the interference of foreigners in Italian affairs, and even now, the Sovereign Pontiff, who in manifold ways has shown himself a true friend of the Italian people, has no desire to have his own position ameliorated in a manner that would injure his country.

But one thing is certain. The Roman Question cannot long remain in its present

state. Certain also it is that no solution can be permanent unless the sovereign and inalienable rights of the Roman Pontiff be entirely and sacredly respected. As The O'Clery says somewhere in his "Making of Italy": "Crispi, or his successor, may refuse to go to Canossa, as Bismark once refused, but some day a minister of the Italian Kingdom will realize that unless the monarchy is itself to perish, peace will have to be made with the Holy See. Such a crisis will make the road to Canossa seem an easy one. Meanwhile the Sovereign Pontiff continues his protest against a state of things which, to use his own words, has become intolerable. He represents moral as opposed to material force, and in all the conflicts that are recorded in history between these two forces the material power has always had to give way, where it was met with courage and perseverance. There is no fear that in the successor of St. Peter, either of these qualities will be wanting, and at Rome, as in Germany, in God's good time we shall see right victorious over might."

M. M. O'B., O.M.I.

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