

Book Notices.

History of Italy from the Commencement of the Christian Era to the Present Day; or, Italy Struggling into Light. By the Rev. H. H. FAIRALL, D.D. Large 8vo, pp. 824. Illustrated. Cincinnati: Cranston & Slowe. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price \$3.50.

The history of Italy is but another name for the history of civilization. He who traces the record even of the city of Rome itself from its rude beginning to the present time, follows the development and decay of the proudest civilization of the ancient world; the revival of learning, of art, of science in modern times; the wonderful growth and sinister influence of the Papacy; the eclipse of faith and destruction of liberty which it brought about; and the struggle into light and liberty of recent years. The earlier part of this stirring story is accessible in many popular books. The latter part, the record of Italy's emancipation from the thralldom of the Papal power, is one that we know not where else to find so fully yet succinctly told as in this volume. It is easier to find the history of the Punic wars or of the Twelve Cæsars than to find that of the silent revolution wrought under Count Cavour and of the victories of Garibaldi and Victor Emanuel. It is this that lends its special value to this book, and the author has wisely devoted nearly half of its 820 pages to events during the present century and chiefly during its latter half.

In a few graphic chapters he traces the decline and fall of the old Roman Empire. Then follows the sombre record of the Dark Ages, the rise and struggles of the Italian republics, and the fratricidal strifes of Guelfs and Ghibelines. The revival of learning and art, the dawn of the Reformation in Italy, and the culmination of Papal bigotry and wickedness in the cruelties of the Inquisition, and persecution unto death of the Italian martyrs, fill a brilliant series of chapters, bringing

us down to the dawn of the present century. Here begins what may be called the strictly modern period—the Italian conquests of Napoleon, the oppression of Austria, the abortive revolutions of Mazzini and the *carbonari*; constitutional development under Cavour, the real founder of Italian liberty; the romantic career of Garibaldi; the triumph of the patriot king, Victor Emanuel; the defeat of Austria, and the unification of the Italian nation. One of the most striking episodes in this history is the record of the Waldensians preserving amid their mountain fastnesses the primitive purity of the faith. This stirring story of Italy has all the fascination of romance. But recently we might have said of the lowly but long down-trodden land:

“Lone mother of dead Empires, see—
she stands,
Childless and crownless in her voiceless woe,
An empty urn within her withered hands,
Whose holy dust was scattered long ago.”

But now, facing the dawn of a brighter day, hope flashes in her eyes, and the pulses of a new national life throb in her veins. The Pope may fancy himself a prisoner amid the splendours of the Vatican, but the people are free, and are proving themselves worthy sons of their heroic Roman sires.

Dr. Fairall is to be congratulated on the completion of a noble historic monument of that emancipation. The book is beautifully printed from clear, bold type, and fifty illustrations of prominent actors and places in this historic drama enhance the value of the volume.

From Boston to Bareilly and Back.
By Rev. WILLIAM BUTLER, D.D.
New York: Phillips & Hunt.
Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.50.

Few men have had such a career—