

commenced, and by the overthrow of all foreign domination we freed our country or at least the greatest part of it. From 1848 to 1870 we fought our three wars of independence principally against Austria and those Bourbons of Naples whose government was called by Gladstone "the negation of God." It was a terrible task to raise Italy out of the debris which the old, bad governments delivered to us. Everything was to be renewed: education, public services, commerce and industry, roads and railways. All was patiently done in a comparatively short time and at the cost of great sacrifices.

Together with our political independence we gained our religious liberty. Before 1848 the gospel could not be preached in Italy. About that time king Charles Albert of Piedmont, the birth-place of the new Italian kingdom, granted the Statuto or Charter and also the "Edict of Emancipation," which proclaimed universal religious liberty. This law is still the basis of government in Italy.

From the formation of the Triple Alliance until May of this year Italy, though like Great Britain a constitutional monarchy, was closely united to Germany and Austria-Hungary, the despotic powers of Central Europe, but now her armed forces are bravely defending the liberties of Europe against her former allies leagued with her old enemy Turkey.