

remained. Under the hammer of his energy the old Elba had been shattered. After his fall the island was annexed to Tuscany, a natural political tie, and was ruled by the brother of Marie Antoinette. No longer was it divided among three or four Italian states. For the hundred years that have followed, Elba has been happy in having few annals. When the movement for Italian unity developed, Elba shared the enthusiasm for the leadership of Victor Emmanuel and, as a part of Tuscany, accepted him as sovereign in 1860. Ten years later the Elbans saw a chance to revive a tie with the house of Bonaparte. After Sedan they offered the fallen Emperor Napoleon III as asylum in the island. He replied courteously to the official letter sent to him from Porto Ferrajo, but the Elbans had overrated the attractions of their island, and he preferred England. The island has now about 30,000 inhabitants, nearly three times as many as it had in the days of its imperial ruler. They have keen strife; there are clericals and anti-clericals, monarchists and republicans, conservatives and socialists; but this is only to say that Elba is a microcosm of Italy. It has never had any great landed proprietor; the holdings are small and the people are, in a rustic way, extremely well to do. Elba is, indeed, a good example of the proud independence which the ownership of land brings to a peasantry. Some of Napoleon's hopes have not been realized. The olive and the mulberry do not flourish in Elba as he hoped they would; Marciana and Rio still lack the harbours which he planned; and Elba is not yet the home for sculpture which he thought its excellent marble might help to make it. But, even if Napoleon is only a vague saint in the Elban calendar, his achievements are real enough.