



PALAZZO LABBIA.

lowed the movement. The Venetians had long ago borrowed and adapted their architecture from the East. The manufacture of glass came to them from the Arabs, whose rich fabrics they also imitated. Wealth abounded—it was the dawn of great days for the Italian spirit throughout the whole Peninsula—and the sacred fire ran through all the veins of that great intellectual body.

It is no partial verdict to repeat, that never did any country so small in area fill so important a place in the world, and never did greater wisdom preside over the destinies of any people. No doubt, in this great historic total, all is not alike praiseworthy. The ambition of the people, over-excited by im-

mense successes, led them to assume a right of lordship over many populations who only submitted to this suzerainty because they knew that the alternative was inevitable annexation. They courted the alliance of the great, and often oppressed the feeble; but never elsewhere did patriotism rise to so great a height as often as the fatherland was in danger. Ten times over in the course of its history the Republic was within an inch of ruin; and ten times did the Council, the Senate, the College, with the Doge at its head (ever at one with the people in its supreme resolves), stake their all with unequalled courage, and come out triumphant.

No, the Republic could not escape