

Boccaccio, Petrarca, Giotto, Arnolfo di Cambio, Filippo Brunellesco, Nicola Pisano, Donatello, Botticelli, and hundreds of other poets, painters and architects made Italy famous, while Italian commerce became very important not only in the Mediterranean but also throughout the world, culminating at the close of the period in the discovery of America by the Italian, Columbus.

THE MODERN ACHIEVEMENT.

In 1492 Italy unfortunately was divided into eight states. This condition notwithstanding the changes that continually occurred lasted until half a century ago. Barbarians continued to overrun the country while other states, as France and Spain, made it a custom to settle their quarrels in the large and level valley of the river Po in the northern part of the peninsula.

We Italians, while politically unimportant, did not die. We kept ourselves alive by art and literature, and the names of Andrea del Sarto, Tiziano Vecellio, Tintoretto, Paolo Veronese, Coreggio, Benvenuto Cellini, Leonardo da Vinci, Raffaello Sanzio, Michelangelo, Ariosto, Machiavelli, Tasso, Vittoria Colonna, Guido Reni, Salvatore Rosa, Galileo, and others of more recent times were our consolation during our time of slavery until the middle of last century, when our national resurrection