

the true state of things in Rome, that system of falsehood and misrepresentation which has been too generally adopted with reference to all matters connected with the government and institutions of the Papal States: which system of falsehood and misrepresentation is not owing to the circumstance of the nation and government being *Italian*, but of both being *Catholic*, and of the latter being that of the Head of the Catholic Church.

At a considerable sacrifice of time, and no small interference with pressing public duty, I resolved, not on reprinting my letters, but upon using them as the groundwork of a volume in which the subjects to which they referred, but briefly treated, might be dealt with more fully and more deliberately; ample materials for their development being at my disposal, the result of what I myself saw, or what I could gather from public documents of undoubted authority. Scarcely, however, had I commenced my task, when I felt convinced of the necessity of giving a brief but a sufficient sketch of the career of the reigning Pope, principally with a view of recalling to the recollection of the reader the remarkable events of the early years of his pontificate, and exhibiting the causes that of necessity arrested the progress of those great political reforms of which he was the author, but which evil men sought