

had done before with Genoa; she had stirred up the democrats in the country, fomented disturbances, moved heaven and earth till she had picked a quarrel; then made peace, and, as its first condition imposed the usual tax of twenty pictures and five hundred manuscripts; then violently broke into the *Monti di Piètà*, or state loan offices, at Verona and Vicenza, taking from that of Verona alone more than fifty millions in plate and jewellery, and much property belonging to the poor, and sacked the devoted city for eight days, during which private and public galleries, libraries, museums, and churches were at the ravager's discretion. In the mean while Napoleon was meditating Campo Formio and the cession of Venice to Austria. Before the city was given up instructions came from Bonaparte in a few words to "take whatever would be useful for France; all that was in Venetian ports and arsenals for Toulon; all that was in churches or palaces for Paris." Many churches in Venice and in Verona still bear the marks of French rapacity. The Doge's palace, itself a museum of all that was beautiful and precious in works of Greek, Roman, or Italian genius, was stripped to the bare walls; all the best Titians and Tintorets, the works of Paul Veronese, Bellini, Mantegna, and Pordenone, had to cross the mountains. The magnificent private collection of the Bevilacqua family was taken away bodily. The same fate had the Muselli and Verità museums in that city. Gems of inestimable value were lost, among others the famous cameo of the *Ægean Jupiter*. Greek and Roman medals disappeared; with them the splendid collection of the Aldine editions; more than 200 Greek, Latin, and Arabic manuscripts, on parchment, paper, and silk paper, among them two very precious Arabic MSS., on silk paper, given as a present to the Republic by Cardinal Bessarion in the fifteenth century. As far as the French went, the plunder extended. The convent libraries of Treviso, Padua, Verona, and San Daniele of Friuli were ransacked; from the last-named they took eight manuscripts anterior to the thirteenth century. The bronze horses at Lysippus, and the lions from the Piræus, were among the spoils. 200,000 sequins, the property of the fugi-

tive Duke of Modena, were taken from the Austrian Legation, a power with which France was then treating for peace. Whatever could not, in the hurry and confusion of departure, be removed, was sold on the spot for anything it would fetch; first under pretext of subsidizing the Venetian Republicans, partisans of France, who had to take refuge in Lombardy; and when these indignantly refused to accept alms out of the ruin of their country, without any further pretext. What could neither be carried away nor find purchasers was barbarously broken up or mutilated. There is something inexplicable and incredible, in the wanton ferocity in which the French dealt with Venice, a country which had never wronged them, but which they had deeply wronged, which they had betrayed, murdered, and slandered after the murder. Serrurier burnt the Bucentaurin San Giorgio, regardless of the fine old carvings which made it really valuable, to get at the paltry gold of its ornaments. Such was the farewell of the "Grande Nation" to Venice!

It would be an impracticable and hardly a profitable task to enumerate all the deeds of spoliation perpetrated by the armies of the French Directory as they extended their occupation of Italy from town to town. From 1796 to 1798 the soldier had the country at his own discretion. Bonaparte made, as we have said, some attempts at first to check the rapacity of his troops. He went the length of inflicting punishment in cases of the most flagrant outrage. But he was not without sympathy for them. Italy was to them the land of promise; it was natural that they should wish to enjoy its fruits; and if he was under necessity to interfere with their depredations, it was only because he looked upon the fine country as a cow to be milked methodically, and by wholesale. But for the rest, French commanders and officers of all ranks gave the first example of insatiable greed; and the few who had conscience and honour enough to deplore the excesses of which they were witnesses, and either threw themselves between the plunderers and the plundered people or sent remonstrances to the home authorities at Paris, to mitigate the miseries of the con-