

its people. Barbarians came in great numbers from western and northern Europe, and did exactly what the Germans have done recently in Belgium. Alarico, the Visigoth king, invaded the country in 410 A.D. and devastated Rome. The Huns came twice, in 421 and again in 452. Finally in 476 Odoacre, king of the Eruli, made prisoner at Ravenna Romolo Augustolo, the last Roman Emperor.

A flood of barbarians now passed over Italy, Ostrogoths, Longobards, Franks and Saxons, until the time when the Comuni, *i.e.*, self-governed cities, originated.

A GLORIOUS TIME.

Owing to the free government of the Comuni civilization and commerce flourished at this time. Art and literature also reached a high elevation. But Emperor Frederigo Barbarossa of the Suevian dynasty wanted to bring Italy again under German domination. In 1160 he besieged Crema and in spite of the courage of the defenders of the city was compelled to surrender. Barbarossa conquered most of northern Italy but finally the cities of Lombardy formed the Lega Lombarda (Lombard League) and in 1176 defeated the Emperor.

The period of the Rinascimento (Renaissance) followed in the 14th century. The list of glorious names is endless. Dante,