

us, and from which we feel at liberty to draw without further acknowledgment the materials for a condensed outline of the career of one of the most remarkable men of this century,—“whose long life was crowded with events of national importance, bearing on the intellectual, political, and especially the religious reformation which has been slowly but surely developing in Italian thought and institutions.”

His maternal grandfather was President of the Supreme Court of Appeal, and won so high a character as to be called “The Just Man.” His father was Professor of Law in the famous university of Bologna, the capital of a beautiful district in Northern Italy at the foot of the Apennines. Here Gavazzi was born in 1809. Brought up in a pious family, he early showed a religious turn of mind. At fifteen he became a monk of the Barnabite order and soon rose to distinction. “Possessed of a splendid physique, a brilliant mind, and a rich and resonant voice, he was not only appointed at the age of twenty Professor of Rhetoric in the College of Naples, but, shortly after, was ordained priest, and started as one of those popular preaching friars whom the Church of Rome shows its wisdom in sending forth to hold the masses in thrall. Whenever he preached the churches were filled to excess. The genius of the orator and the loving heart of the man were equally appreciated. Sympathy was awakened by his daring appeals for reform in the Church, and a return to the simplicity of the Gospel; as a consequence, persecution arose, which dogged his steps through life.” The Jesuits, terror-stricken by his outspoken denunciations, had him removed from Naples. He retired to Leghorn, where he was appointed Professor of *belles lettres*. It was here that doubts first arose in his mind respecting popish doctrines. “Alessandro,” said his venerable confessor, “you will one day become a great heretic. These doubts you must look upon as temptations of the devil, and spit in their face every time they return.”—An injunction which Gavazzi used to say he often obeyed. But they could not be suppressed. His lot was next cast in Piedmont where he spent eight years, preaching before the court and the people in Turin, Genoa and other cities, with extraordinary power. Again “the watchful eye

of the Jesuits was upon his movements, and the king's confessor was induced to influence the mind of Carlo Alberto against the intrepid Barnabite. He was thrust forth from the kingdom at the very time when he was preaching a course of sermons and raising money to found hospitals and asylums in Turin.” He was removed to Parma, where he remained four years, often preaching ten times a day. In 1844 a visit to his native city involved him in fresh trouble. The Austrians had invaded the adjoining Marches, and “the Patriotic feelings of his fellow-citizens were on fire. Catching the flame, he poured out his eloquent soul on the fallen condition of Italy, and was suspended from preaching by the Pope.” The Parmese Government appointed him Chaplain-General of prisons. Gavazzi next appears as a preacher at Perugia, where his popularity reached an unparalled height, but he again fell under the ban of papal prohibition. He was shut up in a convent for eighteen months. On the accession of Pius IX he was released and even admitted into favour with the Pope, and was by him appointed to preach an anniversary sermon of thanksgiving to God for the deliverance of the country. In doing this he inveighed so loudly against the religious teachers of the time that he was once more interdicted by the Pope.

Early in 1849 Gavazzi attended a patriotic meeting of students of the University in Rome in the Pantheon, and was called upon to speak. He electrified the audience. After this the people with one voice demanded his release, and the students went in a body and brought him from his place of confinement to the city. For two months he preached, “like one inspired,” to 60,000 people in the Coliseum. Preacher and hearers vowed to do or die for their country. Volunteers were enrolled by thousands. Gavazzi was appointed Chaplain-General and marched off at the head of an undisciplined army to fight the enemies of his country. He took part in several engagements and was conspicuous for his coolness and bravery in the field, but the Roman legion after a gallant struggle was obliged to capitulate. Following those commotions was the flight of the Pope from Rome, the proclamation of the Republic by Garibaldi, and then the occupation of Rome by 50,000