

have reached the promised land, and they are naturally anxious to enjoy it. This fine country, guaranteed from pillage, will afford us considerable advantages. The single province of Mondovi (a mountain district) will have to pay one million."

Money and money's worth as much as the country could yield; but that was not enough. It is difficult to know into whose head the notion of wounding Italy to the heart by taking her great handiworks from her first sprang up. But at an early epoch in 1796 the Directory sent the following instructions: "If the Pope makes us advances, the first thing required will be his prayers." Then "some of Rome's beautiful monuments, her statues, her pictures, her medals, her libraries, her silver Madonnas, and even her bells—all this to indemnify us for the costs of the visit we shall have paid her." On May 1st, Bonaparte asks for a list of the pictures, statues, and antiquities to be found at Milan, Parma, Piacenza, Bologna, etc. On the 6th he begs that three or four celebrated artists may be sent to him to choose what is suitable to "take" and send to Paris. The Directory, less nice in their choice, advise that "nothing should be left in Italy that our political situation allows us to carry off, and which may be useful to us." A wide field of operation was thus left to the Republican general, who did not fail to avail himself of it. Parma had to pay two millions in gold, and besides horses, cattle, and provisions without end, twenty pictures at the French commissioner's choice, among which San Girolamo, the master-piece of Correggio, which the poor Duke offered to ransom at one million. Milan, so loud in her greetings to her deliverers, had to pay twenty millions, besides pictures, statues, manuscripts, and also machines, mathematical instruments, maps, etc.—the "etc.," of course, left to the commissioner's interpretation. Monge and Berthollet were employed at Pavia "enriching our botanical garden and museum of natural history, and were thence to proceed to Bologna on the same errand." Bonaparte requisitioned all the best horses of the wealthy Milanese, and sent one hundred of them to the Directory "to replace," as he wrote, "the indifferent ones you now drive in your carriages."

By the truce of Bologna, and the peace of Tolentino, the Pope had also to deliver thirty millions in gold and diamonds, 400 horses, as many mules, oxen, and buffaloes, and above all things, one hundred pictures, busts, vases, statues, etc., always at the plunderer's choice, but with an especial stipulation for a bronze bust of Junius Brutus, and a marble one of Marcus Brutus, the two saints to which the French Republicanism of those times paid especial worship.

Rome, however, could not hope to buy herself off at so low a cost. One year later, the French broke into the city; they spirited away the Pope; overran the Vatican; took all the furniture, busts, statues, cameos, marbles, columns, and even locks, bars, and the very nails. The Quirinal and Castel Gandolfo shared the same fate, and with these the Capitol, and many private palaces and villas—those of Albani, Doria, Chigi, the Braschi palace, and that of the Cardinal of York, were either partially rifled or thoroughly gutted. The Sistine and other chapels were plundered, and a vast amount of church plate, most of it of old and choice workmanship, taken. They took a Monstrance from St. Agnese, which was private property of the Doria family, worth 80,000 Roman crowns. They burnt the priests' vestments to get at the gold of their embroidery. The sacking went on throughout Rome and the provinces. The French soldiers were always in arrear of their pay if paid at all; and the example of their officers taught them to help themselves to whatever came to hand. Along with the armies their came swarms of camp-followers, sutlers, brokers, hucksters, and other "professionals," always ready to rid the troops of their heaviest impediments, and in their hands all went to pot; genius was rated at its mere worth or weight in gold and silver, and thus much that was taken from Italy never reached France. All this havoc, however, was not sufficient to satisfy the greed of the Directory; tremendous taxes were laid on the rich: Prince Chigi had to pay 200,000 crowns; Volpato, a print-seller, 12,000.

But even more melancholy was the fate of the Venetian provinces. The Republic had never been at war with France, but France had broken her neutrality as she