

Upon the capitulation of the city more than 15,000 strangers entered in the wake of the invading army. They were, for the most part, the scum and scourings of the Italian cities, and had assembled and were held together by the common hope of plunder. During the days that followed, every gate let in thousands of the same ilk, and Rome became the "happy hunting ground" of all the loafers and rowdies who, till then, had been knocking about the streets of the Italian towns. These joined their forces with the already too large lawless element to be found in Rome, and the unseemly mob paraded the streets, carousing and drinking, insulting respectable citizens, assaulting clerics and finally killing three unfortunate Papal soldiers who chanced to cross their path. These were the electors who, on October 2nd, 1870, voted "early and often" for annexation, and to such a state had things arrived that for several days and nights previous to the Plebiscite, Rome had to be patrolled by large bodies of troops to prevent disorder and bloodshed amongst this motley crowd.

Rome, having been selected as capital of a great kingdom, very many changes had to be made. Departmental offices were wanting for the officials of the new government, and accommodation had to be provided for the 50,000 soldiers who were brought into Rome to replace the handful of troops of Papal times. Then national pride demanded that Rome should be a city equalling Paris in beauty and London in industry.

In order to provide lodgings for their minions the new masters of Rome adopted the same means as had been employed in 1866 to relieve the financial stress under which they then labored. It has been asserted that Victor Emmanuel drove more monks and nuns from their convents, than he ever drove Austrians from his kingdom. The same remark may be applied with equal truth to the policy of his Roman Government in providing houses for their civil and military dependents. Religious of both sexes were expelled wholesale from their hard earned homes to make room for the newcomers.

In the first place a royal palace had to be secured for the crowned robber. No place but the very residence of the Pope

on the Quirinal was considered as befitting the dignity of the King of Piedmont. "The most devoted and obedient son of Pius IX" scrupled not to break in the door of the Papal palace in order to find there a dwelling for himself and suite. The wonder is that he did not enter the Vatican and install himself as Pope-King.

In front of the Quirinal Palace was a chapel attached to a convent, as well as the Jesuit novitiate where St. John Berchmans and St. Stanislaus Kostka spent their first days in the religious life. But it would never do to have a nunnery and a novitiate facing the windows of "il re galantuomo." The contrast might perhaps cause qualms of conscience; so nuns and novices were ordered to quit, and their houses were replaced by a public garden and a wide street. The general house of the Oratorians which was in their possession since the days of their founder three centuries ago was first turned into a military barracks and is now the seat of a high Court of Justice. And thus "law" is administered in a building whose very walls cry out to the judges that stolen property should be returned, unless the natural precept of justice is to become a mockery and a myth.

A few companies of Bersaglieri formerly occupied the general house of the Jesuits, but now the Ministry of the Interior transacts therein the internal affairs of the unified kingdom. The Dominicans also have lost their general house which has been transformed into quarters for the Department of Public Instruction. A beautiful Dominican convent situated on the Aventine hill and dating from the twelfth century was brutally confiscated despite its sacred memories as the residence of St. Dominic, St. Thomas of Aquin, St. Hyacinthe and St. Pius V. who had passed there a portion of their holy lives. The general house of the Franciscans serves as a barracks for a kind of local police until such time as it is thought fit to destroy it to form a square in front of the monument of Victor Emmanuel now in process of erection. A part of the general house of the Conventuals is now used as the seat of the War Department. Close by the celebrated church of St. Peter in Chains stands the general