

idea was to ally Italy and France, the former being under the protection of France and the Pope, and the greater part of Europe was favourably disposed towards him in this position. As for Austria, she was almost isolated, except for the advice which England could see proper to give her. In January, 1858, Orsini endeavoured to kill Napoleon; but this deed, instead of alienating him, made him give more attention to the cause of Italy. A short time after, Napoleon and Cavour met at Plombieres, where they decided upon two affairs; first, to unite Italy under the House of Savoy, and, secondly, for this, Nice and Savoy were to be ceded to France.

As soon as Cavour returned from Plombieres, he began to make every preparation for war that was essential. He prepared uprisings, he extended the National Society, and he reconciled himself and his policy to all parties. To the English ambassador, Odo Russell, he said, "We will force Austria to begin hostilities, and that, too, in April or May, 1859." On January the first, 1859, Napoleon gave the news of the coming war to the world, when he remarked to the Austrian ambassador, "I regret that our relations are no longer as good as in the past, but I beg you to assure the Emperor that my personal esteem for him remains unaltered." From that moment to the war itself, everything was done by Cavour to force Austria to declare war. England now stepped in, in her endeavour to have the trouble stopped. She especially warned Austria not to give Sardinia any pretext for war.

However, throughout Europe there were many who were opposed to the war; especially those in the Piedmontese parliament and the manufacturers of France. This led to a general meeting of the Powers in March, 1859. Should Austria refuse to attend this meeting, the Powers would be against her; should she accept, Russia, Prussia and France were opposed to her. Finally, Austria agreed to be represented if Sardinia disarmed. But only war would suit Cavour, who after an interview with Napoleon declared that Sardinia would not disarm. England baffled in her first attempt to mediate, tried again. On the suggestion of Count Buol, England asked for a general disarmament and said that she would admit Italy upon equal terms to the congress, whereupon Napoleon ordered Piedmont to disarm. Were Cavour's efforts to come to naught? Cavour accepted the terms offered. But on the same day Austria sent an ultimatum, demanding Piedmont to disarm or there would be war in three days. Austria's demands were rejected, and Napoleon was applied to for his promised assistance. Napoleon's plea was that he desired to free the peninsula of the foreigner.

In the war which followed, had Austria with her 200,000 sol-