

acquired a strong love of constitutional freedom, a thorough knowledge of parliamentary government, and the friendship of men of political note and influence, which proved of the greatest service to his country in the future.

In 1847, Cavour and several of his political associates, founded the *Risorgimento*, a journal devoted to advancement and reform, and strongly advocating Italian union and independence. As a powerful and original thinker, he had already attracted notice by some of his contributions to the leading French reviews. Two of his articles especially, one on "Communism," and another on the "State of Ireland," by their originality and power, had challenged considerable attention. In his own organ he went on steadfastly and gradually advocating such reforms as he deemed necessary and wise, never allowing himself to be carried away by the exaggerated theories and fanciful schemes of enthusiastic and visionary revolutionists, and at the same time boldly combating all abuses, no matter how venerable from age or well-established by custom. In 1848, speaking of the French Revolution, he thus prophesied the result of what he considered the irrational course pursued by its promoters, giving a marked instance of the extraordinary keenness of sight with which he could peer into the future, following, with unerring accuracy the future results of actions of which the instigators themselves were at the time ignorant: "This iniquitous and ignorant faction finds itself confronted by science, affection, the individual, the family—every fundamental law of human society. . . . What does it signify? It has implicit faith in revolutionary measures, is certain of victory, and enacts the 24th of June. French blood flows in torrents. France, upon the brink of an abyss, arouses herself and hastens to suppress the foolhardy attempt. What has been the result? We were looking for a

democratic and social republic; we were in possession of the germs of many ideas, which, if developed by peaceful and ordinary means, would probably have resulted in some new advance in political science; and, instead, we have Paris under martial law, in Piedmont a dubious and dilatory intervention, at Naples a shameful intimacy between the French envoy and the Bourbon tyrant. . . . Let us wait a while longer, and we shall see the final result of revolutionary measures—Louis Napoleon upon the throne." So accurate was already the estimate which Cavour had formed of the character and designs of the future emperor of France. It is well-known that Napoleon always dreaded, to a certain extent, the subtlety and ability of the Italian Minister, and it is more than probable that, had Cavour not died when he did, the Emperor would not have vouchsafed that frank and outspoken recognition of the Italian Kingdom which he gave so promptly after that statesman's death. The Emperor is said to have declared repeatedly that the only antagonist whose subtlety equalled his own was Cavour. "There are but three men in Europe," said he one day at Plombières, when talking to Count Cavour, "and two of them are now in this room."

On the first of May, 1848, the first sub-Alpine parliament was convoked, and Cavour took his seat as a member. Those who had expected to see him lead the advanced wing of the Radicals were doomed to disappointment,—his sympathies leaned more towards the Right Centre. But if, on the one hand, he could not be induced to lend his powerful assistance to the democrats of ultra stamp, neither would he help the conservatives in their efforts at retrogression and reaction. The consequence was that, holding a medium course between both parties, he was distrusted by the extreme partisans of each, and became the favorite target of all their invectives and sarcasms