

active and investigating, that he remained in the country for several years. During this period he pushed his researches in all directions. He was a constant and eager visitor at the debates in Parliament, a close observer of the more sparkling currents of English social life, with whose leaders his fine presence and genius immediately made him a great favorite, yet unaltered by the blandishments of gay society, an equally diligent student of those manufactures and that commerce which are the true substratum of England's greatness.

In the agriculture of England he took the deepest interest, and many of the hints which he derived from British farmers were treasured up to bear seed hereafter in the improvement of Italian husbandry, through the Agricultural Association which he founded in Sardinia on his return. Already in his youth, among foreigners, he began to be regarded as an *en cyclopaedic* man—one who cultivated himself in all possible and valuable directions—one destined to become in all of them an authority for reference.

In 1842 Cavour returned to Turin. He was now in his opening prime—thirty-two years of age—gifted with the strongest natural powers of perception judgment and execution, developed to their utmost by his English training, and enriched by the stores of fact and conclusion brought back with him from the land of his sojourn. He possessed, moreover, one element of success, without which these mental riches, as we sadly see every day in other men of genius, would have been of little use to him. He was *healthy*. Up to the period of his last illness he had hardly known a day's indisposition. His frugality was almost as famous as that of Garibaldi, and his capacity for sleepless work, worthy to be compared with that of Napoleon the First or Palmerston. His habitual quantum of sleep was but four hours a day. We may understand the strength of his constitution when we learn that, after six successive bleedings for the removal of the congestion which finally proved fatal, he had so little idea of his peril as to call his ministerial colleagues to his bed and held with them a conference of several hours upon the matters of the realm.

With such a constitution Cavour, in 1842, commenced the great Italian work which ceased its activities eleven days ago—which shall never cease in its fruits. His ruling grand idea was the acclimation of free institutions on the English model in an Italian atmosphere.

Almost immediately he founded the agricultural society of which we have spoken. Its membership soon rose to two thousand. Not only did this society afford a nucleus for the researches of all minds interested in the speciality after which it was named, but a home and a debating school for the Italian friends of liberal government, and otherwise without a rallying point.

With the crisis of 1847 both absolutism and government of all kinds were threatened with destruction. Cavour, a foe alike to anarchy and despotism, in conjunction with other prominent Italian liberals, now established *Il Risorgimento* (the Resurrection), a journal exponent of those principles to which he and his party have also been pledged. As the storm grew thicker he became the mouthpiece of all the moderate liberals, and was the first to proclaim Sardinia's great want—a constitution. Cavour himself wrote to the King, strongly urging the necessity of that measure, and within a week afterwards, Carlo Alberto, as we know, granted it.

Cavour entered the Sardinian Chamber of Deputies in 1849, and seated himself among the moderate opposition. Soon after, the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce was conferred upon him, to which, in 1851, was added that of Finance. In 1852 he became President of the Council, and with the exception of a short retirement in 1855, has filled that place ever since. He added much to his reputation by opposing the ultramontanists, and taking sides against Russia in the Crimean war. He signed the manifesto of Sardinia during this latter period, and was one of her two representatives at the Peace Congress of Paris in 1856.

From that time his ministry has uniformly supported France, and set itself against the policy of Austria. His strong support to Napoleonic ideas, hardly less than the unequivocal indications of selfish interest, have procured and continued the powerful aid of the French arms in the struggle of united Italy; while his policy of caution in the matter of Rome and Venice may have been the reflex of the Napoleonic mind, no less than his strong natural proclivity to the use of diplomatic means.

Cavour's part in the last Italian struggle is too fresh in every mind to need re-writing. His record is especially memorable in a single point—he did not hesitate to dissent from that *ex parte* settlement of a great question involved in the peace of Villafranca. Napoleon was the friend of Cavour, but Cavour indignantly resigned the day after the treaty was signed.

He dies at a strange time. Italy needed him more than ever before—unless, perhaps, it be within the plans of Providence that the vast result expressed in Italian unity are to be attained by the *red sword of the soldier, rather than by the subtle pen of the*

diplomatist. If this be so he died opportunely. But be this as it may, his country mourns the noblest statesman she has known since the Di Medici.

VIII. Papers on Natural History.



1. SHOOTING SINGING-BIRDS.

Perhaps the most wanton and disgraceful thing about Montreal, is the shooting of singing birds in the Mountain, which is practised almost daily, and especially on Sundays. These birds greatly enhance the beauty of our scenery by their lively, graceful motions and beautiful plumage; and it is delightful to listen to their singing. They are also exceedingly useful in picking up noxious insects and caterpillars. We should, therefore, as a community, consider it a very great privilege to have them; and if we do not protect and cherish them, at all events nothing should be done to drive away or destroy them. The people of Australia have gone to a very great expence to import singing-birds, which they have set free in various localities to multiply and render their woods and gardens vocal; and doubtless we would go to a similar expence if we did not enjoy this advantage gratis. In Australia one would no more think of shooting a singing-bird than a lamb or a colt; but in Canada much time and powder are bestowed on hunting down our warblers. This is a relic of barbarism which cannot too soon pass away; and we ask the priests to explain the matter to their people, who surely continue to shoot these birds through mere thoughtlessness and ignorance.

In the New England States, singing-birds are protected by law, which is particularly enforced at this breeding season; and thus it should be everywhere, for thoughtless or mischievous persons have no right wantonly to destroy what ministers so much to the pleasure and profit of society.

Were the birds of any use when shot, there might be some little excuse; but they are none whatever; and the act of shooting them is mere wanton destruction. Indeed we cannot help saying, that it is one of the greatest drawbacks to a residence in Lower Canada, that the quiet and holy hours of the Sabbath should be disturbed by this disgraceful amusement.—*Witness.*

2. LONGEVITY OF ANIMALS.

The average of cats is 15 years; a squirrel and hare, 7 or 8 years; rabbits, 7; a bear rarely exceeds 20 years; a dog lives 20 years; a wolf, 20; a fox, 14 to 16; lions are long-lived; the one known by the name of Pompey lived to the age of 70; elephants have been known, it is asserted, to live to the great age of 400 years. When Alexander the Great had conquered Porpus, King of India, he took a great elephant which had fought very valiantly for the king, and named him Ajax, dedicated him to the sun, and let him go with this inscription: "Alexander, the son of Jupiter, hath dedicated Ajax to the sun." The elephant was found with this inscription three hundred and fifty years after. Pigs have been known to live to the age of 30; the rhinoceros to 20; a horse has been known to live to the age of 62, but average 25 to 30; camels sometimes live to the age of 100; stags are very long-lived; sheep seldom exceed the age of 10; cows live about 15 years. Cuvier considers it probable that whales sometimes live 1,000 years; the dolphin and porpoise attain the age of 30; an eagle died at Vienna at the age of 104 years; ravens frequently reach the age of 100; swans have been known to live 300 years. Mr. Mallerton has the skeleton of a swan that attained the age of 200 years. Pelicans are long-lived; a tortoise has been known to live to 107.