# The Catholic Register.

*"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."*—BALMEZ.

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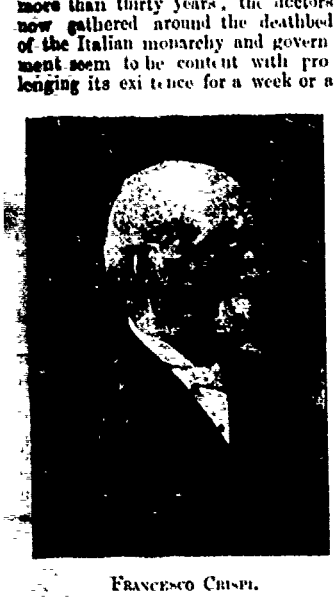
## IMPENDING REVOLUTION.

### The Break up of the Monarchy in Italy.

#### Crispi as Dictator

*(American Press Correspondence*

In the time of the Roman Emperors the most noted physicians of the day employed all their time and science to preserve an imperial majesty's life for more than thirty years, the doctors now gathered around the deathbed of the Italian monarchy and government seem to be content with prolonging its existence for a week or a



FRANCESCO CRISPI.

month at a time. Italy is on the eve of dissolution, utter dissolution; the long series of crises, financial, political and personal, have weakened her to such an extent that the next attack from whatever reputable or disreputable quarter it may come, must topple her over. Here are some of the "signs of the times":

The King has become so desperate as to place his private fortune with foreign bankers, preparatory to flight.

Crispi is scheming to secure the Presidency, if not the dictatorship of the republic for which he is working, having given up all hopes of saving Umberto.

Admiral Brin, until recently Queen Marguerite's faithful friend, has joined the army of rats that is leaving the sinking ship of state.

The Italian Parliament, once voted the most able and patriotic of the Continent, according to the latest developments is composed largely of bribetakers and blackmailers, while Italy's credit is on a par with that of Greece and Portugal.

And in this bewildering state of cowardice, scheming, unfaithfulness, crime and calamity, only one "reassuring factor" "The German Emperor," the official papers announce to-day, "will visit Italy in the Spring."

"Will he," say the Liberals. "Dare he come?" growl the Radicals, Socialists and Anarchists.

#### A REPUBLIC NEXT.

A few days before the latest attempt on his life I heard Signor Crispi say "I never go to the Chamber without a brace of revolvers.' That may be reassuring to Madame Lena, but the days for individual affrontery, or sacrifice for that matter, seem passed. Maybe the Savoy dynasty will continue for another month between sobs of the starving and the hoarse cry of the Extremists, but its speedy doom is as inevitable as was that of Louis the Saint's successors after centuries of systematized self aggrandizement and financial embarrassments.

"And when the cloak has fallen and after it the sovereign"—in this case Crispi and Umberto what then? A republic, of the Pope's blessing, or anarchy? The spirit is for the first, but the flesh is weak and in Italy ever ready to group itself round the meat pots of "one's betters." Archibald Forbes recently expressed the conviction that in case of a popular uprising in Rome, the Vatican was sure to be sacked first. Maybe he is right. The Pope's residence promises a far bigger haul than the Quirinal, but a nation can not live on freebooting forever. There will be a reign of terror, a short season of reckoning, perhaps a skirmish with Germany if she should endeavor to interfere in favor of the monarchy, or with Austria for the possession of Trieste, but the logical termination will be a republic and an alliance with France. And then the Church, always a sure winner, because it knows enough to abide the proper time, will loom up triumphantly in a way, first, perhaps, in a small way, placing one gloved hand on the popular pulse, but with the moral support of France, its grip will tighten until the Latin Union becomes a Roman confederation with the Holy See as arbiter.

#### RADICAL CHANGES DEMANDED.

One need not be a reactionary to agree with the only respectable and uncompromised party in Italy, the New Conservatives, who flaunt the Republican banner over a platform demanding abdication of the House of Savoy, abolition of the anti-Christian system of education, distribution of taxes upon rich and poor alike, greater freedom of municipal life, simplification of bureaucratic methods and a cessation of hostilities against the Church.

The present Government itself recognizes the urgent necessity of a change of front in some respects. It has come to the conclusion, for instance, that an army pivoting on the monarchical idea alone, without Christian belief to counterbalance its dogmas, is a dangerous plaything, that atheistic schools propagate anarchy, and that without centralization it will be impossible to continue the Government machine running for any length of time. But all these good intentions go to waste in the face of Parliamentary opposition.

#### THE KING'S PREPARATIONS FOR FLIGHT.

Nobody will deny Umberto personal courage and rare fighting qualities, inherited and acquired. His Majesty has deposited the $30,000,000 of available property he owns with the London Rothschilds, and this seems to indicate that in his estimation the very last resources of resistance are exhausted. That he has taken this precaution cannot be denied. The transfer was effected some months ago, and ever since the attitude of the populace towards their Majesties has become more sullen and outspokenly rude. Umberto looks haggard and wretched, and the Queen is but a shadow of herself. Poor, luxury loving Marguerite, she will regain the energies and joyful sentiments of her youth when the Alps separate her from the vicissitudes of kingship.

Was there ever a queen so fond of brilliant society, so particular as to old-time notions of royal prerogative, who had to content herself with a court such as is forced upon Marguerite? Irresponsible writers like to dwell upon "the democratic aspect of the Quirinal." It is indeed democratic, but not from choice of its guiding spirits. When the nobility of the realm hold aloof, mere civilians must be welcomed to their accustomed places. Napoleon I created dukes and marquises and counts and barons to surround himself with company befitting his rank. Umberto dare not follow this august example, even assuming the willingness of intended victims, for an Italian degree of nobility is equal to a public insult, so he is construed to treat as relatives a whole horde of commoners, sporting the Order of St. Annunziata (which confers upon the incumbent the title of "His Majesty's cousin"), while Mme. Lena, otherwise Mme. Crispi, Mme. Minghetti and Mme. Caroli, wives and widows of plebeian Ministers, respectively, constitute the Queen's guard of honor on official occasions.

#### A PRETTY PAIR.

A fine "maid of honor" this Mme. Lena! She seems to have taken it upon herself to bleed the Banca Romana independently of the other members of her family charged with the crime that will figure in history as the prime reason for Italy's dissolution. Her frantic declarations that ex Premier Giolitti's letters bearing her signature and evidences of her handwriting are forgeries strike one almost as funny. If a man goes about falsifying documents, there is a certain limit to his working power. Who could invent 120 different private epistles and write them in Mme. Crispi's hand? And what about her debts at milliners, drapers, watering places, etc.? They were paid by the managers of the Banca Romana, where the lady does not seem to have had an account.

The king finds it actually impossible to fill the post of Minister of the Royal House in the manner intended, that is, by the nomination of some Roman grandee. The office has gone a-begging for the last three months, ever since the dismissal of Ratazzi. Each candidate professes to be delighted with the prospects, but after a little while sends in his regrets. At the present time Prince Doria-Lamphily has the matter under consideration, but it is ten to one that he declines the honor. All these people believe in the imminent downfall of the Savoys, and the restoration of the Holy See. They refuse to implicate themselves.

#### CRISPI AND THE POPE.

Why Crispi's sudden submission to the dictates of the Church? The Vatican press organs and some of the Cardinals are protesting vigorously against this compromise, but Leo certainly knows his own business best. If the monarchy falls and Crispi assumes the dictatorship he would have to look to the Pope for support, for he stands isolated nowadays. The Vatican's power, on the other hand is now greater in Italy than it has been for the last twenty five years. The Pope could easily do or undo Crispi as a dictator.

When he seems to favor him, one must necessarily assume that Crispi has made decisive promises that may lead, in a measure, to the restoration of Papal temporary power during his lifetime. There is not an abler diplomat in Europe than the Pope, and not a more cunning, more desperate politican than Crispi.

As if all these incidents and occurrences were not enough to furnish food for reflection and darken the political horizon, our noble brigands make of late special efforts to give us a taste of "the state of the future," anticipated by many and dreaded by the majority of law abiding people.

Sardinia keeps up her reputation for superior brigantaggio against all newcomers, uninformed or uninformed. One of the local prefects wrote the other day to the Minister of the Interior

#### BRIGANDS EVEN IN PARLIAMENT.

"I am more than willing to run down the lawbreakers in my district, but can do nothing until their chief, member of Parliament, N. N., now in your city, has been apprehended. If you authorize me to do so, I will arrest him the next time he appears in this neighborhood at the head of his band."

It is generally understood that the mayors of the smaller towns and cities, the lower clergy, gendarmes and school teachers are in the pay of the brigand chiefs, but members of Parliament were thought to keep aloof from the national business up to now. The latest reports from Sardinia say that great Bozindaro, County Commissioner of San Mauro, has been caught. Botindaro is a regular comic opera Fra Diavolo, a dash, sporting silk knickerbockers and pumps, and the ladies pet. He is credited with twenty seven murders, and among them with the following especially atrocious crimes: burning of a supposed spy at the stake, torture of a small boy, the hostage for his father (Botindaro) ordered that the child's tongue should be cut out, then his feet and hands amputated successively, these were sent to his family to induce the people to disgorge more money, the shooting of a whole family of eleven, and the garroting of two priests.

And Italy has but recently abolished capital punishment.

And with blackmailers, thieves and brigands on its benches the Italian Parliament has the effrontery to issue a proclamation in which it says "The honor of the Deputies is unsoiled. We protest against being isolated. The Parliament is robbed of the privilege of constituting the hope of the Italian people."

## Conan Doyle's Religion.

*To the Editor of the Catholic Register*

SIR, After the resignation of Mr Harry Furniss from the staff of *Punch* last year the fact was noted in the press as the second instance of the kind in the history of the great comic weekly. The other was the resignation of Dicky Doyle, the father of I am not mistaken and not the uncle of Dr Doyle) who gave up his position on *Punch* on account of the intense bigotry of Mr. Punch's opposition to the re establishment of the Catholic hierarchy in England.

In the July 1891 number of the Pall Mall Magazine there is an illustrated article on Stonyhurst College, written by an old scholar of the institution. Among the old boys who have become famous the name of Dr Conan Doyle novelist is mentioned and a portrait accompanies the reference.

The authority of the Magazine is sufficient in regard to the novelist's earlier years.

W. V. L.

Lindsay, Ont Jan. 20 1895