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COUNT CAVOUR.

When the history of the nineteenth century will be written, after the present generation has passed away, and a more unprejudiced and truer view be taken of the vast changes and important events which each day are passing under our notice, than it is possible to expect as yet, there are few if any names which will stand higher in the bright list of patriots and statesmen than that of Camillo Benso, Conte di Cavour, and certainly none which will be dwelt upon with more affectionate remembrance and just pride by an Italian historian. It is not only that by the sole power of his genius and fervor of his patriotism he raised his native country from a small province of five millions to a great nation of twenty-seven, but that he also succeeded, unaided almost and often strongly opposed, to introduce into a land groaning under absolute despotism, overshadowed by ignorance and superstition, and writhing under the oppressive rod of foreign rule, free institutions, education and enlightenment, national liberty and independence. This task of herculean difficulty Count Cavour accomplished in the incredibly short space of ten years.

Cavour by birth belonged to one of the oldest noble families of Piedmont, and from his earliest youth was brought

up to the profession of arms. At the age of eighteen he completed his military training and entered the army with the rank of lieutenant of engineers. The restraints of his profession seem, however, to have proved irksome to his naturally restless disposition, and having given offence by some expressions considered at that time somewhat too liberal and advanced, he was, in 1831, at the age of twenty-two, allowed to resign. From the date of his resignation until 1847, Cavour seems to have devoted himself entirely to study and travel, with a view to preparing himself for his future political life, to which he had already commenced to look forward with much earnestness. Most of that time he spent in England, studying the British system of constitutional government, and mixing freely in the best society, to which his birth and position gave him ready access; and there he acquired that taste for English customs and manners which stuck to him through life, and with which he was afterwards often reproached, and which at one time tended materially to affect his popularity in his own country. If, however, from his stay in the British isles he brought back with him some peculiarities of dress and living which may have appeared strange and distasteful to his countrymen, he there