

amounting to about one million of dollars a year—and all this by what is called divine right. The subsequent history of this dukedom is full of the romance of iniquity.

Tuscany, about the size of the state of Massachusetts, and with a population of a million and a half, became a grand duchy, administered by a grand duke, ever sustained by some foreign power. A more beautiful realm, in all of Nature's gifts, is not gladdened by the sun. The grand duke could without great difficulty extort from it an annual revenue amounting to four million five hundred thousand dollars.

CHAPTER XXVII.

ITALY AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

FROM A. D. 1600 TO A. D. 1796.

THE DUCHY OF TUSCANY.—VENICE.—STATE OF ITALY IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.—THE DUCHIES OF PARMA AND MODENA.—RISE AND AGGRANDIZEMENT OF THE DUKE OF SAVOY.—STRUGGLES IN GENOA.—WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION.—REPOSE IN ITALY.—PEACE OF AIX LA CHAPELLE.—NAPLES UNDER SPANISH INFLUENCE.—THE PAPAL POWER.—ITALY AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE REVOLUTION.—SARDINIA, TUSCANY, MODENA, GENOA, LOMBARDY, VENICE.—WAR AGAINST FRANCE.—NAPOLEON IN ITALY.—HIS VICTORIES AND HIS POLICY.

THE emperor Charles V. placed Cosmo de Medici, in the ducal chair of Florence, and pope Pius V. granted him the title of grand duke of Tuscany. He was a cruel and perfidious tyrant.

Cosmo was succeeded by Francisco, a duke who governed through the instrumentality of the poisoned cup and the dagger, and who lapped blood with the greed of a bloodhound. He married Bianca Cabello, the daughter of a nobleman of Venice. She was the wife of a young Florentine. Francisco saw her, and, inflamed by her marvelous beauty, invited her and her husband to his palace, and assassinated her husband. His own wife died just at that time, probably by poison, and the grand duke married Bianca. His brother, the cardinal Ferdinando, displeased with the union, presented them each with a goblet of poisoned wine, and they sank into the grave together. Ferdinando, the cardinal, by this treachery and fratricide, became grand duke.

During the whole of the seventeenth century Italy remained essentially unchanged. Chastised into submission, impoverished, and unarmed, she forgot her former glory, and seemed

almost into the most debased condition. The several despotic governments, into which the peninsula was divided, became permanently established. The people became submissive slaves, and the rulers having but little occasion for violence, sank into effeminate debauched voluptuaries. Italian vitality had subsided into the repose of the tomb. All social ties were loosened, domestic life lost all its sacredness, adultery in high life became the rule, not the exception, and universal corruption seems to have reigned throughout the peninsula.

During the whole of this century, Naples, Sicily, Milan, and Sardinia were under the dominion of Spain, governed by viceroys, whose rapacity was boundless. From the kingdom of Naples alone, Spain extorted an annual revenue of fifteen millions of dollars. Ten millions of this were sent to Spain. Everything was taxed upon which a tax could be laid; and the young men were drawn into the Spanish armies to fight the battles of the emperor all over Europe.

The papal states remained essentially unchanged. Fourteen popes occupied, during the century, the chair of St. Peter; but no one of these attained any special prominence. The pontifical power was all the time slowly but surely decaying.

The little duchy of Parma had a succession of dukes, whose lives were shortened by their dissipation, and not one of whom merits any notice except for his crimes. During their short reigns they rioted in all the licentious indulgence which their limited incomes and their obscure courts could afford.

The duchy of Modena had been gradually formed with varying fortunes of enlargement and curtailment, until it consisted of an area of about two thousand square miles, with a population of about half a million. In size, population, revenue, and in the character of its rulers it was much like Parma.

Mantua and Tuscany were also duchies during this century, now in alliance with one power and again with another; but never independent. There was in their inglorious history

during this century nothing worthy of notice. Duke Ferdinand I., to attract the trade of the Mediterranean to the shores of Tuscany, selected the castle of Leghorn for a free port, greatly improved its harbor, and a town rapidly arose from this site, which eventually became one of the most prosperous maritime cities of Italy.

It so chanced that the duchy of Savoy inherited a succession of very able dukes, men bold, energetic, ambitious, and ever greedy for encroachments. Its dukes were thorough despots, and yet far more respectable despots than most of the other rulers of Italy. The duchies of Savoy and Piedmont had been united in one dukedom, containing an area of about ten thousand square miles, and a population of two millions. It was thus in population and extent of territory, a rival even of the grand duchy of Tuscany. As Savoy was much the smaller province, and was cut off from Piedmont by the Alps, the dukes of Savoy, to use the language of an Italian historian, regarded their transmontane domain much as a nobleman, moving in the splendor of a court, regards the ancient and neglected fief, from which he derives his title.

The duke Charles Emanuel, with energy, made a midnight attack upon Genoa, hoping to add that republic to his domain; but he failed. This duke, an intriguing politician and an unprincipled warrior, reigned fifty years. His son, Victor Amadeus I., who succeeded him, married a daughter of Henry IV. of France. He died leaving the succession to a son four years of age, under the regency of his duchess, the child's mother. This gave France great influence in Piedmont.

At nine years of age the young duke of Savoy nominally commenced his reign, with the title of Victor Amadeus II. He developed great strength of character, and resisting the arrogant demands of Louis XIV. of France, for six years, aided by Spain, repelled army after army of French invaders; and at length made peace without the loss of any of his territory. By this war Piedmont acquired much military renown.

Genoa was on the decline. Though nominally a republic, it was governed by seven hundred privileged nobility, who exclusively possessed the rights of citizenship. But there was a moneyed aristocracy excluded from these privileges, between whom and the nobility of birth, there were bitter feuds.

The merchant princes, led by one of the most opulent of their number, Vachero, and encouraged by promises of aid from the duke of Savoy, conspired for the entire extirpation of the oligarchy by sword and dagger, and the introduction of a more democratic republic. But the plot was discovered, and, notwithstanding the threats of the duke of Savoy, all who were implicated in it were sent to the scaffold.

On the first of November, 1699, Charles II., the wretched king of Spain, a semi-idiot, died on a bed of mental and bodily anguish. In his will, which had been extorted from him by all the terrors of superstition, he bequeathed his crown of Spain to a French prince, Philip of Anjou, a grandson of his sister, with the title of Philip V. By the rule of hereditary descent, the crown should have passed to an Austrian prince, the son of the emperor Leopold I. and his wife Margaret. The Austrian prince was consequently crowned in Vienna king of Spain, with the title of Charles III. And now commenced the renowned war, which put all the armies of Europe on the march, called the war of the Spanish succession, and which for fourteen years deluged the continent in blood.

Both of these newly-crowned kings were mere boys. Louis XIV. of France was the prime agent for the one; Leopold I. of Austria for the other. The Spanish court immediately sent orders to the viceroys and governors of Naples, Milan, Sicily, Sardinia, and the Tuscan governors, to acknowledge the authority of Philip V., and to prepare to defend his claims. At the same time Louis XIV. sent to Victor Amadeus II., duke of Savoy, to be ready to support the same cause. England and Holland allied themselves with

Austria. Nearly all the other monarchies of Europe were with France. Never before had Europe been plunged into such embroilment. Italy became the great battle-field, swept by the French and the Austrian allied armies, in the most desolating and sanguinary war.

In this long contest the Bourbon prince was nominally victor. All parties, exhausted, bleeding, impoverished, were glad to come to terms. By the peace of Utrecht, on the seventh of September, 1714, though Philip V. was recognized as king of Spain, all of his Italian possessions he was compelled to surrender to Austria. Victor Amadeus II., duke of Savoy and Piedmont, gained the island of Sicily, and, with this enlargement of his domain, was entitled to encircle his brow with a regal crown. The Neapolitan kingdom, the island of Sardinia, and the duchies of Milan, Mantua, and Tuscany, all passed under the scepter of Austria. Italy merely changed masters.

Four years after the peace of Utrecht, a new quarrel sprung up among the European monarchies, and as one of the results of the war, the duke of Savoy relinquished Sicily for the nearer island of Sardinia, and embracing his three realms of Savoy, Piedmont, and Sardinia into one kingdom, gave the name of the last acquisition to the whole, and assumed the title of king of Sardinia. The entire kingdom, as thus organized, contained a population of a little more than four millions, and was spread over an area of twenty-eight thousand square miles, being not quite half as large as the state of Virginia. It was the only portion of the Italian peninsula, if we except the papal states, which was even nominally independent. Its independence, however, could only be secured by allying itself with some one of the great monarchies—France, Spain, or Austria.

Italy, thus shackled, enjoyed a sort of sepulchral repose for thirteen years. But the other great powers of Europe, in incessant intrigues, were continually endeavoring to wrest

from each other these Italian provinces. In the process of these efforts Spain gained Parma and Tuscany; and then after a short war, took possession of both Naples and Sicily, while France and Sardinia united, wrested Milan and Lombardy from Austria. All Europe was embroiled in war in the struggle for these prizes. After deluging the continent in blood and misery until all parties were weary, the great powers met again in congress at Vienna, in 1738, to agree to terms of peace. The kingdom of Naples, including Sicily, was surrendered to Spain. France took Lombardy and Parma, with which duchy Placentia had been united. Austria retained only Milan and Mantua. But an Austrian prince, Francis, duke of Lorraine, who had married Maria Theresa, afterward the renowned empress of Austria, received the grand duchy of Tuscany in forcible exchange for his hereditary estates, which were grasped by the emperor Charles VI., the father of Maria Theresa.

In two years Charles VI. died, and again Europe sprang to arms; and again for seven years wretched, helpless Italy was grasped by the belligerents, as they attempted to tear her limb from limb. In 1748, having buried their dead and wiped their gory swords, the monarchs sat down together at Aix la Chapelle, to talk over terms of peace. After much deliberation they agreed that Austria should retain Milan and Mantua; but that Francis of Lorraine, who had now become emperor, should renounce Tuscany, and that it should be an independent state, under the government of a younger member of the imperial house. The kingdom of Naples was also declared to be independent, but to be placed under a king of the Spanish house of Bourbon. The united duchy of Parma and Placentia was also nominally independent, though it was surrendered to the dominion of a Spanish prince. It contained a population of five hundred thousand, an army of three thousand troops, and furnished a revenue of one million two hundred thousand dollars. Sardinia received very con-

siderable accessions from the duchy of Milan. The other states of Italy remained in their former condition. Thus Italy again enjoyed peace, but it was the peace of abject slavery. The peninsula was cut up into petty provinces, and over nearly all of them foreign rulers were stationed.

The peace of Aix la Chapelle settled the destiny of Italy for forty years. During all this time hardly anything occurred worthy of notice. Religion had sunk into a debasing superstition; popular education was frowned down. The only object of the rulers was, by every form of taxation, to wrest as much money as possible from their subjects; and consequently Italy made but little more progress than might have been expected in the same time from a plantation of American or Cuban slaves. Still peace brought a measure of prosperity, and in several of the states, where there chanced to be rulers of some little patriotism and enlightenment, there was considerable progress.

The Spanish prince, Charles VII., governed Naples for twenty-one years. Though not a man of much ability, he was well meaning, and Naples had not been so well governed for ages. Many noble public works still embellish the capital, which are the honorable trophies of his reign. By the death of his elder brother, Ferdinand IV., of Spain, in 1759, Charles VII. of Naples succeeded to the Spanish throne, which he ascended with the title of Charles III. His eldest son was almost an idiot. His second son, in consequence, would be the lawful successor of Charles to the crown. Therefore to the third son, who was then a boy of but nine years of age, the scepter of the kingdom of Naples was assigned. He took the title of Ferdinand IV. The king of Spain was regent during the minority of his son, and ever after continued to exert a controlling influence over the councils of the Neapolitan kingdom. Thus though Naples was nominally independent, it was virtually but a province of Spain.

Soon, however, another element of influence was intro-

duced which essentially modified this Spanish control. Ferdinand VII., when in his nineteenth year married the princess Caroline of Austria, daughter of the imperial Maria Theresa, and sister of Marie Antoinette, who subsequently married Louis XVI. of France. She was an ambitious woman, impassioned, and dictatorial, and she soon gained absolute control over the mind of her feeble husband. Such was the condition of Naples when the French Revolution dawned upon Europe. Nominally independent, it was so connected with Spain and Austria, that it was sure to cooperate with those two despotisms in the endeavor to arrest the progress of free institutions. The kingdom consisted of two somewhat distinct portions,—the continental, and the island of Sicily. The continental embraced an area of thirty-one thousand square miles, and a population of six millions. Sicily had nearly two millions of inhabitants spread over ten thousand square miles. The army of the kingdom amounted to forty thousand regular troops, and fifteen thousand militia. Its revenue amounted to twenty-two million dollars.

The papal states were never so well governed as during the eighteenth century. Several popes, in succession, were intrusted with the keys and the tiara, who, notwithstanding the inherent vices of the papal imposture, were men of great moral excellence, and high intellectual accomplishments. But their good intentions could not obviate the inevitable evils of a system whose strength consists in the ignorance of the populace, and in the abrogation of free inquiry, and of the rights of private judgment. The progress of mind in the other kingdoms of Europe, had so weakened both the temporal and the spiritual powers of the popes, that they could no longer domineer over princes and nations. In the wars which desolated Italy, the only safety of the popes was to remain as neutral as possible, while they threw themselves upon the protection of the strongest side. Still the papal states were repeatedly ravaged.

In 1775, Pius VI. ascended the papal throne. The population of the papal states was then about two million five hundred thousand. The army numbered five thousand men. All the territory of the pope united, consisting of states of various names and sizes, embracing an area of seventeen thousand square miles, being equal to a little more than one half of the state of Maine. The revenue of the pope amounted to about nine million of dollars.

"Italy," said Victor Amadeus II., "is like an artichoke. We must eat it leaf by leaf." The dukes of Savoy first ate Piedmont, then the island of Sardinia, and thus established the kingdom of Sardinia. But their appetite was not yet appeased. They then consumed the duchy of Montferrat, and several other important contiguous territories, to round out and consolidate their prosperous kingdom. By the peace of Utrecht, in 1733, Sardinia gained a large slice of the duchy of Milan. By the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, in 1748, the eastern frontier of Sardinia was extended to lake Maggiore, and to the river Ticino. Victor Amadeus II. was a very able man, and he devoted his reign of sixteen years energetically to the promotion of the prosperity of his people. At the same time he paid especial attention to the construction of fortresses, and to the discipline of his army. He thus, small as his kingdom was in territorial extent, attained a prominent position among the second class monarchies of Europe.

He was succeeded by his son Charles Emanuel III., who was equally illustrious as a general, a politician, and a king. His military power was such that, at a day's warning he could take the field with an army of forty thousand men, highly disciplined, and supplied with all the materials of scientific warfare. He could also promptly call into military array a militia of fifteen thousand men. Under his reign a very magnificent chain of fortresses was reared along the Alpine frontier, to protect him from encroachments on the side of France. Victor Amadeus III. succeeded Charles Emanuel III., and

it was during his reign that the storm of war, which the French revolution originated, burst upon Europe. The whole area of the kingdom of Sardinia, amounted to twenty-nine thousand square miles, being very nearly of the same size with the state of Maine. The united population of the three provinces of Savoy, Piedmont, and the island of Sardinia, was about four millions, producing a revenue to the monarchy of fourteen millions of dollars.

Tuscany, in past ages, had been cursed, almost beyond endurance, with miserable dukes, debauched, and tyrannical. Cosmo III. and Giovan Castone were thoroughly despicable men. Francis, duke of Lorraine, to whom the duchy was assigned by the peace of Vienna, had married Maria Theresa, heiress of the Austrian throne. He seldom visited Tuscany, assigning the administration to his agents. Upon his death in 1765, he bequeathed the grand duchy to his second son, Peter Leopold, a young man but eighteen years of age. Under his sway the little realm was prosperous and happy. He was a prince truly devoted to the welfare of his people, and history can speak of him with reverence and affection. In 1790, after a reign of twenty-seven years, he succeeded to the empire of Austria, and transferred Tuscany, in a highly flourishing condition, to his second son, Ferdinand Joseph. He also, though reigning with absolute power, proved an excellent prince, and Tuscany was happy. The snug, compact duchy contained a million of inhabitants, with a regular army of six thousand troops, and a revenue of one-and-a-half million of dollars. Its area was about equal to that of the state of Massachusetts.

The little duchy of Modena had been pillaged again and again during the wars of the Spanish and Austrian succession. With exceedingly varied fortunes Francisco III. reigned over Modena for forty-three years, until 1780, when he died, and his son, Ercole III., already an old man, succeeded him. His only daughter had married one of the Austrian archdukes, and he had married an elder sister of the unhappy Marie An-

toinette. Thus he was, by the strong ties of relationship, in sympathy with Austria, and prepared to coöperate with the emperor in his political measures. The duchy embraced about fifteen hundred square miles, containing four hundred thousand inhabitants. Nearly six thousand men were kept constantly under arms.

Genoa had not then been incorporated with Sardinia, but existed in nominal independence, calling itself a republic. The little realm was governed by an oligarchy of hereditary nobles, who, with vigilance never surpassed by duke or king, guarded against the extension of political power to the people. In fact, this world has, perhaps, never seen despotisms more absolute and unrelenting than were the *republics* of Genoa and Venice. The people were so crushed that they ventured not even to squirm beneath the heel which trampled them.

In the war of the Austrian succession, waged by France and Spain with other allied powers against Maria Theresa, Genoa joined the allies against Austria. In one of the campaigns the French and Spaniards were driven out of Italy. Genoa was captured by the Austrians, all her troops taken prisoners of war; all her military and warlike stores captured; and the doge and six of his fellows were compelled to go to Vienna, in a body, and implore the pardon of the queen. The exactions and outrages perpetrated by the Austrians in Genoa exceeded all bounds.

At length, goaded to utter desperation, the whole city, men, women, and children rose in revolt. Stones, furniture, clubs, weapons of every kind the hand could seize were brought into action. In twenty-four hours eight thousand Austrians were killed in the streets; and, with the loss of all their artillery and much of the material of war, the remnant was driven from the territory. The oligarchal republic embraced an area of about twenty-five hundred square miles being a little larger than the state of Delaware. Its inhabitants did not exceed six hundred thousand. This heroic deed,