

Italy.

The literary activity of Italy cannot be called anything else than a ferment. The present year has not been less fecund than 1886, and in 1886 more than eleven thousand works were issued from the Italian press. Even Sicily boasted of producing 652—more than a quarter as many as were published in Lombardy. It has been a great year for the professors. Apparently every professor in every Italian college has said to his soul: "My soul, let us sit down and write a book." They have accordingly rummaged dusty archives and brought to light forgotten chroniclers, and written erudite introductions to mediæval poets, and exercised all their ingenuity to discover some new or old thing for a text. Naturally the majority of ten thousand volumes are ephemeral, and it is no loss that the "Literary World" cannot even mention a tithe of the number. The Italians themselves do

not patronize their best workers as they ought. Has it not been said of Carlo Lozzi's monumental "Biblioteca storica della antica e nuova Italia" that such a work would have been received in Germany *con entusiasmo* by a whole *legione di dotti e di eruditi*, while in Italy it has met with scant success? And the critic is moved to exclaim mournfully, *tal è il destino dei migliori autori nostri*, such is the fate of our best authors! It is nevertheless interesting to note how in the case of Italy and Germany a reciprocity of literary interest has sprung up, or rather the *Tedesco* and the *Toscano*, who once flamed up on contact, now work together as peaceably as the traditional lion and lamb. The Alps have been bored in more senses than one by the subnevan tunnels.

A subject that has attracted Germans and Italians alike for many years is the populations of German origin on the Italian slope of the Alps. A recent work on that somewhat intricate subject is Professor Arturo Galanti's "I Tedeschi sul versante meridionale delle Alpi." The author examines the various hypotheses that have been advanced to account for these settlements, and he goes to some length to confute a Tyrolean historian who argued that a part of Lombardy and Piedmont was ever an ethnical portion of Germany. Carlo Combi has written an enthusiastic and even loving history of his native Istria, whose manners and customs he understands perhaps better than any Italian.

Pietro Feo has brought out a large volume of 500 pages giving the "Narrazione storica e militare" of Alessandro Farnese, duca di Parma, from documentary material found in abundance in Parma, Naples, and Simancas. It is a work highly praised for its style and treatment. Col. Carlo Buffa di Perrero has written a critical and original study of Carlo Emanuele III di Savoia and his famous defense of the Alps in the campaign of 1744. This campaign was one of the great triumphs of the Piedmont army, and Col. di Perrero succeeds in investing it with new interest.

Achille Dina has searched the archives of Milan and Florence for letters and other documents relating to Ludovico il Moro, the fourth son of the Florentine Duca Francesco. His brothers were born before Francesco became Duke, but Ludovico was *porfirigenito*. In 1464 when he was only thirteen, his father purposed making him captain in an armed expedition. Many of his letters are preserved, and the details that he gives of his visit to relatives in 1466 give a most entertaining picture of a princely boy and the manners of a provincial city four hundred years ago.

Fedele Savio also has made use of unedited documents in writing about the Marchese Guglielmo di Monferrato, who was one of the most influential men in Lombard politics at the time of the Emperor Frederic Barbarossa. Professor Gaetano Capasso has gathered into one volume three biographical essays on Antonio Jerocades of Calabria ("un Abbate Massone del Secolo XVIII"), on Vincenzo de Filippis ("un Ministro della Repubblica parthenopia"), and on Gregorio Ararcri ("un canonico letterato e patriota"). All three exhibit careful historical study.

Professor Vito Cusumano has made use of a mass of unedited documents in preparing a history of the private banks of Sicily. The work promises to be of great scope, and will be

very complete in its treatment. In the volume recently published the professor gives some interesting facts concerning the industries, commerce, and monetary circulation of Sicily, and he shows the financial operations of the private bankers in the XIV, XV, and XVI centuries. Isidoro del Lungo has published the third volume of his "Dino Compagni e la sua cronaca," a work which has received the highest praise for its understanding of Florentine history in the sixteenth century. It contains a thorough investigation into the authenticity of the codex of the much-disputed chronicle. The same author has been at work during the past year on the "Cronaca di Donato Velluti" (1300-1370).

The celebration of the eight hundredth anniversary of the University and Law School of Bologna will occur next year and the approaching event has called forth one or two notable works. Corrado Ricci has written of the origin of the "Studio bolognese" and Italian law in the middle ages. Carlo Malagola has searched State documents as a basis for his work on the rectors of the ancient Law School ("I Kettori nell' antico Studio e nella moderna Università di Bologna"). In the thirteenth century the two great parties, *ultramontana* or foreign, and *citramontana* or national, were balanced in the "Studio" and these formed what were called *Nazione*. They elected the rector. In 1262 the *Nazione* in the *ultramontana* party amounted to thirteen; sixty-seven years later they had increased to sixteen. The *citramontanes* were Rome, Tuscany, and Lombardy. This division lasted till 1612. In that year a change was made and the "Studio" was divided into two new parties—the *ultramontana* and the *ultramarina*. In the sixteenth century it was already becoming impossible to find any one willing to accept the annoyances and bear the responsibility of the rectorship, and in that century the University began to decline—a decline which only recently has been arrested. There is no doubt that the coming anniversary will tend to give éclat to an institution which dates back to such a hoary eld.

Prof. Iginio Gentile of Padua has published an important work on the Emperor Tiberius ("L'imperatore Tiberio secondo la moderna critica storica"). He gives a rigid examination of the testimony of the Emperor's contemporaries and of the writers who lived in the years succeeding, and then he weighs the evidence and elaborates on the difference between the Tiberius of tradition and the Tiberius of fact. Giuseppe Stocchi has published a history of the first war of the Romans in Mesopotamia ("La prima Guerra dei Romani nella Mesopotamia"). He follows the fortunes of Marcus Crassus till he fell by the hands of the Parthians. The author almost incontestably fixes the date of the Crassus expedition into Asia as having taken place between July 699 and June 700, corresponding to 54 B.C.

Prof. Bertolini has been working diligently on his "History of the Italian Renaissance," which is published with illustrations by Matania. Count Bettoni has written an account of the Italians in the Hungarian war of 1848-9. Doctor Cesare Bertolini has made a full and complete study of oaths in private Roman law ("Il Giuramento nel Diritto privato romano"), and the work is no less interesting as history than in its author's application to present day necessities. The same indefatigable and prolific young au-

thor has also contributed to the history of the constitution of ancient Rome in his "I 'celeres' ed il 'tribunus Celerum.'" Of curious and rather painful interest is Ettore Natale's "Il Ghetto di Roma," which contains the result of long and patient study, and is "a pitiful story of abuses, miseries, and persecutions." Doctor Antonio Longo has published the part of an elaborate study of "La Mancipatio," in which he goes back to the origins of ancient law. The work, however, has been severely criticized for its conclusions.

Prof. Giulio Salvatore del Vecchio has heaped up facts and observations from which to draw a moral in his treatise on the family as regards society and the social problem ("La famiglia rispetto alla Società Civile e al problema sociale").

Prof. Emilio Costa has collected under the title "Spigolature Storiche e Letterarie" seven of his magazine articles. Among them are included "Maura Lucenia Farnese," based on archive documents, and "Le Nozze del Duca Ranuccio I Farnese," with Margherita Aldorandini. The Duke's marriage took place in 1600. Prof. Antonio Zardo, under the title "Il Petrarca e i Carraresi," describes the relationship between the poet and Jacopo II and Francesco il Vecchio. He also describes the poet's sojourn at Padua.

Eugenio Checchi has written a biographical study of the composer Verdi under the title "Giuseppe Verdi: il Genio e le Opere." Professor Antonio Favaro has continued his labors on the life of Galileo. Pasquale d'Ercole, professor in Turin, has written a study of the works of the philosopher Pietro Ceretti, to which he has prefixed a biographical sketch. Ceretti is scarcely known outside of Italy, yet he is regarded as one of the most "robust and independent" thinkers of the day. He was born in 1823 and died in 1884. He was a disciple of Hegel. His great work is a Latin treatise of three volumes of 2,000 pages each, entitled "Pasealogicis specimen." The translation of this treatise on logic which some of his admirers have undertaken will be in eight octavo volumes. Andrea Armetes has brought out a study of Democracy and Finance ("La Democrazia e la Finanza: Intemperanze e Freni"). He considers that the continual increase of public debts in modern states is an abnormal and pathological symptom due principally to political causes, to the influence of democracy and the flow of parliamentarianism; he believes that the remedy is to be found in the reform of administrative institutions and in fresh constitutional ordinances.

Among the recent books of biography may be mentioned Pietro Desiderio Pasolini's "Memorie di Giuseppe Pasolini." Giuseppe was one of the great men of the Italian *risorgimento*, and a most interesting and striking contrast to his friend and collaborer D'Ayola, whose memoirs were published not long since. D'Ayola was the fighter, Pasolini the diplomat; D'Ayola was bold, impetuous, almost rash; Pasolini prudent, calm, and calculating; yet both are fairly to be regarded, as has been well said, heroes: *son due nobili figure di patrioti*.

In this connection it will be interesting to note that Chiola has just published the sixth volume of the Count Cavour's letters *edite ed inedite*. Giovanni Rizzi has edited and published the letters of Giulio Carcano to his family and friends ("Lettere di G. C. alla Famiglia ed agli Amici,

1827-1884"). Carcano was regarded as a most genial and delightful man, and this volume shows him at his best. Under the head of biography may be grouped two widely different books. One is Paolo Trombetta's "Donatello" illustrated with twenty-seven phototypes, treating of one of the great periods of Italian art; the other is the autobiography of the great actor, Ernesto Rossi ("Quarant' Anni di Vita Artistica"), which gives a picture of Italian drama during the past forty years. To these may be added for convenience G. P. Pasano's "Dizionario di Opere Anonime e Pseudonime," a continuation of, or rather supplement to, that of Milzi.

In philosophy we must mention Luigi Ferri's careful study of the Foundation of Realism ("Il Fenomeno Sensibile, e la Percezione Esteriore"). It gives a remarkable analysis of Plato and Aristotle. Professor Guiseppe Toniolo has made an interesting study of "Scolastica ed Umanismo" in the economical doctrines at the time of the Renaissance in Tuscany, describing with great fullness the two currents of thought, scolastic and theological on the one hand, humanitarian and rational on the other, which at that time were contending together. Mario Mancini and Ugo Galeotti have prepared a practical manual, on philosophical principles, of parliamentary usages ("Norme ed Usi del Parlamento Italiano"). The first part includes a description of the constitution of the two parliamentary chambers, the functions and prerogatives of Parliament; the second treats of the executive power, the crown, and the cabinet. The work was greatly needed and is highly praised. Generous praise has been given also to Professor Augusto Graziani's "Sulla Teoria Generale del Profitto" (On the General Theory of Profit). Carlo Cattaneo, the great political economist, has just published a volume containing portions of a history of Lombardy. Professor Francesco Torraca has issued the third and last volume of his "Manuale della Letteratura Italiana," containing the writers of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. It is curious, however, that the perhaps extant history of Italian literature is written in Hungarian and published at Budapest.

The "Divina Commedia" of Dante has of course received its share of attention during the year. Among the works published on this inexhaustible subject may be mentioned the late Baron Gaetano Balsano's posthumous treatise, "Sullo Scopo e sull' andamento della Divina Commedia." The author argues that Dante had in mind the political regeneration of Italy rather than any specific moral idea. Adolfo Bartoli has published the sixth volume of his great history of Italian literature, which covers the Divine Comedy and Dante. The barest facts must be given in regard to the publications in the domain of fiction and poetry during the year.

Orazio Grandi has published a series of scenes and dialogues under the title "La Presenza del Nume" (The Presence of the Deity), in which he gives simple, plain, but affecting touches of nature without attempting psychological analysis.

G. Gloria has issued four *novelle* under the title "Spicci d'Amore" (Displays of Love). One of them is a remarkable study of a poor lad epileptic by inheritance, who puts an end to his life, believing that he is incurable.

Signora Speratz, who writes under the pseudonym of Bruno Sperani, has published "Num-

eri e Sogni," in which she pleasingly contrasts the idealism of life with its reality. Anto Giulio Barrili has published "Il Merlo Bianco" (The White Blackbird). The hero of his story is the traditional sailor with a sweetheart in every port. He is about to be married, and the *bianco merlo* carries him away to strange and fascinating adventures. He has also written three other stories: "Il Dentino," "Occhio di Sole," and "Raggio di Luna." G. Verga is of the race of realists, and his remarkable "Vagabondiggio" must not be forgotten. Enrico Castelnuovo is making a great success with his "Filippo Bossini, Jr."

Michaela Lessona's "Sigaretta" is full of cleverness and wit. The "Piccola Biblioteca" continually adds new numbers. Its editors are Paolo Mantegazza (science), Ruggero Bonghi (history, politics, and sociology), and A. G. Barrili (fiction). Its selections, now numbering thirty or more, are universally good. One of the latest additions is Dora D'Istria's "Gli eroi della Rumenia" (The Heroes of Roumania).

In poetical literature we must mention Dr. Demetrio Ferrari's "History of the Italian Sonnet" ("Storia del Sonetto Italiano"), which contains an anthology beginning with Pier delle Vigne and ending with Antonio Foggazzaro. Geosué Carducci furnishes an introductory *al sonetto*. The same Carducci has published his "Nuove Rime," which have been received with extraordinary favor. Pasquale Papa, a young poet, has issued a volume of "Madrigali," which de Gubernatis, who furnishes a *proemio*, calls "Fiori di Prato e di Campi" (Flowers of Field and Meadow). Guiseppe Fracaroli, the translator of Pindar, has recently published a volume of "Odi" which are notable for their classic spirit. Among them are the odes on the sixth centennial of the Sicilian Vespers and the first anniversary of the death of Giuseppe Garibaldi. We must also mention the "Carmi" of Giovanni Franciosi, which it has been said ought to give the author "a separate and very honorable place on the contemporary Parnassus."