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PITTSBURGH:

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 16, 1861

France, Rome and Italy.

Our own affairs for several months past have been so absorbing, that the press and the public mind have both lost sight of the great political affairs of Europe. Since the downfall of Naples, however, nothing of stirring importance has transpired there, except the tedious siege of Gaeta, the result of which everybody foresaw from the first.

Victor Emmanuel is now the King of united, free, constitutional Italy. The parliament of that important and powerful kingdom, which seems as if just raised from the dead, is in session, and the work of peaceful progress is to all appearance fully inaugurated. But to what degree Italy is independent of France is a question which time and events only can solve. That the powerful hand of Napoleon was instrumental in this marvellous resurrection and reconstruction of a broken and apparently defunct nationality, none can doubt. But Italy is free, whatever may be said of her independence; and perhaps, indeed, it is better that she should lean for a time upon the strong arm of her imperial liberator and patron.

Still the greatest of all European questions remains unsolved: What shall be done with the Pope? It is not what will the Pope do? for he can do nothing; he is utterly powerless as a prince, and almost equally impotent as a pontiff. His ancient friend and ally, Austria, is driven from Italy, and now he is left to the care and disposal of Napoleon and Victor Emmanuel. No power in the world that cares to interfere in his behalf dare do so, so that he is left in a condition but little better than that of a state prisoner—his territory and revenue gone, and surrounded by people who despise him, and almost idolize the man against whom he launched his heaviest anathemas only a few months ago. Napoleon still guards him with a few troops; but even this miserable prop is about to be knocked away, and then we shall see what we shall see.

It has long been evident to the world that Pio Nono has no confidence in Louis Napoleon. The latter has, it is true, given good cause for such an opinion. His policy and that of the Church are utterly at variance; and he has often evinced unmistakably that he regarded the Papacy as a thing that lay in and obstructed the path of his ambition—a thing that must be got rid of in some way. To have struck down the temporalities of the Church with his own hand would have thrown Europe into convulsions. To leave the Pope to the tender mercies of the aroused Italians, would have defeated the great work of Italian regeneration. The only way, therefore, in which he could accomplish his object was to sap its life out by a slow and insidious process—suffering the Italians to curtail his dominions little by little, while he, by his troops, stood guard over the Vatican and the Pontiff. Even the city of Rome is now swept from him, not by conquest, but by the power of unrepressed popular opinion. The people have discovered by experience that they may freely shout for Victor Emmanuel and United Italy, and they are not slow to avail themselves of the strange and unwonted privilege. They now know that Rome will soon be the capital of twenty-three millions of free people.

Our main object this morning, however, is to introduce an extract from a pamphlet recently published in Paris, entitled, "France, Rome and Italy," ostensibly from the pen of M. de la Guerroniere, but which is understood to speak the sentiments of the Emperor himself, if, indeed, he be not the author.

The pamphlet thus characterizes the attempt of the Pope some months ago to surround himself with volunteer troops of the faithful from Catholic countries, and thus render himself independent of the French protectorate, and which brought forth among other things, that miserable abortion, the Irish Roman legion, the members of which ultimately found their way home again in poverty and disgust, after being routed by the Sardinian troops. It says:

"An attempt was made to imitate the great religious manifestation of another age, and that nothing might be wanting to the mise en scene, a general who had taken no part in the heroic conflicts of Italy and the Crimea, was placed at the head of this crusade. To speak plainly, when a Roman prelate, well known for his personal hostility to the policy of France, took the trouble to visit a remote corner of Anjou, to make an appeal to the courage and devotion of M. de Lamoriciere, he thought less to his choice of the hero of Constantine than of the political man, estranged from the government of his country.....'A powerful cotere of the Vatican,' writes M. de Grammont, 'endeavors to imprint on this measure the character of a defiance to France.'"

The allusion here to the attempt on the part of Pio Nono to play the part of Hildebrand is extremely sarcastic. In another paragraph the writer, with still more bitterness and plainness, characterizes this movement "a parody of Cobleuss—a puerile imitation of the times of Gregory VII." (Hildebrand.)

The following is the summing up of this important political missive:

"This, immediately after the Roman expedition, conceived and executed at the risk of endangering his popularity by the Prince, who wished to reconcile the church and liberty, we see a firm resolution to organize distrust and division—internal pressure executed upon the clergy to separate them from the Power they had proclaimed, and in which they saw a powerful and popular support of their rights; exterior pressure upon Rome to draw it into acts of ingratitude towards France and into a moral separation from the national governments she had given herself; encouragement given to schismatics which no government could grant, and which our traditions, our manners, laws, the examples of our greatest kings, and the interests of the church itself equally reprobated, a perfidious advantage taken of the situation of Italy to throw the Pope more and more into the arms of Austria, in order to place the object of the Tuileries between the two alternatives, equally painful to its honor, of sacrificing the Holy See to the revolution, or Italy to the Court of Vienna—all these machinations to throw suspicion on our diplomatic counsels before the war and to render abortive all the negotiations in every way; finally, a vehement hostility, no longer to disguise itself, fomenting hatred, breathing outrage, and forming leagues, even with the Church, between Rome and the Church, immortal hatred and enmity, were not above similar da-

[illegible] covered with so transparent a veil that we [illegible] scarcely take the pains to remove it, to render it visible to all eyes, and now, [illegible] part assigned to every one in this position.

"For the gratification of the passions of which we have shown the working, at first secret, but ever active, the Pope was on a means, and not [illegible] him and the Emperor to separate two Powers whose union would have established their happiness and their greatness. But deceived him the tool of him, and made their resentment and their ambition [illegible] government [illegible] ed infallible [illegible] neral and [illegible] to be ad- [illegible] ness, it [illegible] titude, [illegible] ling, [illegible] in [illegible] y, [illegible] ve- [illegible] ry, [illegible] ve- [illegible] ry, [illegible] dis