

land life, and even were the words of such songs applicable to the Dominion, most of the music in which they are clothed is of such poor quality that musically-minded people are reluctant to have anything to do with them. Truly, such editions could be termed the musical «version» of the notorious «pulp magazines» which a few years ago threatened to flood the Dominion.

Deserving the highest praise are the enthusiastic, hardworking amateurs who have borne the banner of good music in the past, and who have already, by sheer diligence, perseverance, and often by self-denial of luxuries, achieved success and recognition despite a limited interest of the people. In pre-war years also, there was a severe restriction in the importa-

tion of musical instruments and, as few are made in New Zealand, this difficulty will obviously have to be overcome if instrumental music is to thrive. Otherwise, despite education, music will remain relegated to the rank of a luxury.

In order to ensure a bright and flourishing future in New Zealand for this «flower» of musical culture, it must be again emphasised that an improvement is necessary in the basis for the proper musical education of all children, and although this advancement must certainly eventuate, it is to be hoped that it will materialise before the Dominion has absorbed and adopted the culture of other peoples at the expense of her own, latent though it may be at present.



THE purpose of this article—the second of a series of three—is to give a brief but accurate survey of Italy from Rome to all the land that lies to the south.

3. THE PERIOD OF WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE FROM 395 TO 476 A.D.

This was a period of instability and strife. Life was not secure for there were raids by Goths, Vandals and Huns. The Western Roman Empire existed only by virtue of its great name and tradition. The capital was no longer Rome, but Ravenna.

Finally in 476, the barbarian King Odoacer informed the Emperor of the Eastern or Byzantine Empire that there was no Emperor in the West and so the Western Roman Empire had come to an end. Actually the Empire of the West did not fall; rather it petered out.

During this confused period the Bishop of Rome assumed the pagan title of Pontifex Maximus, one of the most honoured of Roman titles, and the church began to assume an important role in leadership in Rome and Italy. Rome claimed a unique spiritual prestige because within its boundaries were the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul.

This table from now on refers principally to Southern Italy, and from it can be traced the history of some of the monuments which are to be seen today.

410 A.D. Britain Abandoned by Rome.