

terror, he very nearly made it up again. However, the war was successfully started, and, what is more, successfully finished. Napoleon's aid enabled the victory of Solferino (1859) to be won. He then made peace with Austria, without consulting Cavour, who was furious.

It was actually very wise. The French Army had never heard of an ASC and was already in trouble over supply, and disease. Had it penetrated any nearer



Austria it might well have been beaten. As it was, Piedmont got Lombardy but not Venetia, and Napoleon became the most unpopular man in Italy. He waived Nice and Savoy—for the moment.

Cavour resigned. He had been promised Italy to the Eastern Alps and here was already in trouble over supply, and it all. But Italy responded. All over the country the people rose and declared for Piedmont. England's sympathy discouraged the intervention of foreign princes to maintain their aunts and their cousins on their thrones. Cavour was now indispensable, so back he came, and bought off France's intervention against a too united neighbour with Nice and Savoy. There was a popular plebiscite (about as popular as some of Germany's voting) and the booty was handed over.

Cavour, in all these movements, had to use conspirators. Garibaldi commanded an irregular force in the Alps and Mazzini, a born conspirator, was cleverly utilised as the dynamic force behind a movement which Cavour and Victor Emmanuel were able by great efforts to keep in regular governmental channels. But both the ruler and the politician disclaimed the use of conspiracy whenever necessary. This was good form, and deceived no one.

Last of all, the Sicilies had to be gained. The revolution there could not be stopped. It must be harnessed. So Cavour persuaded Garibaldi to do something about it, allowing him to recruit and arm his troops (after a fashion) on Piedmontese soil, while publicly knowing nothing of any such fellow.

The voyage of Garibaldi and his red-shirted thousand, their defeat of a Neapolitan Army of 20,000 and their capture of Sicily is well-known history. The Neapolitan troops were not very brave and were made less so by some British ships of war that stood off Palermo and looked menacing without actually firing a shot. Garibaldi proceeded to take Naples in the same magic way, and then with considerable nobility resigned his conquests to Cavour, giving up power but winning immortal fame.

Like Lawrence of Arabia he refused everything, titles, money, positions, and retired to the island of Caprera to live the simple life.

In 1866, while Austria was more than busy being trounced by Prussia, Italy managed to seize Venetia. In 1870 the same Prussians attacked the French who had garrisoned the Papal City. Their troops were recalled and Rome was taken. Cavour and Victor Emmanuel's aim and Mazzini and Garibaldi's dream—a wholly united Italy was accomplished, with almost universal approval, only the Pope being really seriously annoyed.

And these four have been in their different fashions the heroes of Italy ever since. Their bickerings are forgotten. Their achievement remains.