

**THE WORK OF GOD IN ITALY:  
DETAILING THE REVIVAL AND  
SPREAD OF EVANGELICAL TRUTH  
IN THAT KINGDOM, PP. 1-263**

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The Work of God in Italy: Detailing the Revival and Spread of Evangelical Truth in That Kingdom, pp. 1-263 by W. Owen

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**W. OWEN**

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**THE WORK OF GOD IN ITALY.**



*From a Photograph by Sawden & Millard, Boston*

*Your Obedient  
Alexander Gavally*

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THE WORK OF GOD

IN

ITALY;

DETAILING THE

REVIVAL AND SPREAD OF EVANGELICAL TRUTH  
IN THAT KINGDOM.

BY THE

REV. W. OWEN,

AUTHOR OF "LIFE OF GENERAL SIR HENRY HAVELOCK, BART."

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## PREFACE.

SINCE Italy, with the unhappy exceptions of Rome and Venetia, has obtained the advantage of constitutional government, and the great blessing of religious liberty, it has become an object of deep solicitude in all parts of the Protestant world. The notices which have been given in religious publications, at public meetings, and in the daily press, concerning the circulation of the Sacred Scriptures, the meetings of Italian converts, and the preaching of the gospel to large congregations, have created a desire for a comprehensive view of the whole field now open, the work being carried forward, and the method in which the workers are conducting their operations.

Is the work of the Lord being done in Italy? Who are the workers? Where are they labouring? How may we best co-operate with them, or encourage their labours? Such are the queries now frequently heard, to which the little volume now presented is designed to furnish faithful replies. The idea of the work arose during the intercourse the Author was privileged to hold with

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Signor Gavazzi when last in England, and by whose kindness some important portion of the matter was supplied.

The reformation in Italy in the sixteenth century, briefly sketched at the opening of this volume, extended chiefly among the upper classes, was introduced and nourished by foreign agency, and had to struggle against the political and Papal despotism which allowed no intellectual freedom. It was effectually suppressed in about fifty years after it began. Still it shows how the people were at that period dissatisfied with the Romish superstition, and encourages the hope of permanence and success at a time when the good work originates among the Italian people, extends chiefly among the poor, and is fostered by free political institutions.

That is a divine hand which has secured for Italy the blessing of political liberty; for its evangelists the right of proclaiming the gospel and distributing the Sacred Scriptures; for its people the right to purchase and read them, to meet for Protestant worship, and openly to profess their belief in the doctrines condemned by the priesthood of Rome: and hence to recognize the divine operation in these things, the writer designates this record the **WORK OF GOD IN ITALY.**

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