

**THE PATRIOTS OF  
ITALY: AN APPEAL  
IN THEIR BEHALF**

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The patriots of Italy: an appeal in their behalf by John Frederick Stanford

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**JOHN FREDERICK STANFORD**

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THE  
PATRIOTS OF ITALY:

*An Appeal in their Behalf.*



THE  
**PATRIOTS OF ITALY:**

**An Appeal in their Behalf.**

BY

**JOHN FREDERICK STANFORD, Esq., M.A., F.R.S.,**

(OF THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF LINCOLN'S-INN, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.)



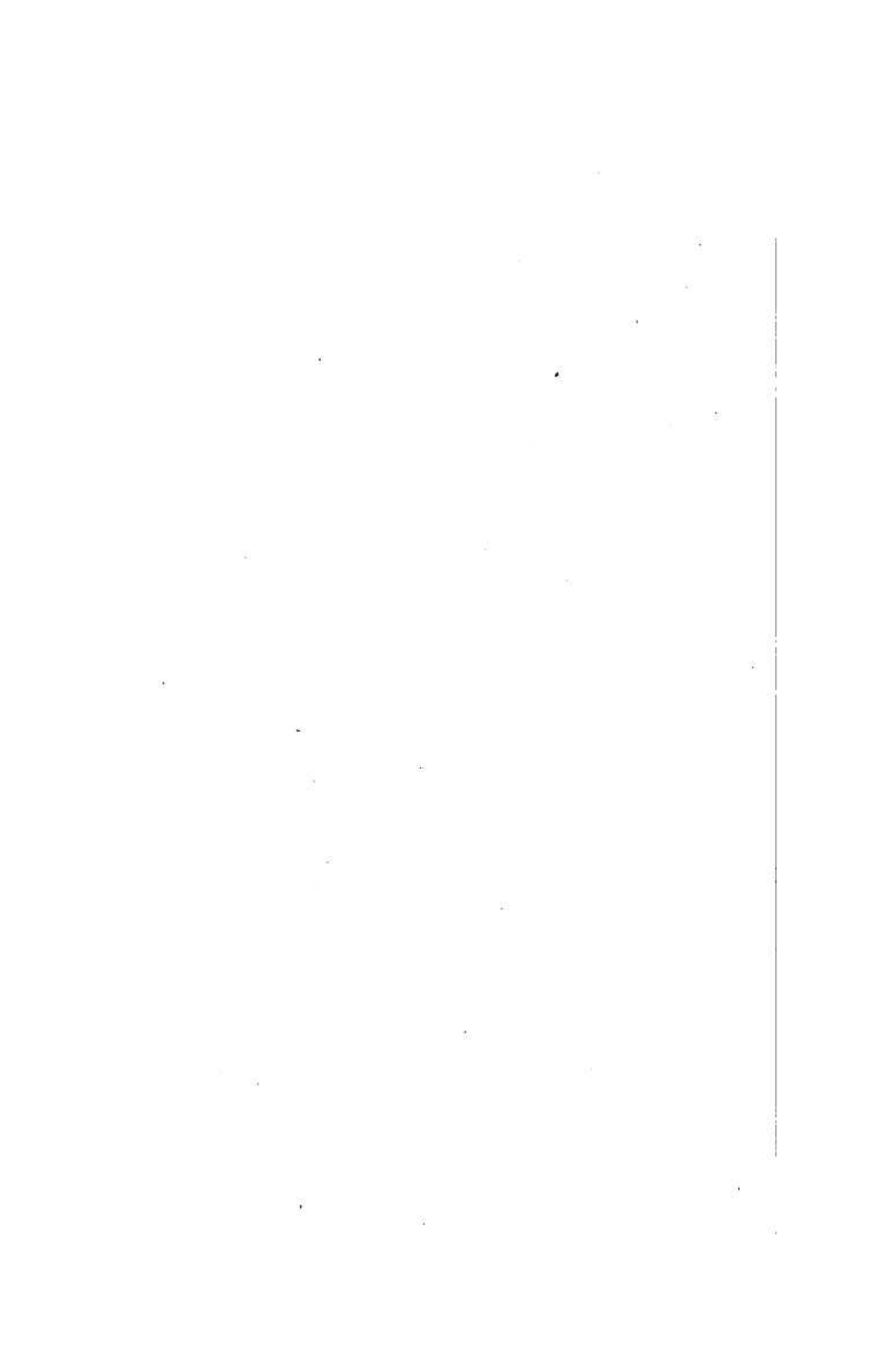
"The feeling of the people is strong that England, with a just and generous heart and hand, will protect them. In her unselfish policy, there is great confidence that Rome will not become another *Craew*. It is not the case of a revolutionary movement against a lawful sovereign, or of a violation of pledges guaranteed by foreign Powers. It is a peaceful and harmonious movement, by common consent of prince and people, in favour of liberality, reform, and improvement. It is the first dawning to Italy of a better day, not of fanciful constitutions, or ideal nationality, or even federalism, but of solid social amelioration in the condition of every class, guided by one whose calling and character are a full security against ambitious projects, family views, or revolutionary schemes. And shall the iron heel of the German trooper be allowed to bruise this first spring-flower to the dust, to crush this first kindling spark back into the ashes of desolation, from which it is trying to awaken? I trust not; and I believe that no more just or more popular use could be made of our influence and power than to cast their shield over this weak but noble principality, where, perhaps, for the first time, the great experiment is being made of kindling the torch of civil and social enlightenment from the fire of the sanctuary."—*Times*, Aug. 26th, 1847.

"PENSA, CHE QUESTO DI MAI NON RAGGIORNA."

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THE  
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Yes, Italy! through every other land  
Thy wrongs should ring, and shall from side to side.  
Mother of Arts! as once of Arms, thy hand  
Was then our guardian, and is still our guide—  
Parent of our Religion! whom the wide  
Nations have knelt to for the keys of Heaven!  
Europe, repentant of her parricide,  
Shall yet redeem thee, and all backward driven  
Roll the barbarian tide, and sue to be forgiven.

CHILD HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE.

Few can be more impressed than I am with the justice of the principle that "*No man liveth unto himself*" for his own little pleasures, or mean gratifications, or low unworthy passions; the dirty family of selfishness which, by the law of Providence, defeats its own purposes. The occasions, however, when a private individual may confer great benefits on his fellow-creatures in his own limited sphere of action, by an exertion of the faculties and talents with which he is intrusted, are, in my opinion, *as numerous* as the occasions, when he may, with credit to him-

self, and advantage to others, interfere in public affairs, *are few.*

I confess, therefore, that it is with feelings somewhat of doubt and reluctance that I at any time venture to take part in public questions—restrained by my sense of the difficulty of deciding justly on their merits, and of attaining truth, as well as by the fear of being drawn into the vortex of agitation, or at all events, though undeservedly, of being classed with the political demagogues and humanity-mongers of the day, or of other of the unquiet and varied race of charlatans and traders in philanthropy, towards whom no one can entertain a stronger repugnance than I do. Nor have I ever felt disposed to emulate the zeal and alacrity with which so many men rush into the arena of political controversy—a zeal, I fear, more often springing from a love of notoriety than from an anxiety for truth. But, on the other hand, to use the rigorous language of William Pitt, "*I will not sit unconcerned when liberty is threatened or invaded: I will exert my endeavours, at whatever hazard, to drag the oppressors to justice, whoever may protect them.*" I may be ridiculed for presumption as a private individual, of no weight or influence beyond a circle of private friends, in making use of the language of one who, from his exalted position, was able to give effect to his declaration. This risk, however, I most cheerfully incur; for, to raise the voice or exercise the pen in

defence of true liberty, whether at home or abroad, is not the prerogative of the great, the wealthy, or the learned. It is the *right* of all men, and, thanks to our sturdy forefathers, *the recognised right* of every Englishman, the constant exercise of which has eminently contributed to maintain in their pristine vigour and undiminished force the great charters of English constitutional freedom. Nor is it the shaft of ridicule to which I alone expose myself; I shall possibly, nay probably, come under the lash of the bigoted and intolerant, as "the friend of Popery," or, at the least, be charged with lukewarmness and indifference to the Protestant Church, and Protestant ascendancy, by advocating a cause which, however just, strengthens the influence of the Bishop of Rome. Be it so! I regard not the opinions of those who measure a man's attachment to his religion by his intolerance and persecution of another's.

"Fiat justitia ruat cælum."

Feeble as my advocacy may be, it is not the sneers of the malevolent or narrow-minded that I dread: it has sincerity to recommend it. It springs from strong conviction of the justice of the cause—from an ardent desire to enlist the feelings of my fellow-countrymen in behalf of an enlightened and liberal-minded Sovereign, and of his attached people struggling against the false and aggressive policy of a despotic Government; which, however mild and paternal in its own dominions, (which I admit it is,)