

**VITTORIA COLONNA: A
TALE OF ROME, IN THE
NINETEENTH CENTURY; IN
THREE VOLUMES. VOL. II**

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Vittoria Colonna: a tale of Rome, in the nineteenth century; in three volumes. Vol. II by
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CHARLOTTE A. EATON

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IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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VITTORIA COLONNA.

CHAPTER I.

"Arma virumque cado."

VIRGIL.

FOR many weeks ensuing, General Dalmagne was engaged in the task of pacification, and in organizing the new Roman government. In these occupations he was first interrupted by the sudden return of Massena, proclaiming, as he entered the city, that he had not resigned; but the proclamation of the late general was instantly torn down, himself slighted, welcomed with no honours, and treated by all with so much contempt that he lay for many days, as the documents of those times inform us, in a passionate and bilious fever, caused

by his disappointment and rage. As soon as he could rise, he again took his departure from Rome, not without the further annoyance of learning that, during his slighted and almost unknown stay, his friend Dallemagne had installed the Roman senate in the Capitol, with a pomp and ceremony that rivalled the planting of the tree of liberty by Berthier. His speech to the senate too rivalled Berthier's address; the one had invoked the manes of Cato and Hortensius, the other, in order to be equally classic and original, exclaimed, "*Ombres des Emiles et des Scipions, appeisez vous !*" &c.

A tribunate of seventy-two members was at the same time established; the number of senators amounted to thirty-two.† The form of all decrees ran thus:—"The Senate, adopting the recommendation of the Tribunate, decrees," &c. and as the Tribu-

† It may be amusing, for comparison-sake, to note down, that the annual pay of a Consul was 6450 scudi, that of a senator or tribune 516 scudi, and that of a grand *Ædile* or *Prætor* 430 scudi.

nate *adopted* in turn the recommendation of the French commander, the extent of Roman liberty, in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-eight, may be ascertained without much trouble or nicety of calculation.

The first object of General Dallemagne's care, after the installation of the government, was to keep his promise with Latour; Carrier, the principal *concussionnaire*, attached to the staff of General Cervoni, was given up to be tried by a military commission. Evidence could not be wanting; and as the despoiled Romans flocked in crowds to bear testimony and demand restitution, he was fully convicted of the robberies, in which all his civilian, and not a few of his military comrades had joined. In vain Massena endeavoured to interfere and save the life of his accomplice, by menaces sent from his retirement to all in command and influence at Rome. Carrier was shot before the assembled army in the Place of St. Peter's, "a just victim," as the classic members of the late Pantheon Committee declared him, "to the offended majesty of Rome."

A great many of the higher ranks were arrested as cognizant and accomplices of the late conspiracy. None of the cardinals were left at liberty; many of them, after a week's confinement at the convent of the *Convertite*, were despatched, with an immense number of other ecclesiastics, to Civita Vecchia, and thence embarked for Corsica. The aged prelates of the Church bore their misfortunes, for the most part, with serenity and patience.—Cardinal Borgia, amongst others, begged for his last opera ere he departed. It is a strong characteristic of the age, that the sacro-sanctity of the Popedom and its supporters were violated with consequences so trifling; and that even in suffering degradation and dethronement, *bon mots*, mingled with the maledictions which these once powerful ecclesiastics flung upon their enemies.

Amongst other steps which Dallemagne and the seven consuls took, in order to curb, and guard against that spirit which the Romans had of late so unexpectedly shewn, was that of disarming the citizens. The execution of this

was an invidious and disagreeable task, which the French general wished to impose on the Roman municipality: and the municipality in turn preferred throwing the odium upon the French. It was, however, at length decided, that a consul, accompanied by a French officer, should perform the office of disarming his fellow-citizens. Each consul chose a quarter of the city throughout which his part of the task was to be performed. Bassi, who loved not the prospect of blows or squabbles, preferred the more civilized and well-conducted regions of the city around the Capitol, and the upper part of the Corso; whilst his wiser brethren willingly agreed to search the hovels and face the anger of the Trastoverini, rather than make enemies amongst the wealthy and trading citizens, who might prove very obsequious to authority for the moment, but who might also cherish very vindictive feelings for the future against him who was the agent of oppression.

Upon the day appointed, accordingly, the