

**THE RULE OF THE MONK;
OR, ROME IN THE
NINETEENTH CENTURY;
IN TWO VOLUMES; VOL. 1**

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The rule of the monk; or, Rome in the nineteenth century; in two volumes; Vol. 1 by Giuseppe Garibaldi

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GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI

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THE RULE OF THE MONK.

VOL. I.



THE
RULE OF THE MONK;

OR,

Rome in the Nineteenth Century.

BY

GENERAL GARIBALDI.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE renowned writer of Cæsar's "Commentaries" did not think it necessary to furnish a preface for those notable compositions; and, in truth, the custom is altogether of modern times. The ancient heroes who became authors and wrote a book, left their work to speak for itself—"to sink or swim," we had almost said, but that is not exactly the case. Cæsar carried those very "Commentaries" between his teeth when he swam ashore from the sinking galley at Alexandria; but it never occurred to him to supply posterity with a prefatory flourish. With a soldierly brevity he begins those famous chapters at the beginning—" *Omnis Gallia in tres partes,*" &c.

The world has been contented to begin there with him, for the last two thousand years; and the fact is a great precedent against prefaces—especially since, as a rule, no one ever reads them till the book itself has been perused.

The renowned soldier who has here turned author, entering the literary arena among the novelists, has also given his English translators no preface. But custom expects one, and the nature of the present work especially requires that a few words should be written explanatory of the original purpose and character of the Italian MSS. from which the subjoined pages are transcribed. It would be unfair to Garibaldi if the undoubted vivacity and grace of his native style should be thought to be here accurately represented. The famous champion of freedom possesses an eloquence as peculiar and real as his military genius; with a gift of graphic description and

creative fancy which are but imperfectly rendered in this version of his tale, partly from the particular circumstances under which the version was prepared, and partly from the impossibility of rendering into English those subtle touches and personal traits which really make a book, as light and shadows make a countenance. Moreover, the Italian MS. itself, written throughout in the autograph of the General, was compiled not for a studied work, but as the solace of heavy hours at Varignano, where the King of Italy, who owed to Garibaldi's sword the splendid present of the Two Sicilies, was repaying that magnificent dotation with a shameful imprisonment. The time will come when these pages—in their original, at least—will be numbered among historic proofs of the poet's statement that

“Stone walls do not a prison make,
Nor iron bars a cage:
Minds innocent and quiet take
These for a hermitage.”