

## A DISTINGUISHED CUTHROAT.

PICTURESQUE CAREER OF SIGNOR CIPRIANI, AN ITALIAN HERO.

ROME, Aug. 12.—Deserter, insurgent, threefold murderer and life convict—such is the record of Hamilcar Cipriani, the popular hero of the moment, who has been elected no less than six consecutive times by overwhelming majorities to represent his native city of Ravenna in the Chamber of Deputies, and whose name is a watchword for all the lower classes from one end of the kingdom to the other.

Just at present he is more than ever a source of anxiety and perplexity to the Cabinet. The northeastern provinces have always been notorious for their disaffection toward the Government and for their revolutionary tendencies. In the hope of converting the population to more loyal sentiments, it was determined that the King, accompanied by his Ministers, should make a royal progress through the district next month, and with a view of insuring a favorable reception Premier Crispi prevailed upon the sovereign to avail himself of a questionable legal technicality to liberate Cipriani from the Porto Longone convict prison, where as No. 2,450 the man was serving a life sentence. The Government evidently believed for a time that it had effected a masterstroke thereby, and that Cipriani would show his gratitude for his release by stumping the country in behalf of the King and by preparing an enthusiastic reception for his Majesty.

The Ministers were, however, sadly mistaken. No sooner had Cipriani been set at liberty than he made his way to Ravenna, where he was received in triumph. He immediately became the moving spirit of an agitation against the King and the Government, and one of his first acts was to issue a revolutionary manifesto of extraordinary violence which, published in the *Emancipazione* of July 31, protested in the bitterest terms against the projected visit of the sovereign, and called upon the Republicans and Socialists of the province to organize an imposing counter-manifestation for the day of the monarch's arrival. It was decided that the manifestation should take the form of a procession in which all the revolutionary and Socialist associations of the kingdom should be urged to participate, and an Executive Committee was constituted to make the necessary arrangements. Invitations were addressed to all the leading Democrats, and it was settled that the speeches of the day should be made at the foot of the statue of Giuseppe Manzini. The committee in question also went in a body to call upon the Mayor of Ravenna for an explanation as to how he had presumed to invite the sovereign to visit the city without having previously obtained the sanction of the citizens.

Altogether the state of affairs is exceedingly serious. Cipriani has the whole of the lower classes with him, and as the royal party is certain to meet with a hostile reception, there is every probability that the trip will have to be postponed indefinitely.

It is impossible to conceive a more adventurous and stormy career than that of Cipriani. At the age of 20 he joined the army, but deserted a year later in order to join the insurgent forces under Garibaldi. When the latter was wounded and defeated at the battle of Aspromonte, Cipriani was one of the first of his followers to take to flight, and after wandering about the mountains of Calabria for about a month, at length embarked for Alexandria, where he arrived in 1862. There is a large Italian colony in Egypt, and Cipriani was most hospitably received, lodged, and even clothed by a countryman of his of the name of Santini, who was established in business there. One day a violent political discussion sprang up between the two men, which led to blows, and ended in Cipriani drawing his knife and killing the friend who had received him with such generous hospitality. Santini's murder becoming immediately known, the police were set in pursuit of the assassin, and two of them were about to seize the latter when he suddenly turned upon and stabbed one of them to the heart and the other in the throat, severing the carotid artery. Making good his escape from Alexandria, we next find him in Italy under a false name fighting in the war of 1866 under Garibaldi against the Austrians. A year later he turned up in Crete battling in the ranks of the Greek insurgents against the Porte. In 1871 he took a leading part in the Paris Commune, and was largely responsible for the shooting of the hostages and for the burning of the public buildings. Captured red-handed by the Versailles troops, he was condemned to death, but was lucky enough to have his sentence commuted at the last moment to penal servitude for life in the penitential colony of Cayenne. There he remained for 10 years before returning to France on the proclamation of the amnesty. He had not been long in Paris, however, before he was arrested for some petty offense, and after being subjected to a month's imprisonment was expelled from French territory. He now began to devote all his time and energy to the preaching of a crusade in Italy against the King and the royal family. No insult was too gross, no accusation too horrible to be used in assailing them. The Government was at length forced to interfere, and a political prosecution was commenced against him. While the trial was in progress the Italian Consul at Alexandria happened to hear of the case, and immediately sent over all the details concerning the murder of Santini and of the two Egyptian policemen. The Italian Government thereupon at once abandoned the political prosecution, and by virtue of the Egyptian capitulations began a criminal trial for triple murder against him. Again condemned to death, his sentence was on this occasion also commuted to penal servitude for life in the convict prison of Porto-Longone, where, as stated above, he figured until the other day as life prisoner No. 2,450.

Such is the career of the ruffian, who is regarded by all the lower classes in Italy as a popular hero, a patriot, and a martyr, and who, as stated above, has been elected no less than six consecutive times to a seat in the Chamber of Deputies here.

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