

Adriatic through the northern plains; the *Arno* and *Tiber*, flowing west into the Mediterranean. North of the *Po*, at the foot of the Alps, are the beautiful *Lakes Como, Lugano, Maggiore, Garda*, etc.

The coast is irregular, and indented with many fine gulfs and bays, of which the principal are the *Gulfs of Genoa and Gaeta, Bay of Naples, and Gulf of Salerno*, on the west coast; the *Gulf of Turanto* on the south; and the *Gulf of Venice* on the east, at the head of the Adriatic Sea. The principal capes are *Passaro*, on the south of Sicily, and *Sparticento and Leuca*, the southern points of the mainland. The *Strait of Messina* separates Sicily from Calabria, the *Strait of Bonifacio* is between the islands of Sardinia and Corsica, and the *Strait of Otranto* is between the south-eastern extremity of Italy and Turkey.

The islands belonging to Italy are: *Sardinia*, the inhabitants of which are chiefly agriculturalists, and have also important fisheries of anchovy and sardines. *Sicily*, the largest and most fertile island in the Mediterranean, separated from the mainland by the Strait of Messina. In the east is *Mount Etna*, the largest European volcano, nearly 11,000 feet high. *Elba*, on the west coast of Italy, between Corsica and the mainland, the first place of banishment of Napoleon. The *Lipari Islands*, north of Sicily, with *Stromboli*, called the Lighthouse of the Mediterranean, from its volcano, which is always burning.

The climate of Italy is delightful, but on the west coast, between the Island of Elba and the Gulf of Gaeta, the heat of summer causes malaria from the marshes, rendering large tracts of the country uninhabitable. These tracts are called the *Maremma, Pontine Marshes*, and the *Campagna*. The soil is very fertile. Rice, wheat, and maize are extensively cultivated, and vines, olives, oranges, and lemons are abundant. Italy possesses few minerals, but is celebrated for its fine marbles and alabaster. Silks are manufactured in the north, and are almost the only manufacture of consequence.

Although till 1859 disunited and unsettled, Italy is famous as having been the seat of the old Roman Empire, the mistress of the world in former ages, and it possesses many interesting classic remains of its former grandeur, forming an ample and interesting study to the traveller and scholar. It was also the seat of several of the most powerful commercial republics of the Middle Ages, Venice, Genoa, etc., and is still celebrated as being the great centre of fine arts, painting, sculpture, music, and architecture.

The government is a limited monarchy, and is formed upon the model of that of Britain. The Roman Catholic is the established religion, but all others are tolerated. There are a number of large cities, most of them celebrated in history, in various parts of the kingdom.

In the former Papal States: *Rome* (300,000), the capital, on the *Tiber*, formerly the mistress of the world, although sadly decayed, possesses magnificent remains of its former grandeur, and is still celebrated for its splendid buildings, and for the architectural beauty of its old ruins. The Pope, although no longer a temporal sovereign, still holds his court in Rome. *Civita Vecchia* is its seaport.

In Piedmont: *Turin* (213,000), formerly the capital of the kingdom of Sardinia, a fine city, with extensive trade, noted for its silk manufactures; *Genoa* (179,000), the chief seaport of Italy, with important manufactures of silks and velvets, formerly the capital of a powerful republic of the same name; *Spezia*, the chief naval station, with an excellent harbor.

In Lombardy: *Milan* (321,000), which does a large trade, is a beautiful city, with a magnificent cathedral of white marble; *Bergamo, Brescia, and Piacenza* are important towns; *Parma and Modena*, the former capitals of duchies, and *Bologna* (123,000), with the oldest university in Italy, are important inland towns.

In Venetia: *Venice* (130,000) was long the head of a powerful commercial republic. It is built on a number of islands, canals forming the streets and gondolas the carriages, and it contains many fine buildings. *Padua*, with a celebrated university, and *Vicenza* are large and important towns. *Verona, Peschiera, Mantua, and Legnago* form the famous "quadrilateral," or chain of fortresses to repel foreign invasion.

In Tuscany: *Florence* (168,000), surnamed "the beautiful," is a magnificent city, and has long been celebrated as a seat of science and art, and for its splendid galleries of painting and sculpture; it was formerly the head of a republic of the same name; *Pisa*, with its famous leaning tower; and *Leghorn* (97,000), an important seaport. *Ancona* is a fortified seaport on the Adriatic, and near it is *Loretto*, with its famous shrine.

In Naples is *Naples* (489,000), the largest city in Italy, surpassing every city in Europe for the beauty of its situation and appearance. About ten miles from the city is the volcano of *Vesuvius*, 4,000 feet high, near which are the remains of the ancient cities of *Herculaneum* and *Pompeii*, which have been buried in lava and ashes since A.D. 79, and are now being excavated.

In the Island of Sicily are: *Palermo* (225,000), a fine city, with a great commerce; *Messina* (120,000), the principal commercial city; *Catania* (101,000), with manufactures of silk; *Syracuse*, famous for its ancient greatness, and memorable in history; and *Marsala*, noted for its wines. *Cagliari* is the chief port of the Island of Sardinia.

The Island of Malta, to the south of Sicily, belongs to Great Britain. *Valetta* is the capital, and the chief station for the British fleet in the Mediterranean.