

sea. It was the country of the ancient Romans, and is filled with the remains of their splendid cities and buildings.

2. Though in a state of decline, Italy is one of the most interesting countries in the world, and almost every spot in it has been the scene of some remarkable event. The country is noted for the mildness of its climate, and for the beauty, diversity, and romantic character of its scenery.

3. The soil is generally fertile, and is in some parts well cultivated. The chief products are wheat, corn, rice, oil, wine, and silk. The principal fruits are oranges, figs, dates, and almonds.

4. The Roman Catholic is the established religion in all the Italian States. In this country are to be found the finest specimens of architecture. The churches are costly and magnificent, and the dwellings of some of the nobles rival the palaces of kings and emperors.

5. The Italians are highly distinguished for their skill in sculpture, painting, architecture, and music; but are not much noted at present for literature or science. They are naturally a lively people, with active passions and ardent imaginations, and generally have expressive countenances and animated sparkling eyes.



Italian Costume.

6. The higher ranks wear the usual European dress; but among the lower orders, there are various local peculiarities of costume. The food of the Italians is generally light; fruits and vegetables are more common articles of diet than flesh, and, as in the other parts of the south of Europe, oil and wine are much used by all classes of the people.

it noted? 3. What is said of the soil? 4. Religion? What are to be found? 5. Describe the Italians. 6. Their dress. Food