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EDITED BY G. W. PROTHERO, LITT.D.
HONORARY FELLOW OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

ITALY

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ITALY

FROM 1494 TO 1790

BY

MRS H. M. VERNON

(K. DOROTHEA EWART)

Author of *Cosimo de' Medici* in the
Foreign Statesmen Series

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GENERAL PREFACE

The aim of this series is to sketch the history of Modern Europe, with that of its chief colonies and conquests, from about the end of the fifteenth century down to the present time. In one or two cases the story commences at an earlier date: in the case of the colonies it generally begins later. The histories of the different countries are described, as a rule, separately; for it is believed that, except in epochs like that of the French Revolution and Napoleon I, the connection of events will thus be better understood and the continuity of historical development more clearly displayed.

The series is intended for the use of all persons anxious to understand the nature of existing political conditions. "The roots of the present lie deep in the past"; and the real significance of contemporary events cannot be grasped unless the historical causes which have led to them are known. The plan adopted makes it possible to treat the history of the last four centuries in considerable detail, and to embody the most important results of modern research. It is hoped therefore that the series will be useful not only to beginners but to students who have already acquired some general knowledge of European History. For those who wish to carry their studies further, the bibliography appended to each volume will act as a guide to original sources of information and works more detailed and authoritative.

Considerable attention is paid to political geography, and each volume is furnished with such maps and plans as may be requisite for the illustration of the text.

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PREFACE

THE history of Italy in the period here treated divides itself naturally into two parts, 1494–1559 and 1559–1790. In the former, Italy for a brief space became the focussing point of European History; whereas in the latter she sank into obscurity, and her affairs were so much in the background, except for a few short intervals between 1690–1748, that in general histories they receive little notice. Therefore, since the events of the earlier years are fully described in numerous accessible works, I have thought it better to deal with them briefly, in spite of their importance, treating them rather as an introduction to the neglected period, about which it is difficult for the ordinary reader to obtain information.

I wish to express my most grateful thanks to Dr G. W. Prothero, the Editor of the Series, for valuable advice concerning the scope and arrangement of this book, and to Mr E. Armstrong, of Queen's College, Oxford, for his great care and kindness in revising the proofs.

K. DOROTHEA VERNON.

December 1908.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

WHEN this volume was ready for printing, circumstances rendered it impossible for me to follow the practice which I have adopted in regard to all other volumes of the series, and, in conjunction with the author, to revise the proofs as they passed through the press. I count myself very fortunate in having been able, in this emergency, to obtain the assistance of Mr Edward Armstrong, whose mastery of Italian, as well as of other branches of history, is well known. For his kindness in discharging my editorial duties in this connexion I tender him my hearty thanks.

G. W. PROTHERO.

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CORRIGENDA.

For Emmanuele throughout *read* Emanuele.
 Page 316, line 20. *For* Vittorio Amedeo I *read* Carlo Emanuele I.