

ITALY'S DIPLOMACY.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—In an official note dated today, Baron Fava, Italian Minister, has declared to the Secretary of State that the United States government not having given assurances that the murders of Italian subjects, acquitted by American magistrates and murdered in prison while under the immediate protection of the authorities of New Orleans, could be brought to justice, the Italian government has found itself under the painful necessity of showing openly its dissatisfaction by recalling the minister of his Majesty from a country where the Italian representative is unable to obtain justice. The Baron will soon leave the United States, leaving the secretary of legation in charge of only current affairs.

This action by the Italian government caused the deepest surprise in official circles here when the fact became known. It had been generally supposed that the Italian government would at least await the action of the New Orleans grand jury, which is charged with the investigation of the bloody tragedy at the New Orleans jail. It appears, however, that the representations of its representative must have brought the government to the conclusion that the grand jury investigation would fail to result in the punishment, or even indictment, of any person connected with the killing of the Italians. The letter of Governor Nichols, in reply to Secretary Blaine, was also, he thought, regarded as an evasion of the real point at issue, reparation for the alleged wrong. The governor's assurance that further bloodshed would not follow, unaccompanied by any excuse for failure of the State or municipal authorities to take precautions to prevent the killing, were, it is said, regarded by the Italian government with extreme dissatisfaction. It appeared that the United States government had exhausted its resources.

The relations between the national government and the government of the State were so fixed by the American Constitution that when the Italian Minister, obeying the commands of his government, sought for some assurances that the persons concerned in the killing of its subjects would be punished, it was not possible for the general government to give any definite assurances of the kind. It could and did point to the fact that the grand jury was an American provision for calling before the bar of justice persons who had violated the law of the land, but this particular grand jury was called together under the laws of the sovereign State of Louisiana, and whether or not it would punish according to the Italian idea of justice, was something the national officials, from the President down, could not guarantee, and the Italian government was not satisfied with such views. With the relations between the State and national governments, and the peculiarities of our constitutional system of government, it had nothing to do, but it was necessary, according to its views, that Italian citizens in foreign countries should be accredited the full measure of protection fixed by the laws of those countries. Here was a case where, according to the statement

of the minister, Italian subjects had been arrested on a charge of crime, and acquitted by an American jury according to the form of American law. These men were decided innocent by the judicial tribunal, and had been slain by an angry people. The Italian government could not go behind the verdict of the American court, and, notwithstanding it was stated in some quarters that the men were really guilty of foul assassination, and had been acquitted by means of bribery, in the eyes of the Italian government they were innocent Italian subjects. In their violent killing, the Italian people have been outraged and insulted.

The national government of the United States had, as stated, failed to give any definite assurance that reparation would be made. There was but one course, and that was taken today when the Italian minister notified Secretary Blaine that he had been recalled because his government was dissatisfied with the negotiations. This is the Italian view of the matter.

There was a commotion among the State Department officials when the fact became known that Baron Fava had been recalled. They did not know it officially, as Secretary Blaine, before the close of office hours, was compelled to go home again by a recurrence of his old malady, gout. The secretary managed to get into a carriage at 4 p.m., and drove to the White House, where he told the President all that had occurred and discussed the future prospects, remaining an hour. He then returned home, and was not accessible.

Late this afternoon erroneous reports were in circulation respecting alleged outrages on American citizens in Italy. A careful inquiry at the Department of State fails to disclose more than two complaints during the past six months. In one case an American citizen while crossing the Piedmont boundary line was suspected of smuggling and when he refused to allow the Italian custom officers to search his carriage for contraband articles he was arrested and made a bitter complaint. In the other case an Italian returning from the United States was arrested for alleged brigandage in 1886. It appeared on consulting the records that he had been included in an amnesty proclamation, so he was released, just as our State Department discovered that he had been fraudulently naturalized in this country.

It is a certainty that Mr. Porter, United States minister to Italy, will not be recalled and this government will maintain its peaceful attitude and abide by the developments of the future. It is said by a gentleman who has had large experience in the diplomatic affairs of our government, that a declaration of war did not necessarily follow such action as that of the Italian government. There were many precedents for it, nearly all of which, however, were among the European nations. Through a better understanding of the differences that may exist, or through the friendly intercessions of a third power, these difficulties are often adjusted without recourse to arms.

So far as is recalled, there have only been a few instances where foreign ministers to the United States have

been recalled at the request of our government, or been given their passports. The first was the French minister, Citizen Jennet, who was recalled by the French government at the request of the United States, because he was personally offensive to this country. Another case occurred at the time of the war of 1812 with Great Britain, when the Minister from that country was given his passports. There are no cases recalled where a Minister of the United States to a foreign country has been given his passports, though there may have been one or more instances of this kind. The prospects of war over the incident is ridiculed by this gentleman, as also is the prospect of an extra session of Congress, growing out of the same incident. He suggested that a misunderstanding may possibly exist as to the real nature of the letter of Governor Nichols to Secretary Blaine, with respect to the killing. It is assumed that Baron Fava sent the letter to his government and possibly that government may interpret it as the sentiment of the Federal Government in the cause. Nations, he pointed out, do not go to war in these times over small affairs.

NEW YORK, March 31.—The Italian paper *Il Progresso Italo Americano*, referring to the recall of Baron Fava, says it is but the natural consequence of the opprobrious manner in which the State of Louisiana answered Secretary Blaine; of the weakness of the supreme federal authority in the face of the arrogant bearing of Governor Nichols; of the infamous, incredible impunity accorded to the lynchers and instigators of the lynching. In conclusion, the editorial says Italy has done its duty and the colony has cordially approved.

The editorial further declares that the Constitution of the United States is ridiculous in according to a central power at Washington authority to make treaties without, in case of violation by any State, having the force to compel that State to maintain its obligation. Thus the Constitution of the United States set a trap into which European governments may fall, and make promises which it cannot fulfill.

LONDON, March 31.—The *Herald* says of the Italian matter that, viewed from any point, the action of the Italian government was unwarranted as it is hasty and extraordinary. To the United States it is hardly courteous and might be construed into an affront.

NEW ORLEANS, March 31.—An Associated Press reporter called upon Attorney-General Rogers tonight and asked him for an expression of opinion upon the recall of the Italian Minister, and also the status of the case, in so far as the legal department was concerned. Judge Rogers said the aspect of the case was unchanged. He was unable to say what the outcome would be. The matter is now entirely in the hands of the grand jury, and until it submitted a report he could not say what the line of prosecution would be. The State of Louisiana, he felt, was fully capable of enforcing its laws. There had been no new proceedings between the State and Secretary Blaine. Not a word has been received from Mr. Blaine since Governor Nichols made his reply and Governor Nichols has sent no supple-