

<sup>22</sup>  
**COUNT CAVOUR**

**AND**

**MADAME DE CIRCOURT**



**ANASTASIE KLUSTINE, COMTESSE DE CIR COURT.**

13

COUNT CAVOUR

AND

MADAME DE CIR COURT

*SOME UNPUBLISHED CORRESPONDENCE*

EDITED BY

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## APPENDIX.

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### LETTERS OF THE COUNTESS DE CIRCOURT TO COUNT NIGRA, 1860 TO 1863.

#### I.

[Paris], 11, *Rue des Saussayes*,  
March 7, [1860].

SIR,—I venture to entrust this letter to you. When you have read—if you have time to do so—*Le Siècle*, containing the article by Daniel Stern on M. de Cavour, kindly return it to me; I have to send it to London, where it will be translated. Certain of our friends' features are caught with a truly feminine cleverness.<sup>1</sup> But you must be overwhelmed with business, and we should so much like to have the honour of seeing you. If you take in the *Nord*, do not omit to read the first article in the number of March 4; I am assured on good authority that it comes from the chancery of the Emperor Alexander II. Pray accept my warmest thanks. ✓

K. C<sup>SSB</sup> DE CIRCOURT.

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#### II.

11, *Rue des Saussayes*, March 23rd, 1860.

SIR,—You must be well satisfied and very busy withal. How much I should like to have a little talk with you for

<sup>1</sup> Maria de Flavigny, Comtesse d'Agoult, who wrote under the name of Daniel Stern, was born at Frankfort in 1805, and died 1876.

a few minutes about it. As I do not suppose that you are dining to-morrow with the deputation from Savoy, I venture to ask if you will give us, if possible, a few minutes at the beginning of your evening: I should like to introduce to you Mr. Oliphant, an Englishman of very great mark;<sup>1</sup> he is only staying one day here. He has been with Lord Elgin on all his expeditions, and has compiled the account of that remarkable journey. He is going to Italy—we must no longer, it appears, say “to Piedmont”; he will halt at Turin and Milan.

My husband has been confined to the house by a horrible *grippe*; that is why he has not even tried to find you at home, if, indeed, such a thing is ever possible.

I have just been reading the last Parliamentary publication upon Italian affairs. The manner in which M. de Cavour's return to office was announced is a tribute seldom seen. I might say a thousand things to him upon all that I learn, but during such important events the most devoted friendships must keep themselves in reserve for less serious moments.

To-morrow, then, if you can. You can guess that I understand all the difficulties in your way.

K. C<sup>tes</sup> DE CIRCOURT.

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### III.

11, *Rue des Saussaies*, April 2, [1860].

SIR,—You have no idea of the pleasure which your new title

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Laurence Oliphant, the well-known Scotch visionary, the disciple of Harris and the correspondent of the *Times*, who died in 1868, had served as secretary under Lord Elgin in his missions to the United States, 1854, to Canada, and afterwards to China and Japan, 1857-59. Mme de Circourt here alludes to the book which Mr. Oliphant had published some months before the date of this letter under the title of *A Narrative of the Earl of Elgin's Mission to China in 1857-59*. (Edinburgh and London, 1860).

has caused me, for it has made no change in the importance of your post and in the high confidence which is reposed in you.<sup>1</sup> During this week you will perhaps have more leisure, not for the important affairs with which you deal, but for your social duties. You will find me at the chimney corner as usual, except on Good Friday and Easter Eve.

I venture to entrust the enclosed letter to your kindness. The first time that I have the great pleasure of seeing you again I will tell you of the request which the most select part of the Faubourg St. Germain bids me make of our friend. He is generous and will grant this favour to a young lieutenant connected with all those among us who are most worthy of consideration. My dread of importuning him has had a regular struggle to undergo. But you must know the fashionable society of Paris well enough to have learnt that nothing in the world is so intrepid, so audacious, as a fair lady. You can judge then what it is when all my family takes a hand. *Au revoir*, then. The fever has left me, and I have resumed my regular habits. I venture to repeat my desire of telling you the same *vivâ voce*.

KLUSTINE C<sup>SEM</sup> DE CIR COURT.

If my letter can go this evening I shall be grateful to you.

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IV.

11, *Rue des Saussayes*, May 3, [1860].

SIR,—I am going to the country in a week's time; I should much like to see you before those long months of farewell. I want to commend myself to your friendly recollection, and to tell you with what sympathy I shall follow your important conflicts

<sup>1</sup> I had just been appointed Minister Resident, March 25, 1860.



in my retirement, and offer my vows that you may not be too much invaded.

Please grant me a few moments before the 10th of this month, and believe that I shall be very grateful for it.

K. C<sup>MS</sup> DE CIRCOURT.

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V.

*Bue des Saussayes, May 12, 1860.*

SIR,—At the moment of my departure for the country I must tell you what a grateful remembrance I take with me for all the moments which you have been good enough to grant me, and I am very grateful to our common friend for having prepared you to be charitable and indulgent towards my secluded state.

The discussions of your Parliament are going to be of the most interesting kind, and you know what an inaccurate and curtailed account our newspapers give of them. I venture therefore to beg you whenever the Italian papers publish any remarkable speech to be so extremely kind as to put them in the post, addressed *Les Bruyères, near Bougival, Seine-et-Oise*.

M. de Cavour and his brother also came several times to visit our rustic cottage, and I should be proud to receive you there whenever your numerous occupations allow you a few hours of leisure. Up till June 13 I am, by the doctor's orders, going to try silence and complete repose. After that you will find us in our quarters every day except Friday and Saturday. Our hermit-like repasts at eleven and six are a necessary part of this long excursion.

Please keep a little place for me in your friendly recollection.

K. C<sup>MS</sup> DE CIRCOURT.

I have several times seen Mr. Cobden, who interests me keenly. He understands liberty in all its forms.

## VI.

*Les Bruyères, near Bougival, May 30, 1860.*

SIR,—The *Moniteur* gives very incompletely M. de Cavour's speech of May 26.<sup>1</sup> I can divine, nevertheless, that strong internal conviction, that logic based upon the sentiment of patriotism and honour. I shall be very grateful to you if you can forward to me the *Opinione* of May 27. Please send it to the *Rue des Saussayes*; my husband is still there, and he will see that it reaches me.

It seems to me that you must be much worried, and indeed overdone, with the questions which all Paris will be addressing to you about Garibaldi. It needs your perfect tact, your exquisite circumspection to prevent this subject of conversation from being unendurable. It seems to me now that in regard to the great question of the Treaty the triumph of our friend is complete, and his place in history marked yet once more. Messrs. Guerrazzi and Fantoni may comfort themselves therewith.

Here I am, in an abode encumbered with workmen, in the most noisy solitude. My husband is staying at Paris so long as our hermitage, usually so peaceful, remains inaccessible. In a fortnight I venture to flatter myself that it will not show, and that our friends will resume their habits of many years. Fever is added to my miseries, and I scarcely leave my bed, which does not prevent me from following the outside movements with an intentness which continual suffering renders more lively and more penetrating. Please do not forget a poor invalid who has every sympathy for you and with you.

K. C<sup>SSB</sup> DE CIRCOURT.

If the report of the debate on the Treaty in the Italian Parliament is separately printed, I venture to ask you to think

<sup>1</sup> The speech delivered by Count Cavour on the treaty ceding Savoy and Nice to France, at the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies at Turin of May 26, 1860.

of me. M. de Cavour gave me one such of the Congress at Paris. It is already bound, and this sequel would be of immense value to me; my name is written on the first page. At this moment my old standing and deep friendship dares not write directly to him, and you, I feel certain, will approve.

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## VII.

*Les Bruyères, near Bougival, June 15, 1860.*

My husband dined yesterday with Mme Pescatore, and met Count Pollone.<sup>1</sup> He has often the honour of seeing you, and has almost promised to come and visit the poor invalid here. If you could undertake with him so long an excursion, and allow yourself a few hours' rest, how kind it would be of you not to shrink from our hermit's dinner at six o'clock. One word posted the day before would make it easy for us to postpone it to seven.

Very many thanks for the speeches in the original; it is quite a different thing from the French translation; that in the *Times*, indeed, is a good deal better. I have been asked for Count Cavour's speech by Mme de Goyon,<sup>2</sup> she has lent it to her brother-in-law, Flavigny, and it has not yet come back to me. I can see it passing from hand to hand at the Corps Legislatif. Doubtless that was what M. de Cavour intended; but I am in a hurry to get back what belongs to me and comes from you. However, I await a separately printed report of that

<sup>1</sup> Count Antonio Nomis di Pollone, an Italian senator, had been sent to Paris charged with the duty of settling certain questions reserved by the Treaty of March 24, 1860, ceding Savoy and Nice. He died 1866.

<sup>2</sup> Oriane Henriette de Montesquiou-Fezensac, Countess de Goyon, wife of the general who was aide-de-camp to the Emperor Napoleon III., and commanded the French garrison at Rome in 1860, was, like the Countess de Flavigny, daughter of the Duc de Fezensac. Count de Flavigny had been colleague of Count Adolphe de Circourt in the Foreign Office when Prince Polignac was Minister in 1839.

remarkable discussion. M. de Cavour is master of the situation there by virtue of all the authority which forms the statesman for the present and the future of Italy. His eloquence is business-like, quite different from the elegant oratorical phrases of his opponents. If I am not mistaken, Rattazzi is a very dangerous enemy. My hermitage has beheld M. de Cavour more than once, and I have been near to hoping to have him here many other times; even in the heart of winter, during the Congress, he would come here from Paris. He found here installed after years of absence several friends whom he had left at my chimney corner in Paris. This poor little abode has become a common fatherland for my friends of all times and of all countries. Yesterday I saw the Archbishop of Rouen,<sup>1</sup> one of our most distinguished prelates. He seemed to me much less bitter than formerly against Italy. M. de Butenval announces himself to dinner here on Monday with MM. de Boislecomte and Vieilcastel.<sup>2</sup> He makes a great merit of leaving the Council of State for me. I am grateful for every token of remembrance. If I could hope for you one day I will let the charming Marquise de Saint Vallier—the sister of the Marquise Biscaretti<sup>3</sup>—know beforehand. She will be delighted to see you again.

Forgive me if I venture to recall all the delightful charm in the recollection of the moments which you kindly granted to my seclusion.

K. C<sup>SSB</sup> DE CIR COURT.

<sup>1</sup> Mgr de Bonnechose, Cardinal Archbishop of Rouen, had been with M. de Circourt at the School of Law in Paris, and remained on friendly terms with him throughout his life.

<sup>2</sup> These gentlemen were also former colleagues of M. de Circourt at the Foreign Office.

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Le Tonnellier de Breteuil, daughter of Count Émile de Breteuil, a former peer of France and senator, had married as her second husband, in 1849, Paul Gabriel de la Croix-Chevrières, Marquis de Saint Vallier. Her sister Laure married in Piedmont Count Charles Biscaretti, afterwards lieutenant-general in the Italian army, who died in 1889.

## VIII.

*Les Bruyères, July 9, 1860.*

SIR,—Michel Chevalier has just been spending a Sunday with us; he told me that he would dine here on Tuesday week, 17th. I venture to let you know in order that if you can give us a few moments you may come to us at six o'clock. You will be perfectly free to leave us directly after our friendly dinner. If M. Albert Blanc were good enough to accompany you he would show you the way to our rustic hermitage. We have never seen him again in spite of this fine weather, which makes our wooded horizon so fresh and green. For you rest is a chimæra, but you will forgive me for telling you once more how charmed we shall be to see you again, and to chat about the thousand subjects of sympathy of which I think every day afresh in regard to you.

K. C<sup>OSSE</sup> DE CIR COURT.

## IX.

*Les Bruyères, July 14, 1860.*

SIR,—A violent fever has seized me, and here I am obeying the doctor, who requires a whole week of absolute quiet in bed in order to calm the renewal of acute pain. Judge of my profound regret at not seeing my friends, which has become my sole enjoyment. I hope that my obedience will bring me a little relief, and that in spite of all your engagements my hermitage will have the great pleasure of seeing you later.

K. C<sup>OSSE</sup> DE CIR COURT.

## X.

*Les Bruyères, July 23, 1860.*

SIR,—I venture to ask you to transmit my reply to the precious missive which you have been good enough to send me.

Surrounded by the weight of business M. de Cavour remains a most faithful and devoted friend. His biographers, perhaps, do not know this most rare quality. He tells me that he keeps you loaded with business, and that you alone can give me information of what I should wish to know fully about him. He quite divines my regret at not having the great pleasure of seeing you. The Marquis de Cavour is just now going with his daughter to Ostend, and assuredly if Paris is on his route I shall see him here; then, perhaps, as a great exception he will draw you as far as our wild retreat. I thank you very much for thinking of my wretchedness. The fever has left me, and here I am restored to my regular habits and happy to see my indulgent friends again. M. de Pourtalès and Mme de Seebach<sup>1</sup> came the other day when I was at my worst, and I was very much put out. M. de Pourtalès' leave will, perhaps, not be for two months as he flattered himself. *Au revoir*, I follow you in thought and wish you all success. Great firmness of soul amid such complicated circumstances is the sole stay. The rain has prematurely spoiled the beautiful rose called Le Comte de Cavour; I wanted to have sent it you and made you admire it.

K. C<sup>SSSE</sup> DE CIR COURT.

Michel Chevalier, whom I have seen twice this week, bids me tell you that it is through discretion that he does not go to call on you. He comes back to us on Sunday to dinner.

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## XI.

*Les Bruyères, August 5, 1860.*

SIR,—Nothing but my consciousness of all the importance of your occupation at the present moment could have prevented

<sup>1</sup> Count Albert de Pourtalès, born 1812, died at Paris 1861, was Prussian Envoy to the Emperor Napoleon III. Marie de Nesselrode, wife of Baron, afterwards Count, Seebach, Saxon Envoy, was daughter of the former Russian Chancellor, Count Nesselrode.

me from asking you to be of our party at dinner to-day Michel Chevalier and Mr. Cobden will be here, and they would have been so glad to see you. M. Auguste de la Rive, the cousin and friend of M. de Cavour, writes from London that he will be in Paris at the Hôtel Mirabeau on Monday evening, to-morrow that is. He will only stay Tuesday and Wednesday, and is extremely desirous to have the honour of speaking to you on *important* matters as soon as possible. He comes to dinner with us the day after to-morrow, which I tell you without any hope of bringing you. Kindly leave word for him, therefore, at the Hôtel Mirabeau at what hour on Tuesday or Wednesday you can see him. He has a very short leave of absence, and has just had a long interview with Lord Palmerston.

I have had a real piece of bad luck with M. de Cavour. A young friend of mine, Herr Geffcken,<sup>1</sup> Minister for Hamburg at Berlin, a person full of talents and wit and intelligence, and perfectly familiar with German politics, is travelling, and asked me to send him to Poste Restante, Genoa, a letter of introduction to M. de Cavour. I did so with all possible willingness, and the letter was lost. Herr Geffcken presented himself to M. de Cavour in my name, and was most kindly received. To-morrow evening he arrives here to stay a fortnight. Every year he asks leave of absence in order to rest under our roof. He is bringing his young wife, married only a fortnight ago. All the enchantment of the honeymoon will be necessary to make them tolerate me in my present state of infirmity.

*Au revoir*; I dare not say till Tuesday at six o'clock. Please be grateful to me, therefore, and imagine in your turn how much I regret it.

KLUSTINE C<sup>MS</sup> DE CIR COURT.

It was on August 2 that M. de Cavour was good enough

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Heinrich Geffcken, the well-known publicist, represented the Hanse Towns at Berlin in 1860.

to receive my diplomat, so to-morrow I shall have very recent news of him.

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## XII.

*Les Bruyères, August 9, 1860.*

SIR,—You have quite captivated M. de la Rive, which seems to me quite natural. He dined with us yesterday and interested us keenly by what he said of opinion in England. What storms there are in every quarter of the political horizon! Our friend, M. de Cavour, has need of all his energy to make head against the tempest in which Europe looks upon him as the sole pilot. I understand how busy you are, and I regret so much that you cannot come here to take a little rest. Nevertheless, I venture to ask a favour of you. Our young friend, Herr Geffcken, has the greatest desire for the honour of seeing you. He remains here another fortnight, and does not go at all to Paris. He asks what are the days and the hours when he could hope to find you and be able to have some talk with you. He would go to Paris *expressly for that*. He saw M. de Cavour a week ago. From here he will return to Berlin, and he gives us all his leave of absence. He will interest you, I am sure, and therefore I shall be very grateful to you if you will allow him, when you can, to come and call upon you.

*Au revoir.* I hope to see the Marquis de Cavour when he is passing through Paris, and I am delighting in the prospect. Pray do not forget the poor invalid.

K. DE CIR COURT.

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## XIII.

*Les Bruyères, August 22, 1860.*

SIR,—Let me venture to entrust to your kindness this little word for the Marquis de Cavour. M. de la Rive is expecting



him at Presinge on the 26th of this month, and I hope, from the message which our common friend has sent me, that Paris is on the way from Ostend to Geneva. I feel certain of the old friendship of the Marquis de Cavour, and I much wish to see him again. I am sure that he will come here, and that you will do the like if you can leave your business, which becomes every day more entangled. Last Sunday Michel Chevalier came to tell me about a long conversation which he had had with Signor Manna.<sup>1</sup> The wish of Naples to be allied with Piedmont is a great gain for the Italian cause, but I understand all the obstacles, and I wait with anxiety the issue of this new crisis. Believe that my thoughts go with you. Our young German couple leave us on September 1, and if between now and then the political sky has a gleam of serenity, we shall be happy to see you. Herr Geffcken wishes to do so, and M. de la Rive has increased his wish.

A thousand apologies made from my heart.

K. COMTE DE CIRCOURT.

#### XIV.

*Les Bruyères, September 1, [1860].*

SIR,—Allow me to introduce to you, although from a distance, our young friend, Herr Geffcken. He has just spent several weeks with us, and is returning to his post at Berlin. He is thoroughly acquainted with politics, and intimate with the most eminent men in Germany. He will be most happy to make your acquaintance, and I venture to ask you to grant him a few moments. I shall be for my part very grateful to you. Very many thanks to you for having forwarded my little note to the Marquis de-Cavour. He gave us a good day's visit, which passed too quickly after five years' separation. He

<sup>1</sup> Signor Giovanni Manna, of Naples, Italian deputy minister, and senator. He died in 1865.

will tell his brother how many old friendships know nothing of absence. Please believe me most sincerely yours,

K. DE CIR COURT.

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## XV.

*Les Bruyères, September 20, 1860.*

SIR,—Allow me to beg you to forward this letter as quickly as you possibly can. It relates to a very important matter, of which I will tell you when these serious events permit you to spare us a few moments.

Every day brings news always of such important events. May Italy come out of them triumphantly! Please accept my best thanks in advance.

KLUSTINE C<sup>SSS</sup> DE CIR COURT.

Mr. Cobden said to me yesterday, speaking of M. de Cavour: "When I saw him in 1847 I thought him the ablest man I ever knew, and he proved it."

Mr. Senior was also of our party.

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## XVI.

*Les Bruyères, September 29, [1860].*

SIR,—We are very grateful for a token of your friendly remembrance at a moment when the preparations for your departure must be taking up all your time. Believe me, that we hope for your speedy return, and fully reckon on it. You alone can worthily represent the policy of the new Italy, you will bring back to us news of M. de Cavour more recent and more detailed than his brother had. I hope that it may be as soon as possible. How much I thank you for having so faithfully forwarded my letter. Alas! it contained an urgent recommendation of M. and still more of Mme de Pimodan,

whom I believed to be in Italy. Will you believe that in the midst of such a serious state of things M. de Cavour answered me immediately? If anything in the world could increase my admiration for his grand character, it would be this new proof of friendship. Mme de Pimodan is full of determination and of remarkable beauty; she is twenty-six years old. It was she and those about her who urged that young and brilliant soldier to go upon this absurd expedition.

I have a right to concern myself specially with the wounded; I have passed all my summer in awaiting a very painful and very long operation which my shoulder was to undergo next month. Only yesterday, the celebrated surgeon who attends me, Doctor Maisonneuve, declared that it was better to put it off yet longer, for the mischief has not yet reached its height. In November we shall return to Paris, and it will be seen what the final verdict of the faculty will be. No effort, no torture will be too dear if I have at the end of it the hope of even a partial relief. May I venture to ask you to allow me to send my letters for M. de Cavour to your *chargé d'affaires*? A recommendation on your part will spare me the uncertainties of the post. You know that I shall not make an improper use of such a valuable permission.

A most painful thing in the middle of the very serious events which are developing is the having to experience cruel deceptions. M. de la Rive, the friend and cousin of M. de Cavour, has been quite carried away by his ultra-Genevese patriotism, and he writes to me, his friend of thirty years, that he cannot in the least understand any longer my persistent fanaticism for M. de Cavour, and that his own ardent sympathies are for Garibaldi.<sup>1</sup> Michel Chevalier was saying

<sup>1</sup> Everybody knows with what vehemence Garibaldi opposed the treaty of cession of the 24th of March, 1860. On the other side the annexation of Savoy to France called forth a protest from Switzerland, of

here the other day that M. de Cavour would have been the greatest man of his time if he had had Garibaldi shot before the Sicilian expedition. Mr. Cobden replied to him with an amount of good sense and authority which delighted me. That mind, so determined, so lofty, is a solid and true ally to M. de Cavour.

*Au revoir.* I will beg you to send me a photograph of M. de Cavour which is like him, selected by yourself, to have bound in his biography. A second part to that will be required, and it will not be the least remarkable.

Herr Geffcken was very grateful for your reception of him, and he deserved it in all respects. May God guide you and bring you back to us.

K. C<sup>ESS</sup> DE CIRCUIT.

Please take the last *Correspondant* to the Marquis de Cavour; he will see there a piece by M. de Falloux which is very likely to be seized.

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## XVII.

*Les Bruyères, July 24, 1861.*

SIR,—How much I thank you for this precious portrait. It is an excellent likeness, but I can look at it only through my tears. It will be on the same page with yours—for ever united in my thoughts. I am glad to have from your hand the report for which I ventured to ask.<sup>1</sup> We have read it with the greatest interest in consideration of yourself no less

which M. de la Rive was the convinced interpreter to the St. James's Cabinet. On this question, but on this only, the opinions of M. de la Rive were found to be momentarily in accordance with the feelings of Garibaldi.

<sup>1</sup> The report of May 20, 1861, in which I gave Cavour an account of the administration of the Neapolitan provinces during the government of H.R.H. the Prince of Carignan.

than of him who then was at the head of King Victor Emmanuel's Government, and who will be the abiding and eternal honour of Italy. I doubt not that this piece of work earned for you the approbation which was most flattering to your deserts and dearest to your heart; a reward which for you no other can replace, not even the brilliant meed of justice which has been rendered to you, even outside of Italy, by people of an upright spirit and generous intention. The report gives a complete idea of the prodigious efforts which the reorganisation of Southern Italy must cost, of the difficulties which you had to overcome, and of the wholesome precedents which you have bequeathed to your successors.

Our congratulations on your return to Paris are mingled with so much bitterness that it has cost me both time and trouble to find the courage I needed to write to you to-day. Still, I cannot deny myself the consolation of recurring with you to this irreparable loss, and of assuring you of the profound sympathy with which those who have been worthy to share M. de Cavour's friendship, not limiting themselves to participation in your regret, will continue to stand by you with their good wishes in the great task which has been laid upon you. Amid the licence of party spirit and the blindness of prejudices, you will find out at Paris some minds in unison with your own; they will remind you every instant how sacred a duty is yours, without finching under so rude a trial, to continue the work with which, at so early a stage, when its realisation seemed more a dazzling dream than an historical possibility, you so perseveringly and so energetically associated yourself. I hope that you noticed the appropriateness and precision of the terms employed quite recently by one of my London friends on an important occasion respecting the recognition of Italy.

Before you are wholly swept away in the whirlwind of business, I should really very much enjoy seeing you at our

modest hermitage, near as it is to Paris. For me, and I hope for you, it would be a solace of our common sorrow, rather than an aggravation of it, to express it to each other, and to repeat that Count Cavour is not entirely lost to Italy since his spirit survives him, and tried friends are devoting their existence to the completion of his work. Up to the present Signor Ricasoli's actions and words are such as to make one think that he will worthily take up, so far as it can be taken up, an inheritance of such magnanimity.

My husband unites with me in saying that our little dinner-table will be happy to claim you at six o'clock precisely.

Believe me yours most sincerely,

KLUSTINE C<sup>SSÉ</sup> DE CIR COURT.

### XVIII.

(Two sprigs of heath stuck at the head of the page.)

*Par Bougival, August 28, 1861.*

SIR,—Your loyal remembrance in the midst of your business has made me very grateful. I understand how you are invaded every hour, and my regret at not seeing you increases every day. My husband never goes to Paris without trying to snatch a few moments of you; but he seldom goes there, for our friends succeed each other here even when our Paris is deserted. We enjoy them as they pass on their way back from watering-places, and these interesting appearances charm my seclusion. We have a neighbour who is an implacable enemy of Italy, although he was a friend of M. de Cavour, I mean M. Thiers. All the inexhaustible raciness of his charming wit becomes mere twaddle when he talks about that great resurrection and disputes the scope of it.

You will permit me in two words to introduce to you

M. Tchihatcheff, who has been recently elected to the Academy of Sciences. He is a man full of talent, a publicist, an intrepid traveller, a diligent explorer of Asia Minor. He has written some remarkable political tracts, "The Peace of Zurich" among others. He is going to pass the winter in Italy in order to observe her in her regenerate state, and much desires to have the honour of seeing you in the short time before his departure. He is truly on the side of that which we admire.

*Au revoir*, sir. Do not forget us, and doubt not of the value which we shall attach to those deep-seated memories which bind us in one with yours.

K. DE CIR COURT.

P.S.—You will have read Michel Chevalier's speech at Dublin. When he pronounced the name of Cavour frantic applause filled the hall. He bid me tell you this.

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## XIX.

*Les Bruyères, August 31, 1861.*

SIR,—From my heart a thousand thanks for these precious lines, which increase still further, if possible, my desire to see you again. I have so much to tell you about M. Thiers. He is not to be reconciled to the noble cause which you serve, and on this point only I fail to find in him the moderation which to me appears the special charm of that vast and comprehensive intelligence, actively enlightened as it is. He recognises in our friend all that for which Europe has done him honour, but he talks nonsense about the possibility of an Italy such as you understand her, and such as we, I firmly hope, shall see her. I understand your excess of reserve towards friends and enemies, and it is only with the utmost discretion that I shall venture to introduce an unknown person to you, you may be quite assured. Nevertheless, there is a manner of serving Italy

in action which is to animate and enlighten the zeal of those who can by various means co-operate in that grand work, and the least are not to be disdained. If you could, if it were possible, you would make me really grateful if you could come and dine with us at six o'clock precisely on Monday, the day after to-morrow. You will find here M. Poujade, who is going to start shortly for Florence, quite radiant with that post which suits him to perfection. You can guess that the title of consul, general does not prevent it from being a diplomatic position, and M. Poujade will be highly flattered by being introduced to you. He is very intelligent, very hard working, courageous, capable of understanding everything, and of making himself useful. We shall not venture to wait for you, but you know how much easier it is to carry on a conversation here in the shade than through all the interruptions of Paris.

The Marquis Incoutri will be of our party. I shall never forget the kindnesses which his grandfather<sup>1</sup> heaped upon us. Count Cavour had a high appreciation for M. de Poujade, whom he often saw at Lady Holland's.<sup>2</sup> What bonds all these recollections become!

Till Monday then. A few hours of peaceful chat would do you so much good. After certain trials, the heart does not recover its full strength. The loss which we mourn is one of those which each day seems to increase and render more irreparable. M. Thiers was relating to me the other day a conversation which he had had with M. Cousin. It is a revelation.

<sup>1</sup> The Marquis Gino Capponi.

<sup>2</sup> Lady Mary Augusta, daughter of the eighth Earl of Coventry, had married, in 1833, the last Lord Holland. Lady Holland became a widow in 1859, and thenceforward was accustomed to distribute her time between Holland House, in Kensington, St. Ann's Hill, in Surrey, and Naples. She was an old friend of Count Cavour's. Her residence, Holland House, where I last saw her in 1885, was for a long time the meeting place of the eminent men of the time both of England and of the Continent. She died at St. Ann's Hill, September 21, 1889.



Many thanks for your remembrance of me, you know how I value it from my heart.

K. DE CIR COURT.

XX.

*Les Bruyères, September 22, 1861.*

SIR,—May I hope that you have been kind enough to keep me one of those photographs, of which the *Illustration* offers me a doubtless imperfect reproduction? In exchange, I venture to offer you a book-marker; it is thoroughly rustic, and will make you think of a place which desires and hopes to see you. All these days your name has been mentioned. M. Thiers, in bidding me farewell, regretted much that he had not met you, and I fancy that his chances of doing so are not easy, considering the irreconcilable hostility of his present opinions. M. Cousin was staying with him, whom I have seen every day. His admiration for our illustrious friend is profound, but his obstinacy on other points relating to that great memory has always been no less fanatical. Herr Ranke asked me for news of you. He was here lately with his translator, Mrs. Austin.<sup>1</sup> She has just given us a week on her way to M. Guizot. Under my humble roof she was able to enjoy the neighbourhood of two of her most intimate friends—M. Cousin and M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire. I strongly advised the famous historian to go and see you, but so long as Prussia does not recognise the kingdom of Italy, German susceptibilities will not allow him to take so bold a step in spite of all the desire that he has for talk with you.

This morning I got a letter from the Marquis de Cavour. He has been vainly awaiting Mgr de Bonnechose, the Arch-

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Sarah Austin, born Taylor, of Norwich, published among other things English translations of Ranke's *History of the Reformation in Germany*, and *History of the Popes*.

bishop of Rouen. When the Archbishop came to bid me farewell on going to Rome, I urged and persuaded him to go by way of Turin. At his request I informed the Marquis de Cavour, but it is clear that the prelate changed his mind on the way. I am very sorry for it, for he would thus have found a unique opportunity of enlightening himself. He is by nature conciliatory and highly politic, and therefore moderate and prudent. Have you read Layard's very interesting article in the *Quarterly Review*?<sup>1</sup> The portrait to be found in it is much more life-like than usual, and the letters and conversations have an immense interest.

*Au revoir.* Forgive me for breaking in upon your thousand occupations, and believe me yours very sincerely,

K. DE CIRCOURT.

My husband has just lost his cousin, Admiral de Suin.<sup>2</sup> It is a real grief for us, and one noble nature the less.

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## XXI.

*Les Bruyères, October 12, 1861.*

SIR,—Although I have only a small portion of my correspondence here, I confide to you certain precious letters of our friend's. They will make you acquainted with him at a time when you were still a child, and did not foresee that your name and your affection would be so intimately bound up with that great memory. How grateful I shall ever be to him for having given me the advantage of knowing you, and of estimating for myself the charm and the remarkable talents of which he so often spoke to me! Without that direct intervention, a poor

<sup>1</sup> Sir Henry Layard's article, appeared in the *Quarterly Review* for October, 1861, under the title of "Count de Cavour."

<sup>2</sup> Vice-Admiral Marie Alfred de Suin, born 1796, died 1861. He was a member of the Board of Admiralty.

invalid shut up for so many years would never have been able to meet so brilliant a young diplomatist with so crowded a future unfolding itself before his eyes. As you read these pages, written so long ago, you will be struck with that mature reflection which was but awaiting the hour for action. I send you some lines from Count A. de Pourtalès, to whom I had lent ten letters belonging to the most divers epochs, but no one in the world will understand like you the value which I attach to them. It seems to me that you will take more pleasure in them at the present season than when the whirl of the winter has multiplied your engagements.

How much I thank you for having been able to grant me a few moments! You sat in the very same place where, in 1852 I had some long conversations with the friend whom we are mourning. Alas! my little abode, which was then full to its smallest corner, was not able to offer him the hospitality of which I should to-day have been so proud.

May I hope that you will preserve a little sympathy for me in return for my sincere friendship?

KLUSTINE C<sup>OME</sup> DE CIRCOURT.

## XXII.

[*Les Bruyères*], October 25, 1861.

SIB,—It was only yesterday that the precious packet, with which I could not have parted save to feel that it was in your hands, reached me. A thousand thanks for having let me see that admirable letter.<sup>1</sup> It is the living portrait of the friend whom we shall always regret. It seems to me that it makes it your duty some day to write that noble life which no one knew better than

<sup>1</sup> The letter addressed to me at Zurich from Count Cavour at Geneva, August 21, 1859. See Chiala, "*Lettere del Conte di Cavour*," iii, 123.

you, and into which you entered with quite particular intimacy. His nephew must require it of you with the most urgent insistence. How many letters I still possess at Paris extending over whole years! My husband, too, preserved several that are very remarkable, but as they are all political I thought that you would care less for them than for those which came from the *friend*. Do you not think that a collection of Count Cavour's letters would have a great success, and would throw light upon that mighty intellect which only revealed itself to the world amid strife and fierce conflict? The success of M. de Tocqueville's correspondence has often made me think of it. It was at my fireside that those two friends of my life met, and they never saw each other but that one and only time. A thousand thanks again for those two photographs, which we shall keep as precious things, and once more do not forget that I shall hope for yours.

You will have read M. Guizot's book.<sup>1</sup> It will do no wrong to the noble cause which you serve and defend. It is addressed to a public which has formed its opinions and does not wish to be enlightened, having taken its side beforehand. A Protestant asserting in the name of liberty the necessity for the temporal power of the Papacy does not seem to me very dangerous. Mgr de Bonnechose has returned from Rome convinced that the troops will stay there all the winter. It seems that Cardinal Ant[onelli] has a formal promise to that effect. We shall see General de Goyon soon. I am very intimate with his wife, but not at all with him. He expects to go back shortly.

During the first days of next month the surgeon's orders condemn me to return to Paris. I shall regret our clear sky and these horizons, admirable at all seasons; but it will be easier for my friends to reach me, and I shall be glad to spare them a long journey.

<sup>1</sup> *L'Église et la Société Chrétienne*, published at Paris in 1861.

I hope that you will be able to grant me a few moments, and that you know how profoundly I sympathise with you.

KLUSTINE C<sup>OMTE</sup> DE CIR COURT.

Could you give me a copy of the official letter announcing the death of Count Cavour? I am keeping every announcement of it in all countries which I can collect.

What prince is that whose letter the Count mentions at the end of his own? <sup>1</sup>

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### XXIII.

(A sprig of heath stuck at the top.)

*November 1, 1861.*

Yesterday an Englishman called upon me; he told me that his name was J. Devey, that he was a graduate of Cambridge and a member of the English bar. He added that he had had the honour of seeing you and of handing you a letter from Sir J. Hudson.<sup>2</sup> He said further that he had been directed to me by M. Le Play, Councillor of State. He said that, being engaged upon a work on the career and political history of Count Cavour, he is collecting authentic documents from all quarters, that Lord Clarendon had allowed him to see some very valuable letters, and had even accepted the dedication of the forthcoming work. He further asked if he might glance at the letters which I have from Count Cavour. . . . The first volume of this work is to appear early in next month, and it is about the years which preceded the political life of our friend that the biographer asked me for precise information. Forgive me for putting you to the trouble of writing me a couple of lines; you will understand my scruples. Mr. Devey stayed to dinner here, and seemed quite a gentleman.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Prince Napoleon.

<sup>2</sup> Sir James Hudson, British Envoy at Turin.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. J. Devey's work was never published.

I am returning to Paris in a few days, and hope to have your answer here. I am afraid that this damp weather will have brought back your throat trouble.

Yours most sincerely,

KLUSTINE C<sup>SSSE</sup> DE CIRCOURT.

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XXIV.

11, Rue des Saussayes, November, 1861.

SIR,—You have imagined the emotions with which I returned to this abode, where I first knew our friend, where he came so often, where his thoughts met the return of cordial intimacy. Who could have told me last spring the grief with which this year would be filled for me? A thousand thanks for that portrait; it is not at all flattered. On that noble brow there is a look of care and preoccupation which I never knew in him. The majestic serenity of the features struck me in March, 1859, and I find no trace of it. I am very grateful to you. All the portraits are put together, and will be placed at the head of the publication which you know, *Raccolta dei migliori scritti e documenti, etc.*, but all that past, alas! so living, so cruelly cut short, is veiled to me by tears. In exchange I venture, without fear of wearying you, to let you see the pages which my husband has written for me. I am certain that you will read them with interest, and will divine that you are the only person to whom I entrust them. To publish them would be impossible. Read them at your leisure, and be assured that I like to feel they are near you.

Your portrait, which I shall carefully preserve, lacks the essential characteristic of likeness; it does not give your age. What is remarkable in you is the complete harmony of youth with the eye of maturer age. Mr. Devey said to us that you had

a profile which recalled the Greek marbles; it is perfectly true. He is persecuting me with requests on behalf of his book, which he is carrying on passionately.

I sent lately to M. de Falloux a copy from a letter to M. de Cavour in 1838, asking me to introduce him to Mme Swetchine, making all due reserves. M. de Falloux was delighted with these lines, and will publish them, I believe, in the two volumes of correspondence which are about to appear, and which will still further increase the admiration which Mme Swetchine inspires.

The journey has tried me cruelly; I cannot stir from my bed. I am going to begin a new treatment which will last all this month, and will make me invisible. As soon as I am able to see my friends again you will allow me to let you know, so certain am I that, in spite of your engagements and your duties, you keep a few moments for me.

Yours most sincerely,

K. DE CIRCUIT.

This little seal was given me by M. de Cavour in 1841, engraved as you see.

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XXV.

[Paris], Nov. 27, 1861.

SIR,—You cannot doubt the readiness with which I shall attend to the person whom Prince Carignan so cordially commends to you; but Paris is the worst possible centre for such inquiries. External luxury has broken in upon all traditions. Can you believe that in the most ancient mansions which surround you they have daily governesses and ladies to read by the hour? Many times have I attempted similar inquiries, and it is in Italy that I have got places for people who could not find any place here.

Next Sunday I hope to resume my usual habits, and to

receive on Thursday and Sunday from three to five, all the other days in the early evening from half-past eight to ten. If you come to see me towards five o'clock, whenever your numerous engagements allow you, you will be almost sure to find me free from visitors, and we shall be able to talk. I should be so glad if my fireside could be to you a place of repose, for you must feel the need of one, and in so important a situation the relaxations natural to your age are not possible. I feel all that, and I should be glad if a deep and inexhaustible sympathy could be something of a resource to you.

Since you occupied yourself with popular ballads before you took to the higher politics, I venture to offer you the only copy of those which I still have,<sup>1</sup> and a sonnet by my friend, Professor Rossini.<sup>2</sup> You will thus see that when I was still quite young I had some friendships in Italy. In return I ask for your out-of-print volume whenever you can have it reprinted.

I have just been scolding M. de Falloux. I cannot allow that a certain absurd note upon Italy should again strike my eye in the second edition of Mme Swetchine's correspondence, which is again being printed, and I shall have full satisfaction. Otherwise the book has an interest which will reach beyond the circle of intimate friends.<sup>3</sup>

*Au revoir.* I shall be glad when the time comes.

Yours most sincerely,

K. DE CIR COURT.

<sup>1</sup> A collection of Roman popular songs (*Saggio di Canti popolari della provincia di Marittima e Campagna*) published at Rome, 1830, by P. E. Visconti, and dedicated to Mile Klustine.

<sup>2</sup> A piece of Italian verse of three stanzas composed by Professor Rossini for the wedding of Mile Klustine to Count de Circourt in 1830.

<sup>3</sup> The correspondence here referred to of Mme Swetchine, born Soymonoff, Mme de Circourt's compatriot and friend, was brought out by



## XXVI.

[Paris], November 28, 1861.

SIR,—M. de Falloux has this moment sent me these two volumes for M. Albert Blanc, and I venture to beg you to be so extremely kind as to forward them to him. According to what you tell me, it will be an exchange, and thanks to these two editors we shall be able to continue feeding our thoughts with that which cannot die. It is with the keenest impatience that I await the publication of these speeches.<sup>1</sup> They will, I believe, be the most useful monument that has been raised to that memory, which will grow ever greater. I shall try to obtain them as soon as possible. I have had each of our friend's speeches separately bound, and these copies will remain the most valuable to me.

I am charmed to learn that you are reading Mme Swetchine's letters with interest. She was for twenty-six years my most intimate friend, and I never noticed the difference of age. The ✓ youth of her heart, the keenness of her tastes, the exquisite sincerity of her impressions made intercourse with her an inexhaustible mine of enjoyments. The finest pages in her treatise on resignation are taken from her letters to me. They were too intimate to be published, and those you know are the most precious. She came to Les Bruyères, and had a great fondness for our distant views, and every week I sent her flowers. The first time that I introduced M. de Cavour to her he made a remarkable impression on her, and a most lively discussion arose between them about Count de Maistre, both maintaining their points of view with a mastery which charmed me. That was in 1838. For a year and a half before her death we were not able to meet again, but our intimacy did not

<sup>1</sup> The publication here mentioned took place in 1862 under the title, *Œuvre Parlementaire du Comte de Cavour traduite et annotée par MM. I. Arton et Albert Blanc. Paris, 1862.*

suffer. She bequeathed me a vase which always stood near her. M. de Falloux brought it to me at my hermitage the day after her death. Her correspondence with Father Lacordaire may perhaps appear, and it will be most interesting, for we shall have the letters of both correspondents. She lent me, as she received them, the letters of the Dominican father, to whom she was devoted.

*Au revoir.* You know how glad I shall be to see you again.

K. DE CIRCOURT.

## XXVII.

[Paris], December 28, 1861.

SIR,—M. Solvyns<sup>1</sup> comes to-morrow (Sunday) at three o'clock to bid me farewell, and if you were by chance in my part of the town at that hour you can guess how happy I should be to see you again. He starts for Turin on Monday.

Mind you read in the last *Correspondant* Montalembert's article on Father Lacordaire. I have sent M. de Falloux a very remarkable letter from A. Blanc. If the party spirit of his set allowed him to be free, M. de Falloux would be on our side, just as Mme Swetchine would have been, I am certain—she who was superior to all prejudices. You will have noticed her beautiful letters to Mme Craven,<sup>2</sup> and the touching fragment of that lady's journal.

Hoping to see you soon, and to-morrow, if possible,

K. DE CIRCOURT.

Allow me to devote to you a seal which M. de Cavour gave me in 1840,<sup>3</sup> at the end of a ruby pen which is worn out.

<sup>1</sup> Baron Solvyns, Belgian Envoy at Turin.

<sup>2</sup> Mme Pauline Craven, born de la Ferronays, author of the *Récit d'une Sœur*, and of many other works in literature, morals, and history.

<sup>3</sup> It should be 1841. See Count Cavour's letter of December 24 in that year.

He saw everything, and had noticed this letter on the handkerchiefs which I generally use.

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### XXVIII.

11, *Rue des Saussayes*, January 11, 1862.

SIR,—M. Thiers is coming to see me to-morrow (Sunday) at four o'clock. I tell you of it thinking that if you were free at that hour you would like to meet him. Without sharing any of his ideas, I find myself under the spell of that incomparable talker.

Mr. Devey is here more absorbed than ever in his work, but it grows so much under his hand that the first volume cannot possibly appear till February. I have just lent him the two very remarkable articles by Daniel Stern; you probably know them.

Farewell for a short time. I hope that you have not, like me, an abominable cold.

Yours most sincerely,

K. DE CIR COURT.

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### XXIX.

11, *Rue des Saussayes*, Jan. 25, 1862.

SIR,—It has been many days since I have had the pleasure of seeing you. I know that you have been unwell, and I have keenly shared the disappointment of Michel Chevalier, and the regret of my friend, M. de Kergorlay, who would have been so happy to have had the honour of receiving you next Monday. My faithful friends are kind enough to keep my place for me, even when it is impossible for me to occupy it.

You do not guess that I want to importune you, and that I

am really quite confused at the thought of it. Overwhelmed as you are with important business, I must be under strong compulsion to give you one minute of annoyance; but I used to behave in the same way to Count Cavour, so forgive me as he used to do, knowing as he did the horror I felt for all indiscreet requests.

M. Barrot, French Ambassador at Madrid, has received the Grand Cross of St. Maurice over the question of the Neapolitan archives. Very proud as he is of this great riband, his discretion does not allow him to ask for anything on behalf of his staff; but he has let it be known semi-officially that those who made overtures at Turin would have a good chance of obtaining the Knight's Cross. Now there is on his staff a young *attaché* of considerable ability, who entered the diplomatic career upon a brilliant examination. His name is the Viscount de Grouchy, and he is the son of my intimate friend.<sup>1</sup> She has lost her husband, who was French *chargé d'affaires* at Turin during the Coalition. M. de Cavour showed him the greatest attention, and he always remained his devoted friend. You see then the cause of my solicitation. If you can and will support young de Grouchy's request, you will probably be doing what M. de Cavour would have done in the like case. He took a real interest in the young man, and dissuaded his mother from sending him to St. Cyr, saying that he ought to be a diplomatist. That charming mother has every ambition for her son, and that will be my excuse with you.

Pity me for having to trouble you, and believe that whatever you may do I shall be a thousand times grateful. Hoping for an early meeting, I am yours,

KLUSTINE C<sup>SSS</sup> DE CIR COURT.

<sup>1</sup> Augusta Virginie Serré, Viscountess de Grouchy, died in 1889. Her son Emmanuel was French Secretary of Legation at Madrid during the last three months of 1861, and was then transferred to the legation at Turin in January, 1862.

P.S.—Do not forget that I am very desirous of knowing Signor Scialoja.<sup>1</sup> You know that I cannot meet him anywhere.

## XXX.

11, Rue des Saussayes, Feb. 7, 1862.

SIR,—You will have received directly from Geneva W. de la Rive's remarkable article on M. de Cavour,<sup>2</sup> so I did not send you a copy immediately. It is going the round of Paris, and gains unanimous approval. Your opinion, however, is that to which I attach most value. The author stayed here two days, and I should have liked to introduce him to you.

(Unsigned, on a visiting card.)

## XXXI.

[Paris], February 22, 1862.

DEAR SIR,—It seems to me that these lines about Count Cavour's correspondence will interest you. They reach me from London, and have been much read; but I maintain that it was unpardonable of Rattazzi to print those letters which were really confidential.<sup>3</sup> William de la Rive's work has had no success at

<sup>1</sup> Signor Antonio Scialoja, of Naples, economist and statesman, who was Professor of Political Economy at the University of Turin, deputy, minister and senator, had been attached to me as second plenipotentiary to negotiate the navigation convention and the treaty of commerce between Italy and France, which were signed at Paris, the first June 15, 1862, the second January 17, 1863. He died in 1877.

<sup>2</sup> The first part of M. William de la Rive's work, *Le Comte de Cavour, récits et souvenirs* (Paris, 1862).

<sup>3</sup> Mme de Circourt here alludes to some letters of Count Cavour to Signor Rattazzi, published by Signor Berti in January, 1862, in the *Rivista Contemporanea* of Turin. These letters, being reproduced by the English press, gave rise to certain declarations on the part of Lord Clarendon at the sitting of the House of Lords on February 17, 1862,

Geneva; hardly anyone will read it outside of the circle of our friend's closest intimates. The young author writes to me in great discouragement, and I answer him that its success here is such as to oblige him to continue it, and without delay. *He alone* can give us the minute portrait formed of the recollections of family and friends. I have already been asking permission to translate into German and English those pages which I should like to make generally known.

When you learnt the recognition by Prussia of the kingdom of Italy, you will have thought like me of Count Pourtalès, who so strongly advised it. But is not that a tribute worthy of his memory?

Michel Chevalier was telling me yesterday, after dining with Prince Napoleon, that your treaty progresses. You know how impatient I am to see its negotiator once more. Signor Scialoja perhaps has not the patience to bear with a poor invalid. Please tell him so from me with my compliments.

Hoping for an early meeting, I am, yours most sincerely,

K. DE CIRCOURT.

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XXXII.

[Paris], March 21, 1862.

DEAR SIR,—It seems very melancholy to me to pass so many days and weeks without having the consolation of seeing you again. I cannot meet you anywhere, and it will need a direct act of friendly recollection on your part to enable me to shake your hand. Accordingly, the account of the popular songs which you have published has been delightful to my heart. I admire that truly poetical disposition which attracted you to

which were afterwards replied to by Signor Berti at the sitting of the Italian Chamber of Deputies on the following July 8, by the Marquis Aynard de Cavour in a letter to the *Journal des Debats* of October 20, and by M. William de la Rive in his book on Cavour.

these expressions of simple feeling before the serious duties of so noble a political career had filled your life and inspired your intelligence with the desire of carrying on to a triumphant issue the grand cause which cost our friend his life.

I am expecting from Turin a little work disclosing the negotiations with Cardinal Antonelli,<sup>1</sup> and I am, above all, awaiting the volume upon which M. Artom is at work.<sup>2</sup> I much regret that he has left the ministry. If ever he comes to Paris I beg you to make me acquainted with him, for Count Cavour often spoke to me of him in the days when he used to speak of you, and promise that I should understand you some day.

At the end of next month I hope to be able to return to Les Bruyères. A horribly painful treatment has so far done nothing but cause fever and redouble my pain. I shall want much repose to recover from it, and I ask you for a few moments whenever your numerous interruptions will let you grant them to my solitude. I lately defended Italian unity for two hours long against M. Thiers so warmly that he came and said to me some days afterwards, "Nobody deserves the Grand Cross of St. Maurice so much as you." However, he seems to me to be a little shaken in his prejudices. I hope we shall meet soon.

K. DE CIR COURT.

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### XXXIII.

[Paris, March, 1862], Sunday.

DEAR SIR,—You may perhaps be interested to hear, from a witness who is worthy of all confidence, what is going on in Greece at the present moment. A young friend of ours has just

<sup>1</sup> The work in question was published at Turin in 1862 with the title *Negoziato tra il Conte di Cavour e il Cardinale Antonelli conchiuso per la cessione del potere temporale del Papa: di D. Antonino Isia.*

<sup>2</sup> This is the work already mentioned by MM. Artom and Blanc *Œuvre parlementaire du Comte de Cavour.*

come thence, and, with your permission, I should be glad to hear from you if you would be kind enough to have a talk with him. M. Baltazzi, whom we have known for some years, is able, young as he is, to observe, understand, hope. He has a nice fortune, and relations of the most honourable kind in his own country. The national awakening brings Greece naturally near to Italy. M. Baltazzi thinks that he cannot protract his stay here very long, and therefore I venture to let you know of the very great wish which he attaches to the honour of seeing you.

Many thanks for the pleasant moment, which I was unable to enjoy as I should have liked. You can believe that it is not every evening that I am favoured by the marquises from your part of the town. Yesterday you would have found me with everything young and sympathetic. The little book<sup>1</sup> has been devoured, and this morning my husband is going to read it to the chancellor.<sup>2</sup> You will have read in the *Times* of the 18th Lord John Russell's reply to Lord Normanby. *Au revoir*, as I hope.

K. DE CIRCOURT.

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XXXIV.

[Paris], March 28, 1862.

SIR,—Several copies of newspapers which I do not take in have reached me through my friends, for there is talk of your entry into the ministry, and you can guess how much we are concerned with it. And yet it seems to me that no post in Italy can be so influential as that which you occupy here, or so important for the future of Italy. Those who are most opposed to the triumph of your cause agree in saying that you represent

<sup>1</sup> The first part, already mentioned, of M. W. de la Rive's book.

<sup>2</sup> Chancellor Pasquier.



it with all the best qualities of a negotiator, and with that personal charm which is an addition to everything. Your ambition is too high not to be enlightened, but you must allow me a certain uneasiness. You must stay here; later on you will not fail to be the guiding minister of your country.

Forgive me this anxiety, due to a sympathy which is well known to you, and which you give me leave to believe not indiscreet. Yours most sincerely,

K. DE CIRCOURT.

Mr. Ffrench<sup>1</sup> has come back from Baden with keen regret at not having seen you again. What a charming nature is his! He has had some battles in my house which he will not forget. His ferocious adversaries are the ladies who live nearest to you.<sup>2</sup> M. de la Prade<sup>3</sup> threatens to address an epistle to him. I hope he will do nothing of the sort. Everything has been said on that sad subject.

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XXXV.

[Paris], April 3, 1862.

SIR,—It seems to me that this third article,<sup>4</sup> after you have read it, will particularly interest Signor Scialoja. If so, please lend it to him, at all events, if he can read any other matter than *tariffa*. How I find all my own advice in these living pages. Observe that the author is discouraged, for he has no success at Geneva, and I count on your approval to reanimate him.

(Unsigned, on a visiting card.)

<sup>1</sup> Robert Percy Ffrench, from the county of Galway, in Ireland. H.B.M. Secretary of Legation.

<sup>2</sup> That is, the dowagers of the Faubourg Saint-Germain.

<sup>3</sup> Poet, and Member of the French Academy.

<sup>4</sup> The continuation of M. de la Rive's work.

## XXXVI.

11, *Rue des Saussayes*, April 11, 1862.

DEAR SIR,—I think you will read with interest this pamphlet of Herr von Thielau,<sup>1</sup> a young publicist whom Count A. de Pourtalès had about him towards the end of his life. This little piece is written with very remarkable talent, but with a metaphysical obscurity which makes the reading of it laborious. This difficulty must be got over, for few recent publications give so just an idea of the present state of enlightened and even moderate minds in Germany on questions of external and even internal policy. The latter pages contain some attacks upon Count Cavour and upon the political morality of certain actions which have distressed more than they have surprised me. A good deal of allowance must be made for the rooted prejudices of the Germans.

I made a point of imparting your opinion to William de la Rive; it will flatter and encourage him. He is preparing two more articles, and will publish them in a single volume.

I hope by the end of this month to get back to Les Bruyères, and to see you many times before the long months which will separate me from my busy friends. The idle ones know the road which leads to our wild retreat,

Yours most sincerely,

K. DE CIR COURT.

## XXXVII.

[Paris], April 21, 1862.

DEAR SIR,—Do not forget me during my last week here. Till Sunday next inclusive, I retain the hope of seeing my

<sup>1</sup> Essay on Count Albert de Pourtalès, published at Berlin by Herr von Thielau in 1862 under the title *Graf Albert Pourtalès, Politischer Essay*.

friends. Signor Scialoja and his wife left me yesterday a moment before M. Thiers came in; he was more amusing and more brilliant than I have ever seen him. Mr. Stanley has given me his book of Moldavian and Wallachian popular songs; would you like to have it?

I hope we may meet soon.

(Unsigned, on a visiting card.)

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### XXXVIII.

[Paris], May 5, 1862.

SIR,—You have procured me a great enjoyment, inseparably linked with deep emotion. I have twice read over these pages, which seem to contain a living and vibrating echo.<sup>1</sup> It is seldom that one finds so many of the touches which depict a character brought together without an imprudence or indiscretion being committed. The page about Rome is very remarkable; it seems to me that revelations of this kind become a light to the most prejudiced minds. I could not finish the reading without tears. M. de Kergorlay, finding these pages by me yesterday, took possession of them, and left M. Thiers, M. Beulé, M. Vitet, M. Mérimée, Prévost-Paradol, and—the Duchess Colonna, to go and read them in a corner. He was charmed with them. I did not venture to impart them to M. Thiers without your permission, although I should much like to do so. I shall send him the volume when it has appeared.

William de la Rive is passing through Paris, and I have promised that you will see him if he calls on you. He will publish in a volume the articles which he has just completed, and will add many letters which have been forwarded to him since his work came out.

<sup>1</sup> Signor I. Artom's introduction to his *Œuvre parlementaire du Comte de Cavour*.

Ranke has bidden me tell you that he had the greatest wish to talk to you about the Papacy. He is so taken up with the despatches of the reign of Louis XIV., which he is copying, and which reveal mysteries to him, that he does not even go to the meetings of the Institute. He is only free in the evening, and he does not venture to go and look for you in the gloaming. Yesterday he was at the breakfast party which Madame Mohl<sup>1</sup> gave for the Queen of Holland; and I have heard from him several amusing stories of it.

This heat torments me cruelly. I shall start for the country next week; please tell Signor Artom that I am venturing to hope he will come and rest there when rest is possible for him. How curious I shall be to ransack his recollections. Duchess Colonna has been bringing me a Venetian, Signor Pasini,<sup>2</sup> who is enthusiastic about our friend. Do not you think that his memory grows greater every day?

Let us meet soon; and from my heart a thousand thanks. ✓

K. DE CIR COURT.

(Note to the last letter.)

Donna Adèle Colonna, Duchess of Castiglione, born Countess d'Affry, was snatched away from the affection of her mother and her friends, and from the art which she loved, by an untimely death in 1879. Count Adolphe de Circourt, who with her mother had tended her up to the last, communicated this sad news to me in the following letter:—

*Freiburg in Switzerland, Aug. 4, 1879.*

I have to discharge the saddest of commissions in announcing to you the death of our illustrious and still more excellent friend, the Duchess of Castiglione-Colonna. On July 16 she sank, at Castellamare, under the attack of an old-standing chest ailment, which neither skill, nor the

<sup>1</sup> Mme Mohl, born Clark, of Scottish family, was wife of Julius Mohl, the translator of the *Shah-Nameh*, who was Professor of Persian at the Collège de France, and member of the Institute. The memoir of her by Mrs. Simpson, daughter of Nassau Senior, is well known in England.

<sup>2</sup> Signor Ludovico Pasini, of Schio, Italian deputy, and afterwards senator, died in 1870.

climate, nor the assiduous care of the best of mothers, could overcome. By her simple courage, her frank resignation, the persistency of her affection, her death was rendered worthy of so beautiful and so short a life. I was present at her last moments, the picture of which will not leave me for an instant so long as I remain on this earth, the chief charm of which, for her mother and for more than one friend, has vanished with her. In Italy the Countess d'Affry received from her daughter's relations and friends all the help which she could have hoped for, besides the most touching evidences of sympathy. God is supporting this devoted mother in a trial as unexpected as it is cruel, and you would admire the valiant manner in which she is setting herself to the duties which she has yet to fulfil. I hope her health will soon be restored.

We returned slowly from Castellamare to Freiburg, gathering up at each stage the scattered relics of the Duchess; and it was but yesterday the Countess re-entered the desolate house. Her remaining daughter, her excellent son-in-law, Ottenfels, and their little children alleviate her grief, and give her new inducements to begin life again. She bids me tell you of her sorrow, and to assure you that the Duchess retained till the last moment the most delightful remembrance of your friendship, and counted on your remembrance, as to-day her mother asks your faithful remembrance of her daughter. You know how she always loved Italy. "In fine dilexit eam"; her last looks were fixed on the incomparable beauty of the land and sea of Campania, and one of her last prayers was for the prosperity of your country.

A. DE CIRCOURT.

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### XXXIX.

*Les Bruyères, June 5, 1862.*

DEAR SIR,—I venture to think that in spite of your many engagements you will find a few moments for me to-morrow, and that our deep regrets may be mingled. So a year has almost passed since the world lost him, the recollection of whom is for ever an imperishable bond between us. As one returns in thought to the time which followed that cruel blow, as one compares the condition into which that catastrophe brought Italy and France with the present state of affairs, one discovers that the most extraordinary, the most decisive successes which M. de Cavour gained are the work of his genius surviving his life on earth. It is by this sole standard that one can realise the

dimensions of that grand historic figure. The work of commonplace men does not last so long as they do; a clever combination gives them a momentary triumph, while unfavourable circumstances leave them in ruins. Count Cavour continues to guide the destinies of the country which he recalled almost miraculously into political existence. The impulse to political movement given and maintained so vigorously and so appositely still retains all its force. The nation draws inspiration from his thought, and whenever its resolution falters, has recourse, as to an oracle, to that lofty and steadfast mind which made itself obeyed by all kinds of selfishness because disinterested; by all prejudices, because it was enlightened; by all violence, because it was just. The latest gains which that imperturbable and patient policy has carried in Italy are at this moment solemnly recognised, and what is more, are solidly united. The compromise which, after honestly weighing all rights and comparing all duties, M. de Cavour suggested in order to put an end to the antagonism which is rending Italy and alarming the world, remains in all its essential features the only well-grounded hope of permanency without abasement for one party, of victory without remorse for the other. One year more, probably, and the coping-stone of the building will be laid. Cavour's work will take rank in the world as one of the controlling powers of Europe, one of the highest organs of civilisation. For our friend's memory it is the worthiest and most enduring glory. For those who have seen him disappear so prematurely it will be a high consolation; the only one we can hope for when, after having shared the confidence and the affection of such a man, we are condemned to a regret which will only end with our lives. I find a certain comfort in exchanging these thoughts with you. I can impart them to but few people; the time for justice and reparation has not yet arrived. Even for minds of high distinction it will probably be

long in coming ; but it is, I venture to say, a bond that I like to think indissoluble to have met in so rare an intimacy, and to have forestalled the verdict of posterity by associating ourselves, each according to his ability, with so lofty and so misunderstood a work. No one is more worthy than you to recall bygone days with emotion, and to face with confidence those which Providence has in store for your land.

My husband is all the better for his treatment in Germany. I am in a very poor way, but I hope next month to be better, and to have the great joy of seeing you again. Do not forget me, and speak of me to Signor Artom, whom I shall be happy to meet once more.

K. DE CIRCOUET.

I venture to ask Signor Artom to send me his book by post as soon as it appears. I shall read it again in my complete solitude.

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## XL.

*Les Bruyères, June 11, 1862.*

DEAR SIR,—I have this morning received my young friend's last bit ;<sup>1</sup> and I lose no time in sending it to you. I am sorry that he has recurred to the letter which gave rise to Lord Clarendon's contradiction, for this detail, unimportant for the entire work, will damage the volume which is about to appear. It seems to me that if those touching pages of Countess Alfieri's had been read by the Archbishop of Paris, the authorisation for prayers on June 6 would not have been withheld. I know, and like well, the parson of the Madeleine, and I am sure that he would have used all the persuasion of his speech to hinder so strange a prohibition.

Make Signor Artom read these pages, and send them back

<sup>1</sup> The last portion of M. de la Rive's work on *Comte Cavour*.

to me. I do not want to lend them again to the charming Mme Colonna, for she would keep them too long, and I wish to read them once more. Do not you think that a literary censorship would have forbidden them? M. Scherer corrects the proofs; and as he has received the author's permission to curtail, he makes no use of the right.

Thanks for the *Opinione*, which I shall keep and value, as coming from you.

My husband has been since yesterday at Baden with Countess Flemming,<sup>1</sup> daughter of Bettina and wife of the Prussian Minister. She stayed four months here the year before last. I am provisionally established in my dining-room, while the workmen are busy everywhere. It is now two years since I have been able to sit at table. Last time I dined here, that delightful Count Pourtalès and his wife remained at our rustic board till the last stroke of the bell. M. de Pourtalès said: "I hope I shall find you here again some day with Count Cavour. But look out for M. de Butenval: he would make a fine face at you." Alas! those two friends of my youth are no more; and Mme de Pourtalès writes to me that she has accepted the post of Grand Mistress with the future Queen of Prussia. Your new colleague,<sup>2</sup> in whom you find both talent and ambition, is said to be the Queen's man. My husband will probably see her; and as soon as he comes back, he will be eager to go and shake hands with you.

William de la Rive ventures to call on you during the only day which he will pass at Paris on his way back from London; please receive him. It will be a just recompense for him.

M. Chevalier seems dissatisfied with the position which the

<sup>1</sup> Ermengarde, Countess von Flemming, who died in 1880, was the daughter of Ludwig Achim von Arnim and Bettina Brentano, the friend of Goethe. In 1862, Count von Flemming was Prussian Envoy to Baden. He died at Florence 1884.

<sup>2</sup> Count von Goltz, Prussian Ambassador at Paris.



world assigns in England to the presidents of the jury.<sup>1</sup> Industry is one of the forces of the country; but it does not reckon among the elections of the aristocracy. My friend Cobden is much amused at these little disappointments.

— *Au revoir*—but when? I am in such a poor way that it is impossible for me to stir from my bed. Let your memory keep faithful to me; it has, I think, a bond of no common kind.

Yours most sincerely,

K. DE CIRCOURT.

### XLI.

*Les Bruyères, Oct. 4, 1862.*

SIR,—Your card is forwarded to me from Paris, and I must thank you for this sign of your friendly remembrance. You know how our thoughts have gone with you during these last weeks of agitation, which seemed to have brought nearer a definitive solution. What strength of soul you must need to remain calm and serene amid so many perplexities! The friend to whom I owe your friendship for me was an example to follow and admire. You will have been pleased with M. d'Haussonville's article.<sup>2</sup> It is very surprising—and the author in sending me a copy speaks of a long illness during which M. de Cavour tended him at Turin like a brother. Persons who are well informed assure me that this article is a manifesto of the Orleanist party in the matter of Italy, and that it was laid before the Duke of Aumale previous to its appearance.

William de la Rive's book is truly successful. It astonishes the enemy, and they are, above all, the people who need to be enlightened. I have given it freely to persons who had not read it; and I am sending my young friend a collection of

<sup>1</sup> At the International Exhibition.

<sup>2</sup> An article by Count O. d'Haussonville in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, of September 15, 1862, under the title, *M. de Cavour et la Crise italienne*.

opinions which are well-deserved thanks. In this way one ought to fix those impressions which still are the breath of life.

We shall spend the whole of November here. By this time it is gloomy winter in Paris, and a splendid autumn here. The sun rises facing my bed, and sets facing the drawing-room : I am never tired of watching the horizon which for seven years I have never been able to reach—and my eyes are better for it than for the darkness of the city.

To-day M. Beulé makes his first speech in public. I am sorry not to be there to applaud ; he has sent me the proof of it. His eulogy of Halévy is not an academic piece ; but it is the tale of a life devoted to art and nobly judged. M. Beulé cherishes with care the letters of introduction in Sardinia given him by our friend.

*Au revoir.* Do not forget us ; we shall be glad to see you again.

KLUSTINE <sup>CSSE</sup> DE CIRCOURT.

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## XLII.

*Les Bruyères, Oct. 17, 1862.*

SIR,—You will have guessed with what anxiety we thought of you and your dear Italy, when we heard of these Ministerial variations. I am very anxious to learn your impressions of the new Minister ;<sup>1</sup> he used often to talk much of you to me. He came and spent here the whole of the day after his journey to Châlons in the Imperial carriage ; and by some mistake could find no place save on the top (*impériale*) of the omnibus. This incognito much amused the President of a Company. We profited by the hours which he granted us in such friendly fashion to talk to him about all those great questions which had passed into a

<sup>1</sup> M. Drouyn de Lhuys had for the fourth time resumed the portfolio of Foreign Affairs on October 15.

new phase. He seems to us to be possessed by an unconquerable antipathy towards England and a decided partiality for Austria. You will find in him pleasant manners, ceremonious courtesy, the love of detail, and all the prejudices of the old routine. His "Excellency" only knows and loves thoroughly one land, namely, Spain. You will, therefore, have to conquer and take captive his sympathy for your country; and no one can do it better than you—for the personal charm is already felt. I understand all the addition to your cares which this new state of things makes; and I venture to believe that you will not think I am expressing it unseasonably.

Do you know that M. d'Hausonville's article has appeared in pamphlet form? You ought to send copies of it to Italy; it is unmistakably a party manifesto. The pages on the American war seemed to us very solid and coming just at the right moment. In this last *Revue* I was expecting an article by Michel Chevalier, but the publication of the jury's report, which he is carefully looking after, has delayed it.

*Au revoir.* I am delighted to hear that you have been able to breathe your native air and see your people again. I had feared that new complications were hindering you. My husband greets you. We have the sad occupation of a friend ill under our roof, and grave anxiety on his account.

Yours most sincerely,

K. DE CIR COURT.

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### XLIII.

11, Rue des Saussaies, Dec. 16, 1862.

✓ DEAR SIR,—A thousand thanks for these precious pages, which I am going to relish at leisure.<sup>1</sup> Do you know that I

<sup>1</sup> Mme de Circourt is speaking of a little collection of Piedmontese popular songs which I published at this time, and among which was one on Princess Caroline of Savoy, first wife of King Anthony of Saxony.

have twice danced with King Anthony, who married a princess of Sardinia? His cold and trembling hand was in those days a great terror of my youth. I lived on intimate terms with that little Saxon Court, and it was through my own fault that a correspondence with the present king<sup>1</sup> dropped. He gave me his Dante, and quite lately sent his portrait for Les Bruyères. What an evidence these poetical works are of your temper of mind in the midst of these successive storms which go on about you! I am very impatient to see you again. A bad cold has combined with the inevitable jolting of the carriage; yet I have been up since yesterday, and you will find me at the fireside Thursdays and Sundays after three. All other days from eight till ten. Our dear Duchess Colonna does not come back for two months. I have already seen her most afflicted admirers, and I unite with them in keenly desiring her return. In her you have a charming advocate of all that you hold dear.

May we soon meet, and often. With whom will you replace Signor Artom, who is going to fail us? It seems to me that the selection is very important for you.

Your sincere friend,

K. DE CIRCOURT.

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XLIV.

[Paris], Jan. 30, 1863.

SIR,—Every time that you are so kind as to receive my friends, I am certain of two results which cannot fail. You win sympathy for yourself, and you earn true gratitude for us. M. de la Villemarqué<sup>2</sup> and M. Jules Bonnet have, like so many others, experienced your charm, and I am happy to be able to

<sup>1</sup> King John of Saxony.

<sup>2</sup> Viscount Hersart de la Villemarqué, author of "*Barzas Breiz*."

thank you for it. To hear your name spoken by my fireside is a real enjoyment.

If you have any parcel to send to Turin outside of your regular despatches, please entrust it to me. Emmanuel de Grouchy has been appointed *attaché* at Turin, and starts tomorrow. He will be delighted to undertake anything which you may have for the same destination. His father died *chargé d'affaires* at Turin during the coalition, watched and tended by our illustrious friend. I am giving him introductions to Signor Artom and Countess Alfieri; he deserves a good welcome.

M. Drouyn de Lhuys gave me lately a proof of friendship, which I will relate to you some day at Les Bruyères. I am overwhelming him with requests for invitations to the ball, and I admire the way in which he does not refuse me; still it is a great loss to me never to see him now. Do not forget that I make a pleasure of every moment that you grant me. Your hours are too much filled up to allow me much hope; but remembrance has not these obstacles which paralyse the best intentions.

Yours most sincerely,

K. DE CIRCOURT.

Twenty days more and we shall have our fair Duchess Colonna.

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#### XLV.

[Paris], Jan. 27 [26], 1863.

SIR,—Would you have any curiosity to be present at the meeting of the Academy which is arousing more curiosity than ever?<sup>1</sup> Here is a ticket. If you cannot use it, kindly send it back to me, for I cannot resist the temptation of sending it to you; but it must be handed in before noon, which appears to me incompatible with your engagements.

<sup>1</sup> The reception of Prince Albert de Broglie.

I am most impatient to see you again. The events in Poland cause me great uneasiness. May we soon meet.

K. DE CIR COURT.

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*Written out by the Countess de Circourt.*

Some thoughts of Vinet's which specially apply to Count Cavour.

"Everybody believes in the man who believes in himself; and his hopeful daring is often the best resource in a time of general anxiety."

"The memory of great men is the treasure of the nation which has brought them forth."

"Eminent men do one work, and the memory of them does another. Often indeed the remembrance of them is the best and most lasting part of their work."

"Freedom is perhaps less easy to organise than victory; to *moralise* it is yet more difficult."

"Tyranny is the supreme disorder."

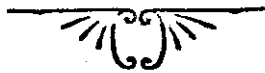
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