

MINOR PIECES.

ALFIERI'S BENEDICTION.*¹

SIA pace ai frati
Purchè sfratati:
E pace ai preti,
Ma pochi, e quieti:
Cardinalume
Non tolga lume:
Il maggior prete
Torni alla rete:
Leggi, e non re:
L'Italia c'è.

PEACE be to the friars,
But in common attires:
Peace, priests, to you also,
But few, and don't bawl so:
Our cardinals bright
Let 'em leave us our light:
The chief of the set
Let him take to his net:
Then laws, and no king;
And let Italy sing.

* Author: Vittorio Alfieri; Translator: Leigh Hunt / Transcribed and annotated by Gilberta Golinelli.

EDITORIAL NOTES

¹ Epigram I, by Vittorio Alfieri (1749-1803), composed in Siena on 15 August 1785 and first appeared in his *Rime* (1789). The English translation is by Leigh Hunt (1784-1859).