



"The Sistine Madonna"

By Raphael

When the airmen of the Central Powers bombed Venice it probably did not occur to them that Germany might have to pay in kind. Now, with Germany defeated, Italy asks reprisal for the paintings ruined by the bombs of Kultur, in the return of the

Italian works of art included in German collections. The Sistine Madonna, which formerly hung at Piacenza, is now in the Royal Gallery at Dresden and is the most famous of Raphael's paintings—probably the most admired and beloved

picture that has ever been painted. Many of the best Italian works in Austria and Germany were "acquired" by the simple act of conquest and theft in 1816 and 1838.

Courtesy of Rudolf Lesch, New York City