

cupied the Savoyard province of Vaud to the north of the city. Berne imposed the Protestant Reformation at Geneva, expelled the bishop, and installed a friendly city council to govern the city in his place. Soon John Calvin would be invited to Geneva to become its spiritual leader. Geneva and the province of Vaud would later become dependencies of Berne and the Swiss Confederation. Both these territories were now definitively lost to the House of Savoy.

Finally, Turin fell without a fight. In March 1536, as the French army was approaching the city, Duke Charles tried desperately to organize resistance. He ordered the citizens to labor at strengthening the fortifications, and attempted to install a garrison of Spanish soldiers hastily provided by his ally the emperor. The citizens, however, offered him no support. Long subjected to demands for loans and taxes by the chronically indebted Savoyard fisc, they showed no enthusiasm for work on the fortifications, and refused to advance money to pay for the Spanish garrison. Their refusal doomed the duke's hopes of defending Turin. On March 27 he bade farewell to the city council and left the city by river for Vercelli, accompanied by his soldiers, courtiers and officials. On April 1 the French army reached the outskirts of Turin and a herald demanded that it surrender. The Syndics and the city council sent a courier to the duke, asking what they should do; he replied that they must do what necessity dictated. On receiving his reply the Syndics went out to parley with the French commander, and after receiving assurances that he would respect the city's laws and privileges, they opened the gates and the French troops marched in. They would remain for the next sixteen years.