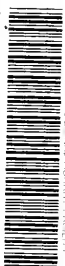
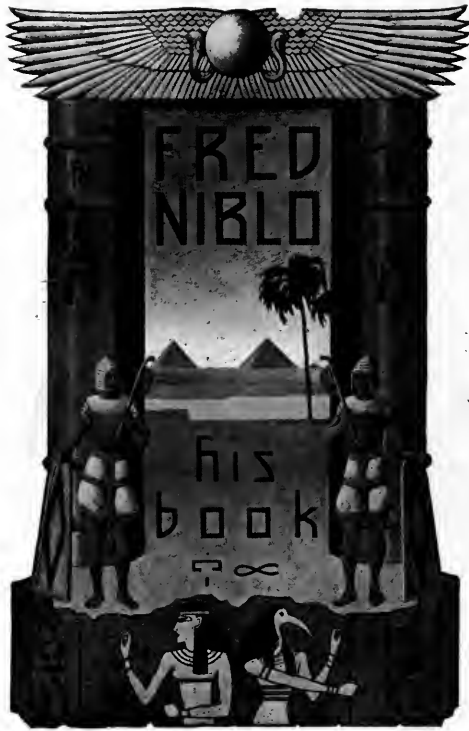


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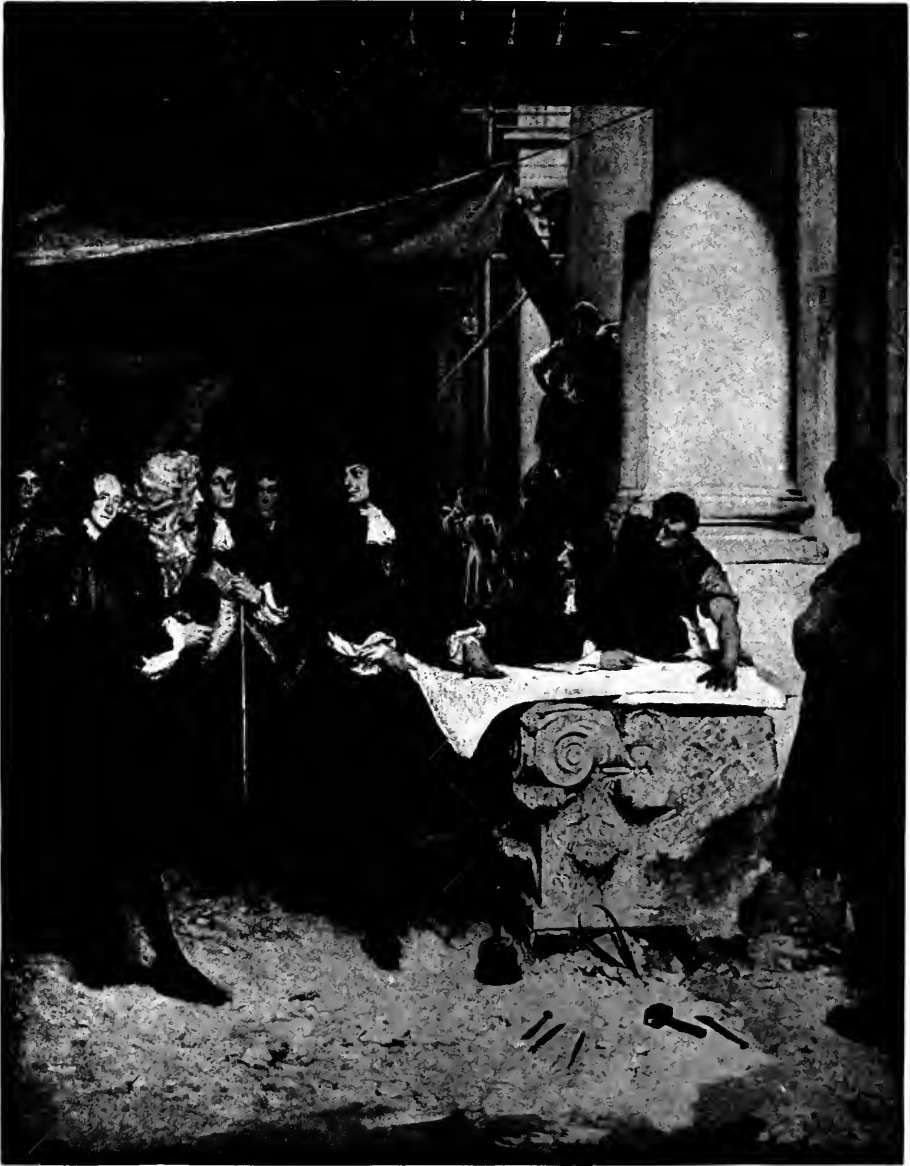


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CHARLES II. VISITING WREN DURING THE BUILDING OF ST. PAUL'S

From the painting by Seymour Lucas, R.A., in the possession of Mrs. W. G. King, Billingham

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A History of all Nations

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WITH OVER 8000 ILLUSTRATIONS

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

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Volume XI

WESTERN EUROPE TO THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

The Age of Louis XIV and XV

The Restoration

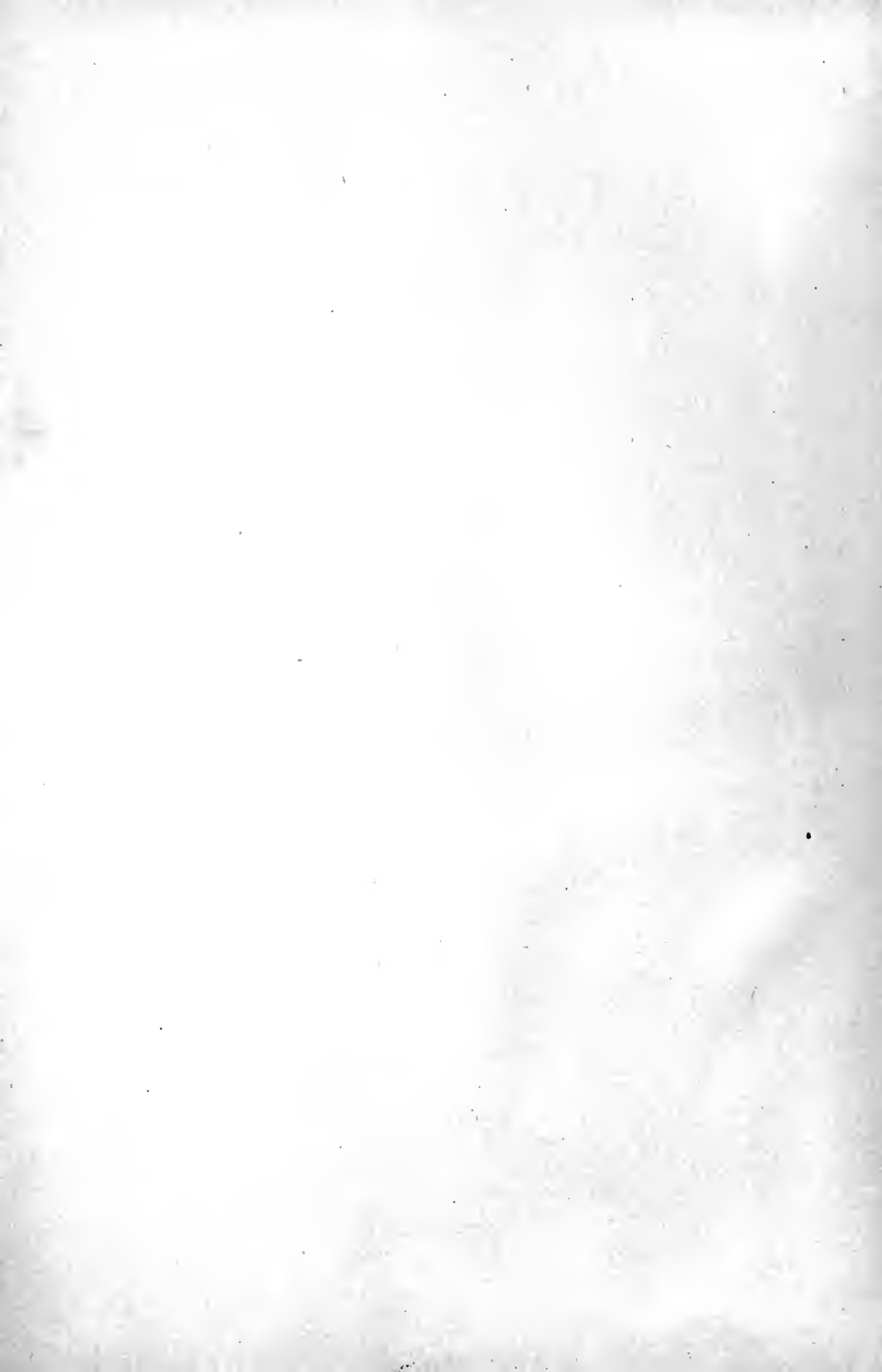
Great Britain and the American Revolution

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND NAPOLEONIC ERA

Europe After Waterloo

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THE AGE OF LOUIS XIV

THE GRAND MONARQUE

AND HIS LONG DOMINATION OF EUROPE

THE conclusion of the Peace of Westphalia is an important point of departure in the political and economic development of Europe; it is marked both by the firm establishment of the monarchical principle, and also by the rising predominance of the mercantile system. Moreover, it marks the end of political feudalism, on which the powers and functions of the mediæval body politic had been founded. Survivals of the feudal system may, no doubt, be noted even now; but its spirit ceased to be a moving force in European civilisation from that time, and the personal ties which held it together had lost their strength.

The struggles of individualism for recognition had been checked by the corporate character of mediæval life, but are of much earlier origin. Individualism came to birth with the revival of learning and the Renaissance, and had wholly won its way in the departments of science and art even during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. But it was not before its victory had been decisive there that the underlying principle, now sure of recognition, could be developed in another direction, that of the individuality of the state. New forces were brought into being by this movement,

The Birth of Great Movements

essentially opposed to the forces which had produced the feudal system. The more the powers of the corporations were restricted, the wider became the field for individual activity, and rulers were encouraged to grapple with those duties and responsibilities which had been previously undertaken by numerous corporations working to a common end. The assault delivered by the Reformation upon the

greatest and the most powerful of all international corporations, the papacy, had not been finally decisive during the sixteenth century. This success was attained only in the Thirty Years War, where the efforts of Catholicism to secure universal supremacy were proved to be incapable of realisation. The recognition

Rise of the Protestant States

of the equality of all Christian creeds in the Romano-German Empire, the political rise of the Protestant states—England, Sweden, and Holland—to the level of others which had remained Catholic, the sanction of the Pope given to “Christian,” “Catholic,” and “Apostolic” kingdoms—these were facts which nullified once and for all, that possibility of a universal Christian community upon which the greatest minds and the boldest politicians had once speculated. The results of these facts became manifest as well in Catholic as in Protestant states. Catholicism became a political force, but states were no longer founded with the object of realising the Catholic idea.

The House of Hapsburg gained great advantages from an alliance with the papacy, but it had, and has, no hesitation in renouncing the alliance, if by so doing it could further its political ends. Of this we have instances in the nineteenth century as well as in the eighteenth. In the policy of the French Bourbon and Napoleonic governments such instances are even more striking. The chief task of every government is to unify the powers under its control, and to turn them to account with a view to throwing off any external yoke and to consolidating the internal relations between the territories composing the state.

For the accomplishment of this purpose a change in the military system was imperatively demanded. During the fifteenth century the vassal's duties were by no means co-extensive with the mere defence of the country. Feudal armies were no longer equal to the demands made upon them by their overlords, who were anxious to increase their dominions, though the great city corporations of Italy were able to cope with the increasing difficulties of their policy, using only the military strength of their own citizens. Pay and recruiting became the sole methods of creating an army. Professional

soldiers fought for dynasties and towns, overthrew and founded states. The German military orders were profoundly national in their rules and regulations; but they were of no service to the national welfare, as there existed no general authority nor political bond. War became a business, in which the man who invested his capital was most likely to succeed. During the sixteenth century dynasties and political parties, such as the League in France, were content with this military instrument, which was passed from hand to hand, and came into

the service of hostile lords for so long a time as their operations should continue. But the great convulsion of the Thirty Years War opened the way for a new military organisation. It made possible the formation into standing armies of the yeomen who had been enlisted as occasion arose, and with these the state sought to advance its own political aims.

It was only in the second half of the seventeenth century that the idea gained ground in Germany and in France that the several territorial districts, and not the feudal vassals, had to undertake the responsibility of providing material for the war power of the overlord. First of

all, special districts became responsible for the enlistment of particular bodies of troops—regiments, in fact; then, if the numbers were too scanty, a further enlistment might be demanded; and, finally, the ruling power grew strong enough to grasp the right of calling out soldiers, or recruiting, an arrangement which would have been impossible before 1500, because it was incompatible with the conception of feudal sovereignty. This is a conception that has disappeared in modern states. The constitutional system of the nineteenth century would replace it with the conception of "personal freedom;" but this

is an idea which has been greatly limited by the respect demanded for "state necessities" and "state welfare."

In domestic administration, bureaucratic influences constantly grew stronger. The ruling power gradually claimed for itself those rights which had hitherto been bound up with territorial possession, or had formed part of municipal privileges. Such rights were exercised by individuals exclusively dependent upon the ruler or his representatives. The arrangement and subordination of these executive powers were carried out wholly upon the basis of



LOUIS XIV., KING OF FRANCE
 He was only four years of age when, in 1643, he became King of France. With Cardinal Mazarin as her Minister, Louis's mother, Anne of Austria, acted as regent, but in 1661 the great cardinal died, and the king becoming sole ruler made himself an absolute monarch. He died in 1715.

sovereignty, and the creation of this bureaucratic hierarchy occupied attention even during the eighteenth century, until it degenerated and was found incapable of completing the domestic organisation of the state, when it became obviously necessary to admit the co-operation of the people, who had been temporarily excluded from all share in administrative functions. However, standing armies and the bureaucracy are the distinguishing features of that political system which succeeded feudalism—a system of which we cannot even now observe the development in its totality, and the duration of which it is impossible to estimate.



A PORTRAIT OF LOUIS XIV., SHOWING THE KING IN HIS ROYAL ROBES

From an engraving of the painting by Hyacinthe Rigaud

It also became necessary to support the newly organised state by reconstituting its domestic economy, a process which was carried out upon the principle of separating districts and centralising the productive forces within them. In the second half of the seventeenth century the mercantile system spread in every direction. Its essential feature consists in the fact that the ruling power proposed to make the work of all the members of the state useful

to the state itself, to put pressure upon them in order that as large a share as possible of their profits might become available for state purposes. Of state necessities, the chief were the army and the fleet, which implied vital power and the possibility of self-aggrandisement. The territorial community therefore now takes the place of the municipal. The aim of governments is now to increase the productive powers of their peoples, not

only because individual producers and civic corporations are thereby benefited, but also because the capacity for bearing taxation is thereby increased. Governments struggle for colonial possessions, and support the formation of great trading companies, which are not now independent corporations, but must submit to State control and accommodate themselves to the political relations of their rulers with other powers. There we have the real origin of the conception of the national strength as a uniform activity, directed by the sovereign in power. It is when domestic economy takes a commercial direction that the distinguishing features of political economy are plainly seen, and hence arises an entirely new set of ideas concerning the nature and extent of national power.

This process did not come to fulfilment at the same time in every European nation; it was most quickly carried out in cases where political unity had already been attained, and where the central power had emerged victorious from the struggle with the independent corporations. It is the historian's task to explain those circumstances which exercised a retarding or an accelerating influence upon state formation. Economic life is wholly dependent upon external circumstances and the political situation, and therefore it is necessary first to examine the political history, and to expound the most important series of related facts, before entering upon an examination of national progress.

A history of civilisation, which would examine the immediate condition of peoples living under similar circumstances, and not confine itself merely to the intellectual side of development, to art and science, can be written only upon the basis of political history. Alone and unaided, it can gain no insight into the motive forces of civil and political life, for this is information which the science of political history alone can provide. Even at the present day we have

no answer to the question: What form of political and economic constitution will have that permanent importance for mankind which the forms of feudalism had for a thousand years? We do not know whether any grade of development yet remains for our entry which is likely to last so long, whether the rapid change of productive conditions is likely to influence conceptions of rights, and thereby to produce more rapid changes in the social organism. But the firm conviction is borne in upon us that the rise of those marvellously complex political organisms which we call Great Powers has exercised the highest degree of influence upon the historical life, not only of Europe,

but of the whole world. Nationalism is not sufficiently intellectual to give an impulse to the creation of fresh bodies politic differing in essentials from those now existing, and thus far has contributed merely to assure the position of the Great Powers; and it seems at the moment as if the great problems which mankind will have to solve in the near future could be taken in hand only with the help of the powerful machinery of the great states.

To offer further conjectures upon future developments is not the business of history, which should avoid political

hypotheses to the utmost of its power; but it is the duty of the historian to examine into the rise of those great political organisms with which lies the ultimate decision of all questions now involving the exercise of force. It is from this point of view that we propose to follow the course of history and

to pursue our investigations, giving special prominence to every point which may illustrate that remarkable and most important subject, the position of the Great Powers in the nineteenth century.

When Louis XIV. began to extend and to build upon the foundations which the two cardinals had laid, his government attained in every department of public business a degree of independence and



NICHOLAS FOUQUET

Under Mazarin, Fouquet became Procureur-Général and Minister of Finance, and in these positions acquired much wealth. He hoped to succeed the great cardinal, but Louis ordered his apprehension, and he died in prison in 1680.

The Heritage of the Great Cardinals

influence of which none of his confidential advisers could ever have dreamed. How could anyone have expected that the means which might have been successfully employed to set up a tyranny in some humble little principality would be set in operation in a kingdom which was the home of the proudest nobility in Europe, and where the highest law courts could insist upon the enforcement of law and custom as against the crown ?

Louis was convinced of the fact that a monarch who could make all the forces of the state subservient to himself, and could turn them to the state advantage at his will and pleasure, was in a position to undertake far heavier tasks than any Minister, however gifted.

The effort to realise his theory was a real pleasure to him, and he had sufficient ambition and also intellectual power to enable him to devote his life to this great task. A royal task it was in very truth, and he brought it to completion, for his was a royal nature through and through, eminently chosen and adapted to show mankind to what height of power and of purely personal influence a strong character can attain when supported by great traditions, inspired with the spirit of a highly gifted people, and devoting for half a century its every effort and exertion to increase and to extend the possessions which belonged to the nation.

The extraordinary political talent of the king became apparent at the outset of his reign in the security with which he proceeded to organise his government. He was himself his first and only Minister,

Ministers of Louis XIV.

assisted by several admirable intellects, for whom he, as master, appointed the several departments in which their activity was to be operative ; these were Colbert, Le Tellier, Louvois, father and son, and Lionne. In cases of necessity others were called in from time to time to the state councils, which were invariably held under the king's presidency. At first Turenne was often one of these, as were

Villeroi and several Secretaries of State at a later period. Special knowledge, capacity for some particular business, alone decided the king's choice : birth and wealth no longer constituted a right to a place in the royal council. The king was the sole representative of the royal family, the House of Bourbon with its different branches. In him were conjoined both the will of the nation and the interests of the dynasty. By the side of the young monarch the great Condé was but a poor figure ; he never rose above the position of governor and general, and after him no other prince of the blood attempted to lay claim to a share in the government.

The King's Firm Government

However, where there was the will to govern, it was also necessary that there should be a way. Louis XIV. directed his particular care to this end : he looked carefully into the business of the "Partisans," the tax-farmers and public creditors, for it was above all things necessary to protect the state from these vampires. He made a beginning with Nicholas Fouquet, the Procureur-Général and Minister of Finance, who had conducted this department of the state with great adroitness under Mazarin, but had also gained unbounded wealth for himself. Colbert had made the

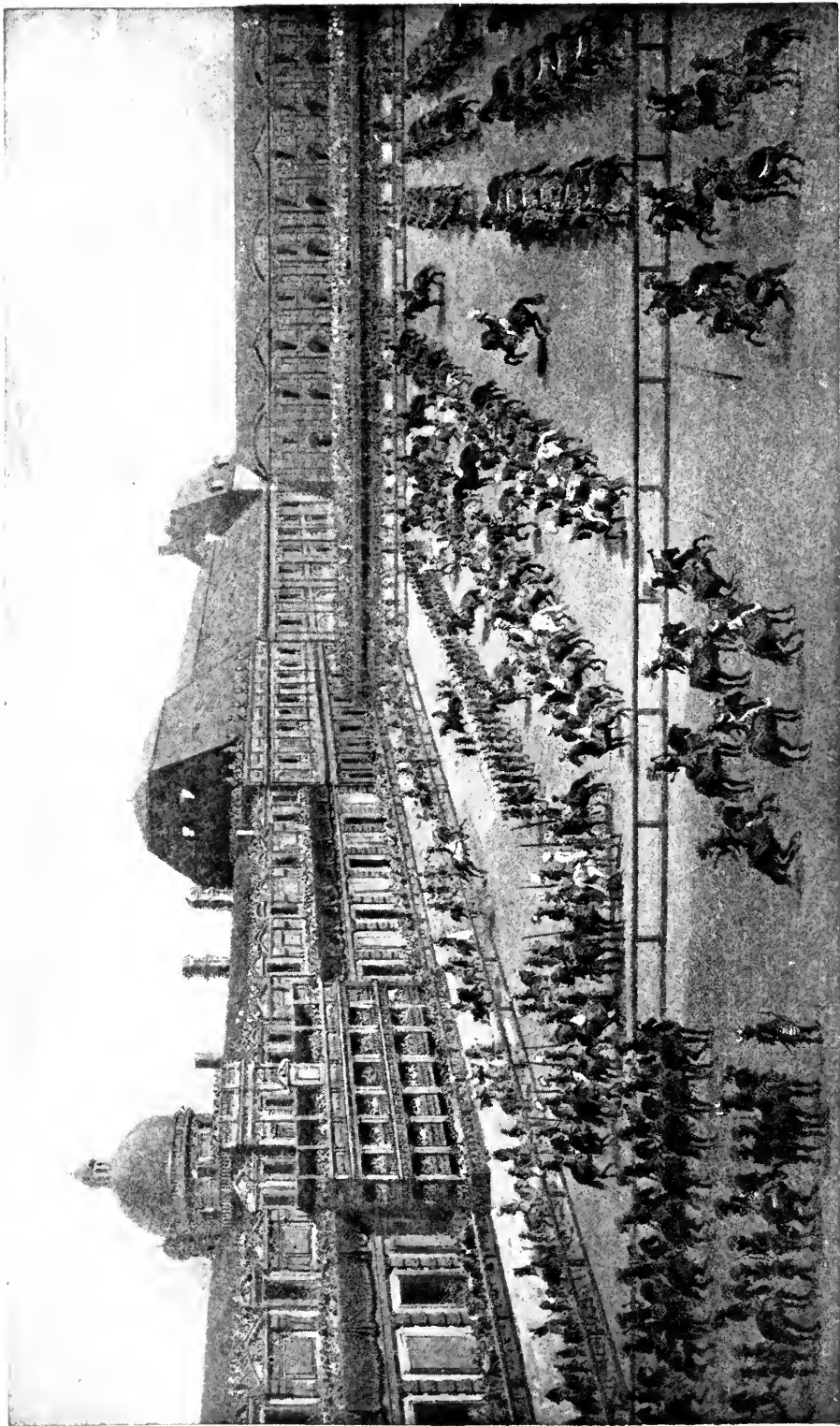


JEAN BAPTISTE COLBERT

The finances of France, and the country generally, were in a sad condition when Colbert became the chief Minister of Louis XIV. in 1661. He instituted many reforms, and in ten years the revenue was more than doubled.

king acquainted with all the underhand dealings and falsifications of Fouquet, and the king had definitely decided upon his dismissal at the moment when Fouquet was under the impression that he could take Mazarin's place, and rule both king and country as Prime Minister. He based his calculations upon the young man's love of pleasure, which had already become obvious —so much so as to convince the court that the society of the Fronde, which had laid no restraint upon the freedom of intercourse between ladies and their cavaliers, would here also be thrown into the shade.

But a peculiar feature in Louis' character, a mark both of his royal and tyrannical nature, was the fact that he never allowed his personal desires to



THE FRENCH KING AND HIS ARMY: A MILITARY TOURNAMENT UNDER LOUIS XIV. ON JUNE 6TH, 1062

Taking into his own hands in 1061 the full control of the government, Louis XIV., with the aid of his Minister Louvois, raised the status of the army. He made many conquests, the French infantry becoming during his reign the finest in the world, a distinction which it long retained. The above picture illustrates a grand military tournament under the king in 1062.

THE GRAND MONARQUE

influence his political judgment, that his interests in official life and government were never thrust out of their place by conversation and love affairs, and that he always found time for everything which could busy a mind with so wide an outlook over human life as his. Fouquet was arrested on September 5th, 1661, a short time after he had enchanted the king with an extraordinarily brilliant and expensive entertainment in his castle of Vaux, at Melun, and thought that he had won him over entirely. The king placed

him on his trial, and insisted upon a heavy punishment, although public opinion was in favour of the clever financier who had been adroit enough to circulate the guldens which he had extorted by his oppression among a wide circle of dependents and parasites, and also to reward therewith good and useful services. Colbert, as ministerial official, who had undertaken the business of working up the most varied "cases" with inexhaustible zeal, was very well acquainted with the methods by

which the partisans had gained their great wealth, and supported the king in his resolve to demand restitution to the state of the gold that had been unjustly extorted. A special court of justice was entrusted with the examination of the defalcations, and ordered confiscations in the case of five hundred persons to the amount of 110 millions of livres, which were poured into the state chest.

By means of this influx, and also by lowering the rate of interest which the state paid to its creditors, Jean Baptiste Colbert was enabled to maintain the

national credit without further impositions, although the revenues had been pledged from the beginning of his administration until 1663. He entirely removed the *taille*, or poll tax, which was a burden only upon peasants and citizens, for the clergy, the nobility, and the upper-class citizens, in fact everyone who bore a title, had been exempted. On the other hand, he raised the indirect taxes, especially the *gabelle*, or salt tax, which was remitted only in exceptional cases, and bore more heavily upon the large estab-

lishments than upon the small.

With the reform of taxation began that great economic centralisation of the mercantile system, which is of no less importance than the formation of the state. Colbert had no precedent for his guidance, but none the less he formed the successive economic developments of previous reigns into a firm and sound national system, even as his lord and king followed the steps of Henry IV. and Richelieu in his foreign policy. The regulations by which Louis XI.

had opposed the entrance of foreign manufacturers into the kingdom, the institution of free trade in corn within the limits of the kingdom by the edict of 1539, the bestowal of special rights upon the commercial and manufacturing classes by the government after 1577 and 1581, the creation of a French fleet under Richelieu—these measures were first necessary before the policy of economic protection, the removal of the customs duties of the provinces, could enable the general interests of the state to gain a victory over the individual aspirations of separate



MARIA THERESA, THE QUEEN OF LOUIS XIV.

This portrait of the queen of Louis XIV. is reproduced from the painting by Velasquez. Maria Theresa was the eldest daughter of Philip IV. of Spain, and was married to the French king in 1660.

provinces and towns. The States-General could no longer be summoned, because such a measure would have renewed the struggle between the orders and the central power, and have taxed the entire strength of the government. It became necessary to place limits on the operation of the provincial assemblies, as no con-

**France's
Economic
Progress**

sideration for the general necessities could be expected from them. There was also the danger to be reckoned with, as the event proved, that these assemblies would use their privileges to secure their putative advantages within the narrow limits of their local administration, and would place every obstacle in the way of the government, which invaded the rights of the individual in its zeal to further the aims of the public economy.

In the course of only six years (1667-1673) successive royal edicts had laid the foundations of a uniform administration throughout France, without which the country could never have provided the government with the enormous amount of military material required for the war against neighbouring states, whereby the "natural" boundaries of France were to be reached. Before the state could exert its power as a whole, the national resources had to be centralised. Economic progress became the foundation of political power.

There was but one method of increasing the prosperity of the citizens, and so making it possible for them to bear the burden of national undertakings, and this method consisted in attracting them to the production of staple articles of consumption, in persuading them to trade on their own account and so to reserve to themselves the profits which foreigners had previously appropriated, in putting all the available money in the country into circulation, and, by a steady reduction of the influx of foreigners, excluding foreign countries from all participation in the advantages gained

**The Government's
Encouragement
of Commerce**

through trade and manufactures. This change in industrial concerns had almost to be forced upon the citizens of France by the government; of themselves, they contributed but little to that result. Not only did Colbert exercise his influence to bring about the erection of new manufactories, not only did he procure foreign experts and place them as instructors in the workshops, but even the smallest technical details were

carefully examined by the authorities, Directions upon the weaving and dyeing of hundreds of fabrics were issued by them, and disregard of their regulations was punished. In the department of manufactures the energy of the government was rewarded by brilliant success.

The dexterity and the good taste of the population displayed itself in their manufactures, which were, in part, new creations or were modified to meet an existing demand, as in the case of the lace manufacture.

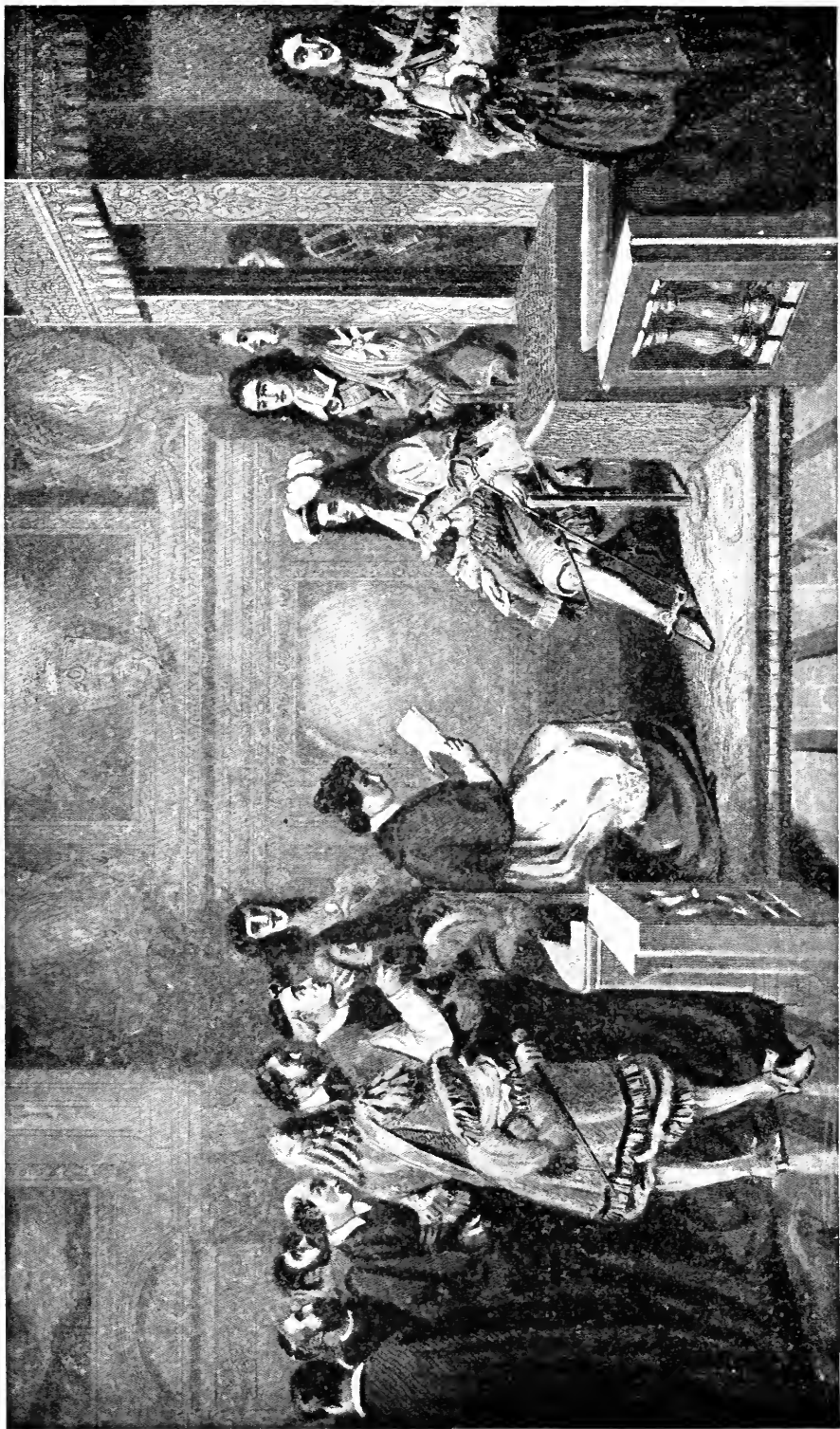
The trade, however, which it was hoped that the West India, East Africa, East India, Northern, and Levant companies would establish by no means fulfilled the general expectations. The French were not capable of world-wide commercial undertakings. They rarely desired to push their influence in far distant countries; they were not fitted, as their king had supposed, to enter into commercial rivalry with Holland and England. Several times France gained a footing in North America, and each attempt proved her want of capacity for the task of colonisation. At the present day France has neither

**French
Incapacity in
Business**

influence nor colonists in the northern continent of the New World; these have passed to the British race. The capital of these companies was provided by private subscription, in which the higher officials had to take a share "at the king's desire."

The best business of all was done by the Levantine company, which monopolised the trade between the western Mediterranean and ports of the Turkish kingdom, after numerous attempts at intervention by the Dutch merchants. Great hopes had rested upon the completion of the Canal du Midi, as it was thought that merchantmen of heavy tonnage could avail themselves of this new route from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean; at any rate, it made manifest the talents of the French for engineering work, and gave flatterers—among whom Pierre Corneille was conspicuous—the opportunity of magnifying the king above Charlemagne and all his predecessors. But the new passage did not become an important trade route; the canal affected the trade merely of the surrounding districts—that is to say, of Languedoc.

The rearrangement of financial affairs, wherein, according to the report of the Venetian envoys, material improvement would be rapidly brought about by the influx of bullion from abroad, enabled the



THE POPE'S APOLOGY TO THE FRENCH KING: CARDINAL CHIGI PLEADING BEFORE LOUIS XIV. FOR PARDON
The sequel to a dispute between Pope Alexander VII. and Louis XIV. is represented in the above picture. In 1669 the French ambassadors in Rome claimed the privilege of protecting all the quarter of the city near their residence from the usual operations of justice; and supporting this contention, Louis became involved in a serious dispute with the occupant of St. Peter's Chair. At length the Pope gave way, and sent his nephew, Cardinal Chigi, to Paris, to apologise to the French king and to seek pardon for the Holy See.

king to reorganise the army, which was hardly equal to any enterprise of difficulty in its present form, under which it had emerged from the most recent wars. The system of yeomanry enlistment, the swindling practised by the authorities, whose returns invariably claimed pay for a larger number of men than were actually under arms, the small number of real fighting troops as compared with the growing train of camp followers, the entire dependence of military operations upon the exigencies of winter quarters and harvesting—these and many other causes of weakness could only be swept away when the king took the interests of the officers and men directly under his control, when the middleman was no longer responsible for their equipment, and when pay could be disbursed as it fell due.

Hitherto the governors of the provinces had been a serious check to the power of the king over the army, since they had command of the fortress garrisons, and

could call out the "arrière ban" of the nobles and levy the militia. Standing cavalry regiments had never been kept up, as they were found to be unavailable for purposes of regular warfare. Louvois was the first to make use of the militia—with some reluctance—during the War of the Spanish Succession, when lack of men became a serious problem. For this purpose contributions were exacted from the nobility and the towns, which were employed for purposes of recruiting.

It was not a national army that Louis XIV. employed to secure his predominance in Europe, but an army of professional soldiers, of which scarce two-thirds were Frenchmen. The infantry of the "Maison du Roi," which was 6,000 strong, was half foreign; in the life-guards, 800 mounted troops of noble origin, Frenchmen were in the majority. The "infantry of the line" counted forty-six regiments, of which fourteen, including fifty so-called free companies, were composed of Swiss,



RENEWAL OF THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND, NOVEMBER 16TH, 1663



"L'ETAT, C'EST MOI!": THE FAMOUS DECLARATION OF LOUIS XIV.

The imperious temper of the youthful King of France, ever impatient with opposition, led Louis on one occasion to take stern measures with the Paris Parlement. While he was hunting, word was brought to him regarding the interference of the Parlement with his edicts; he galloped straight to Paris, entered the Palais de Justice and Hall of Parlement in his hunting habit, and sternly rebuked the astonished legists. "L'Etat, c'est moi!"—The State, it is I—is the saying attributed to him, and in this phrase is embodied the policy which he so zealously pursued.

Germans, Irishmen, Italians, and Walloons. The cavalry amounted to eighty-two regiments, with 12,000 horses; in their case foreigners made up an eighth part of the whole, and were looked upon as the flower of the service, and received higher pay than the native-born soldiers.

The rise of the French nation to the position of a great power was not the result of any great national movement, but was due solely to the victory of the system of centralisation and monarchical absolutism, which lofty aims were prosecuted by capable statesmen and a monarch of first-rate capacity. These aims were national. They corresponded to that inner consciousness of power with which the nation was inspired; but they were not laid down as being the direct expression of the national will. The kingly policy had to undertake the task of accustoming the nation to that point of view. In the German Empire exactly the contrary was the case. There the necessities and the just

demands of the nation were discussed in tracts and essays, which went the round of the educated classes. But the movement gained no consideration; neither the emperor nor the diet was able to unite the German forces, either for defence against attack, or for the enforcement of justice, or contractual obligations, or for a stand against oppression. Had not this dissimilarity of conditions existed in her neighbour, France would never have been able, even under the strongest absolutism, to attain a position wholly out of proportion to her natural resources and to the just claims of her people.

Centralisation at home was followed by extension abroad, by conquest, the unlimited extent of which could not fail to become a source of danger to the nation. There can be no doubt that Louis XIV. was induced to undertake his wars of spoliation by the legend of Austrasia and the so-called right of natural boundaries, which were to include the Rhine;

but it is equally certain that after his marriage with the Infanta of Spain he had entertained the hope of winning the Spanish kingdom, or at least a large portion of its territory. In so doing he transgressed to his eventual ruin the limits of the classical system of French policy which had been founded by Henry IV. and built up by the

Louis' Policy of Aggression

cardinals. He excited the greed for possession in the French, and fostered their political pride; but he failed to inspire them with that sense of unconditional devotion to the state, with that spirit of cheerful obedience to the ruling house, which is alone able to sustain the shock of severe repulse. The excess to which the centralisation of the state was carried brought about consequences so disastrous to the nation that all the cruel blood-letting of the Revolution could not effect a permanent cure.

The first step which betrayed the young king's intentions was directed against Lorraine. This province had already passed into the French sphere of influence, as a result of the rights, acquired in 1659, to a military road which crossed the province in the direction of the Rhine. Diplomatic quibbles and finally the employment of force gained the whole district with the exception of one fortress, Maral. The ducal family of the House of Guise were again obliged to attempt to protect their property by joining hands with the Hapsburg policy; but they obtained no material support from the emperor.

The second step had for its object the acquisition of the Spanish "Burgundian" dominions. Louis XIV. was ready to support his father-in-law, Philip, against Portugal—for Philip had designs of uniting Portugal with the country of its origin—provided that he would agree to declare that the renunciation made by his elder daughter, Louis' wife, was invalid, and that she might accordingly lay claim to

The French Claims on Great Burgundy

the inheritance of Franche-Comté and some Netherland territory. Louis' intentions were helped by the fact that the Netherland jurists established the fact of the existence of so-called rights of escheatage as regards Brabant, whereby Maria Theresa could lay definite claim to an important part of Great Burgundy. When Philip died, in 1665, Louis came to an understanding with Charles II. of England upon certain acquisitions which Charles was

to obtain, concluded a compact with the Rhenish princes for the security of the passage of the Rhine against any contingents of the imperial troops, and then ordered the Marshals Antoine d'Aumont and Turenne to advance into Flanders and push on to Brabant.

The Spaniards were not so completely taken by surprise as had been hoped in Paris. Brussels was too well prepared to be captured by any sudden attack. Dendermonde, the most important strategical point on the Scheldt, was in an excellent position of defence, and could have withstood a siege. But Charleroi, Douai, Courtrai, and Lille were seized before the powers, who had been surprised by this unexpected breach of the peace on the part of France, could agree upon any common action. Louis issued the information that he desired to gain the Franche-Comté, Luxemburg, and certain places on the Netherland frontier, and that if these were left to him he would renounce all claims to any further rights which his wife might acquire by inheritance. Condé, who was entrusted with the conquest of the Franche-Comté,

Louis XIV. and the Triple Alliance

succeeded in this task with surprising rapidity but this was the sole success which fell to the king as a result of this first act of aggression. Sweden joined the convention which had been brought about between England and the states of Holland, resulting in the Triple Alliance on January 23rd, 1668, which recognised the claims of Louis to what he had already seized, on the condition that he should renounce all future attempts at aggrandisement.

The king agreed; he restored the Franche-Comté to Spain, and retained his conquests in the Spanish Netherlands. The Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, to which Spain was obliged to conform, confirmed this settlement on May 2nd, 1668, without raising any discussion as to Maria Theresa's rights of inheritance. Louis' Ministers had urgently advised him not to entangle the finances of the country by prosecuting a war, in which Spain would undoubtedly have found allies against him. Before it was possible to resume the policy of conquest, the work of centralising the forces of the state must be vigorously prosecuted. Meanwhile, the task before French diplomacy was to split up the Triple Alliance and to prevent any future union of the so-called "sea powers."

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE AGE
OF
LOUIS XIV.
II

AUSTRIA AND THE EMPIRE AND GERMANY'S FALL FROM GREATNESS

THE German Empire, the old Holy Roman Empire of the German nation, once the greatest power of western Christendom, had renounced its position as a great power by the Peace of Westphalia. It had been deprived of territory, population, and wealth, its economic resources were inadequate, and its moral strength proportionately weakened. Moreover, its constitution had undergone changes, which entirely removed the possibility of that union of national force, that civil centralisation, by which alone national strength can manifest itself in action.

The feudal system had in this case run a course entirely different from that taken in England and France. The throne was based upon election by the freemen; and though the power of election was limited to a constantly diminishing body, yet it could not be entirely set aside by any member of the royal house,

Limiting the Power of the Monarch

which, both on the nearer and further side of the Alps, maintained the exercise of the royal prerogatives with the consent and the support owed by law from the great vassals. When finally the princes who had the right of choice—that is, the electors—received the commission to place a ruler on the throne under conditions contractual in their nature, then their rights and their peculiar position gained a constitutional sanction, and the power of the monarch was so far limited that he could never attain to absolute sovereignty.

The classes excluded from the electorate were also protected from oppression, for on the one hand they were indispensable to the bearer of the crown as a counterpoise to the electors, and, on the other hand, the latter might find their help useful should the sovereign meditate any attack upon their own political existence. The many-sided interests which king and emperor were bound or found occasion to represent claimed their whole power and attention. The inadequacy of

the revenue which the head of the empire, as such, had at his command made them dependent upon the goodwill of their vassals; and whenever the latter gave their assistance they found opportunity to increase their rights and to strengthen their influence upon the life of

The Church Strong in Germany

the nation. Nowhere was the position of the Church so independent or endowed with such high temporal powers as in Germany; nowhere without the German Empire could ecclesiastical princes be found with the position of an Archbishop of Mainz or Cologne, a Bishop of Würzburg or Münster, bishops who could style themselves Dukes of Franconia or Westphalia.

The Reformation had diminished their number, but the property of the dispossessed had not accrued to the crown, as might very well have been the case if the head of the empire had been able to guide the movement directed against the constitution of the Church. A Protestant emperor who could have been a national emperor at the same time might have emerged in triumph from the battle with the feudal powers, which apparently fled for protection behind the sheltering bulwarks of the old belief; the ally and voluntary steward of the papacy handed over the portion of the empire which had been torn from the old Church to the princely houses, which thereby enriched themselves and assured their political position.

The Thirty Years War had shown that this state of affairs was impossible. It should, however, be observed that the German religious wars might have had a different result if a tax-gatherer had held the throne in place of Charles V., or if Ferdinand II. had been inspired with the spirit of a Henry of Navarre, or even if this weak-minded pupil of the Jesuits of the Ingol towns had had at least the moral strength to use the talent and the mercilessness of a Wallenstein in the interests

of a ruling imperialism based upon force of arms. As a matter of fact, that strong personality, which might have changed the semblance of imperial power into the reality, was not forthcoming from the House of Hapsburg; in spite of the Divine assistance officially promised by the successors of St. Peter, it was equally incapable

The Paradox of Germany's Sovereign

of performing the task laid upon it by the papacy—the subjection of the schismatics in the empire to the Roman Church. Indeed, the ecclesiastical princes themselves contributed not a little to retard the progress of the army of the Catholic emperor; they went over to the side of Maximilian of Wittelsbach when at Regensburg he had wrested the order for the release of the Friedländer from the emperor. The certainty was then made absolute that Germany could not be a monarchy.

And Philip Boguslav of Chemnitz was entirely justified, in 1640, when in his famous “Dissertatio de ratione status in imperio nostro romano-germanico” he described the form of the German monarchy as essentially aristocratical, entrusting certain departments of administration to the supervision of a monarch; the monarch, however, had no special rights appertaining to him as princeps, except such as his colleagues in the administration were willing to concede to him. “This person of supreme rank bears the old Roman title of ‘Kaiser,’ but the title does not express the position which a monarch holds in other states. Sovereignty or majesty is not to be found with the Kaiser, but only with the general assembly of the members of the empire crowned in the Reichstag.”

In accordance with this conception of the state, representatives of the German Reichstag carried on negotiations for Münster and Osnabrück, and by the Peace of Westphalia the sovereignty of every component member of the empire was recognised,

When the Empire Ceased as a State

from the electors and dukes to such towns as Dinkelsbühl and Bopfinger. The empire thereupon ceased to be a state. It no longer corresponded to the demands of a feudal state; for in such the vassals were not and could not be equal with the overlord, but must be in personal subjection to and dependence upon him. But the empire was also incapable of providing from its own resources for the protection of its people against enemies

from without or injustice within, and still more incapable of carrying out the organisation necessary for culture and prosperity.

The fulfilment of these obligations belonging to the state devolved upon the Orders, the owners of territory, who were forced to develop gradually into separate states or to disappear; as the decision upon the religion to be adopted lay in their hands, they were in possession of the most important of all instruments for moulding the social spirit of their territory. But the German Orders differed greatly in extent of dominion, in composition, and in power of action, and, in consequence, only a small number of them was capable of forming a political unity, there being 158 members of the Reichstag, whereas there existed nearly 300 governors with forms of administration peculiar to each.

During the period from the Peace of Westphalia to the dissolution of the old kingdom the history of Germany embraces not only the struggle of the Orders to maintain their sovereignty as against the attempts of the emperor to limit it, but, even more, the struggle for means to found

The Fate of Weak Dynasties

a body politic—that is, for extent of territory, increase of the population, and strengthening of internal relations. A process of centralisation embracing the whole empire was impracticable, being excluded by the existing scheme of disunion and disruption; such centralisation was possible only within the narrow boundaries of territorial lords, and was therefore confined to the German principalities. Strong and fortunate dynasties, where vigorous personalities could make their mark, succeeded in founding states with vital force sufficient to enable them to preserve their independence in spite of every collapse or political bankruptcy.

The remainder met with the inevitable fate of the weak who oppose the will of the strong—namely, destruction; or else they maintained a very modest existence, having no greater extent or power than the estates of a private landowner, and owing their continuance to the silent forbearance of their neighbours, and to a respect for tradition, which had long since been void of all political content, and had no meaning save for the historical antiquarian.

Of all the royal houses of Germany, that of Hapsburg stood first in importance and external power; but its possessions and interests had come to it from without

the boundaries of the empire; the Casa d'Austria had been of and by itself a world power. It is true that Charles V. was the only ruler to govern the whole of the immense territory which he had inherited; the division into the Spanish and German lines resulted from the fact that the two geographical groups were inevitably forced asunder by the necessities of their very existence, and the immediate cause of the separation was the exercise of those family rights which had brought the union to pass in the face of every political and economic law.

The Spanish state with its Italian and Burgundian dependencies and its American colonies had been unable to maintain its position as a great power, and had been forced to yield to Holland and France. The claims of the reigning dynasty, which thought it unnecessary to set any bounds to its ambition, and had frittered its strength away on every battlefield during the Thirty Years War, diverted attention from home affairs, so that ruin came upon the kingdom of Philip II. both from without and from within. The fact that the brothers Rudolf and Matthias left no children prevented the otherwise unavoidable subdivision of the German line; Spanish influence enabled Ferdinand II. to become sole ruler, Spanish money supported the army with which the Austrian defended his territory. But the consequence was that the German Hapsburgs found themselves obliged to take up the heavy and embarrassing burden of the emperor's crown. The looseness of connection between the

different members of the Roman Empire within the German nation must have proved a help to a reigning dynasty which attempted to unify the subject states by means of personal government and a uniform administration; especially was this true of the House of Hapsburg, which had been able to reinforce its rights of possession by the further influence resulting from uniformity of religion. The spiritual bond of union between the Hapsburg territories, which now began to receive the general name of Austria, and the chief

centres of culture in the rest of Germany, had been almost entirely destroyed by the counter-reformation in the Alpine territories, by the victory over the Bohemian disturbances, and by the consequent subjection of intellectual and moral education to the control of the Jesuit orders. Economic relations between the two countries were also cut off at their very source by the stoppage of trade and intercommunication consequent upon the poverty in which the Thirty Years War had left the country.

Thus Samuel Pufendorf, writing in 1667, under the pseudonym of Severinus de Mozambano, "De statu imperii germanici," had spoken of the constitution of the Roman Empire as irregular and monstrous, and instanced the position of the Casa d'Austria, which had been able to separate from the empire without difficulty and to set up as independent on its own account. Upon this fact he founded the opinion that the House of Hapsburg must be supported in its imperial position, because, if the crown



THE GERMAN EMPEROR LEOPOLD I.

He succeeded his father, the Emperor Ferdinand III., in 1658, and ruled his Hungarian subjects with such severity that they rebelled. The War of the Spanish Succession broke out during his reign as a consequence of the struggle between him and Louis XIV. of France for the heirship to the crown of Spain. Leopold died in 1705.

went to another family of princely rank the Hapsburg territories would inevitably be separated from the empire, which would thus be weakened and risk suffering the fate which had come upon Italy. Moreover, no other house was then in a position to bear the expense of keeping up the imperial court and ceremonial in proper form.

**Ferdinand
Maria Declines
a Crown**

The inference was so inevitable that no other prince of the empire was found who would have accepted the crown when Louis XIV. was looking out for a fresh candidate after the death of Ferdinand III. in 1657. When Count Egon of Fürstenberg made the proposal in the name of the French government to the Elector Ferdinand Maria of Bavaria, he declined it with the remark that he was not disposed to receive the imperial position as a favour from France, and that he did not care to endanger the security and permanence of his young electorate for the sake of the unstable and transitory dignity of the emperor's crown.

It was Brandenburg that finally decided the choice of Leopold I., an election vigorously opposed by France. With the exception of this elector and Bavaria, all the electors and their Ministers were silent. The ambassadors Gramont and Lionne, who were sent out to attend the election, had received credit from Mazarin to the amount of 15,000,000 dollars, and considerable sums from this source found their way into the pockets of influential personages at the courts of Cologne, Mainz, Trèves, and Heidelberg. Austrian and Spanish money was also readily accepted, and the latter commanded great influence in Dresden. In any case, to take presents from both sides was to be under obligations to neither.

Frederic William of Brandenburg enjoyed a reputation greater than any that his forefathers had possessed. When Sweden, Poland, and Austria were struggling for

**The Power
of Frederic
William**

supremacy in Eastern Europe they could not afford to leave his power out of their calculations; within the empire his neighbours had to be careful how they opposed a coalition of which he was a member. Before the meeting of the electors, Frederic William plainly declared his opinion in a despatch to the Elector of Cologne, and spoke in favour of the Austrian candidate, for he was of Pufendorf's opinion as to the welfare of the

empire, and therefore laid it down as necessary in view of the threatening state of affairs "again to elect such a house as is capable by its own power of upholding the Roman Empire."

However, when it became necessary to draw up the terms of election and to lay down the principles upon which the chosen emperor would have to conduct the policy of his government, Brandenburg declared decisively for that party which was opposed to any amalgamation of German and Spanish affairs, and was anxious that the emperor should not involve the empire in a quarrel with its western neighbour on account of the Franco-Spanish war. In brief, the desire of this party was that if the House of Hapsburg took the German crown, it should not employ the additional power thus gained to avert the fall of Spain.

Co-operation by the courts of Vienna and Madrid invariably favoured Catholicism, a religion which Brandenburg had no inclination to strengthen. The majority in the college of electors was gained by the adherence of the Palatinate under

**Leopold I.
Elected
Emperor**

the influence of the ecclesiastical princes of Cologne and Mainz, who were brought over to his side by the dependence upon France, whereas Protestant Saxony seceded through her jealousy of the Catholic parties—Bavaria and Trèves; however, the fact remains that the position assumed by Brandenburg materially helped to secure the safety of Protestantism. Leopold was obliged to undertake to abstain from any interference in the wars which France was waging in Italy and Burgundy, to give no help to her opponents, and further to work in the interests of peace between France and Spain. If the emperor as head of the empire desired to enter into alliance with foreign powers, the consent of the electors must first be obtained, and this not by writing, but after full discussion in the electoral assembly.

For the execution of an imperial decree in the case of any one state of the empire the general consent was also necessary. The electoral character of the empire was thus most strongly emphasised by the election of Leopold I., and the terms of election which explained the main features of the constitution were practically an amplification of the Golden Bull in the year 1356. The election of the House of Hapsburg

had been a concession to the necessities of the general policy of the empire; it implied no greater coherence in the relations of the imperial princes to the emperor and his house. The republic of princes had chosen a wealthy and excellent representative, and had laid additional obligations upon the state, which was desirous of preserving the balance between the powers influential in the south-east of Europe; but the several members of the empire were entirely convinced that the imperial dominions and the voluntary union of the German rulers did not together constitute any political unity, and that they were severally at liberty to pursue their own course of policy regardless of the emperor.

This idea found open expression in the formation of a confederacy of the princes on the Rhine, a movement which followed almost immediately upon the election. If we consider merely the formal wording of the convention concluded upon August 14th, 1658, we may call the confederation a movement of the friends of peace—with such emphasis is the statement made that “the con-

Princes Combine for Peace federates, whether differing in religion or not, will provoke no foreign power to hostilities, but will preserve the friendship now existing among themselves, and will use the remedies of law to remove any causes of quarrel that may occur.” However, this organisation could not be considered as remarkably formidable, inasmuch as the whole of the standing forces which the members were able to provide amounted to only 4,700 infantry and 2,370 cavalry.

Beside the electorates of Mainz, Cologne, and the Palatinate of Neuburg, the Lüneburgers of Brunswick and the Landgrave of Hesse also joined the confederation, which was modified conformably to its convention with France. France undertook to protect the rights and possessions of the confederates, who on their part promised to maintain the Peace of Westphalia together with the concessions then made to France, and held themselves in readiness to help the king with their military contingents if he should be attacked in any of the territories which had been assured by the peace.

The estimate of troops mentioned in the French proposals was sufficiently modest, amounting to 1,600 infantry and 800 cavalry; the political confederates were

bound to act only in cases when the German princes reckoned upon French help; they were not concerned with the rights of France to represent her own interests with such means as might seem necessary to her within the territory of the confederates. In the war against Spain and the States-General, Louis XIV. had gained considerable advantage by making practical use of these rights, which had been established in theory by the dexterous diplomacy of Mazarin. Brandenburg also took part in the early stages of the negotiations, but she abstained from joining in the compact; she made many changes of front which were not compatible with the policy of reinsurance against the growing power of the empire adopted by a number of petty German states. Brandenburg-Prussia had already become a body politic which was quite capable of leading an alliance, but could never have been an earnest, loyal member of a confederation under French guidance.

The imperial court fully recognised that the formation of the Rhine confederation was directed immediately against its position in the empire, and foreboded an interference on the part of France in the affairs of the empire which might become extremely serious. The emperor therefore did his utmost to sever the constitutional representatives of the provinces, who made up the assembly of deputies when the Reichstag was not sitting, from such influence as the Rhine princes might exert. There was some dispute upon the question whether the assembly of deputies should be held in Frankfort or in Regensburg; and the Rhine confederates demanded the summoning of the Reichstag, which had been prorogued for two years in 1654.

The German Reichstag, which was in correspondence with the assembly for maintaining the Peace at Nüremberg, might have extended its activity in an unusual degree. It might have dealt with the means of realising the principles of the imperial constitution as laid down in the Peace of Westphalia, with measures necessary for securing the frontiers, with the organisation of the imperial army, with the means desirable for increasing the prosperity of the country, for reviving trade and industry. However, one of the most remarkable

phenomena among the consequences of the Thirty Years War is the fact that all the misery and all the losses which had befallen Germany during that period could not arouse the people to the absolute necessity of co-operation for the protection of their real interests. In wide sections of the population some dull sense of that

The Sad Condition of Germany

necessity may have remained, millions of sufferers may have hoped that help would come from the emperor and the empire, but of these desires no outward manifestation ever came to be expressed in political action.

The truth of the saying that "poverty brings weakness" was never so strikingly illustrated as in the case of the German Empire, which the great war had deprived of half its inhabitants, four-fifths of all its domestic animals, and of building materials and articles of daily use to an incalculable extent. Starving men, in whom all feeling for the benefits of society is dead, who have sunk to the degradation of cannibalism, as was constantly the case towards the end of the war, cannot be expected to fight for political rights; they are utterly incapable of grasping the connection between political rights and their own struggle with the stern necessities of nature. The misery of the masses merely promotes the wealth and the power of a few self-aggrandising selfish natures, who know how to possess themselves of those means by which political power can be grasped and held.

In the sixteenth century, when the demand for the Christian community of property arose over a great part of Germany, and became almost a war cry, the German peasants were generally in a state of prosperity which amounted almost to luxury, and were thus capable of striving for social equality with the territorial lords; even after the subjection of the bloody revolt in Thuringia and Swabia,

German Lands under the Rule of Soldiers

they did not lose so much in point of political rights as they lost during the two decades in which the German lands were under the rule of soldiers, and suffered alike from friend and foe.

Within the land-owning class great changes had taken place; many ancient families had been extinguished, had been driven out from castle and court, or had found themselves unable to keep up their establishments, owing to want of capital

and scarcity of labour; their place had been taken by the military aristocracy, which had appropriated to itself most of the hard cash in the country. "The new masters had no mercy upon the poor dependents, for they had not learned to know them by centuries of life among them. The rights and privileges which the old families had left undisturbed were now altered, and altered in favour of the masters, with the help of adroit masters of Roman jurisprudence, who were always ready to lend a hand in any doubtful business for cash payment; free courts were broken up or suppressed."

But the men who had in this manner become great landowners could not forthwith give up the habits and vices which they had indulged during the long period of war. In the castles, which were restored and splendidly furnished with foreign money, a wild life went on; drunkenness and gaming were unbounded, and were interrupted only by the rough pleasures of the chase. In the villages the disbanded soldiers who tramped the country took from the peasants the little which they had been able

An Age of Ignorance and Poverty

to wring from the soil with their inadequate appliances. In many places there was neither priest nor schoolmaster; the rich intellectual treasure which scholars had spread abroad throughout the hearths and homes of the people had vanished entirely. Ignorance, superstition, the belief in witchcraft, dominated their minds; habits of begging had destroyed even their sense of shame.

In consequence of the want of money among the lower and middle classes, wages and the prices of raw stuffs were lowered in every part of the country; industrial activity was limited to the production of such articles as were absolutely necessary, capital was wanting for the maintenance of artistic manufactures; capital in the hands of a limited number of rich men went abroad in exchange for an increase of imports, which came in chiefly from France, but also from Amsterdam, London, Lisbon, and Venice. "From the courts, great and small, ecclesiastical and civil, in which had been heaped the plunder of the generals and captains of every nation and creed, the taxes paid by the vassals flowed into the coffers of the Parisian manufacturers, who then laid down the fashion of the day for the whole of the Continent. Thus it was that

France's economic triumphs increased her political advantage, and thus Germany's misfortunes conduced to the enrichment of her western neighbour." Dutch and English had absorbed the trade which was once the mainstay of the Hanseatic houses; trade in South Germany was absolutely dead. Many of the powerful patrician families had become counts and landed lords, others took official posts as a possible sop to their ambition, most had disappeared altogether. There was no incitement to the spirit of enterprise; in trade over seas the name of Germany was almost unknown.

This state of affairs did not, however, weigh heavily upon the councillors and syndics who represented their rulers at Regensburg, and spent most of their time in the presentation of extensive reports upon fruitless negotiations and in the study of injunctions, which generally contained occasion for setting aside any proposition which might have been generally beneficial. The "Recess of the Imperial Diet," which was the name given to the collective report of the resolutions passed, contains the text of the Peace of Westphalia and the practical resolutions of the Nuremberg assembly, a decree concerning the reform of the imperial chamber court, some proposals for improvement in the division of the empire into circles, and unimportant regulations upon the payment of outstanding debts. The parties had been fighting under arms for thirty years, and continued to regard one another with mutual distrust; the general welfare of the nation was neglected in spite of the fact that public opinion, as shown by a stream of political pamphlets, had set in steadily in the direction of a more enlarged and enlightened policy. The fear that

the emperor would attempt to extend his powers was so overpowering that none could recognise the unifying force of resolutions by the majority in the college of electors. Count George Frederic of Waldeck, who obtained at that time greater influence upon the imperial policy of the Elector of Brandenburg, warned him not to submit in any way to the decrees con-

cerning imperial taxation, upon the regular payment of which the imperial party rightly laid great stress; should the elector submit, "instead of being a king's equal, he would become a dependent, a treasure-bringing—that is, a tributary—lord, of less

power and resource than a landed proprietor of Bohemia or Poland." In view of the experience which Ferdinand III. had had of the Reichstag, Leopold could not expect to gain very much by re-opening negotiations with the states of the empire, for he could hardly expect any great support of his own interests from them. It was only the recurrence of the danger of an attack by the Turks upon the territory which he had inherited which had induced him to summon the Reichstag. The territory of

the House of Hapsburg, great though it was, had not yet been organised as a state, and lacked the internal strength which would have enabled it successfully to resist the powerful force which the Sultan could bring against it; German money and German troops were necessary for its defence, for it was justly to be considered as a bulwark of the kingdom against the East. The kingdom of the Magyar nationality had proved unequal to this task; since the disaster of Mohacs it had fallen into disruption and had become the scene of party conflicts, which greatly facilitated the Ottoman advance.

It is possible that affairs in Hungary would have run a different course if the powerful dynasty of the Hunyadis had remained in power; but even then it would have been impossible to say with any certainty that the Magyar feudal nobility would have been ready as a whole to make the heavy sacrifices demanded for a long war with the Turks. Since the Ottomans had possessed themselves of the Balkan Peninsula, thoughtful Magyars were no longer set upon preserving the complete independence of their kingdom; they recognised the advisability of forming a close alliance with neighbours who were powerful, and considered personal union to be the surest guarantee of confederations. This opinion came to open expression

Germany in Danger from the Turks



FREDERIC OF WALDECK
This count, who had great influence upon the imperial policy of the Elector of Brandenburg, advised him not to submit to the decrees concerning imperial taxation.

The Nation's Welfare Neglected

in the compacts with Hapsburg, in 1463 and 1491, and also in the election of the Bohemian king Vladislav; the Reichstag at Ofen, 1527, also took the same point of view, after the terrorism of John Zapolya and his dependents had been crushed.

The nationalists, who passed the resolution in 1505 that no foreigner should be elected king, never seriously hoped for the absolute independence of Hungary. Having to choose between two evils, they preferred dependence upon the House of Hapsburg to dependence upon Turkey. The position adopted by Hungary, the centre of the opposition, was largely influenced by the religious policy of the Hapsburgs, whose permanent union with the papacy and the Jesuits formed a continual danger to the freedom of Protestantism, which had taken root both in the Carpathian highlands and in the plains of the Theiss. The national movements under Bocskay, Bethlen, and the Rakoczy were in each case attempts to protect Protestantism, and gained strength from union with the corresponding religious parties in Germany. The House of Hapsburg had hoped to be able to make its territories coherent by the maintenance of religious unity. But its stern opposition to the fundamental principle of religious freedom hindered the internal coherence of the population, shattered all confidence in the respect for justice which had been attributed to the dynasty, and secured the adhesion of the religious fanaticism, which was very strongly developed among the Magyar Calvinists, to the political parties.

The policy of the Hapsburgs was not founded on religious intolerance in itself; the grandsons of Maximilian I. regarded the Reformation from a political point of view. Resistance to the Reformation was a matter that touched neither heart nor conscience in their case; they thought that they could not afford to lose the support of the ecclesiastical princes and the clergy against the encroachments of the secular Orders of the empire. However, political views are unstable; they have to be adapted to change of circumstances and a proof of this fact is to be seen in the altered attitude of Ferdinand I. and Maximilian II., and even in the case of Rudolf and Matthias. The fate of Austria largely depended upon the supremacy of the inner Austrian line, in which the Bavarian Wittelsbach blood and

The Chief Factor in Austria's Fate

temperament of the Archduchess Maria had become preponderant. We must leave the investigators of the psychology of families and races to decide why it was that Jesuit Catholicism should have gained so strong a hold upon the Bavarians in particular; at any rate, its influence during a period of 400 years is unmistakable, and cannot be neglected if we would understand the history of Austria.

The Jesuits were the primary founders of that system of centralisation which affected the different countries possessed by the Hapsburgs in their natural development to a strongly organised federal state, brought about hostility between the several populations, and set their interests in opposition to the interests of the state. In the countries of the Bohemian crown the Jesuits exercised a Germanising influence; on the other hand, in the duchies of the Alpine districts, the acquisition and the union of which had formed the kernel of the power of the Hapsburg family, Jesuit influence prevented any close sympathy on the part of the people for their blood relations in the Protestant territories.

The consequence was the almost entire destruction in those countries of that intellectual culture which had been a splendid characteristic of the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries. Phrase-making, empty and superficial, was the dominant feature in literature; in countless cases the spirit of intellectual society was broken, subservience was praised as a virtue, sycophancy and jealousy became habitual.

Decay of Intellectual Culture

At the instance of his Bavarian relatives, and with the help of Jesuit advice, Ferdinand II. proceeded to oppress the Protestant Orders, and was resisted with empty words instead of strong action; in cowardice and hesitation the Protestant landowners retired within their castle walls before a few gangs of peasants, and quietly looked on at the process of turning shopkeepers and peasants into Catholics. Until the edict of restitution in 1629, they had at least succeeded in preserving the right of freedom of worship in their own homes; but after that period their liberties were nearly blotted out.

The Roman clerics advanced, secure of victory, and with them the overbearing bands of Friedländer soldiers, while distinguished families who would not renounce their faith, retreated before them, and left their houses, courts, and country, to

AUSTRIA AND THE EMPIRE

await the time when the German Empire and their Christian fellows could assure them religious freedom and enable them to return to the possession of their ancient inheritances. With unparalleled obstinacy the Emperor Ferdinand III. fought against the attempt, during six years of negotiation at Münster and Osnabrück, to extend the conditions of religious toleration to his own territories; during that period he failed to avail himself of many favourable opportunities, as he was employed in offering an obstinate opposition to the attack made by Sweden in favour of the Austrian Protestants.

After the peace the chief power in the empire was concentrated in the person of an emperor who was chief only in name; but the religious unity of the territories of the House of Austria had been preserved. The Protestant Orders made further attempts to remove or to lighten the heavy yoke laid upon their Austrian co-religionists; but these efforts were unsuccessful, the more so as they were never seriously prosecuted. The Reichstag and the election of Leopold as emperor would have provided opportunity for the exertion of greater pressure; but no one took the trouble to seize the occasion, because no one took any permanent interest in the fate of the Austrian territories. Nowhere was the weakness of the empire more conspicuous than at that point where the emperor was also a territorial prince; the imperial support, which had been so earnestly requested and desired, about which so many words and documents in the Reichstag had been spent in vain, bore a miserable appearance upon the frontiers and could make no impression upon the land-owners, who were alarmed at the incursion of the Turks, from which they had suffered loss.

The custom grew of considering the title of emperor as one attaching *ipso facto* to the local prince, and no special stress was ever laid upon the fact that the prince's lords were part of the Roman Empire of the German nation. The only people to take any real part in imperial affairs were the high nobility, who were aiming at paid official posts under the empire, or whose social position would be improved by admission into the colleges of imperial princes and counts. The Austrian could no longer entertain the idea that he was himself "within the

empire"; the phrase "beyond the empire" began to grow more and more habitual. The separation of the Hapsburg possessions from the rest of Germany has been a steadily growing fact since the Peace of Westphalia, so much so that the legislation establishing their separate existence in the eighteenth and nineteenth

The Independence of the German Princes centuries was brought about without difficulty, and the full significance of the step was probably never realised by the majority of the population. The common action necessary to meet the attack of the Turks was no check upon this process of alienation; the German princes, with whom the emperor negotiated in the Reichstag for some means of support, had no intention of demanding that the ties uniting the empire should be further strengthened by way of recompense for their aid; nor did they attempt to insist that the Reichstag should have more power to deal with affairs within the Hapsburg territories.

On the contrary, their efforts were concentrated entirely upon the task of making themselves more independent of the emperor by their wealth, their troops, and their personal service in war; thus they were in favour rather of weakening the cohesive power of the empire. The more they could free themselves from subjection to a superior power, the less they regarded the efforts of the emperors to make their own territory, by the introduction of all kinds of administrative measures, a self-contained province separate from the empire. Federal relationship was the natural result of the circumstances of the time; imperial federation had no real existence.

However, the manifestations of popular feeling were of a totally different character; the nation had been roused by the reports disseminated concerning the cruelty of the Turks in Transylvania and Upper Hungary, and would gladly have joined in offering a vigorous resistance to their hereditary foe. The heroic defence of Grosswardein in the summer of 1660 increased the interest which the people took in the fate of their co-religionists in Hungary and Transylvania. But the court of Vienna had no ears for popular outcry, and not the smallest desire to turn the crusading spirit to account, as it might lead only to the further strengthening of Protestantism.

In spite of the many difficulties in the way, the diplomacy of the time continued to discuss the questions of equipment and defence. For six months had the Archbishop of Salzburg, as the emperor's chief commissioner, awaited the arrival of the

provincial ambassadors in Regensburg; in January, 1663, when the session of the Reichstag could be opened, it became plain that not only the special desires of the electors would require consideration, but that an opposition to the princely houses had been set on foot, and an opposition which offered its assistance on conditions impossible to accept. It was due to the concurrence of France, ready to pull the strings of any number of intrigues, that William Philip of the Neuburg Palatinate, together with Brunswick, Hesse, and Württemberg, had founded the "union of princes," which was directed against the preponderance of the electoral families; their chief demand was that the council of princes should be allowed to partake in the election of the emperors, a privilege which had hitherto been claimed by the electors alone. So this party desired to make their help against the Turks conditional upon an alteration in the constitution, which the emperor had no power to grant upon his own initiative.

At length the union of princes was overruled; it was decided to make an immediate grant of fifty "Römermonate," there was to be exemption for no one, and the ten imperial departments were all included in the demand for 6,400,000 guldens—in reality, only the half of them. The next question was how this sum should be raised. The imperial towns, which had long been groaning under the weight of the payments imposed upon them, now demanded a revision of the imperial rolls; moreover, the members of the Rhine confederacy, upon the advice of France, declined to limit their action to a monetary payment, but desired to resume their original character of imperial auxiliaries by sending contingents of troops. France considered that such pecuniary resources would always be entirely at the emperor's disposal when once they had

been tapped; whereas the co-operation of troops in the campaigns proposed would be contingent upon conditions constantly changing, and in the last resort excuses might always be found for the recall of the troops. During the debates on the subject of "emergency help," a proposal emanated from the Court of Brunswick to the effect that in future special provisions should be made for the security of the empire; this business occupied the attention of the Reichstag to the end of the session, and many well-meaning proposals were brought forward. However, no definite military scheme was evolved, as it was found impossible to guarantee the measure of support necessary for this purpose.

In the course of the summer of 1663 the Turkish intentions became plain; they had invaded Transylvania, and proposed to use the party struggles brought about by the Rakoczy family for the purposes of a great campaign, and to secure their power on the Central Danube by a crushing blow to be directed against the Austrian territory. The Grand Vizir Ahmed Koprili led one hundred and twenty thousand men to the Waag, giving out that he proposed to march directly upon Vienna. Fortunately for that town, his military incapacity was equalled only by his pride; instead of advancing straight upon his mark, he halted until September 27th, 1663, to besiege the fortress of Neuhausel, which made a heroic defence under Adam Forgach; upon the capitulation of the place he retired to Gran, and there sent his troops into winter quarters.

The imperial field-marshal, Count Raimund Montecuccoli, was one of the foremost strategists of the age; he was careful and cunning as well, and he had so cleverly manœuvred his scanty forces as to give the Grand Vizir a wholly erroneous impression of their numbers; and the Turks accordingly hesitated to attack the imperial position at Altenburg. Hungary herself took but little share in the defence of her own territory. The militia, the levies of the nobles and comitati, amounted to 11,000 men, who were of use only in guerrilla



COUNT MONTECUCCOLI
Count Raimund Montecuccoli, the imperial field-marshal, who entered the Austrian service in 1625, distinguished himself against the Turks in the Thirty Years War.

**Montecuccoli
a Match
for the Turks**

operations, and would not stand firm in the open field. Not only were the operations of the imperial field-marshal inadequately supported, but supplies of provisions and men for the auxiliary forces were diminished by the self-seeking of individuals. The town of Pressburg declined to admit Montecucoli within its gates, and only garrisoned the walls when the enemy were in sight of them. The Landtag declined to permit the imperial army to enter Hungarian territory before the militia had assembled, and the authorities were obliged to transport their reinforcements from Vienna by the Danube to the points threatened by the enemy.

The emperor was convinced that Ahmed Koprili would renew his attack in the following year, and appeared in person at Regensburg in December, 1663, being most anxious to secure the vigorous support of the imperial provinces. He found a zealous partisan in the Elector of Brandenburg, who further placed at the emperor's disposal such of his own troops as he could spare from the forces in preparation against Sweden and Poland, Bavaria, Saxony, and Mainz also

Germany in Need of an Army contributed. The Rhine confederation supplied a body of 7,200 men under the command of Count Hohenlohe, who was not, however, permitted to join in any operation until the emperor should have consented to the junction with the French division. Brandenburg brought forward a proposition in the Reichstag that an imperial army should be raised amounting to 60,000 men. But the other provinces would not pledge themselves to a special number of troops; they agreed to the so-called Tripulum—that is, the triple computation of the rolls of Maximilian or of Worms—which would theoretically have produced an effective force, but had never yet done so.

During the winter of 1663-1664 the Rhine confederates had marched on their own initiative to the Drave, and had undertaken an aimless attack upon Essek, which had ended in heavy losses to themselves. Naturally, the emperor, in spite of his disinclination, could no longer refuse the help of the French contingent, and in view of the approach of the numerous bodies of the enemy was forced to accept any help which offered itself. Montecucoli would have been very glad to form a central force of 50,000 men and 124 guns on the Danube. But the council

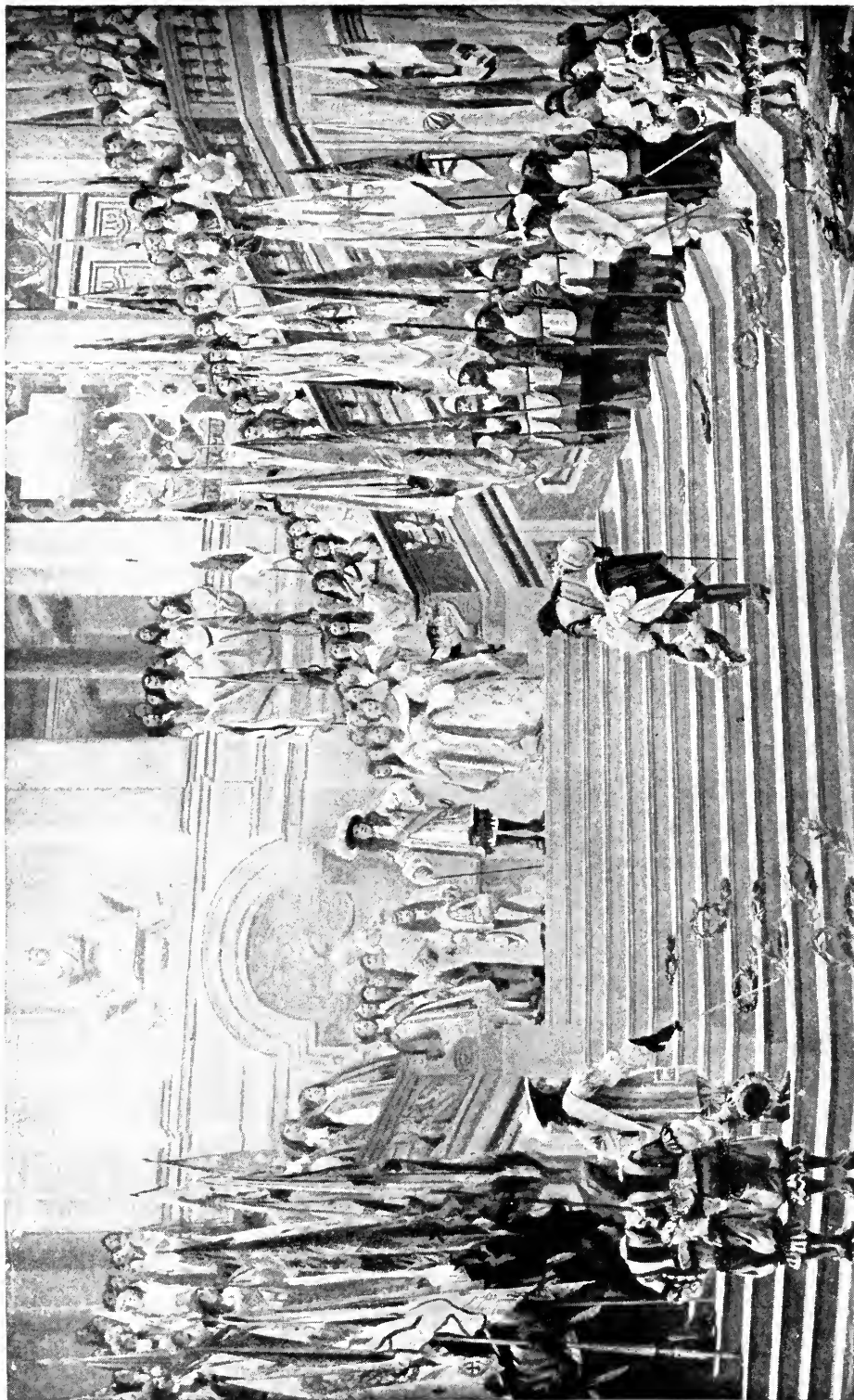
of war at Regensburg demanded the formation of three armies; one for Upper Hungary and Transylvania, under Louis Rattwich, Count of Souches, another on the Drave under Strozzi and Nicholas Zrinyi for the conquest of Kanizsa, and a third under Montecucoli on the Danube and Lake Platten with no special object in view.

The Turks Badly Beaten The Turks left their real line of attack to relieve Kanizsa, and Montecucoli found time to effect a junction of his own army with the Rhine confederates and the French troops on the Raab, and gave battle on August 1st, 1664, at Sankt Gotthard, which ended in the defeat of the Turks with the loss of 14,000 of their best troops.

The Grand Vizir was obliged to give up the attack, as the condition of his troops was not such as to inspire confidence. At Altenburg, Montecucoli brought 40,000 men and sixty guns against him, and might have been able to take the offensive had the imperial troops and the French been willing to place themselves unconditionally under his command. In order to bring the Turkish war to a victorious conclusion, French and Spanish affairs should have been left temporarily to themselves, and Brandenburg, the best armed of the German states, should have been brought over by co-operation in Silesia. Eastern Hungary and Transylvania would have had to be propitiated with the full recognition of religious freedom.

But such energetic measures proved too extreme for the authorities, and it seemed preferable to conclude the Peace of Vasvar, Eisenberg, with Turkey, on August 10th, 1664, a dishonourable peace which was really no more than an armistice of long duration. It brought contentment neither to the empire nor to Hungary. A few years after the conclusion of peace the conspiracy of Zrinyi, Nadasdy, Frangipani, and Tattenbach broke out, the object of which was the disruption of Hungary from Hapsburg. The conspiracy was discovered and the leaders punished with death, but dissatisfaction in Hungary only increased in consequence.

Hungary's Desire for Separation Turkey could count now, as previously, upon the adhesion of the magnates. It was for her to say when the war should be renewed.



THE RECEPTION OF THE GREAT FRENCH COMMANDER CONDE BY LOUIS XIV. AT VERSAILLES IN THE YEAR 1674
From the painting by Jean-Louis Gerome in the Metropolitan Art Museum, New York

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
AGE OF
LOUIS XIV.
III

ENGLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH LOUIS XIV.

DURING their eighty years' war of liberation against Spain the Protestant people of the Netherlands had not only struggled for religious freedom and political independence, but they had also become the greatest merchants and capitalists of the world. The struggle between the Romance and Teutonic races had lasted a thousand years, and after the seventeenth century it was not only a leading feature in European history, but was also an important factor in the political changes which took place in every habitable part of the globe; and during that struggle there is no more brilliant example of Teutonic superiority in the spirit of business enterprise, in boldness of commercial designs, and in determination to make the most of any advantage, however small, than is presented by the rise of Dutch commercial life.

**Enterprising
Dutch
Merchants**

After Spain and Portugal had begun the era of geographical discovery, it was the merchants of Holland who were the first to grasp the commercial advantages opened by the discovery of the ocean routes to both Indies, and to draw full profit from them; for the great influx of precious metal, which had given Spain so long a period of political power, was to be proved by no means a necessity, and very possibly a danger, to national prosperity.

It is possible that the Germans would have anticipated Holland by absorbing a large portion of the world's trade, or have become a commercial power contemporary with her; but German relations with Portugal, who had begun her East Indian commercial career upon capital borrowed from the Fugger, Welser, Vöhlín, Höchstetter, and others, had been interrupted by the opposition of Hapsburg interests and the first religious wars, which had exercised a destructive influence upon commercial activity in Southern Germany.

The political condition of the German Empire after Charles V. was totally incompatible with mercantile development, and the Netherlands had, therefore, no competition to fear in this direction. On the other hand, they were utterly beaten by the Hanseatics in the competition for the Baltic trade. The latter obtained

**Markets
Held by the
Hanseatics**

their imports at so cheap a rate that they could afford to underbid any middleman; they supported Russia in her wars with Poland by shipments of guns and military stores, in return for which they exacted enormous quantities of raw material at ridiculously low prices. As they were always ready to pay cash down, they easily outstripped all competitors in the Baltic corn-markets; they monopolised the herring fisheries on the Scotch coasts by their greater cleverness in the curing of the fish, their methods being unknown to the English.

In 1642 a special board was appointed for the development of trade in the Levant. Venice and Genoa, who had been working for that trade for centuries, now had to put a good face on the matter and try to secure their retail trade in dried fish and colonial produce by means of special conventions. Venetian textile goods, which had been so famous, and for which Smyrna was a special market, were now entirely ousted by Dutch and French productions. French goods were carried in Dutch vessels to every European coast; in the year 1658 their value was estimated at

**Commercial
Triumphs
of France**

\$210,000,000. The discoveries on the coast of the Australian continent, in New Guinea, and New Zealand must not be forgotten, together with the settlements in North America, where corn-growing and horse-breeding made great progress in a short time. The brilliancy of the life of the aristocracy, the self-confidence of the citizens,

have been immortalised in the Dutch school of painters, who attained to a higher pitch of artistic power during those days of commercial and political ascendancy than any of their contemporaries. The admirable likenesses of their councillors and merchants bring before our eyes those men who exercised for half a century a domination which extended over every part of the world.

However, their power was but short-lived; at the moment when they seemed to have reached the highest point they were already tottering to their fall. The settlements, which their sea-power had enabled the Dutch to found after a hard struggle, lay open on the landward side to any attack, and extraordinary efforts were demanded to make their defence secure; but the nation of whom these efforts were demanded was incapable of any further development. They had brought their carrying-trade to the highest possible pitch, but they were not sufficiently populous to become a producing people, and to add to the body of calculating, speculating merchants a creative, manufacturing class, which might have given the state a reserve of power; for no such reserve was to be found among the clever but narrow-minded individuals who sat in the council chambers of the "Staden." The unbounded pride displayed by the

capitalists towards the landed proprietors, who took no share in commerce, eventually deprived the city aristocracy of all co-operation on the part of the nobles in the further development of the state; the House of Orange, which had raised the standard of freedom and independence during the hardest periods of the fight, was thereby deprived of that position in which it had been able to render the greatest services to the common fatherland. The young stadtholder and captain-general, William II., was carried off by an untimely death on November 6th, 1650; and it was not till a week after his funeral that his heir was born to the English

Princess Mary, on November 4th, 1650. This event gave the

"aristocracy of wealth," as the regents of the state of Holland called themselves, the opportunity they had desired for establishing their sole supremacy, which rested upon two main principles: first, that the Orange party should be excluded from any share in the government; and, secondly, that the freedom of the small towns and the poorer classes of the population should be withdrawn.

There is no pride like the pride of the business man who has made his own way in the world, and there is no administration so selfish and oppressive as that which would provide for the good of individuals and the welfare of the



JACOB FUGGER

He was a member of a Swabian family famous for its commercial enterprise and prosperity, and whose grants of money made the development of trade possible.



THE PORTRAIT OF A DUTCH NOBLEMAN

From the painting by Franz Hals in the National Gallery, Edinburgh

ENGLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS

state upon the principles demanded for the working of a counting-house. With unmitigated hypocrisy, the members of the new republic compared their state to the Jewish kingdom of antiquity. But when, in order to find some cogent reason for the abolition of the hereditary office of stadtholder, the republicans began to add up the account of what the House of Orange had cost the state, not forgetting the presents made to the children of their generals and statesmen, then it was that the peddling soul of the Dutchman showed all the characteristics of the Jewish money-lenders who had increased abun-

carried off the first vessels of the astounded British under the very guns of the Tower. The fortresses on the frontier were in a sad condition by contrast with this display of vigour. The internal dissensions and jealousies of the two parties ruined the spirit of the army, and destroyed the zeal of the officers, whom the government refused to pay because they were suspected of Orange inclinations.

However, the chief councillor of Holland, Jan de Witt, a dry, calculating machine, a man of some common-sense but with all the passionate narrow-mindedness of the republican citizen, was of the opinion that



THE SYNDICS: REMBRANDT'S PICTURE OF A GROUP OF DUTCH MERCHANTS

In the seventeenth century Holland rose to a position of great commercial supremacy, the domination of its enterprising merchants lasting for half a century and extending to every part of the world. The above picture, reproduced from Rembrandt's painting, shows us what type of men they were who made their country famous in the world of commerce.

dantly in previous centuries, and proved that their political ideas were absolutely devoid of that element of greatness which was always a feature of the home and foreign policy of the chosen people during their period of prosperity.

During the wars with England, which were the natural result of commercial rivalry, the Dutch fleet had in no way tarnished the reputation of the Low German seafarers; the final triumph of the heroic spirit of the great Orange period took place when De Ruyter, in 1667, made a descent upon the Thames, and burned or

his lofty wisdom had saved the state from all danger when he had succeeded in forming the Triple Alliance with England and Sweden against Louis XIV. His mathematical knowledge had brought him the reputation of a savant, but had not enabled him to grasp the political combinations which the King of France set on foot when he found it necessary to break up this confederation of the maritime powers. De Witt thought that he had firmly bound the interests of England to those of his own country, and that he would be able to execute that great

political design which was reserved for the powers of the Prince of Orange, whom he bitterly persecuted, and whom he was anxious to reduce to the position of a mere dependant upon the "aristocracy of wealth." But the design became possible only when the positions of the actors had

**England's
Recovery From
Republicanism**

been reversed, when the English people had come to a full development of their political power, and were able to take the lead in the movement to save the Teutonic world from subjection to the great King of France. At the moment when Louis XIV. was making trial of his diplomatic skill in his preparations to deal a crushing blow against the Netherlands, the condition of affairs in the British Isles was not such as to justify any expectation that the salvation of European freedom might be expected from that source.

England had speedily recovered from her attack of republicanism, which was short though sharp, for the population which was represented in the two Houses of Parliament was composed of far happier elements than that of the Dutch states. But when she restored the monarchy which Cromwell had removed, she had been unfortunate in setting up an utterly worthless ruler, and was consequently not in a position to take that place in the political world which belonged to her by right. One of the hardest trials of a people to whom monarchy is a necessity, and who are inspired with the sense of its dignity, is to see a worthless ruler upon the throne, a man who is personally incapable of dealing with the responsibilities of his office.

The Stuart Charles II. had no conception of the relations that should subsist between the state and its ruler, between the monarchy and the representatives of the people; in his opinion, the government of England was a possession that was naturally his, which might afford him the opportunity of leading a life of debauchery. Of national pride or of ambition he had nothing. So it was not difficult for

Louis XIV. to bend and turn him to his own purposes; Charles was more than willing to sell his country for the gold which his Parliaments would not provide with sufficient lavishness, and which alone might finally enable him to dispense with Parliament altogether. The royal civil list had been drawn up by the Convention Parliament, which had made its stipulations with the Stuart before the Restoration, and the king's allowance did not err on the side of generosity; however, though \$6,000,000 would have been quite enough to keep up all the necessary splendour of the court, it would not suffice to satisfy the excessive demands of the king's mistresses, who surpassed each other in the extravagance of their requests. Business between Charles II. and Louis XIV. began with the sale of Dunkirk, for which France paid \$2,000,000 partly in cash, partly in bills, from the discounting of which King Louis probably profited.

The so-called Cavalier Parliament, which had been returned in 1661, was as loyal and devoted as any monarch could desire; but it held tenaciously to the important powers of voting supplies and controlling expenditure, and by voting separately the amounts required for special purposes it was able to preserve some proportion of authority in

the several departments of public business. The vicious and unscrupulous character of the king enabled the Parliament to exercise its legislative powers without restraint, and to mould the growing kingdom as it pleased. As regards the centralisation of power, the

strong hand of the Puritan Parliament dictator Cromwell had accomplished a great deal, and his place was now taken by the

Parliament, which looked into religious as well as economic affairs, and also worked carefully to maintain the relations of Britain with foreign powers and to raise her prestige in Europe, for which task the house of Stuart had shown itself wholly incapable. The religious party of the Parliament



WILLIAM II., PRINCE OF ORANGE
Ruler of the United Provinces, William II., Prince of Orange, married Mary, the daughter of Charles I. of England, and their son, born after his father's death, in 1650, subsequently ascended the English throne as William III.

From the painting by Honthorst

ENGLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS

was intolerant to the point of cruelty. Crime and constant judicial murders were the result; dissent was persecuted with a severity almost unexampled even during the fiercest struggles of the Reformation. The supremacy of the Anglican Church was considered so inseparable from the unity of the state, and the uniform subjection of every citizen to the civil authority, that ecclesiastical supremacy was therefore especially protected by legislation, and any attempt of Papists or Presbyterians to overthrow it was immediately checked by the enforcement of the severest penalties.

By the Act of Uniformity in the year 1662 every form of worship was forbidden which differed from that of the established Episcopal Church; holders of livings were dispossessed if they refused compliance, and 1,800 dissenting clergy were driven into poverty. The king, who had leanings to Catholicism, did his best to check the Papist persecutions; but terrifying rumours of conspiracies, which readily found credence among the people, kindled the fire anew; death-warrants were issued against members of the nobility, against whom the most groundless suspicions were entertained. All this, however, was not the doing of Charles; these acts marked the rapid growth of the centralisation of the civil power in the hands, not of the crown but of an intolerant Parliament.

At the same time the spirit of commercial enterprise began to make itself apparent. The example of the Netherlands had exercised a reviving and stimulating influence upon English commercial activity, which had progressed but little since the voyages of Walter Raleigh in the time of Queen Elizabeth. With the exception of London there was but one seaport with any extensive trade—namely, Bristol, which was in constant communication with Virginia and the Antilles. Manchester imported every year for her textile industries only 2,000,000 pounds of raw wool, which was brought from Cyprus and Smyrna; among the largest imports were

the wines of Spain and Portugal, for the wine trade became important by reason of the reaction to luxury which followed upon the stern morality of the Puritan government. In no case had manufacture risen to a higher level; British products could not compete with those of France or Belgium either in quantity or quality. Even the best hardware was then imported from abroad. The output of iron was restricted by the scarcity of coal, and amounted to little more than 10,000 tons. In the North American colonies were some 30,000 settlers, who were working with energy and forethought for the development of their community, without concern for the party conflicts of the mother country; but their economic development had not sufficiently advanced for the mother country to derive any advantage from them.

At the period of the Restoration the landed nobility were still the ruling class in England; they were but seldom in communication with the capital, as the badness of the roads made travelling both expensive and dangerous. As regards education and culture, they were probably on the same level as the petty nobles of Auvergne or Limousin; even in the remoter districts of Germany men might be found

of greater experience of the world and with better knowledge of the manners of the best European society than any of the nobility in Somersetshire or Yorkshire. Scarce more than half of the level land of the kingdom was under agriculture, but the products were valuable and were sufficient to maintain the middle-class farmers, whose requirements were generally of a moderate nature.

However, even the richest nobles had but a very modest capital at their disposal; among them incomes of 100,000 dollars were the exception rather than the rule. After the fall of the Puritan tyranny and the disbanding of the Parliamentary army, with which Cromwell had maintained his power, it became possible to make special efforts to increase the pros-

**England
at the
Restoration**



THE CONSORT OF WILLIAM II.
Mary survived her husband by ten years.

**Bristol
as a Great
Seaport**

perity of the country. The lords and city aristocracy formed business companies, which were to develop commercial and carrying trade upon the principles which had been successful in Holland. Much of the carrying trade had already been captured by the Navigation Act of 1651. The East India Company was already in existence, and an African Company was now formed with the object of providing the Antilles with negro slaves. Gold dust was imported from Guinea, and with this the first guineas were coined.

But wherever the English ships appeared they found jealous enemies in the Dutch, who did their utmost to spoil the English trade. In 1664 surprises and attacks had occurred in the distant seas, though no open declaration of war between the two states had yet been made. The interruption of friendly relations and the formal declaration of war in the year 1665 were only the inevitable recognition of that hostility which had originated in state rivalry and had long ago broken out in the colonies. Upon several occasions during the war the English fleet was able to display its excellence in brilliant and successful actions; but it was unable to maintain a permanent predominance over the Dutch. The efficiency of the navy declined considerably during the war, although Parliament showed no parsimony in voting naval supplies, however little inclined it might be to improve the land forces or to take in hand the organisation of a standing army. But of the \$6,250,000 which was voted for purposes of the war, \$2,000,000 went into the king's private purse, and money was lacking to provide the shipwrights with proper timber and materials for building. The favourites of the king's mistresses became naval commanders, capacity or experience being disregarded.

After De Ruyter's last attack on Gravesend and Chatham, the hope of inflicting a humiliation on their bold rivals was abandoned. It was recognised with bitter disappointment that a man had been chosen for king who had no particular interest in the fate of the country. "On the night when our ships

were burned by the Dutch," writes the good Royalist Admiralty official Pepys in his diary, "the king did sup with my Lady Castlemaine at the Duchesse of Monmouth's—the wife of his natural son, whom he had legitimised—and they were all mad in hunting of a poor moth."

By the Treaty of Breda in 1667 England made peace with the Dutch; she determined to limit rivalry with Holland to the sphere of commerce; she recognised the common danger threatened by France who had now freed herself from the anxiety of the war with Spain, and therefore she readily agreed to the conclusion of the Triple Alliance. Charles II. cared nothing whatever for the political and moral forces which were working within the people. The direction of party movements which might happen to be popular with the city

magnates or the county members was nothing to him, except in so far as he might be able to use it to increase his income. He and his brother, James, Duke of York, contributed, it is true, to the capital which was raised for the re-organisation of the African Company, which had become bankrupt during the war; but this action was not the result of the desire to set a good example, and to promote the spirit of enterprise among the moneyed classes; it was impelled by covetousness and the instinct of speculation.

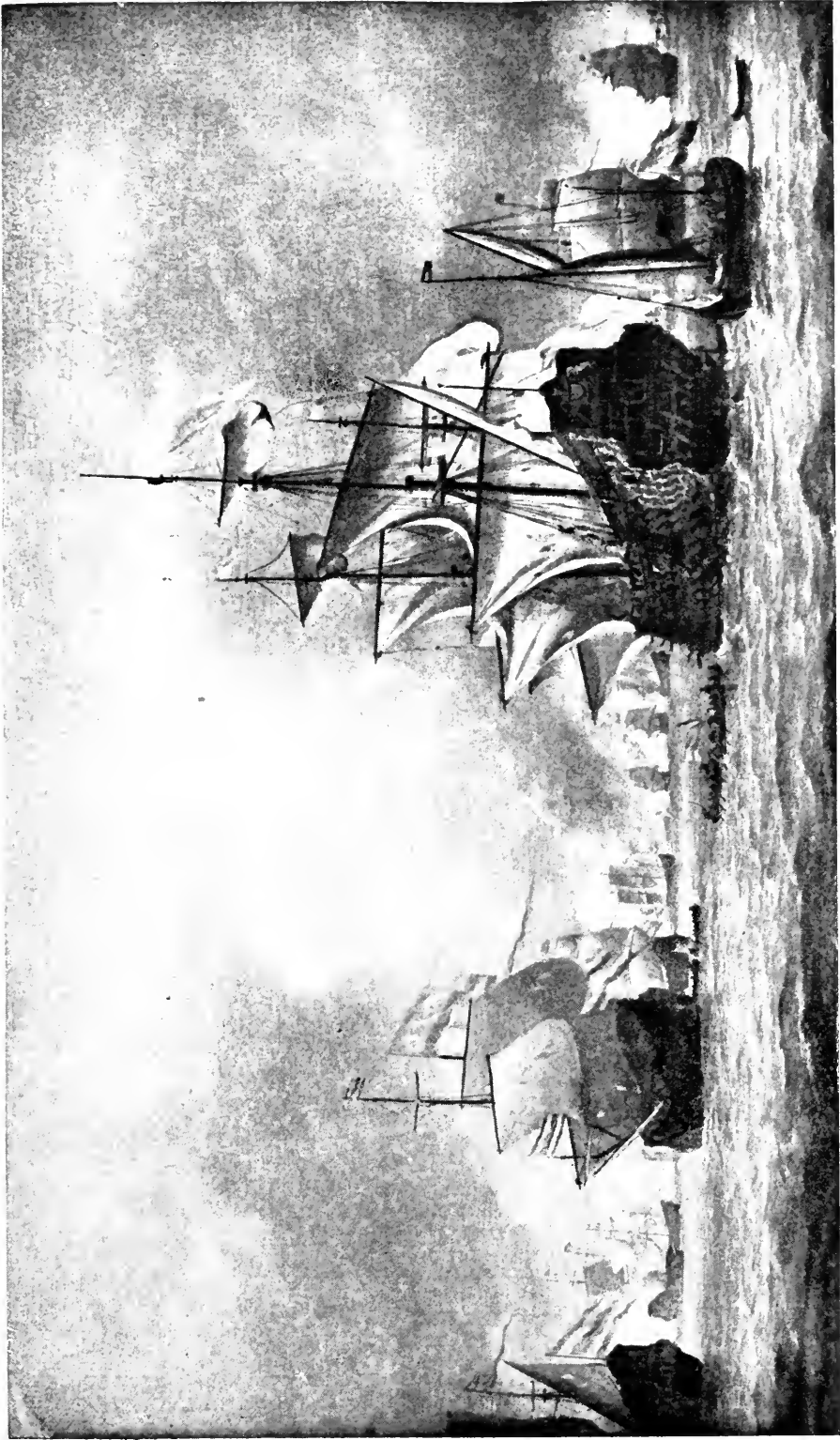


JAN DE WITT

He was the chief councillor of Holland, and succeeded in forming the Triple Alliance with England and Sweden against Louis XIV. He tried to avert war with England.

The investment of \$25,000 in the African Company was a very small deposit for a king, one of whose mistresses lost \$125,000 in one night at cards. Such insignificant sums went for nothing in his financial plans, even though there were times when he had not money enough to buy himself new underclothing. The Stuart king's respect for the new-made Triple Alliance and for the Constitution of his country was not strong enough to prevent him from entering upon the course of political dealing proposed to him by Louis XIV., by which he was the more attracted as the propositions of Louis promised him a far greater and surer reward than did the trade in spices and negro children. His royal cousin of France also displayed considerable politeness and prudence in entrusting the

Financial Schemes of Charles II.



HOLLANDS WAR WITH ENGLAND: THE DUTCH FLEET IN THE THAMES

Meeting near the mouth of the Thames on June 11th, 1666, the fleets of Holland and England, the former commanded by De Ruyter and the latter under the direction of Prince Rupert and General Monk—fought for four days. Victory rested with the Dutch, but it was dearly bought, as many brave officers and about 5000 soldiers and sailors lost their lives. The English had 6,000 men killed, and lost twenty-three vessels. In the following year the Dutch commander burned English shipping in the Medway, and sailed up the Thames to Gravesend.

final conclusion of this piece of business to the hands of two ladies, Henrietta of Orleans, Charles's sister, and her companion, Louise de Quérouaille, who became Duchess of Portsmouth, and gained an influence upon the king nearly as strong as that which the Countess of Castlemaine had up to that time exercised.

In the convention of Dover, on May 22nd, 1670, Charles II. promised to go over to the Roman Catholic Church, to dissolve the Triple Alliance, and to form a confederation with France against Holland; in return for this, Louis promised him an immediate present of \$1,000,000, and further support by way of so-called yearly war subsidies to the amount of \$1,500,000. Six thousand French troops were also to proceed to England should the king find it necessary to defend his royal prerogatives against the Parliament. Moreover, Louis did not confine his operations merely to securing the king's adhesion; he gave large sums of money to be spent in bribery, the division of which among Ministers and members of Parliament was entrusted to Colbert's brother.

In England the king had dismissed the grave and unpopular chancellor Clarendon, and so stifled criticism upon the increasing immorality of court life; public opinion was entirely at fault concerning the intentions of the government, which was now carried on by the so-called Cabal Ministry—Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley, and Lauderdale. The Cabal obtained \$12,500,000 from Parliament for purposes of coast defence in the event of a war between Holland and France, and then prorogued the assembly. As there was thus no Parliament in session, they seized the opportunity of defrauding the creditors of the Treasury, in particular the London goldsmiths, who then under-

took banking business; to these they refused repayment of the capital which they had borrowed. Charles also issued a declaration of indulgence removing the penalties to which Catholics and Presbyterians were liable. By these acts the



HENRIETTA OF ORLEANS
She was the youngest child of Charles I., being born on June 16th, 1644. In 1661 she was married to Philip, Duke of Orleans, the only brother of Louis XIV. of France.



THE DUCHESS OF PORTSMOUTH
The companion of Henrietta of Orleans, Louise de Quérouaille, afterwards the Duchess of Portsmouth, became a favourite of Charles II., and wielded great influence over him.

powers of the Prerogative were exceeded, and suspicions of Catholicism began to be aroused. The seed of further discord had thus been sown and was rapidly germinating when Louis XIV. raised his hand to deliver the blow which he had long prepared against the Netherland states, in order that he might destroy the opposition of the most dangerous enemy to his plans of expansion.

Sweden had also been bought by France; she had undertaken to enter into the war with 16,000 men on the side of France if the emperor or the empire should espouse the cause of Holland; the price for this promise was 400,000 thalers in the event of peace, 600,000 in case of war. The Emperor Leopold I. had already come to an agreement with Louis XIV. in the year 1668 concerning the future division of the Spanish monarchy, by means of his Ministers Auersperg and Lobkowitz. Auersperg was possessed with the idea that if he were made cardinal he would be a statesman not inferior to Richelieu and Mazarin, and he required the support of the King of France to obtain his preferment at Rome; Lobkowitz hated the Spaniards, who lorded it over him at the court of Vienna, although they no longer had at their disposal the money with which some thirty or

forty years previously they had brought over privy councillors, princes of the Church, and generals, to their interests.

The German House of Hapsburg had acquiesced in the gains which France had made during the "war of escheatage." It had, moreover, concluded a secret conven-

ENGLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS

tion with France, which is first mentioned by Grimoard in the "Œuvres de Louis XIV.," published in 1806; this convention was to the effect that, when the Spanish line became extinct, France should have the Franche-Comté, Navarre, Naples and Sicily, the Philippines, and the fortresses on the African coast, while the emperor was to receive Spain, the West Indies, Milan, Sardinia, the Balearic and Canary Islands. Louis XIV. never had any intention of holding to the conditions of this convention; but he had obtained a general recognition of the possibility of dividing the Spanish possessions, the throne of which was likely to become vacant, and he had obviated for a long

duke from his territory, occasioned no change in the emperor's attitude, though it increased the opposition of the Spanish party at the Vienna court.

Of the German states whose attitude towards the French army in its operations against Holland might have been of importance, Cologne, Bavaria, the Palatinate, and the warlike Bishop of Münster had been won over to the side of France; of the Guelfs, John Frederic of Hanover was induced to enter into a compact of neutrality at the price of a monthly subsidy of 10,000 thalers. Celle and Osnabrück stood aside and waited; Mainz declared that all resistance to the French military power was quite hopeless.



THE FRENCH CAVALRY FORCING THE PASSAGE OF THE RHINE ON JUNE 12TH, 1672

time to come, any opposition on the part of the Vienna court to his undertakings against Holland. On November 1st, 1671, a compact was signed for the emperor by Lobkowitz, in which the emperor promised to take no part in any war of France which should be waged outside the Spanish and German dominions, and to afford no other assistance to the powers attacked by France than the continuance of friendly relations with them.

Consequently, the efforts of the Austrian ambassador to the Dutch states to persuade the emperor to intervene on behalf of Holland remained without result for the moment. The occupation of Lorraine by French troops, and the expulsion of the

The Elector of Brandenburg, Frederic William, who had always been regarded with mistrust by the Dutch regents as being the uncle and guardian of the young Prince of Orange, perceived the serious complications which the victory of France over Holland would produce in the kingdom; he declared that "in the eyes of the present and future generations it would appear an eternal disgrace to surrender the freedom not only of Germany, but of the whole of Christendom." He would neither comply with the requests made to him by the French ambassadors, nor would he shrink before any threats. He was very anxious to form a confederation with the Dutch government; but, dazzled

by the power and financial resources of Louis, they hesitated for a long time to accept the conditions which Frederic William was obliged to impose in view of the resources of his territory. But early in 1672 the Netherland ambassadors requested to know the meaning of the French preparations, and received the short answer from the king that he would complete his preparations and use them as he thought proper. Then at length they made an agreement for the putting of 24,000 men into the field; but for their maintenance they paid only 8,000 thalers a month, and not the 100,000 demanded by the elector.

Two months later, Louis took the field with 140,000 men. After a short halt before Maestricht, two armies under Turenne and Condé diverged towards the Rhine, marched through the territory of Cologne, and took possession of the fortresses on the Holland frontier, which were in the worst possible condition and garrisoned with helpless, cowardly troops. At the custom-house on the Schenkenschanze, the passage of the Rhine was forced by the French cavalry, who were anxious to give proof of their old prowess under the eyes of the king. Meanwhile, the Bishops of Cologne and Münster made the most cowardly excuses for withdrawing their troops into Friesland and Oberyssel, and permitted the occupation of a number of towns; among them Deventer, Zwolle, Harderwijk; the province of Oberyssel readily submitted to the protectorate of the Bishop of Münster. The English fleet under the Duke of York, with very insufficient support from the French, had meanwhile, on June 7th, 1672, fought an action with De Ruyter in Southwold Bay, the result of which was indecisive; the proposed landing of the English in Zealand was fortunately frustrated by an unusually low tide and a violent storm. None the less, affairs in the seven provinces were in an unsettled condition. The rich merchants with their families and treasures,

**Louis XIV.
at War
with Holland**

jewels and works of art, fled to Hamburg, Denmark, or even into hostile England; after the flight of the garrisons the citizens seized the power in the towns, in order to save their property by capitulating with the enemy, even at the loss of their freedom.

The government of the aristocratic republicans had ended in anarchy; destruction menaced the existence of the state, the constitution of which was not national, and was, moreover, entirely subversive of freedom, being intended solely to secure the domination of the insolent Mynheer. But the deep feeling of the unspoiled classes, who still clung to the old faith and the old traditions, found expression in the cry for the strong guidance of a royal personality, and for the reinstatement of the last



WILLIAM III., PRINCE OF ORANGE
The son of William II., Prince of Orange, and ruler of the United Provinces, he married, in 1677, Mary, daughter of James, Duke of York, afterwards King James II. He was subsequently called to the throne of England.

survivor of the House of Orange in the hereditary office of stadtholder and captain-general. To the great historical events which contributed to strengthen the belief in the importance of the individual, an addition has now to be made; the assurance and the hope which impelled that cry for guidance were addressed to a personality worthy of the confidence reposed in him. In the towns and marshes of the Low German mariners there was but one man who possessed the special qualities of which the fatherland had need—firm conviction, unshaken courage, strong faith, devotion to the idea of German independence; and this man was no other than the young Prince William of Orange, now twenty-two years of age, whose princely heart and nature had not been spoiled, despite the endeavours to that end of his republican guardians.

As is invariably the case when the passions of the masses have been aroused by some unexpected calamity, the manifestations of love for their national leader were accompanied by outbursts of hatred against the enemy and the oppressor. A few weeks after the States-General had removed the Permanent Edict by which the brothers De Witt in the year 1668 hoped to have made the restoration of the House of Orange for ever impossible, this

feeling broke out in wild rage against the brothers, who were tortured and murdered by a furious mob on August 20th, 1672. Historians with leanings to republicanism reproach the Prince of Orange for not having used his popularity to save them; but they forget that at that moment the stadtholder had to unite all the forces which were then freely offered for resistance against the enemy, that at no price could he have afforded to permit the growth of discord among those men who were ready to sacrifice person and purse to save their country.

Thus in Holland the impression made by the resolution of the prince restored the confidence of the nation in its own power; inundations caused by breaking down the dykes put a stop to the advance of the French army, which had already gained possession of Utrecht. Meanwhile the opinion began to gain ground among the European powers that it was not wholly wise on their part to remain passive spectators of the conquest of the republican states and the victory of France. In Spain the war party gained the upper hand, and used all possible leverage to induce the emperor to break with France. In the German Empire the Elector of Brandenburg consulted the general feeling in the Protestant countries, and also his own inclinations and political principles, when he determined to take up arms in favour of his nephew. However, he considered that it would be useless for him to take the field alone with his own troops, as the French armies would be able to prevent his junction or even his co-operation with the forces which the Prince of Orange had collected; from the other princes of North Germany he could expect no assistance worth mentioning. Thus the only remaining resource was to remind the head of the empire of his duties, and to induce him to lead a general military operation of the German people. The elector desired an alliance between Brandenburg-Prussia and Austria, on condition

that the former should be recognised as the ruling power in evangelical North Germany, and the latter in South and West Germany, which were Catholic; but the plan proved to be wholly premature, and it was impossible of discussion with men like Lobkowitz and Hocher, the vice-chancellor of the empire, who considered it impossible to renounce all hope of resuming the struggle against Protestantism.

None the less, Frederic William thought that he ought to lay great stress upon the importance of the emperor's co-operation in the campaign against France; through John George of Anhalt in Vienna he vigorously pushed the proposal for an offensive alliance. On June 12th, 1672, it was agreed that each party should march

with 12,000 men to protect the boundary of the kingdom and repel the French from German soil; also that the provinces of the empire and the Kings of Spain and Denmark should be invited to join the alliance. But both parties approached the subject with intentions and from points of view exactly opposed. The French party at the Vienna court was convinced that they would gain far greater gratitude from the King of France if Austria joined the alliance, and thereby obtained the right and the opportunity to place obstacles in the path of the Elector of Branden-

burg, than they would if she were to decline alliance with the elector and thereby force him to act upon his own initiative. Frederic William, however, considered that he would be able to induce the Austrian forces to make some sort of strategical movement, and would thereby draw off the attention of the larger part of the French army. The imperial marshal Raymond, Count of Montecuccoli, was at first by no means disinclined to fall in with the elector's plans and to operate on his side against the French upon the Rhine; however, even during the march to the proposed scene of action he was obliged to observe



MARY, PRINCESS OF ORANGE
This portrait, from the painting by Wissing, represents Mary when she was the Princess of Orange. She ascended the English throne with her husband, William III., after her father, James II., had lost his crown.

French Troops on the Rhine

the instructions which he had received from Vienna—namely, to avoid any possible collision with the enemy whom it was intended to befriend. The duty imposed on him was to await the attack of Turenne, to whom the defence of the Lower Rhine had been entrusted, and on no account to begin hostilities on his side.

Turenne's Success in Westphalia Although Frederic William could not induce Montecuccoli to advance with him even as far as Coblenz, a movement which he had especially recommended to the Prince of Orange, he insisted upon the union of the two armies. But it became impossible to join hands with the Dutch and Spanish troops which were stationed at Maestricht, as Montecuccoli declined to cross the Rhine with the elector. When, toward the end of the year 1672, the allies marched to Westphalia, Turenne followed them and cut off their union with the Netherlands troops, which had gained a position in East Friesland.

The elector was no longer in receipt of subsidies from the States-General, as he had not fulfilled his obligations at the seat of war; he did not venture to make any attack on Turenne's strong position at Soest, and, lest he should find himself the object of an overwhelming assault, determined to conclude an armistice with France. In view of the emperor's wavering policy and the weakness of the contingents furnished by him—Montecuccoli's successor, Bournonville, had scarcely 10,000 men all told—this step was for the moment the best that could have been taken, for in no other way was it possible to avoid defeat.

By the Peace of Saint-Germain, on April 10th, 1673, Frederic William engaged to enter into hostilities neither against France nor against her allies—England, Cologne, and Münster. In the Convention of Vossem, on June 16th, the King of France promised him \$4,000,000 by way of compensation for the loss of the

Secession of Frederic William payments from Holland; there was, however, no stipulation against his fulfilling his duties to the empire in the event of an imperial war. When the Dutch ambassadors made reproaches to Frederic William for his secession, he plainly informed them that his retirement was entirely due to the premature cessation of the war subsidies which they had been paying; that, should they fail to bring about a general peace, he would be ready to renew his

action on behalf of the states. The fact that it was his action and his influence upon the emperor which had alone prevented the destruction of the Dutch republic is in no way affected by the Peace of Saint-Germain.

The retirement of Brandenburg from the scene of operations, though but temporary, was unavoidable in view of events in Poland; it implied only a momentary interruption in the foreign policy of the elector and inflicted no permanent damage upon the cause of the Netherlands. On the contrary, it obliged the emperor to give up his temporising policy, and to show greater decision in defending the independence of his empire and in preserving the security of his frontiers, if he did not wish to run the risk of entirely losing in the eyes of the empire a prestige which was in any case greatly impaired.

A convention was arranged on August 30th, 1673, between the United Netherlands, the emperor, and Spain, whereby a monthly subsidy of 95,000 thalers for the army was assured to the emperor. Montecuccoli again took the command, and

How England Saved Her Spanish Trade Turenne, who had penetrated to Rotenburg on the Tauber, was forced back to the Rhine by a series of strategical movements. William of Orange besieged and took Bonn, after obliging the marshal Luxemburg to abandon the right bank of the Rhine. When the winter brought operations to a close, France had lost her advantage and was acting upon the defensive. She was, moreover, unable to prevent the secession of her allies; England, who had not added to her reputation in the maritime war with the Dutch, was obliged to conclude the Peace of Westminster on February 19th, 1674, as she would otherwise have lost her Spanish trade; her example was followed by Münster and the electorates of Cologne and Mainz.

The campaigns of the year 1674 were fraught with great dangers to Louis XIV., who was now confronted by a strong confederation of European powers, and heavy subsidies had to be paid to keep England from joining their number. Condé defended the northern frontier of the kingdom from a foreign invasion in the bloody battle of Seneffe in the Hennegau, on August 11th, 1674, which was fought against the Dutch, Spanish, and imperial troops. Turenne's military powers had never been displayed to greater advantage,

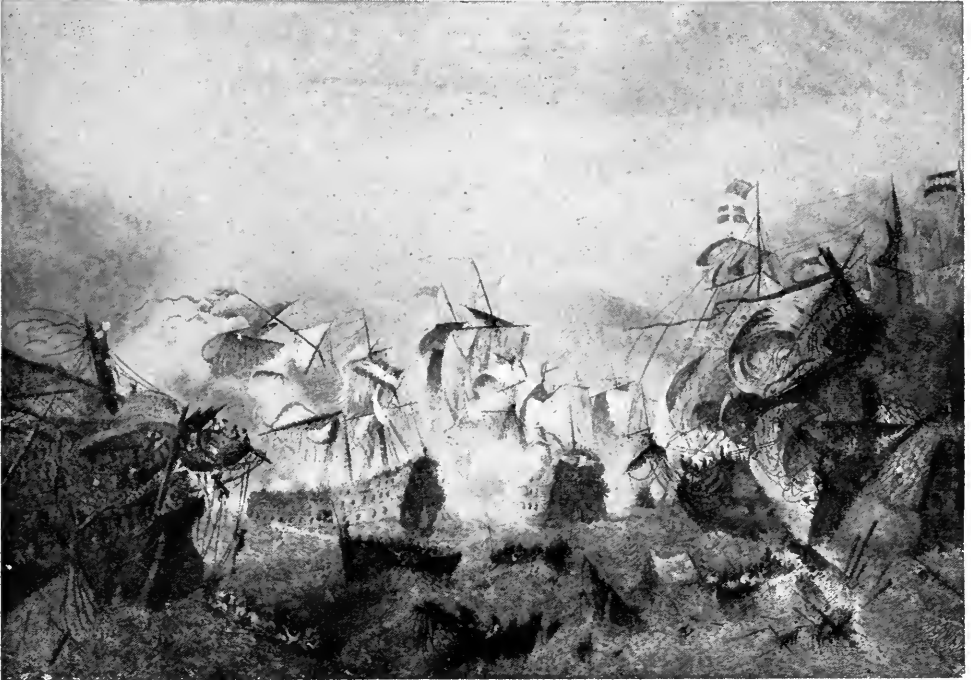
ENGLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS

but all that he could do was to preserve Alsace, upon which the main attack of the imperial army had been directed. The Elector of Brandenburg had also appeared in that direction with 16,000 men under the general field-marshal George of Derfflinger, for Louis XIV. had delayed the payment of his subsidy, and the elector had gladly seized the opportunity of treating the convention of Vossem as dissolved.

The German troops, among which those of Lüneburg and Brunswick were distinguished by the excellence of their equipment and by their bravery, were unable to inflict any decisive defeat upon

upon Mülhausen towards the end of the year 1674, and, surprising the allies, who had gone into winter quarters, he scattered and drove them back. After the indecisive battle of Türkheim, on January 5th, 1675, the allies were forced to give up Alsace and to retreat once more to the right bank of the Rhine.

Disputes had broken out between the imperial generals and those of Brandenburg, as a consequence of the constant failures in the handling of the army. The elector's son Emil had succumbed to typhus fever in Strassburg during the campaign. The elector himself withdrew his



THE GREAT NAVAL BATTLE BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND DUTCH AT AGOSTA IN 1676
In this naval battle between the French and the Dutch, fought on April 2nd, 1676, the latter gained a notable victory, but lost their commander, De Ruyter, the hero of many fights and a tower of strength to his country in its wars.

the enemy; the miserable cowardice of their leader, Alexander, Duke of Bournonville, who was thought to be treacherous as well as incapable, entirely neutralised the excellence of the forces at his disposal.

In November, 1674, Turenne was forced by the superior strength of his opponents to retreat from Alsace to Lorraine. There he obtained reinforcements to the extent of 13,000 men, which brought his army to the number of 30,000, and by dividing it into several columns he succeeded in reaching Belfort unobserved; from that point he suddenly swooped down

troops no farther than Franconia, in order that he might be able to take his share in the general plan of campaign upon the resumption of hostilities. During the winter he was hard at work at Cleves with the Prince of Orange, arranging plans, and inducing the emperor to place a proper proportion of fresh troops in the field.

But, though the Minister Lobkowitz had fallen, there was no inclination in Vienna to great sacrifices or vigorous measures; the government hesitated even to make fitting preparations to protect Brandenburg and Pomerania against the attack of

the Swedes, who had again become allies of France. On May 30th, 1675, these restless neighbours actually began the campaign against Brandenburg by invading the Mark, and the only course of action open to the elector was to withdraw his contingent and its reinforcements from its position in Franconia, to return to his own country by way of Magdeburg, and to concentrate his efforts upon the task of defending his frontier. After the departure of the Brandenburg forces, the imperial army on the Rhine would have been reduced to the worst extremities had not Turenne, whose strategical talent, experience and daring made him a host in himself, been killed in the fight of Sasbach in Baden on July 27th, 1675.

Turenne Killed in Battle

From that time onward the progress of the war in the Palatinate and in the Breisgau was marked by no special occurrence, though the important fortress of Breisach was captured. In the Spanish Netherlands, the French under Luxemburg made great progress, defeating the Prince of Orange at Saint Omer, and capturing Ghent and Ypern. The king ordered Vauban to extend and complete the fortifications of Condé, Valenciennes, and Cambray, and in his hands these places became first-class strongholds; it was plain that he had no intention of surrendering them.

But the greatest surprise was excited by the appearance of France as a great naval power; her gifted admiral, Abraham, Marquis du Quesne, beat the united fleet of the Dutch and Spaniards at the Lipari Islands and at Catania; in a previous conflict, the battle at Agosta, on April 29th, 1676, in which they were victorious, the Dutch had lost their famous naval hero De Ruyter. The preponderance thus gained by France in the Mediterranean, and her acquisitions in the Spanish Netherlands, created a most painful impression in England. After a lapse of fifteen months, Parliament was again summoned in the year 1677, and obliged the king, whom Louis XIV. was still subsidising, to form a new alliance with Holland, and to agree to the marriage of the daughter of the Duke of York, who had been brought up in the Protestant faith, with William of Orange. The personal attitude of Charles towards Holland had changed when the power passed into the hands of his nephew

The Marriage of William of Orange

William, the son of his sister Mary. The reserve funds of the French state had now been expended, its credit was strained to the utmost, and Colbert was most earnestly urging upon the king the necessity of putting an end to the war; Louis, therefore, after protracted negotiations at Nimeguen, came to an understanding with the republican party and the leaders of the English Parliament as to the principles which should form the basis of a pacific settlement.

Louis' aims were, on the one hand, to relax the close union existing between the Prince of Orange and the "States," and, on the other, to put an end to the highly inconvenient demands of the Stuart for further subsidies. In these objects he was successful, for he induced the Dutch to abandon Spain, and to allow France to indemnify herself at the expense of Spain in the Spanish Netherlands and in the Franche-Comté. On August 10th, 1678, the treaty between France and the Republic was concluded; on September 17th, Spain was forced to agree to the disadvantageous conditions imposed upon her; in February of the following year the German emperor also accepted the peace. The Elector of Brandenburg, with the support of Denmark, had won victory after victory in his war with Sweden; he had now to bear alone the full brunt of the attack of the whole French army, which advanced to Minden in June and proceeded to march upon Berlin. Brandenburg was obliged to give up her conquests in Pomerania, and to agree to the distribution of territory settled by the Peace of Westphalia. Louis XIV. had gained his desire; but it was easy to perceive that of all his adversaries he had the greatest respect for Frederic William, and before the year 1679 had expired he had won him over to alliance.

France's Brilliant Outlook

As the ruler of Brandenburg had been abandoned by the emperor and the empire and above all by his Guelf neighbours, so was the Prince of Orange abandoned by the Hollanders and by the regents of the states, which he had preserved from disruption and loss. In the days of Nimeguen, Europe bowed to the will of the monarch who purposed to restore to the French the position that the Franks had held under Charlemagne. It seemed that with the exception of the Padishah of Stamboul there was to be but one great power in Europe—the French kingdom.

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE AGE
OF
LOUIS XIV.
IV

FRANCE'S WARS OF AGGRESSION AND THE STAR OF GERMANY IN ECLIPSE

DURING the two final decades of the seventeenth century the seeds lying dormant in the historical life of the European peoples gradually came to maturity; the ground had already been cleared for the most important changes in the territorial areas and in the mutual relations of the powers. In this light we must regard the conquests of France and her repeated attacks upon the German Empire, the eastern developments of the German-Hapsburg policy which were brought about by the favourable result of the Turkish war and the recovery of Hungary and its neighbouring territory; the War of the Spanish Succession; the renewal of complications in the East through the rivalry of Sweden and Poland; and finally the rise of Brandenburg-Prussian influence and the recognition of her sovereign position, which was marked by the rise of Prussia to the

The Doom of the Lithuanian Kingdom

status of a kingdom. The transference of the policy of the House of Orange to England and the permanent connection of that country with Holland must be regarded as an additional factor in the problems under consideration. A new member entered the European political world in the Russian state, whose mission was to educate healthy and vigorous Slav races to take their share in the struggle for the blessings of civilisation in the stead of the Polish Lithuanian kingdom, which was hastening to its inevitable fall.

Immediately upon the conclusion of the Peace of Nimeguen Louis XIV. began to take new steps for the acquisition of that territory which, as he was firmly convinced and as French patriots believed, was indispensable for the completion of his kingdom; he proposed a set of entirely new principles as the basis of his national and historical right to what he claimed. In the name of the bishops of Metz, Toul, and Verdun he advanced his demand that the feudal rights of these

bishops to lands and possessions within the German Empire must be revived, though they had lain obsolete for centuries, and that the supremacy of France should extend over the districts in question. Upon the conclusions of the Peace

Strassburg's Forced Homage to Louis XIV.

of Westphalia concerning the withdrawal of the Austrian wardens from the Alsatian towns he placed such an interpretation that it was possible for France to claim the whole country, including Strassburg. The representations of the emperor and the Reichstag did not prevent him from annexing, piece by piece, the country which he claimed; at the close of September, 1681, he surprised the old imperial town of Strassburg, and obliged the citizens to do him homage, after he had been informed that the emperor was proposing to garrison the town.

It is superfluous to spend time in pointing out the absence of justifiable reason for these "reunions." Justice is dumb when questions of national interest are at stake; the most brazen injustice, the most outrageous demands, are acclaimed as righteous by patriots so long as they can thence draw food for their vainglory. This is a fact of which the historian as well as the politician must take account, for he will generally find himself in the wrong if he attempts to account for state policy on principles other than "might is right." Louis XIV. continued to proclaim that his state must be increased just so long as he found himself able to brush aside all resistance to his will;

How France Treated her Neighbours

his example was followed by every succeeding government in France, whether monarchical or republican, until the neighbours whom she had trampled on trampled on her in their turn.

Not for a single moment was the imperial court inclined to compliance, nor did anyone imagine that the arts of diplomacy would ever induce Louis XIV.

to retire from his advantageous position. The only possible course of action was to gain time to prepare for the struggle and to find allies against France. Of alliances, however, the prospect was exceedingly small. It now became clear how fatal had been the mistake committed in neglecting Brandenburg, for without her troops the

**The Empire
no Match
for France**

collective forces of the empire were no match for the French king's army. It cannot be denied that the change in the Great Elector's policy after the Peace of Nimeguen was largely the cause of the "reunion" movement, but it is equally certain that King Louis would have had far less hesitation in aggrandising himself at the expense of the empire if Brandenburg had exhausted her strength in a hopeless war against Sweden and France, and had sacrificed to no purpose the army which she had just created. The mere fact of her existence as an ally on one side or the other was a ground of security for the empire in the last extremity. Moreover, Frederic William would have been quite ready on proper terms to throw in his lot again with the emperor. But he was anxious, first of all, to see for himself that the emperor was capable of taking up the war with France; then he demanded certain compensation in return, the cession of districts in Silesia, where the rights of inheritance possessed by the Hohenzollerns were not wholly secure. The Vienna court did not think it necessary to meet these advances half way; it looked to other sources of help.

The members of that mighty confederation which resisted the foundation of a universal supremacy of France in later years existed side by side, even at that period; but they were not then sufficiently developed and had not the resources necessary to enable them to withstand the energy and the will of the French king. Around William of Orange was grouped a number of Dutch and German statesmen, who were constrained by necessity to thwart the ever-widening plans of Louis XIV.; among them was also to be found George William of Waldeck, sometime minister and general of Brandenburg,

who had been in the service of Holland since 1672. He was confident that he could undertake the military organisation of the empire after he had secured the adherence in 1679 of some of his compeers from the Central Rhine, from the Wetterau, Westerwald, and Eifel, to a scheme for their mutual defence. This "union" was joined by Hesse-Cassel, Hesse-Darmstadt, Fulda, Bamberg-Würzburg, and the Frankish district, and shortly afterwards by Saxony-Gotha.

Waldeck was able to create such a strong impression in Vienna of the importance of his scheme of mutual defence that the emperor, on June 10th, 1682, concluded the "Laxenburg Alliance" with the "union," and it was hoped that others of the imperial provinces might be induced to join. They were to take up the defence of the empire, of which scheme the main features had been sketched out by the Reichstag at Regensburg, which had now become a permanent assembly. However, their intentions did not issue in practical results. Of more importance was the union of Bavaria and Hapsburg, which was closely cemented by the marriage in July, 1685, of the young elector, Max Emanuel—Ferdinand Maria had died on May 26th, 1679—with the Archduchess Maria Antonia, the daughter of the emperor; important, too, was the secession

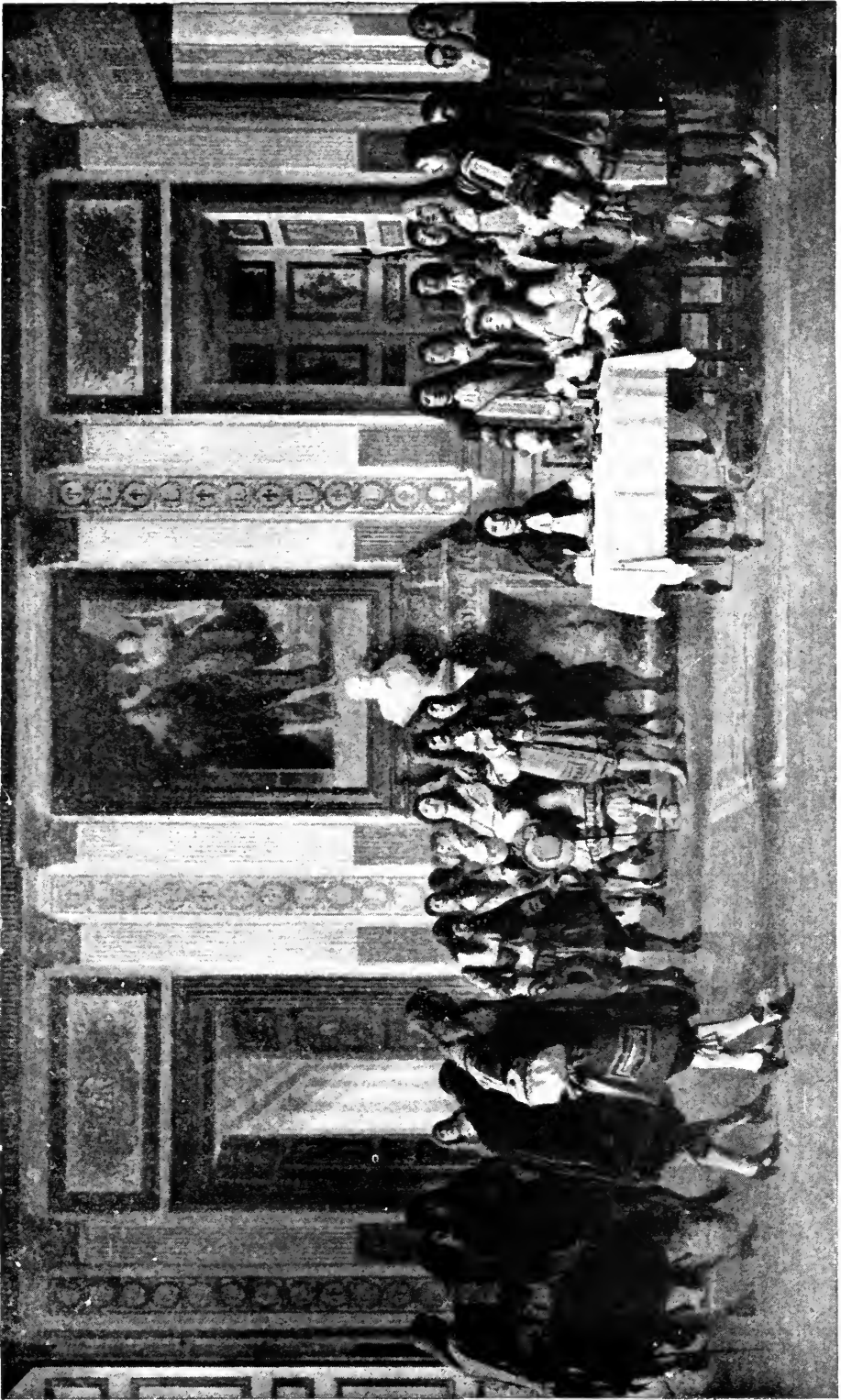


JOHN GEORGE III.
The Elector of Saxony from 1680 till 1691, John George III. played a leading part in the struggles of the period, and his secession from the French party was a sore blow to it.

of the Elector of Saxony, John George III. (1680-1691), from the French party, and the readiness of the Duke of Hanover, Ernest Augustus I., to send an army of 10,000 men to the Rhine to support the imperial troops. Leopold and his council, which was then led by the Freiherr von Strattmann, were consequently obliged to admit that the interests of the House of Hapsburg with respect to Spain demanded an unconditional resistance to the encroachments of France; to this they remained firm, even though the danger of a new Turkish war grew more imminent.

The Hungarian policy of the Vienna court was invariably unfortunate. The leaders did not appreciate the necessity of smoothing over religious differences by gentle treatment of the non-Catholics;

**New Turkish
War
Threatened**



MOLIERE DINING WITH LOUIS XIV., WHO IS INTRODUCING THE FAMOUS DRAMATIST TO HIS COURTIER

From the painting by H. J. Vetter in the Luxembourg

their treatment of personal and family affairs was also ill-considered. The claims of the Rakoczy family, to which the Transylvanian, magnate Emerich Tököly belonged, had been set aside by timely offers of compensation, bestowal of titles, and opportune marriages; but time had never been found for proper attention to these affairs,

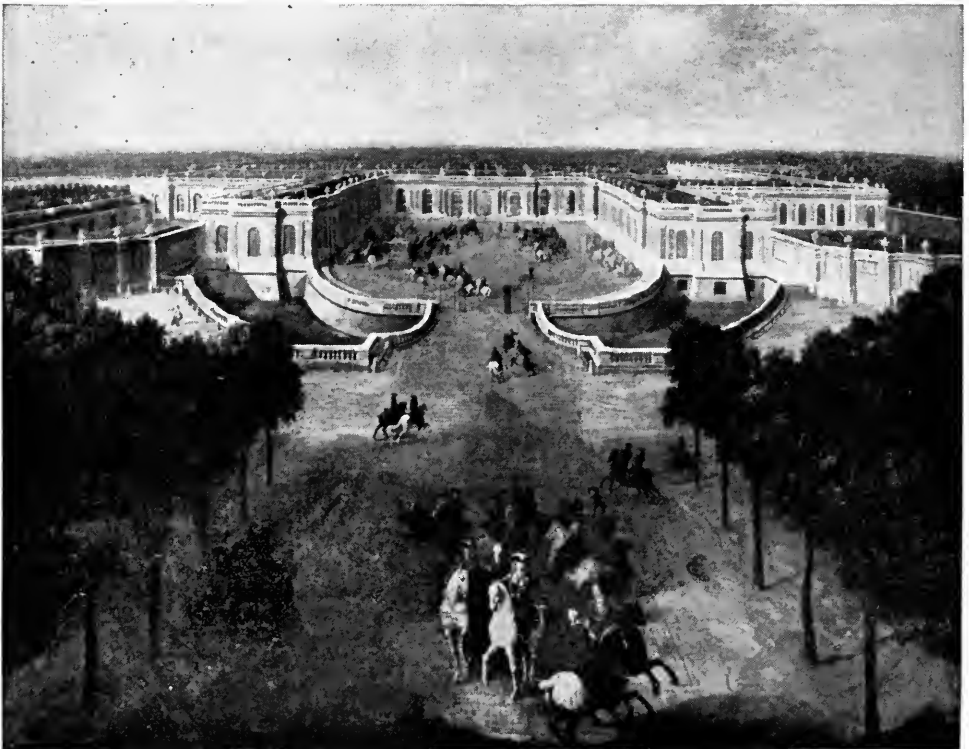
**The Turks
On the
War Path**

and the attitude of rejection that was too often adopted helped to bring powerful adherents to the opposition. Stern and harsh in time of peace, weak and careless in time of war, the Austrian House did not gain either the respect or the confidence of the Magyars.

After their fruitless war with Poland and Russia the Turks thought that they had found a haven of rest upon the Danube, and the state of affairs in Transylvania and Upper Hungary seemed eminently suited to further their aims. The Grand Vizir Kara Mustapha required to secure his position by some military success, and, having persuaded the sultan to permit the further chastisement of the infidel, he marched in person upon Vienna at the head of an army of 200,000 men. The Vienna statesmen had actually brought

matters to such a pass that Austria found herself obliged at one and the same time to carry on the war against France upon the Rhine, and to resist the attack of an enormously superior power upon the hereditary territories of the ruling house.

The unprincipled Elector of Brandenburg took the opportunity to advocate the conclusion of an armistice with France, which would imply the temporary abandonment of the "reunion" problem; if some such arrangement could be made with Louis XIV., his ally, he was ready to send 16,000 men and more to Hungary. But in the course of these negotiations he again advanced his claims to Jägersdorf, and the emperor declined to accept help from Brandenburg, which appeared the less indispensable as the King of Poland had promised to lead his army against the common enemy without any stipulation of reward. The Pope Innocent XI. persuaded Louis XIV. to cease for a time the hostilities which he had already begun against the House of Austria, and the king complied with his request in the expectation that in case of necessity his help would be



THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES AS IT WAS IN THE TIME OF LOUIS XIV.
From the painting by J. B. Martin in the Museum of Versailles



Madame de Maintenon

Madame de la Vallière

Madame de Montespan

THE WOMEN WHO INFLUENCED LOUIS XIV.

The morals of Louis XIV. were notorious. In 1685 he was privately married to Madame de Maintenon, a woman who was under the influence of the Jesuits, but was no mere courtesan; the Duchess de la Vallière bore the king four children, and retired into a convent when she was supplanted in the royal affections by Madame de Montespan.

demand, and that when he had saved the country from the Turks he might, with the assent of Brandenburg, make any terms he pleased for himself.

The magnificent defence of the imperial capital offered by Count Rüdiger of Starhemberg, the endurance of his troops and of the more sensible part of the population of Vienna, and finally the glorious battle which raised the siege on September 12th, 1683, in which Kara Mustapha was utterly beaten by the Polish army under John Sobieski, entirely upset Louis' calculations and raised the emperor's prestige to an unexpected height. The supreme command had been given by agreement to the Polish king, but the real conduct of the battle was claimed by Duke Charles of Lorraine; and on this memorable day two German electors, John George III. of Saxony and Maximilian Emanuel of Bavaria, had voluntarily placed themselves under the orders of the duke, as also had the imperial field-marshal, the Count of Waldeck. This was Poland's last intervention in European politics. The emperor had not succeeded in raising an imperial army; the empire had not yet found time to take the measures necessary for the fulfilment of military exigencies. The help which had averted the fall of Vienna had been given to the emperor by the allied

"armed provinces," in which the Frankish district was included as well as the electors. Hitherto standing armies had been set on foot only in such North German territories as were forced to protect themselves; besides the Elector of Brandenburg, who was more powerful than any other German prince, the dukes of Brunswick and the Bishop of Münster

had troops on a war footing at their disposal, capable of being used for independent operations. The system of individual armament now began to prevail throughout the empire, so that military affairs entered upon a new phase of development.

It was a considerable advantage to the greater territorial princes always to have their own troops ready, and to send them beyond their provinces only upon special occasions of concerted action. But the maintenance of these standing armies was an extraordinary expense, and one which could not be met from their ordinary sources of

income; princes were therefore ready to employ their troops outside the somewhat narrow sphere of their own interests, and lent them to other powers, which were armed insufficiently or not at all, in return for corresponding pecuniary returns, which went into their war chests. This was a business which had been carried on by the captains of regiments



COUNT RÜDIGER

Count Rüdiger of Starhemberg made a magnificent defence of Vienna while it was undergoing the siege of the Turks, which was raised on September 12th, 1683.

during the period of vassalage, and during the Thirty Years War, by such great "contractors" as Mansfeld, Christian of Brunswick, Wallenstein, Bernhard of Weimar, and others. It now passed into the hands of the princely war lords, who gained far greater profit from it and were less easily exposed to the danger of a

**Soldiers
Who were
Lent Out**

conflict of political interests. The complaints concerning the so-called "sale of the country's children" first arose at a later period, and resulted from the failure to appreciate the close connection between the fundamental idea of "armament" and the arrangements for defence existing in earlier times. In most cases the soldiers who were thus lent out were themselves entirely convinced that in no other manner could the special military qualities which made their services of value be kept at a high level of perfection.

The smaller provinces of the empire, which did not possess sufficient territory or population to enable them to embark upon such undertakings, generally came to some arrangement with the "armed" powers, if they were ordered to prepare for war by the empire or their allies; districts in which there was no lord of dominant power formed compacts offensive and defensive and added to the number of the armed powers. But such a movement was for the most part of short duration.

As soon as the most pressing danger was over, these imperial districts withdrew their contingents, because their maintenance was not imperative upon them as upon their more powerful neighbours, and because the expenses of war had an effect upon their home life more immediate and heavier than in the case of a populous state, where there were many shoulders to bear the burden. From 1670 to 1680 and through the following decades German military strength was represented by the forces of the "armed" provinces. Alliance and convention were the only

**The Tangled
Threads
Of History**

means of calling great national armies into existence. The policy of the emperor and the statecraft of every dynasty that strove to attain success abroad resolved itself into a series of attempts to effect alliances with the armed provinces of the empire; consequently the threads of the diplomatic history of the period became so tangled, owing to schemes and plots, that during no other epoch have we the same difficulty

in unravelling their confused complexity. The defeat of the Turks at Vienna induced Louis XIV. to renew and to increase the pressure upon the two Hapsburg courts and upon the German Empire.

In addition to Strassburg he had quickly annexed two other important strategical points—Casale on the Po on September 30th, 1681, and Luxemburg on June 4th, 1684. He now demanded an armistice for thirty, or at least twenty-five, years, the status quo to be maintained. During that period the empire would be able to devote her whole energy to the struggle with her hereditary enemy. The Elector of Brandenburg exerted his influence in Vienna and in Regensburg to secure the acceptance of this proposal, as it offered him personally a possibility of escape from the embarrassing position into which his relations with France had brought him.

It was clear to him that he could not safely take up a position of hostility to the emperor at a moment when the majority of the Germans looked upon the continuance of the war with Turkey as a national duty. He had cynically admitted the difficulty

of his position to the French ambassador, the Vicomte de Rébenac, and had appealed through him to the generosity

of Louis XIV., asking him not to make capital out of the "desperate necessities of the empire." Rébenac was in full possession of the elector's confidence, and it was through his ready influence that the king was induced to confer a special mark of friendship upon the elector, which consisted in the raising of his subsidy to 100,000 livres per annum, a sum which was to be doubled in the event of war, and did not include personal presents. The elector was ever vigilant when his personal interests were concerned.

The views entertained at the court of Vienna underwent a change during the progress of the campaign. A few weeks after he had marched into his sore-trying capital the emperor's confidence in his Polish ally was seriously shaken. Sobieski, who despised the German time-servers, as he called them, considered that his Polish nobles had suffered disproportionate losses in the battle of Parkany on October 9th, 1683. At the storming of Gran on October 27th, he allowed them to take no active share in the operations, and afterwards marched them home. If the war in Hungary was to be continued it was necessary



VICTIMS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION: HUGUENOTS MAKING THEIR ESCAPE FROM FRANCE IN 1685

The Protestant community in France underwent severe penalties at the hands of the Government. In 1685, the Edict of Nantes was revoked by Louis XIV., and at once the Huguenots were stilled to worse persecution than ever. Many of them made their escape from the country to find in other lands the liberty which was denied to them in their own.

From the painting by G. Sheridan Knowles, R.I., by the artist's permission

to procure more and more reliable troops, and such Germany alone could provide. If war were to break out with France in the following spring, there would be very small numbers of German troops, perhaps none at all, at the emperor's disposal. Thus the Emperor Leopold was confronted with the dilemma whether

**The Empire's
Armistice
with France**

he should again conclude an unsatisfactory peace with the Turks, and resume the struggle with France, or should put off the solution of the French question and at once undertake the conquest of Hungary. On the one side the position of the whole House of Hapsburg as a European power was at stake; on the other, the special interests of the German ruling line. Leopold decided in favour of the latter.

The Hungarian campaign of the year 1684 was carried on with inadequate forces, and led to no definite result. The mission of an ambassador-extraordinary, Count Lamberg, in February, 1684, to buy off Brandenburg from France, had been a failure, and for these reasons the emperor gave his consent to the conclusion of an armistice for twenty years with France, which was concluded on August 15th, 1684, at Regensburg.

This event marks a turning-point in the relations of the two hostile parties, because from that time begins the gradual separation of the Great Elector from Louis XIV. A number of other occurrences in the year 1685 contributed to set him against French policy, and to prepare the way for that great federation which was destined eventually to ruin the far-reaching plans against the freedom of Europe which Louis XIV. had conceived. Of these the most important were the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, the suppression of the Huguenots and of religious toleration in France, and the accession of the Stuart James II. in England, who had become a Catholic and openly introduced a

**Brandenburg's
Open Door for
the Huguenots**

counter-reformation into England, so far as his opportunities allowed. Frederic William threw open his territory to his exiled co-religionists, the refugees, and came to a close understanding with William of Orange to the effect that Louis must be conquered, as his obvious intention was to disturb the balance of the different Christian creeds which the Peace of Westphalia had determined. Though he was quarrelling with

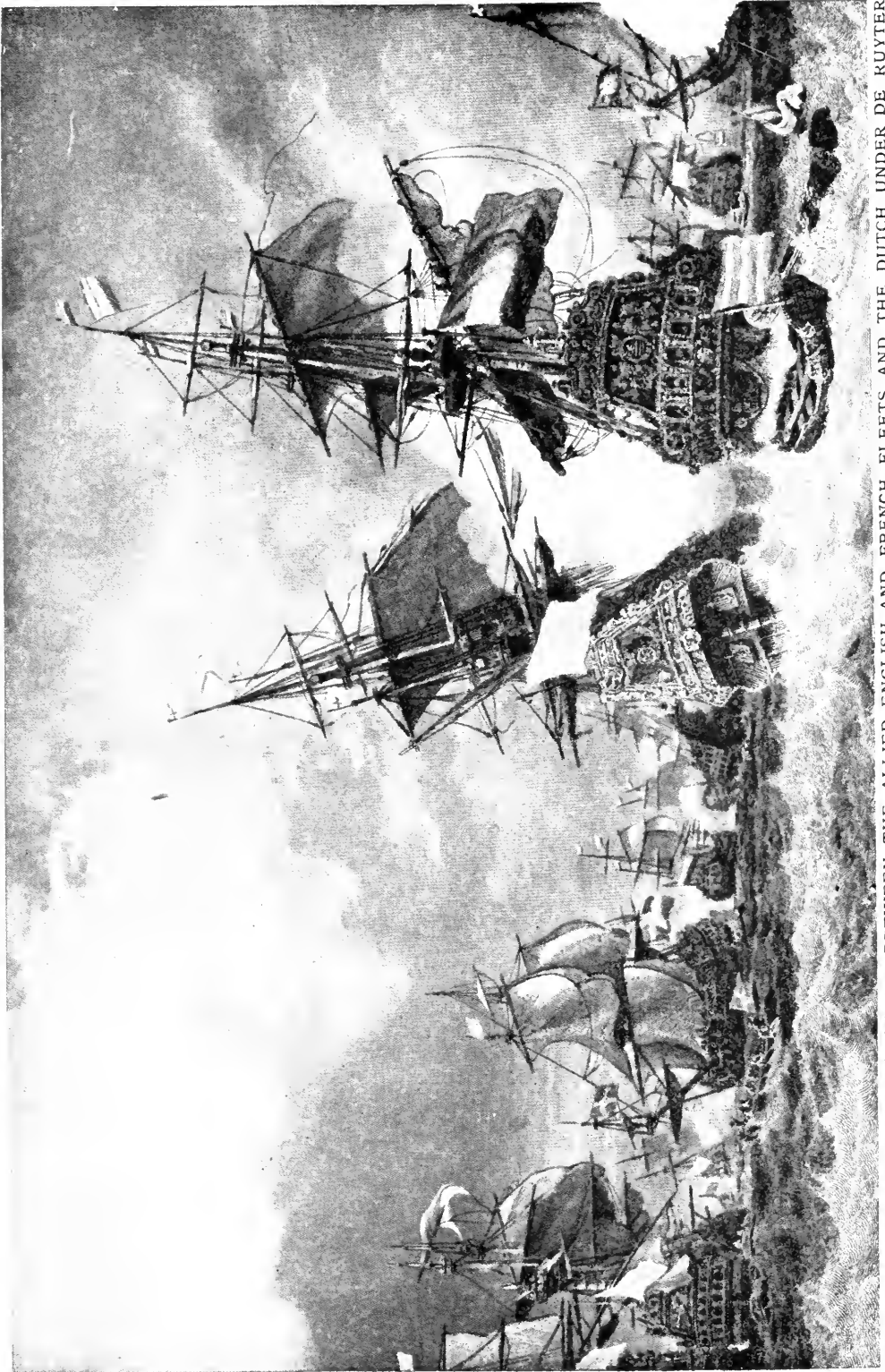
the Pope, the king was considered still the most dangerous opponent of the Protestant powers. His efforts to build up a national French policy had been attended with complete success. But the ruinous disension which eventually shook France to her very foundations proceeded from the king's fatal opinion that the centralisation of the constitutional power was incompatible with the existence of different religious creeds, and that universal toleration would impair the strength of the kingdom.

As soon as the Great Elector had made up his mind to dissolve his connection with France, in spite of the subsidies which had been paid to him through Rébenac since the year 1680, he entertained no scruples about rejoining the emperor and supporting him in his undertakings. He could not have failed to recognise that Louis was desirous of keeping him in restraint, and even in impotency. He had at one time expected to increase his territory with the aid of France, at the expense of Brunswick-Hanover or of Sweden, and this hope he was now obliged to renounce. None the less, the negotiations with the im-

**Disappointed
Hopes of
the Elector**

perial government would have resulted unfavourably had not the Electoral Prince Frederic, a declared enemy of France, devoted his energy to removing the chief obstacle. His father insisted upon the fact that an inconsiderable accession of territory was owing to himself in view of his hereditary claims to Jägerndorf and some other Silesian estates—the so-called Schwiebus district. What was the loss of twenty-four square miles of territory and a few thousand inhabitants, for the most part Protestants, to the powerful Hapsburg House, which was desirous of conquering the kingdom of Hungary at that moment?

A rigid insistence upon their rights prevented the Vienna statesmen from making a sacrifice which was valueless in comparison with the important alliance it would have brought. Schwiebus was formally alienated from the emperor during the lifetime of the elector. The electoral prince was obliged to undertake to restore the district upon his accession. For this he received a special subsidy of 10,000 ducats, a not unwelcome addition to his impoverished treasury. This piece of baseness was successfully concealed from the old elector; until his death he firmly believed in the uprightness of the Austrian House and of the prince. The



THE NAVAL BATTLE OF TEXEL, IN 1673, BETWEEN THE ALLIED ENGLISH AND FRENCH FLEETS AND THE DUTCH UNDER DE KUYTER
From the painting by Jansz

emperor eventually exacted the return of his twenty-four square miles from the elector's successor; however, he had provided an excuse for Frederic the Great to declare that the promised renunciation of the Silesian principalities by his predecessor was not binding upon himself, and so to give a quibble of legality to his conquest of it.

On September 2nd, 1686. the fortress of Ofen, the central point of the Turkish rule in Hungary, was stormed by the German and imperial troops.

In this brilliant feat of arms some share was taken by the Brandenburg contingent of 8,200 men, and after a lapse of 145 years the emperor was again put in possession of the Hungarian Königsberg. The Brandenburger then undertook the defence of the Lower Rhine, and co-operated with the Dutch against

A Series of Important Battles

France, his late ally, while Max Emanuel of Bavaria and Charles of Lorraine won the battle of Mohacs on August 12th, 1687, and took Belgrade on September 6th, 1688, for the first time, thus breaking down the resistance which the Turks annually renewed. The Field-Marshal von Barfus rendered important service at the battle of Slankamen on August 19th, 1691, with the Margrave of Baden, Lewis William, and helped to win a brilliant victory, which permanently strengthened the position of the imperial troops in Hungary, which had received a heavy blow in the previous year by the loss of Belgrade.

Meanwhile, an open breach with France had come to pass. Louis XIV. could not behold the recovery of the Hapsburg power in the East and the rise of the imperial prestige among the imperial princes without raising fresh claims on his side, and attempting to assert his preponderance by interference in German affairs. With the death of Charles the Elector of the Palatinate on May 16th, 1685, the line of Simmern of Wittelsbach became extinct, and Louis seized the opportunity to claim the allodial territory of the



THE DUKE OF SAVOY AND CHARLES OF LORRAINE
Victor Amadeus, the Duke of Savoy, fought against the French in the battle of Staffarda in 1690, and was overthrown by Catinat; Charles of Lorraine commanded the imperial army, and died in 1690.

Simmern family on behalf of his brother Philip of Orleans, husband of the Princess Elizabeth Charlotte, the sister of the late elector. The possession of this territory would have made the French ruler a prince

of the empire. In the contest for the archbishopric of Cologne he had espoused the cause of William Egon of Fürstenberg in opposition to Prince Joseph Clemens of Bavaria, and this action had embarrassed the interests of Austria and Bavaria and the rights of the Pope, who

had decided in favour of Joseph Clemens. None the less, Innocent XI. made every possible effort to induce the king to accept some peaceful solution of the question at issue, and to restrain him from appealing to force of arms. His efforts were not successful. Louis felt himself threatened on two sides, and was determined to anticipate the formation of a confederacy against him by striking a rapid blow at his enemies. He considered himself as especially threatened by the alliance of Augsburg, whereby the emperor, Spain and Sweden, as allied powers, the Frankish and Bavarian districts, and also certain princes, had pledged themselves to provide a federal army of more than 46,000 men for the defence of the empire until its military organisation should have been perfected. Still more serious was the discord which had broken out between the English and King James II., and the alliance now imminent between the leaders of Protestantism in England and William of Orange, who could now reckon upon the consent of the States-General to such steps as he might consider needful to secure the Protestant character of the government in England.

The Prince of Orange had been forced for a long time to postpone the execution of his great plans, as he was invariably confronted with the suspicions of the States-General; the time was now at hand when he was to gain a powerful position, enabling him to undertake the

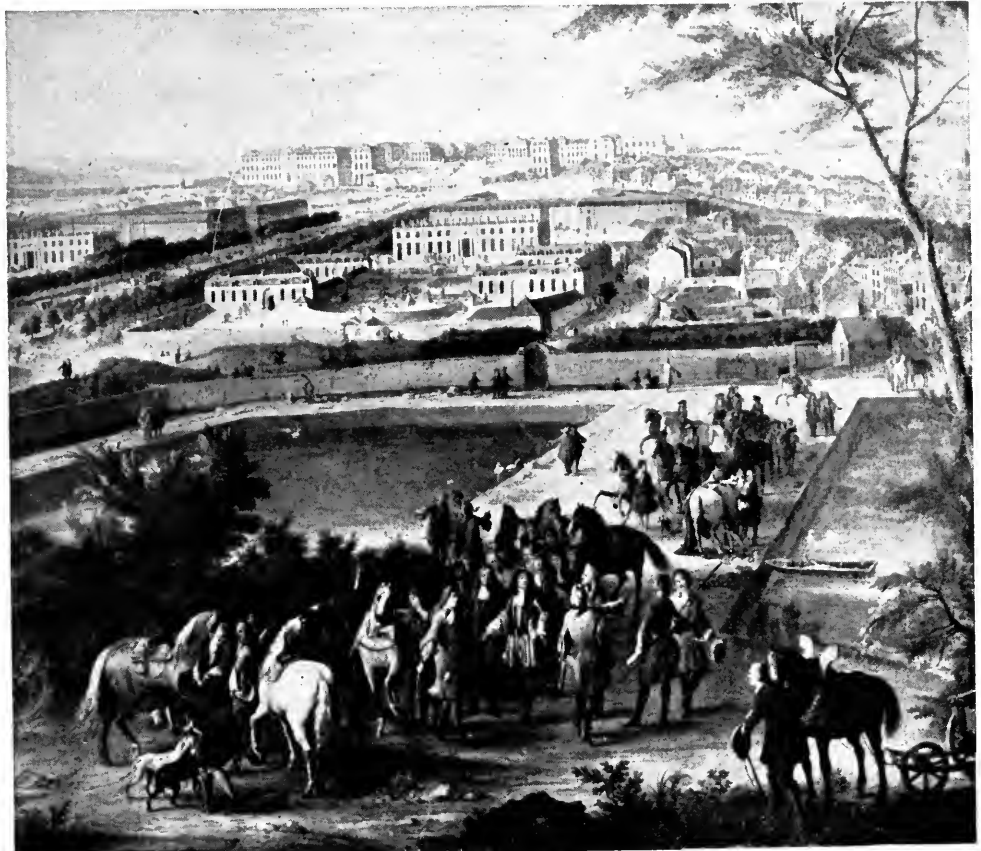
FRANCE'S WARS OF AGGRESSION

war with the despot upon the Seine who was threatening the freedom of Europe in general, and of the Protestant states in particular. William III. had married his first cousin, Mary, a daughter of James II., who had been baptised in the Protestant faith, of which she was a warm supporter; as her husband, he was summoned by England to bring into order the troubled and confused affairs of that country.

The Whigs had formed the forefront of the opposition to James II.; the majority of the Tories and the whole of the clergy joined them with the object of overthrowing the Papal rule, to which the whole nation was resolutely opposed. It was the impenetrable stupidity of James II. which brought about this revolution, the extent and the radical consequences of which no one could have foreseen. He made easy martyrs of the bishops, destroyed the discipline of his troops by amalgamating the Irish with the English and Scotch regiments, sneered at the well-meant advice

of his protector on the French throne, and rewarded his liberality with ridiculous displays of haughtiness. Finally, his disregard of the prescribed court ceremonial gave rise to the rumour that the Prince of Wales, born on August 10th, 1688. was a mere changeling, whose existence was to destroy all possibility of a Protestant successor. A long series of similar provocations forced the opposition to resort finally to resistance, and their decision was taken only with the greatest reluctance, in view of the universal loyalty that the Restoration had at first evoked. The personal stubbornness of the king and of his Catholic followers played a large part in this change of government in England, which was so important in its influence upon the destinies of Europe; so far reaching were its consequences, that even Lecky, a historian avowedly concerned with tracing "the permanent characteristics of national life," is

England's Fear of Catholic Supremacy



A SCENE AT VERSAILLES IN THE TIME OF LOUIS XIV.
From the painting by J. B. Martin in the Museum of Versailles

obliged to draw the attention of his readers to the fact that "that issue of the complicated drama was brought to pass more by the action of individuals and by chance circumstances than by general causes."

After the flight of his father-in-law had laid the road open, William III. did not place his wife in the position of ruler, but succeeded in getting himself recognised as full sovereign and as the ruler whom the will of the nation had called forward. This was the real occasion upon which the Whig spirit first broke its bonds; the prestige of the Parliament was secured, and the highest intellect of a nation provided with the most admirable political capabilities was called to the management of its own affairs. With the passage of the Prince

of Orange from his native land to English soil the historical importance of Holland was also transferred to England. The Netherland States had exhausted their ideals and their political strength in the struggle for the victory over Spain, and sank from their former high position in proportion as England rose in the world to a height for which past history affords no precedent and no standard of comparison. It is true that only in the eighteenth century did England take the step from the place of a European power to that of a world power; but it was in the seventeenth century that the foundations for that step were laid. Elizabeth, Cromwell, William form the constellation which has lighted the proudest and the most fortunate of all the Germanic nations upon a path which has progressed upwards without interruption for over two hundred years.

William III. himself recognised that England would become the leader of the maritime powers; he devoted his every care and effort and his unusual political capacities to making the United Kingdom equal to the performance of his splendid task. The distrust of the English toward their new ruler on account of his presumed leanings to Holland speedily proved as groundless as did those insular suspicions of Coburg influence which last century saw. William III. was a stranger and

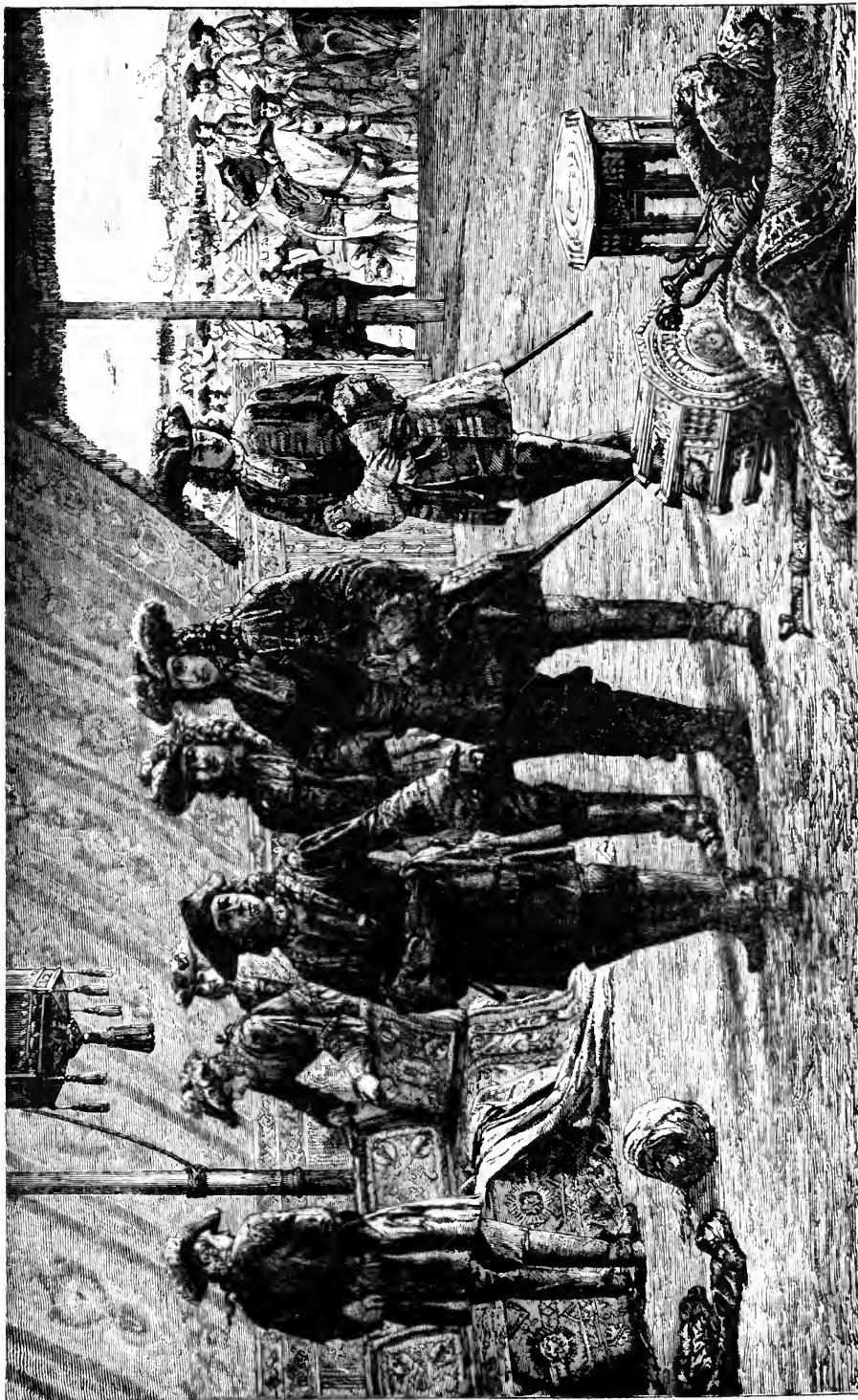
a usurper on the throne of England; if he would maintain his position, he was obliged to prefer his new country before the old. The heavy English customs duties remained unchanged, the Navigation Act was carried out in the colonies; under the rule of the Dutch king two great financial powers arose, the Bank of England and the new East India Company, which proved ruinous to Dutch trade. In the friendly rivalry between the allied peoples England's preponderance rapidly became manifest; the name of "seapower" became a collective noun among diplomatists, and soon implied, as Frederic the Great was ill-natured enough to remark, "the English man-of-war with the Dutch jolly-boat towing behind."

The change of rulers in England would not have come to pass so quickly as it did, would perhaps never have been brought about at all, if Louis XIV., in September, 1688, just before the landing of William of Orange, had not declared war upon the German Empire, a war generally known as the third war of aggression. He proposed to strike terror into South Germany by delivering a vigorous blow, and to oblige the emperor, whose best generals and troops were perforce employed in the Turkish war, to permit the armistice to be ratified as a definite peace, which would have secured him in the possession of the Reunions. His action was successful from



PRINCE EUGENE OF SAVOY
Refused a commission in the army of France, Prince Eugene renounced that country and entered the service of Emperor Leopold, distinguishing himself in the wars against France.

a military point of view, though, by releasing Holland from immediate danger, it set William free to secure the English crown. The admirably equipped French armies penetrated into the Palatinate as far as Heilbronn, overran the Württemberg territory, devastated the fertile country on the Rhine, blew up the castle of Heidelberg on March 2nd, 1689, and by the end of the year collected over 2,000,000 livres in forced contributions. But no member of the empire had any intention of being thus bullied into a disgraceful peace. The emperor resolved to undertake the war upon both frontiers simultaneously; his closer allies, Bavaria, Saxony, and Brandenburg, and also Hanover and Hesse, joined the "Concert



THE CONQUEROR OF THE TURKS: PRINCE EUGENE AFTER HIS GREAT VICTORY AT BELGRADE IN 1717

When the empire's war against the Turks was renewed in 1716, Prince Eugene again took the field, and at Peterwardein defeated an army of 130,000 men. In the following year he besieged Belgrade, which was at that time in the hands of the Turks, and after a desperate fight succeeded in gaining possession of the town.

of Magdeburg," which had been concluded by the armed provinces on October 22nd, 1688. Moreover, the Regensburg assembly determined to support the imperial war. Twenty thousand Brandenburg troops were speedily before Bonn, which Cardinal Fürstenberg had betrayed to the French; Charles of Lorraine, who commanded the armies of the empire, retook

Victories of the French arms Mainz on September 8th, 1689, after eight weeks' fighting, and Bonn fell shortly afterwards—

on October 13th. During the succeeding years the war in Germany made no decisive progress; the further advance of the enemy was repulsed, but nothing more was accomplished. The Margrave Lewis William of Baden succeeded Charles of Lorraine in the command of the imperial army after his death, on April 18th, 1690.

At the seat of war in the Netherlands, Prince George Frederic of Waldeck lost the battle of Fleurus on July 1st, 1690, and the French took Mons in April, 1691, and Namur in July, 1692. At the battle of Steinkirke, in Hennegau, on August 3rd, 1692, William of Orange was unable to gain any decisive advantage. On the other hand, at the battle of Staffarda, Catinat won a victory over the Duke of Savoy, Victor Amadeus, to whose support Max Emanuel marched across the Alps, but was unable to bring about that change of fortune in Upper Italy for which the allies were anxiously longing.

Thus the French armies had the advantage on every side. But on May 29th, 1692, at La Hogue, their fleet was defeated by the combined English and Dutch Navies, under Russell; this was the first of that series of defeats, the almost invariable persistence of which during the next 200 years seems to prove that the Romance nations are no match for the Germanic in naval warfare. Louis XIV. could not flatter himself with the hope of being able totally to overpower the forces

Heidelberg Castle in Ruins opposed to him in the field; he was unable to concentrate his power and to break down the resistance of his enemies

at any one point. On May 22nd, 1693, he laid Heidelberg waste for the second time, and utterly ruined the castle, that wonderful monument of the German Renaissance; but this could not be considered a success. The Margrave of Baden drove the devastators back across the Rhine, and found himself able to

renew his plans for establishing himself in Alsace. The allies of the Golden Horn also did not accomplish as much as Louis had expected; during the years following the departure of Baden from the seat of war in Hungary the imperial troops gained no advantage, but the operations of the Moslems were of a slow nature. As soon as Louis could with any certainty foresee the possibility of dissolving by diplomatic measures the federation of his enemies, without himself making any disproportionate sacrifice, he accepted the intervention of Sweden, which had been repeatedly proffered, and entered upon the negotiations begun at Ryswick, from which Spain and the emperor, on October 30th, 1697, were unable to withdraw, after he had secured the consent of the sea-powers.

The recognition of the Prince of Orange as King of England was an indispensable preliminary to which Louis agreed with a heavy heart, after previously assuring himself that there was no possibility of forming a party within the United Kingdom for the later restoration of the Stuarts. The death of Queen

Spain's Restored Possessions Mary, on January 7th, 1695, in no way weakened her husband's position; the Whig principle, that the Parliament might

bestow the crown outside of the direct line of succession, remained in force. Holland was easily satisfied by the concession of certain commercial privileges. Calculating upon a future understanding, Louis showed himself very accommodating towards Spain, to which Luxemburg and Barcelona, taken during the last stages of the war, were restored. The empire had to bear the cost of the peace. Strassburg, which might have been retaken at the eleventh hour by a rapid assault, had to be abandoned. As a set-off, the Austrian House regained Freiburg and Breisgau, the empire gained Kehl and Philippsburg. The Cologne question was set at rest; the Bavarian prince got his principality; the question as to the Palatinate succession was solved by a moderate payment on the part of the Palatinate Neuburg.

The peace concluded at Ryswick on October 30th, 1697, was but an armistice between France and the House of Hapsburg, which had been struggling for European predominance for 200 years; the division of the Spanish inheritance, a question which was shortly to demand solution, would bring about a resumption

of hostilities all along the line. Louis XIV. required time and breathing-space in order to arrange the situation to suit his own interests by means of his unrivalled political insight and diplomatic capacity.

The emperor did not venture, though the peace allowed him to turn the whole of his military power against the Turks, to embark upon a wearisome war in the Balkan states and to make a determined effort to crush his hereditary foe; and yet, even at that moment, circumstances at the seat of war in Hungary had taken an unexpectedly favourable turn.

During the years 1695 and 1696 the progress of affairs in Hungary had been most unsatisfactory. The departure of the Margrave of Baden, Lewis William, had proved almost as disastrous as an actual defeat; his successor, the Elector of Saxony, Frederic Augustus I., had been unskilled and unlucky in every operation which he undertook; the emptiness of the treasury could no longer be concealed, and the discipline and courage of the troops deteriorated accordingly. But a rapid and far-reaching

**The Military
Genius of
Prince Eugene**

change in the state of affairs was brought about by the nomination in 1696 of a commander-in-chief who was only thirty-three years of age, Prince Francis Eugene of Savoy-Carignan, the youngest son of Mazarin's niece, Olympia Mancini, and the Count of Soissons. Since the election of the first Rudolf the House of Hapsburg could congratulate itself upon no more fortunate occurrence, certainly none more opportune or richer in result, than the fact that the "petit Abbé," whom Louis XIV., with his usual arbitrariness had wished to drive into the cloister, applied to the court of Vienna, following the example of his brother Lewis Julius, for a post in the imperial army.

"Who can venture to say," justly observes Alfred von Arneth, "how the history of Europe would have been changed if the prince had applied to Spain instead of to Austria, if he had never fought against the Turks, if he had been on the side of Philip of Anjou instead of against him during the War of the Spanish Succession, if he had fought for instead of against France?" The prince had long enjoyed the full confidence of the imperial veteran troops, and in a few months had

so thoroughly reorganised the army that he was able to oppose the powerful force with which the Sultan Mustapha II. (1695-1703) was advancing in person during the month of August, 1697, for the delivery of a crushing blow. On September 11th he attacked the Turks at Zenta on the Theiss; they had been turned back from Peterwardein, and proposed to cross the river and invade Transylvania. They were so utterly defeated as to be unable to recover themselves. A large number of their best officers and 30,000 men were left on the field of battle or drowned in the Theiss; 80 guns, 423 standards, and seven "horse-tails" fell into the hands of the conquerors, who paid but the moderate price of 1,500 dead and wounded for their victory. When the larger part of his army had been sent into winter quarters, Eugene made his famous incursion to Serajevo with 4,000 cavalry, 2,600 infantry, and 12 guns, proving to the Turks that the mountains of the Balkan peninsula, which they had regarded as a sure line of defence against Western armies, were not inaccessible to Austrian cavalry and even to guns. The Porte's strength was broken; not only Austria, but also Poland, had gained considerable advantages. Moreover, Venice under Francesco Morosini, who died in 1694, had overrun the Morea, had taken Athens—when the Parthenon was destroyed on September 26th, 1687—and had proved her superiority at sea. After the heroic struggle for Candia in 1669, the republic seemed to have lost her dominant position on the Levant, but in 1685 the banner of St. Mark triumphed once more, and the position of Venice as the chief Mediterranean power was vindicated.

Peace was concluded at Carlowitz on January 26th, 1699; Austria obtained the kingdom of Hungary with the exception of the Banat, Transylvania, and

**Europe's
Rest
After War** Slavonia; Poland was given the Ukraine and Kamanez-Podolsk; Russia obtained the harbour of Asov, and Venice the Morean peninsula, with Ægina and Santa Maura, Cattaro, and some smaller places on the coast of Dalmatia. Europe seemed to have entered upon a breathing space for rest and recovery, the duration of which depended upon the life of the last Hapsburg King of Spain, which was slowly ebbing away in Madrid.

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE AGE
OF
LOUIS XIV.
V

THE PROBLEM OF THE SPANISH THRONE PREPARING FOR THE COMING WAR

AT the outset of the eighteenth century the conception of the state as an entity had not been dissociated from that of the ruling dynasty. National rights were only tentatively brought forward in support of dynastical objects. The surest mode of extending political power remained in the formation of family ties, the creation of hereditary rights, and the enjoyment of them when they fell due. Consequently, upon the extinction of a ruling dynasty of such territorial power as was the Spanish line of the Hapsburgs, a European war was inevitable as being the only way of deciding whether some one European power was to become definitely predominant, or whether the balance of power could be maintained.

In the Spanish kingdom women could usually inherit, failing men. In the House of Hapsburg the rights of female succession and of primogeniture were also recognised. The possessions of the Spanish line and also the estates of the Austrian line formed inheritances, which had passed undivided to the testator's eldest son or to the male representative next in succession, so long as any such survived. For the last two generations the daughters of the Spanish line had intermarried only with Bourbons and the German Hapsburgs, so that these were the only families affected by the failure of male heirs. A point in favour of the Bourbon claims was the fact that the elder Infanta had always married into the French line. Louis XIV.'s mother, Anna Maria, was older than Maria Anna, the mother of the Emperor Leopold. Of the sisters of Charles II., the last of the Spanish Hapsburgs, the elder, Maria Theresa, born on September 10th, 1638, was the wife of Louis; the younger, Margaret Theresa, born on July 12th, 1651, was the first of Leopold's three wives. Maria Theresa, however, had solemnly renounced her right of succession, whereas

**Royal Houses
Linked
by Marriage**

Margaret Theresa had been specially appointed to the succession by her father's will, in default of male issue. Consequently at the court of Vienna there was no doubt whatever that the succession in Spain must fall to the Emperor Leopold, and that his rights were beyond question.

But at the outset of the War of Succession Louis XIV. had already found a pretext for declaring that his wife's renunciation was invalid. In this position he naturally remained firm, declared himself to be the only legitimate successor to the Spanish throne, and pretended an especial desire to consult the interests of Europe at large by entering into negotiations for the division of the Spanish inheritance.

The German House of Hapsburg was at a disadvantage compared with the Bourbons, because its efforts to increase its territory rested upon no national basis and no conception of the state as a whole. The Hapsburgs were limited to a dynastic policy, and their territorial power had no natural solidarity. To them the imperial throne of the German kingdom was the summit of their ambition, as it was in fact the most dignified position in the Christian world. But it was a position which gave no increase of power, and there was no future before it.

The Peace of Westphalia had made any union of the several German powers under a Catholic emperor wholly impossible. No political genius, however powerful, could have dreamed of successfully accomplishing the task of imperial reform with a view to general centralisation. The conception of an Austrian state was non-existent. Hence neither the ruling dynasty nor the privy council ever troubled themselves to consider in what direction their territory could and ought to be extended with a view to the gradual formation of a state.

The Hapsburgs had been forced into the practice of a universal policy by the unexpected reversion to themselves of

**The Summit
of the Hapsburg
Ambition**

THE PROBLEM OF THE SPANISH THRONE

immense inheritances. They had thus been unable to devote their attention to the formation of a strong confederacy of the lands upon the Danube, or to the introduction of a uniform administration throughout the possessions which had been given into their hands. Their eyes were invariably fixed upon some possible advantage which might be won upon the outskirts of their empire. They frittered away their great resources in fruitless undertakings, and put off the ordering of their house at home, which would have brought them wealth and power. The

conclusion of the Turkish war, the conquest of Hungary and Transylvania, had been successfully brought about, and room for colonial expansion was thus provided for at least a century. The greatest problems of political economy were awaiting solution; treasures lay ready to hand such as no other dynasty in Europe possessed. The Balkan territories lay open to the imperial armies, and never afterwards were the conditions so favourable for a rapid success. The Venetian Republic had recovered its strength, and might have been brought over to alliance; its objects coincided with those

of the Hapsburgs in every respect; its growth would have implied no loss, but a great increase of prosperity throughout the inner Austrian domains, for the exchange of products and of labour was necessary, natural, and inevitable. The more harbours the Venetians could have gained upon the coasts of Greece, Macedonia, and Albania, the easier and the more advantageous would have been the realisation of the products of the territories under the Austrian rule. The eastern portion of the Mediterranean might have regained its commercial importance; for, of the thousand threads which had united the

Levant to the Adriatic in earlier ages, all had not yet been torn away, and many might have been reunited.

The death of Charles II., the last prince of the blood in possession of Spain, Naples, Milan, the Catholic Netherlands, and "both Indies," was a misfortune for the Hapsburg House, because it again entangled them in a web of European politics, in which they had but little success in the days of Maximilian and Charles V. Moreover, this event averted their attention from very pressing necessities at home, which they would probably



PHILIP V., FIRST BOURBON KING OF SPAIN
He was the second son of the Dauphin Louis, and in 1700, when Duke of Anjou, was bequeathed the crown of Spain by Charles II. But it was not till 1713 that, by the Peace of Utrecht, he was left in possession of the throne, after a long struggle with the Archduke Charles.

have recognised and dealt with had they been allowed the leisure to do so. All these considerations did not affect the Emperor Leopold. He considered the Hapsburg tradition as implying special duties which he must fulfil at all costs. His unshaken confidence in Divine Providence had been increased by his victories over the infidels. He believed in his rights and in the divine nature of the call which bade him cling to those rights. His determination was in no way influenced by political considerations or practical statecraft. Otherwise it must have dawned upon him that the only successful course open to him was to come to some pacific arrangement with Louis XIV. to divide the Spanish inheritance, and to unite with Louis in resisting any foreign interference. Leopold, however, did not take this course, and troubled himself very little about the precautions which other powers were taking in the event of the demise of the crown of Spain.

It had long ago been plain to William of Orange that it would be most conducive to the peace of Europe if neither Bourbon nor Hapsburg should receive so considerable an accession of power, and if the Spanish monarchy could be kept intact

and independent. There was, moreover, an heir whose rights could be justified with but little trouble, the Electoral Prince Joseph Ferdinand of Bavaria, the son of the Elector Max Emanuel's marriage with the Archduchess Maria Antonia, the only daughter of Leopold I. and the Infanta Margaret Theresa of Spain. If the female

Charles's Choice of a Successor line of succession in the House of Spain was to be maintained, then Joseph Ferdinand was the legal successor to his mother, who had died in 1692. Louis XIV. discussed the terms of a compact of division with the Prince of Orange on October 11th, 1698, whereby the electoral prince was to have Spain, the Catholic Netherlands (Belgium), and the colonies; the French dauphin, Naples and Sicily; the second son of the emperor (Charles), the duchy of Milan, which was in any case a fief of the German crown. But on November 14th, 1698, Charles II. of Spain signed a will wherein he named the electoral prince as his successor. Louis then declined to recognise the prince, and waited the course of events, confining himself to putting in a word for the choice of his grandson Philip from among the Spanish grandees.

Once again it would have been highly advantageous for the emperor, who was supporting the hereditary rights of the electoral prince and the testamentary rights of the dying sovereign, to have come to an understanding with Louis XIV. on the subject of a division. Such a course of action might have proved extremely profitable, even if they had taken the Elector of Bavaria into their confidence, for he would have been ready to give up Bavaria in return for Belgium. Thus German territory might have been acquired, influence in Germany might have been strengthened, Milan and Naples claimed as a secondary inheritance for the Archduke Charles, and Spain given up to the Bourbons in return. The Austrian

Opportunities Lost by the Austrian House

House, instead of expending its power in the War of the Spanish Succession, wherein it actually gained a still smaller success, would have been free to take the offensive against the Turks and to plant colonies on the Lower Danube and in the north of the Balkans.

But before any course of action had been decided upon, or the first step to negotiations with Spain had been taken, the whole position was altered by the sudden death

of the Bavarian electoral prince, on February 6th, 1699, as he was about to take ship from Amsterdam to Spain.

In March, 1700, Louis proceeded to discuss further propositions for division with William of Orange, with the intention of keeping him from union with the emperor. The latter was calculating upon the choice of a Spanish relative, which would have been favourable to his house, of whose recognition by the sea-powers he had no doubt. The Spanish population declined to entertain any proposals for dismembering the kingdom, and for this reason it might have been possible to secure the succession of a German Hapsburg if he had appeared in the kingdom with a force of troops sufficient to offer vigorous resistance to the invasion of the French army, which was to be expected upon the death of the king. But the Emperor Leopold did not think the expense advisable, and in any case the undertaking would have been difficult. He therefore agreed to Louis' proposal that they should mutually agree not to undertake any military operation in Spain during the king's lifetime. The ad-

The Dying Hapsburg at Madrid

vantages of this arrangement were entirely upon the side of France, for upon receipt of the news of the king's death she could bring an army to the Ebro in as many days as the emperor would require weeks to land a regiment at any Spanish port.

Under these circumstances it was in vain for the dying Hapsburg at Madrid to form the heroic resolve of naming his relative at Vienna as his successor in defiance of his powerful neighbour's desires; for the peace party in his own country, and chief among them the Archbishop of Toledo, urged upon him that the whole of Spain would be occupied by the French troops long before any German claimant could appear in the field to defend his rights.

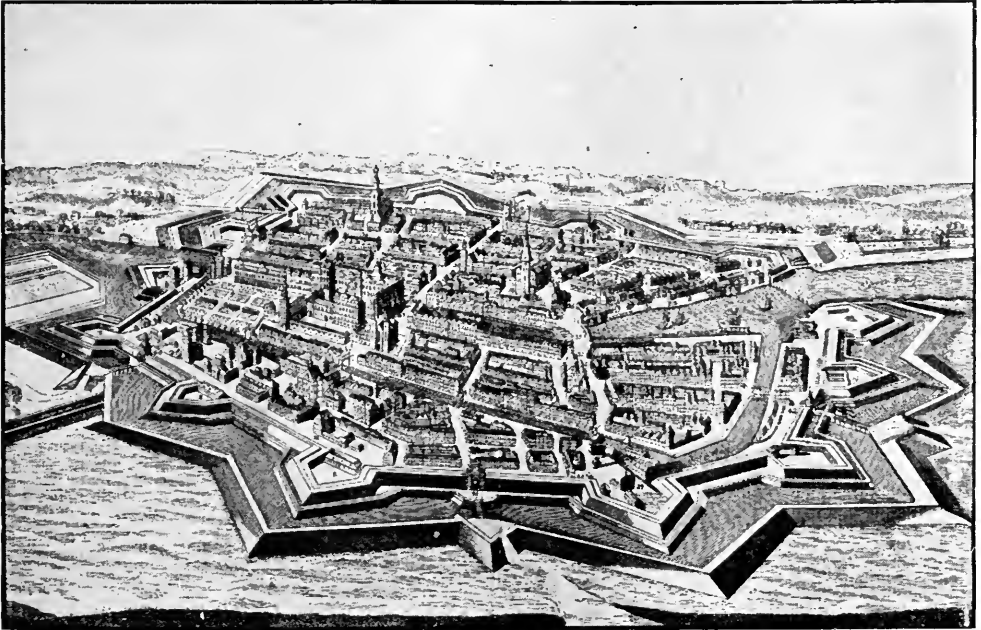
Under pressure of these considerations was signed the will of October 3rd, 1700, wherein the hereditary rights of the Infanta Maria Theresa were recognised, and her descendants were called to the succession; in the first place was the second son of the dauphin, Philip, Duke of Anjou; and if he should obtain the French throne, his brother Charles of Berry. After the Bourbons the German Hapsburgs were to inherit, and after them the Savoyards, who were descended from a sister of Philip III. The inheritance thus

THE PROBLEM OF THE SPANISH THRONE

provided for fell vacant on November 1st, 1700; on that day Charles II., the last representative of that race which for a century had wielded the greatest power in Europe, sank into his grave.

A fortnight later Louis XIV. greeted the Duke of Anjou as Philip V., King of Spain, and gave him immediate possession of all the powers united under that title. He thought that he now had the game entirely in his own hands, for he knew that neither England nor Holland was inclined to further military undertakings or to great expense. He considered that if he could succeed in a very short space of time

such step; he brought all his influence to bear upon the emperor, urging him to commission Prince Eugene to open the campaign in North Italy with all possible speed. The determination displayed by the German Hapsburgs was due to the consciousness that they could place an important general at the head of troops then marching to attack, but still more to the fact that they had on their side an ally who was ever ready to strike, whose infantry and cavalry squadrons were the admiration of Europe, the Elector of Brandenburg and King of Prussia. Frederic III., the Great Elector's son



THE STRONGLY FORTIFIED CITY OF BERLIN AS IT WAS IN THE YEAR 1688

From a copperplate print of the period

in getting all the Spanish territories into his possession, the sea-powers would have little opportunity of stirring them up against him. As to the emperor's power, he thought he would not be able to keep in the field the imposing armies which he was able to summon.

The Emperor Leopold naturally could not recognise his brother-in-law's will; on the contrary, as head of the kingdom and as representing the rights of his family, he was bound to offer a forcible opposition to the occupation of Spain by the French troops. His eldest son, Joseph, "King of the Romans," with all his dependents at the Vienna court, had long been fully convinced of the necessity for taking some

and successor, did not possess his father's moral and intellectual qualities. He was a weak ruler, fond of display, of but scanty political talent; but he added a showy exterior to the edifice which his father had built up, by obtaining a formal recognition of its rank as a second-rate European power. For the moment this action appeared only as an attempt to satisfy personal vanity, but in later times it proved a valuable step on the road to further development. It is a point of some importance that this step was taken at a time when the imperial house had made the greatest sacrifices to the old plans of a universal foreign policy. If the

Hapsburg had not been on the eve of the decisive struggle with the Bourbon rival, it is certain that consent would never have been given to the foundation of a German kingdom, and without the emperor's consent such a kingdom would never have obtained recognition.

In another direction there was an attempt to make capital out of the elector's earnest desires; his electoral colleague, Frederic Augustus I. of Saxony, had been elected King of Poland on June 27th, 1697, at the price of his Protestantism, his recantation being made at Baden near Vienna, on June 1st, 1697; he would have been glad to see another imitator of his secession, and would have rejoiced if the Brandenburger had requested his advancement to the kingly title from the Pope. For this purpose conversion to Catholicism would have been an indispensable preliminary. The Bishop of Ermeland, Andreas Chrysostomus Zaluski, had already arrived at Berlin with a letter from Pope Innocent XII., which unreservedly announced the readiness of the Curia to assent to the bargain. But on this occasion the Elector Frederic showed that he was made of sterner stuff than his usual manner of life appeared to indicate; not for a moment did he entertain any thought of changing his religion, but he allowed the Poles to speculate upon the possibility of such change so long as he thought their opposition might hinder the advancement of Prussia. He saw that as Protestant champion he would give his house a more assured position while placing his own loyalty to principle in contrast with the facile conduct of the King of Poland.

Frederic had also recognised correctly that he could not ask the crown he desired from the hand of France. Not dependence, but independence, was to be the meaning of this crown; it was to oblige the sovereigns of Europe to treat with him as with an equal. The new Prussian kingdom was to rise from the Holy Roman Empire not as its enemy, but as a new expression of the power which was yet dormant in that antiquated organism. For that reason the emperor's consent was the most im-

portant preliminary, and was a guarantee of recognition on the part of other powers who would naturally adopt the emperor's attitude. The change might have been brought to pass by wholly different means in the confusion of the approaching wars. Brandenburg might have seized some suitable piece of territory and have been able to adopt the title of kingdom.

Frederic's was the sure and certain way, and the one proportioned to his capacities. It cost some sacrifice; but this was comparatively small when compared with the benefits which resulted. On July 24th, 1700, the emperor's privy council had practically given its assent to the negotiations upon this matter; on November 16th the affair was concluded. Brandenburg renounced any obligation of feudal dependency to the emperor as his "creation"; in return for the imperial promise to greet the king after every coronation, he undertook to serve the emperor in the war for those parts of the Spanish inheritance situated within the limits of the empire—tacitly including the duchy of Milan—with 8,000 men, for whose maintenance nothing should be paid in time of peace and 100,000 thalers in time of war. The elector further promised to renounce all claim to arrears of subsidy due from Austria, and to transfer from his successors to the Roman emperor the electoral power



AUGUSTUS OF POLAND
Frederic Augustus I., Elector of Saxony, was elected King of Poland on June 27th, 1697, taking the title of Augustus II. He was defeated and dethroned in 1702.

of an archduke. On the other hand, the emperor promised the new king the inheritance of Orange after William's death. On January 18th, 1701, Frederic and his wife ascended the kingly throne in Königsberg, and the duchy of Prussia, which had been acquitted of all feudal obligations since the compacts of Labiau and Wehlau, was thus raised to the status of a kingdom. The Elector of Brandenburg became King of Prussia, even as the Elector of Saxony became King of Poland, as the Duke of Schleswig-Holstein became King of Denmark, and the Elector of Hanover, a decade later, became King of England. The form of personal union and the constitutional relations of the empire to these independent monarchies was the same in all of these cases; but the actual

Prussia Becomes a Kingdom
The Elector of Brandenburg became King of Prussia, even as the Elector of Saxony became King of Poland, as the Duke of Schleswig-Holstein became King of Denmark, and the Elector of Hanover, a decade later, became King of England. The form of personal union and the constitutional relations of the empire to these independent monarchies was the same in all of these cases; but the actual

THE PROBLEM OF THE SPANISH THRONE

course of events produced many practical differences. Only the Elector of Brandenburg had become a German king; his royal residence was Berlin, and not Königsberg.

The help of Brandenburg-Prussia was all the more important to the emperor, as the Elector of Saxony and King of Poland, who was closely united to him, was now unable to fulfil his promises in the event of a war with France. He was the disturbing cause of a war for the possession of the Baltic territories, which occupied the attention of Europe for a full decade simultaneously with the War for the Spanish Succession—the Second, or Great, Northern War (1700–1721). Of this war, it suffices at this point to say that the impetuous youth upon the Swedish throne, after overthrowing Denmark, attacked 40,000 Russians on the Narwa

with 8,000 men on November 30th, 1700, and beat them utterly; but Peter was not to be turned from the prosecution of his designs. This defeat taught him the absolute necessity of completing his military organisation, and he understood very well that “his inexperienced

youths were bound to yield before an army so old, so experienced, and so well equipped.” The ridicule of Europe at the Muscovite incompetency, of which the most incredible reports emanated from Sweden, was of no long duration. The tsar was able to reorganise his military administration, to found cannons out of church bells, to devise new sources of income, and in a short time to take the offensive again. Meanwhile Charles XII. interfered in the affairs of Poland, marched his army up and down the Vistula valley, and by his partisanship of Stanislaus Leszczyński as opposition king in 1704, accentuated the party divisions among the Polish nobility, in which the kingdom expended the remainder of its strength. These Northern complications considerably

**Poland's
Opposition
King**

increased the emperor's difficulties in obtaining a force of troops from his German allies sufficient in number to protect the Rhine boundary; they did not, however, prevent him from making an appeal to arms to secure his rights. His decision to send an army into Upper Italy under the command of Prince

The Greatest Move of Leopold I. Eugene, for the reconquest of the duchy of Milan, which had now been taken over by the French, was one of the best-advised moves which Leopold I. ever made in the course of his long reign. Eugene's success greatly increased the prestige of the House of Austria, and contributed to encourage those states which were hesitating whether to take any part in the struggle or to allow the Spanish kingdom to pass without opposition to



FREDERIC I. OF PRUSSIA AND HIS QUEEN

Born in 1657, Frederic succeeded to the Electorate of Brandenburg in the year 1688. On January 18th, 1701, Frederic and his wife Sophia Charlotte ascended the kingly throne in Königsberg, and the duchy of Prussia was raised to the dignity and status of a kingdom.

Louis XIV.'s grandson. A general feeling of astonishment was created by the information that Eugene had taken over the army under Marshal Nicolas Catinot, which was waiting in readiness in the fortresses on the Itsch, that he had arrived in Venetian territory by detours through almost impassable Alpine tracks, and that his attack upon the enemy's flank in the battle of Carpi, on July 9th, 1701, had obliged the French to retreat behind the Oglio. The imperial field-marshal then awaited the counter attack of Villeroi at Chiari, on September 1st, and inflicted considerable loss upon the French. Then the open and the secret enemies of France rejoiced aloud, and began to consider the possibility of forming a new confederacy against the king, who was striving to become the master of Europe.

Louis XIV. was not anxious for the outbreak of a general conflict, and thought that Holland, which delayed to recognise the position of Philip of Anjou, might be tempted into neutrality, and restrained from any thoughts of hostility which she might have entertained. In February,

1701, he ordered Marshal Boufflers to cross the frontier of the Spanish Netherlands, and to demand the surrender of those fortresses in which Dutch garrisons were stationed, in accordance with the terms of a "Barrier Treaty" with Spain. Max Emanuel of Bavaria, who ruled in Brussels as Spanish stadtholder had

France's Strong Hand on the Dutch States

already ordered the commandants to hand over the fortresses to France, and in the result twenty-three

Dutch battalions became French prisoners. The Dutch States were now obliged to recognise Philip whether they would or not, in order to stave off the further advance of the French, against whom they were entirely defenceless for the moment; but their suspicions had been aroused to the highest pitch, and of this fact they made no concealment to the English Parliament.

The Parliament determined to send an ambassador to the negotiations which had been opened at the Hague to discuss the conditions necessary to the maintenance of peace. Louis XIV. struggled to prevent the protraction of the negotiations which was thereby involved, but at length gave in, whereupon the States and England went a step further, and demanded power to co-opt an ambassador from the emperor. The danger which France now had to face was lest the execution of the will of Charles II. of Spain should be placed in the hands of a European congress. While the progress of diplomacy between the House of Bourbon and the sea-powers was thus opportunely coming to a head, public opinion in England was gradually swinging to the opposite extreme. The Tories were afraid of losing their influence if they attempted to stem the tide; they therefore withdrew their opposition to the Hanoverian succession.

The news from Italy, and the prospect that England would take a vigorous share in the coming war, produced an immediate effect in Holland. William of

Signs of the Coming War

Orange arrived in his native land in September, 1701, and concluded the Great Alliance,

which declared itself unable to acquiesce in the French prince's possession of the Spanish monarchy. To the emperor was guaranteed at least the possession of the Catholic Netherlands, Milan, Naples, and Sicily, as well as the Spanish islands in the Mediterranean. On their side the sea-powers claimed the right to annex such

portions of the Spanish West Indian colonies as were most suitable for their commerce and carrying trade. Spain and France were never to be united, and in no case was the King of France to be ruler also of Spain. It remained open to the Archduke Charles, to whom the kingdom had been devised by his father, to secure possession of it, if he could; but the allies were not bound to support him.

The formation of this alliance did not absolutely preclude the possibility of a peaceful solution; if Louis XIV. had recognised the critical nature of the situation, an equal partition might undoubtedly have been agreed upon. But his political programme was of far too ambitious a character to admit of any demands for the placing of reasonable limits to the French power. The compact that was concluded on March 9th, 1701, with Maximilian Emanuel II. of Bavaria, whose brother Clemens of Cologne was already dependent upon him, might easily have deceived him with

Indiscretions of the French King

regard to the situation in Germany, and have stimulated the hopes which he entertained of the emperor. Instead of

making overtures to the sea-powers, and requesting their mediation with the emperor with a view to settlement, he made the breach with England irreparable by recognising as king the thirteen-year-old James (III.) upon the death of his father James II., on September 17th, 1701; at the same time he provoked the emperor to the bitterest resistance by giving permission to Philip to assume the title of Count of Hapsburg and Duke of Austria.

William of Orange survived this change in the relations of the European powers only a few months; he died on March 19th, 1702. His great achievement, the alliance against Louis XIV., remained unimpaired. His sister-in-law, Anne, was bound to support it because her position as ruler was founded upon the general opposition to her relatives who were maintained by France. John Churchill, Earl of Marlborough, the husband of her friend Sarah Jennings, was anxious for a war and therefore busied himself in gaining the strong support of the English Parliament, and also in maintaining the policy of the Prince of Orange in the States, where he found an enthusiastic dependent and a loyal supporter of William's actions in the Council Pensionary, Anthony Heinsius.

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
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THE AGE
OF
LOUIS XIV.
VI

WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION AND THE GREAT TRIUMPHS OF MARLBOROUGH

LOUIS XIV.'s hopes with regard to the German Empire remained unfulfilled. The two Wittelsbachs found no party. The associated armed districts of the empire had certainly fallen into the Bavarian trap, and had concluded an agreement of neutrality with him. But they perceived in due time that they were then entirely without defence against the protector of Max Emanuel, and so rejoined the emperor, on whose behalf the Margrave Lewis William of Baden undertook the defence of the Rhine. Hanover and Lüneburg placed 6,000 men at the disposal of Holland, and 10,000 men at England's service in return for the necessary payments. The King of Prussia gave the sea-powers 6,000 men, besides the auxiliary troops which he was pledged to furnish to the emperor.

In the spring of 1702 the war began upon the Rhine and in the Netherlands. At the same time Max Emanuel openly declared for France, overpowered the imperial town of Ulm, and got possession of Regensburg. His task was to maintain his position on the Danube until a French army could advance through the Schwarzwald and unite with him. Then it was proposed to march upon Vienna. However, it was not until May 12th, 1703, that the Bavarian army, in the pay of France, succeeded in joining Marshal Villars, and even then the leaders did not feel themselves strong enough to march upon Vienna until they were secured against the possibility of a diversion from the Tyrol. Max Emanuel also had a subsidiary plan. He desired to get possession of the land which seemed well suited for his retirement in the event of peace negotiations, or even for exchange against Naples or Belgium. He therefore pressed on to unite with the Duke of Vendôme, who was operating in Northern Italy.

Prince Eugene had been so feebly supported from Vienna that he had been able only to prevent the duke from advancing

further north at the bloody battle of Luzzara on August 15th, 1702, and could not inflict a decisive defeat upon him. The Bavarians got possession of the upper and lower Inn valley, took Innsbruck, and pressed on across the Brenner Pass. Then the Tyrolese brought their militia against them, which they had kept on foot since

Bavarians the Landlibell of 1511, and
Defeated at drove them back to the Brenner,
Landeck after defeating them at Landeck.

The elector's attempt was a complete failure, for Vendôme did not press his advance upon the Etsch with sufficient vigour. Lewis of Baden had been in position for the Danube for a long time, confronting the French army under Villars with a superior force, and if he had grasped the situation and made the best use of his advantage, Max Emanuel, whose strength had already been broken, would have been in a critical position, and would have been forced to make a separate peace with the emperor. However, he and Villars very cleverly extricated themselves from their perilous situation, and on September 20th, 1703, they even won a victory at Hochstadt over the imperial troops under the Austrian Count Hermann Otto Styrum.

The emperor's cause was in a bad way, mainly through lack of money for the pay and equipment of the troops. Prince Eugene was, it is true, summoned to court to preside over the council of war; but his most zealous attempts to make the necessary provision for the armies remained without result from the time that

The Fruit of it became necessary to carry
Religious on war in Hungary. Leopold's
Intolerance domestic policy of religious intolerance now brought forth its

fruit. Religious toleration should have been granted to the kingdom upon its reconquest, and after the hereditary rights of the Hapsburgs had been recognised in the Presburg Reichstag of 1687 a modicum of self-government should have been granted to the country. Instead of spending time upon religious uniformity, the

administration should have encouraged colonisation, have built roads and ships, settled German peasants and artisans in the country, supported the Saxons and the Zipfer, and furthered their material interests. Had this been done, the yearning

for the old state of things under Turkish administration would not have been hot enough to serve the ambitious plans of the Bethlen and Rakoczy, who were now able to satisfy their desire for insurrection with French money. Government business in Hungary was carried on principally through the "army Jew," Oppenheimer, with such careless and unsound methods that the credit of the Austrian House was absolutely rotten. The pledging of the crown jewels often produced insufficient amounts to cover the expenses of the most necessary diplomatic missions. Any regular payment of troops, any proper commissariat, or recruiting to supply the losses of regiments in the field, was entirely out of the question.

The commander of the Italian army, Count Guido Starhemberg, was so poorly supported from Vienna as to fall into the delusion that his previous commander had purposely and out of jealousy left him in the most difficult circumstances in the face of an enemy of overpowering strength. However, he provided plenty of occupation for his opponent, who had undertaken to join Max Emanuel at Trient, a movement which proved unsuccessful; and at the outset of the year 1704 he began his famous flanking march along the right bank of the Po, crossing the Appennines and the mountainous country of Montserrat to Turin, where he joined Duke Victor Amadeus II. of Savoy, who had gone over to the emperor's side. From this time forward there were two separate seats of war in Northern Italy—one at Mincio, Lake Garda, and in the Brescian Alps; the other on the Upper Po, around Chivasso and Crescentino.

Dom Pedro II. of Portugal had also joined the Great Alliance. At his request an Anglo-Dutch fleet conveyed to Lisbon the Archduke Charles, in whose favour the emperor had resigned his rights of succession to the Spanish monarchy. Though there were not resources sufficient for a vigorous campaign into the Spanish peninsula, yet an important part of the French army was there held in check. Marshal René de Froulai, Count of Tessé, began in 1705 a siege of the rock fortress of Gibraltar, which cost him nearly 10,000 men. The fortress had been captured by an English naval squadron under Rooke and Cloudsley Shovel. Louis XIV. still had before him the



THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH
Commander-in-Chief of the English and Dutch forces in the War of the Spanish Succession; this great general won brilliant victories at Blenheim in 1704, at Ramillies in 1706, at Oudenarde in 1708, and at Malplaquet in 1709.

prospect that the war would turn entirely in his favour, if Max Emanuel with his Bavarian French army could penetrate to Vienna and seize the imperial capital. He had already obliged Passau to surrender at the beginning of 1704, and was advancing toward Linz. The positions of the several combatants at that time form a truly remarkable picture, and the surprising union between these army corps thus scattered about with no apparent connection is one of the most interesting features in the history of this war. They were placed as follows: Max Emanuel in Upper Austria, with 16,000 men; Marshal Marsin, with

20,000 to 22,000 French, in Augsburg, between Iller and Lech, to which must be added some 10,000 Bavarians as garrison troops in Munich, Ingolstadt, Ulm, and many smaller places.

Opposed to these were about 10,000 Austrians in Upper Austria and on the Tyrol frontier, and an imperial army under Field-Marshal Thüngen and the Dutch General von Goor, in the Bodensee district, with Bregenz as their headquarters; their strength was 21,000 men, but the departure of 9,000 electorate Saxons brought them down to 12,000. In Franconia was an imperial army under the Margrave of Brandenburg-Bayreuth,

The Armies Engaged in the Great War



AT THE BATTLE OF BLENHEIM, IN 1704: THE DISMOUNTED 2ND NORTH BRITISH DRAGOONS—SCOTS GREYS—STORMING THE VILLAGE

From the drawing by R. Cotton Woodville

Christian Ernest — imperial regiments, Frankish troops and Prussians under Leopold of Dessau, not more than 14,000 men altogether.

Marsin's troops were in poor condition, and greatly in want of recruits to complete their strength. To bring these up was the task of Marshal Tallard, who was on the

English and Dutch in the Netherlands

Upper Rhine with 30,000 men. In the Moselle district were 14,000 French under Coligny.

Against him and Tallard, the Margrave Lewis William of Baden, whose headquarters were at Aschaffenburg, could oppose 30,000 men, consisting of troops from the emperor and the empire, and from Hesse-Darmstadt and Lüneburg in Dutch pay. He held the so-called Stollhofen line in the Rhine plains, opposite Strassburg and the Schwarzwald passes.

In the Netherlands the English-Dutch army, under the command of Marlborough, had been standing for a year in almost complete inaction, confronted by the French under Boufflers and Villeroi. The Dutch commissaries, who interfered in all military affairs as soon as a single company paid by them had taken the field, placed insuperable obstacles in the way of any comprehensive plan of campaign. They were accustomed to wage war on the principles of commercial calculation. They were but feeble, nervous merchants opposed to any undertaking requiring audacity; and so, whenever an attack was proposed, they hesitated and discussed until the advantage had slipped through their fingers.

Under these circumstances, it became plain that the respective superiority of the combatants must be decided upon the Danube. Perhaps the most striking proof of Marlborough's strategical powers is the fact that he recognised this necessity, and at once determined to act upon it. As in all great events, personal ambition here also exercised a most fortunate influence, for

The English Leader's Quick Action

this it was which drove John Churchill to seek a sphere for his military energies in which success and honours were to be

won. To the Dutchmen he left their own troops and no inconsiderable portion of the auxiliaries hired by England to carry on some unimportant sieges and covering movements in the Netherlands, while he himself executed a surprise movement across Germany with 20,000 English troops. The imperial court also recognised that

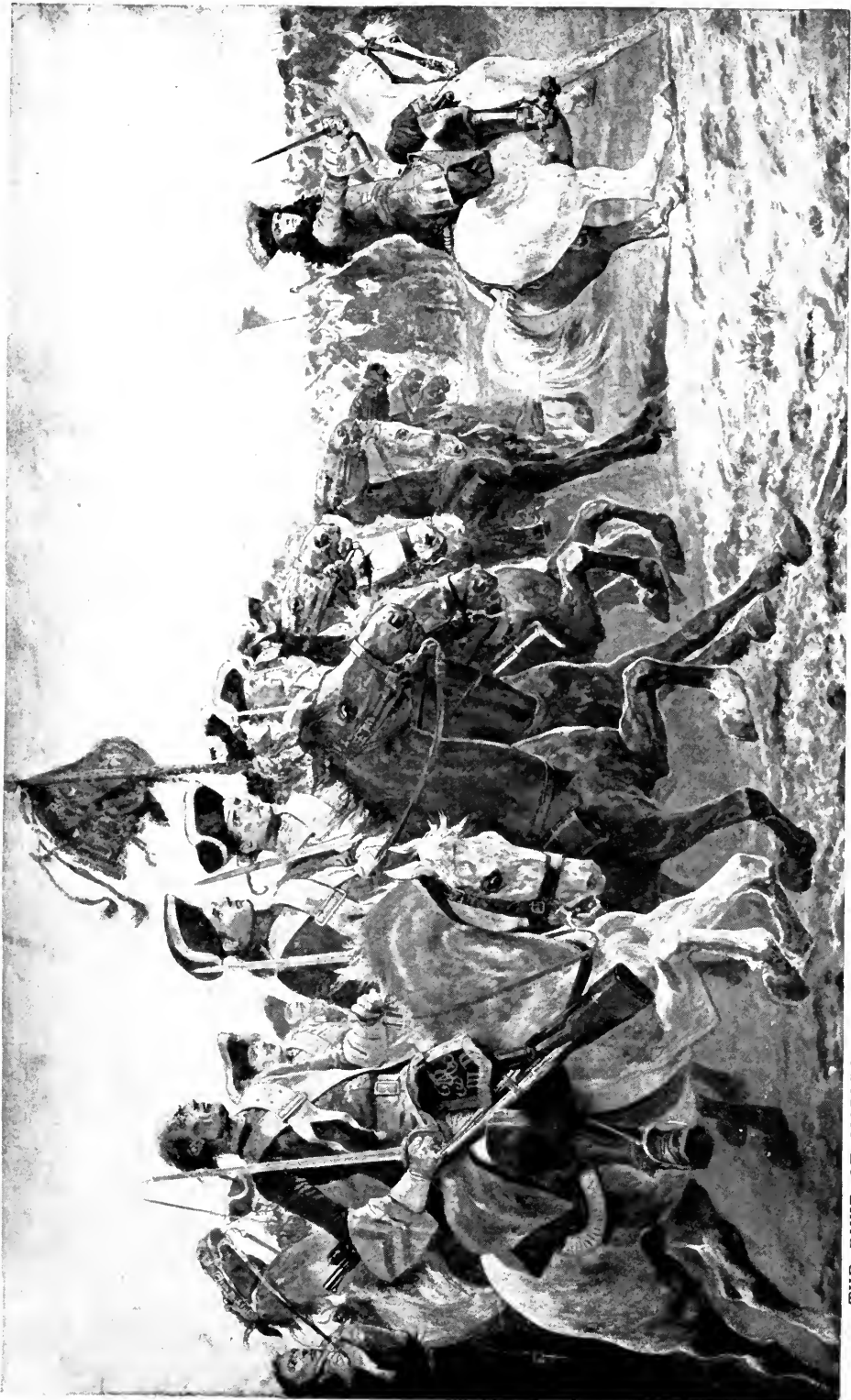
Austria must be protected on the Rhine and in the Schwarzwald, and sent Prince Eugene into the empire. He undertook to cover the Upper Rhine, while Lewis William of Baden claimed the personal command of the imperial army, which was operating against Max Emanuel and Marsin. The Elector Max retired from Upper Austria to the Lech on hearing that the Schwarzwald passes were more strongly held and that the army was advancing from Franconia towards the Danube. He was afraid, and with reason, that his junction with Tallard might prove impossible of execution, and saw himself already in a desperate position.

If the timid Margrave had been in the least degree competent to perform his duties, the elector would most probably have been taken prisoner before the arrival of the French reinforcements, which were marching in the direction of Freiburg and had already reached Villingen. On May 20th he took over reinforcements from Tallard to the number of 10,000 men, with a long train of supplies, guns, uniforms, and 1,300,000 livres. Tallard then returned to the Rhine. How-

Marlborough's Splendid Beginning

ever, thanks to the Margrave of Baden's disinclination to fight, the Franco-Bavarian army escaped from its dangerous position at Stockach, and proceeded to fall back upon Ulm on June 1st, 1704.

Shortly afterwards Marlborough's troops passed through Swabia without molestation, joined hands with the margrave's main army, and a plan of campaign became possible. Prince Eugene also took part in the deliberations, and agreed with Marlborough as to the necessity of attacking Max Emanuel, while their forces were still superior to his. Marlborough and the margrave held the command upon alternate days. On July 2nd Marlborough gave battle with the united Anglo-German army on the Schellenberg at Donauwerth, and in spite of heavy losses—among them Field-Marshal Styrum and General Goor—won a victory over the Franco-Bavarians, who were forced to retire across the Danube and to concentrate upon Augsburg. The elector's hopes of victory were now dashed to the ground; he showed an inclination to listen to the emperor's proposals for peace. Marsin was greatly annoyed at this, and was forced to throw all kinds of obstacles in the way to prevent him



THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH BRINGING THE CAVALRY INTO LINE AFTER THE BATTLE OF RAMILLIES, IN 1706
From the drawing by R. Clifton Woodville

from negotiating with a view to throwing up the cause of Louis XIV. Tallard and Villeroi were opposing Prince Eugene on the Rhine with three times his strength, but did not venture to attack their dreaded adversary.

Tallard, at the call of Marsin, now marched through the Schwarzwald to the help of the elector with 25,000 men and forty-five guns. As soon as Prince Eugene learned this, he collected all the troops which could by any possibility be spared from the defence of the Stollhofen lines, and made his way to that point where the fortunes of the Great Alliance were to be decided—to the Danube. He made a secret agreement with Marlborough, that the Margrave of Baden, who was nothing but a hindrance to their operations, should be left behind to carry on the siege of Ingolstadt, while the two generals confronted the enemy in the open field.

Meanwhile Marsin had induced Max Emanuel to march with him from Augsburg in a north-westerly direction to the Danube, and to cross to the left bank of the river. There they joined hands with Tallard's troops. Marlborough had been covering the retirement of the imperial army at Rain, and now hastened through Donauwerth to the support of the prince, who had been for some days in a dangerous position, as he was liable to be driven out of his post upon the Kesselbach by the Franco-Bavarians, who were vastly superior in numbers.

The Frenchmen were anxious to await the arrival of the Bavarian reinforcements, for they thought it dangerous to weaken their own forces before the arrival of this accession of strength; the Bavarians, however, did not arrive at the proper time. When Marlborough's battalions appeared on the Kesselbach, the positions of the respective parties for the battle of Hochstadt were already determined.

The French Waiting for Help

On the morning of August 13th, 1704, the allies advanced: Prince Eugene, with eighteen battalions and seventy-eight squadrons—9,000 infantry and 9,360 cavalry—undertook to make a march on the right wing for the purpose of delivering a flank attack, and at three o'clock in the afternoon advanced upon the position of Max Emanuel and Marsin at Lutzingen. The former had five battalions and

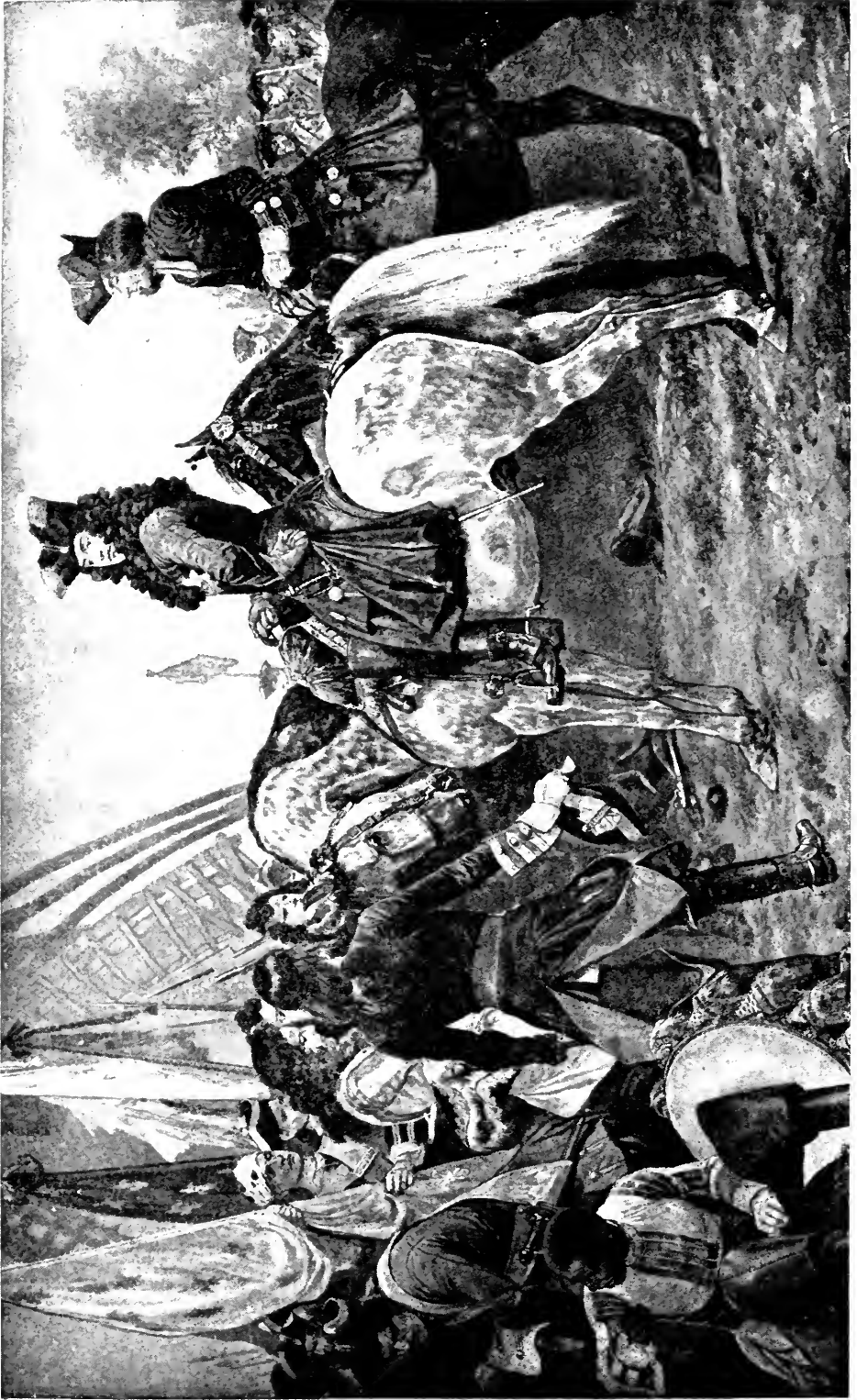
twenty-three squadrons under his command, while Marsin had thirty-seven battalions and sixty squadrons. Tallard had thirty-six battalions, forty-four mounted squadrons and sixteen on foot, with which to meet Marlborough, who commanded forty-six battalions, 23,000 men and eighty-three squadrons, with 10,560 cavalry. The allied forces, as a whole, numbered 57,000 men with fifty-two guns, against 56,000 French and Bavarians with ninety guns.

The brilliant victory gained by the allies was due to the complete agreement of the two commanders as to the general idea of the battle and the accurate execution of the movements proposed. Marlborough was twice repulsed by Tallard on the right, while he prepared his unexpected main onset on the centre, but was able to rally for a third onset, while Eugene held the enemy's left wing so firmly that Marsin dared not send a single battalion to Tallard's support. The battle in this quarter was finally decided by the "indescribable valour" with which the ten Prussian battalions under Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau stormed the position of

Brilliant Victory of the Allies

Lutzingen, after the imperial cavalry had retreated before the Franco-Bavarian horse. Max Emanuel and Prince Eugene fought in the hottest part of the attacks. Tallard did not understand how to make the best use of his superiority in infantry; the greater part of them he placed in Blenheim to defend the place, and kept only nine battalions and 1,200 dismounted cavalry for use in the open field. Marlborough made the utmost use of his masses of cavalry; 109 squadrons were employed in the tremendous charge at Oberglauheim in the centre of the line of battle between Lutzingen and Blenheim. Having broken the centre completely, Marlborough was now able to envelop the French right and destroy it.

At nine o'clock in the evening the allies were masters of the field; they had lost 12,600 men, a quarter of the forces with which they had marched out to battle. The Elector Max and Marsin retreated with half of the Franco-Bavarian forces, having lost 17,000 dead and wounded, and 11,000 prisoners, among whom were 1,500 officers. The battle of Blenheim marks the beginning of modern warfare, which seeks to decide the contest by destroying the adversary on the battlefield, and not by merely winning the ground or capturing



AFTER THE BATTLE OF OUDENARDE, IN 1708: THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH VISITING THE FRENCH PRISONERS

From the drawing by R. Caton Woodville

fortresses. The strategical principles of Marlborough and Eugene were further developed by Frederic the Great and Gneisenau, and brought to perfection by Moltke. However, at that time the art of following up a success was not understood.

A vigorous pursuit, of which the numerous German cavalry would have been quite capable, would have completed the destruction of the French army before Villeroy could have come to their assistance.

But it was contrary to the custom of war to refuse the troops a pause for rest at the conclusion of a great action; moreover, it was thought that the objects of the war might be obtained by diplomacy and continued negotiation with Bavaria. These hopes were not fulfilled. The remnant of Marsin and Tallard's army, together with some thousands of Bavarians sent by Villeroy, reached the left bank of the Rhine and went into winter quarters on the Moselle and in Alsace.

Max Emanuel resumed his post as stadtholder in Brussels, while his troops kept up a guerrilla warfare in their native land, with the Austrians, until Prince Eugene occupied Bavaria in the emperor's name, brought about the disbandment of the electoral battalions, and came to an agreement with the Electress Therese, who had remained in Munich, whereby she was assured a maintenance, but deprived of all influence upon the government of the country. However, the extortions of the Austrian administration and the conscription of recruits excited a revolt of the peasants in the following year, which was repressed only on Christmas Day by the battle of the Sendling Gate.

On May 5th, 1705, Leopold died, and Joseph I. ascended the throne without hindrance. The Great Alliance was now able to take the offensive, but the war made no great progress during this year. The French lines in the Netherlands were

stormed by Marlborough on July 18th; on August 16th Prince Eugene fought an indecisive battle with Vendôme at Cassano. It was not until the year 1706 that Marlborough's victory over Villeroy at Ramillies in Brabant on May 23rd made the occupation of the Spanish Netherlands possible. The corresponding victory of Turin on September 7th, where Leopold's Prussians again displayed their admirable military capacities under Eugene's

leadership, drove the French out of the north of Italy. On June 27th, 1706, Madrid was won for Charles III. by an Anglo-Portuguese army, but was soon afterwards retaken. Valencia now became the seat of the Hapsburgs, until the defeat of Almanza, which Lord Galway suffered on April 25th, 1707, at the hands of the French marshal—natural son of James II.—James Fitzjames, Duke of Berwick. The southern provinces then fell into the hands of Philip V.

Louis XIV. attempted a change of policy by entering into an alliance with Charles XII. of Sweden, who had advanced upon Saxony from Poland in 1706, and obliged the Elector Frederic Augustus I. to renounce his claims to Poland at Altranstädt on September 24th, 1706. This was a serious matter for the allies, because the Swedes had made demands upon the emperor with which he was not likely to comply, and an adventurous spirit such as Charles might very well have initiated a Swedish attack upon the imperial territory. Had Charles possessed the smallest capacity for diplomacy, the em-

barrassments of France would have provided him with a splendid opportunity for its exercise. But his action was inspired by the humour in which he happened to be, not by fixed principles; his military success was a surprise for the moment, but it did not contribute to establish the Swedish power, the importance of which was almost everywhere over-estimated.

Thanks to the personal intervention of Marlborough, Charles was induced to throw in his lot with the allies in April, 1707. His quarrel with the emperor was not successfully patched up until August 30th, 1707, when the emperor was led to make certain concessions in favour of the Silesian Protestants. During his stay in Saxony, Charles XII. had collected an army of 40,000 men and nearly 100,000 horse, and with this force he might have imposed any terms upon Germany as the ally of Louis; for the empire had no army capable of resisting him at its disposal. When this army again marched eastward, in September, 1707, it was felt that the terrible suspense of the situation had been relieved. It was marching to its downfall. Charles was persuaded by the revolted Cossack hetman, Ivan Stephanovitch Mazeppa, to make an incursion into the Ukraine, instead of



THE BATTLE OF MALPLAQUET, IN 1709: MARLBOROUGH DRIVING THE GUARD OF THE CORPS OFF THE FIELD
From the drawing by K. Caton Woodville

first reconquering the Balkan districts which the Russians had occupied. The battle of Poltava, on July 8th, 1709, resulted in the annihilation of the Swedish army, forced the king to take flight into Turkish territory, and by securing Peter the Great in the possession of Ingria (Saint Petersburg) gave him the foundations for his future position as a European power. It was only at the cost of the greatest

efforts that Louis XIV. could provide means for the continuation of the war. The defeats of Oudenarde on July 11th, 1708, and of Malplaquet on September 11th, 1709, obliged him to open negotiations for peace, wherein he showed himself disposed to renounce his claims upon Spain, if Philip were to be compensated with Naples. The Hague conference arrogantly demanded guarantees on the part of Philip of Anjou for the evacuation of Spain by the French troops. Louis never proved himself better capable of representing the

interests of his people than when he rejected this proposal, and determined to continue the war, relying upon the devotion and the nobility of the French.

France was now no longer to be feared. In Spain, also, her influence was gone. The national party clung to Philip of Anjou because he consulted their interests in declaring for the independence of the monarchy. All the advantages which the sea-powers demanded for their trade might have been conceded forthwith. There was no reason why Europe should put herself to further loss on account of the kingdom of Charles III. ; on the contrary, the ground had been cleared for a peaceful settlement, which might have led to a universal pacification. But one obstacle to this was the "barrier treaty" which Holland had concluded with England, on October 29th, 1709, without informing the other members of the alliance of the agreement. By this convention the States were to receive a number



THE BATTLE OF VILLA VICIOSA IN THE YEAR 1710

This battle, which was fought after the withdrawal of the great Marlborough from the operations of the war, resulted in a victory for the French over the Austrian party, and did much to revive the hopes of Louis XIV.

From the painting by Alaux at Versailles



THE FRENCH VICTORY AT THE BATTLE OF DENAIN IN 1712

The success of the French at the battle of Denain is said to have saved the kingdom, French writers swelling it into comparison with Ramillies. Prince Eugene besieged Landrecies, and the French commander, Villars, pretending to assault the besieging army, made a sudden side march and advanced upon Denain. The French officers called for fascines to fill up the ditch. "Eugene will not allow you time," cried Villars, "the bodies of the first slain must be our fascines." Then storming the camp, the Frenchmen carried it before Prince Eugene could arrive.

From the painting by Alaux at Versailles

of fortresses in the Spanish Netherlands, together with Liège, Bonn, and Guelders. Thus the division of the Spanish inheritance was affected before the heirs had come to any agreement. As soon as Louis learned this fact, he perceived that the Alliance must split asunder. His new peace proposals were offered merely with the object of initiating negotiation; when once the negotiations had been got under way, he felt confident that the relations of the powers would change in his favour.

The Tories in Power in England

This change began in the course of the year 1710, owing to the fall of Marlborough's party in England, and the fact that the Tories gained nearly a two-thirds majority in the Parliamentary elections. Queen Anne had broken with the proud Duchess Sarah and assured the allies of the continuance of her support; but she

was anxious to see the conclusion of peace, in order that Marlborough might be removed from his position as commander on the justifiable plea that there was no further need for his services.

Affairs in Spain had taken a course which precluded any prospect of Philip's removal. Vendôme, who had taken up the command of his army, was more than a match for any forces which Charles had at his disposal. He had forced Charles to evacuate Madrid, which he had occupied, and on December 10th, 1710, at Villa Viciosa, he had defeated the Austrians under Starhemberg. Charles was driven back upon Barcelona and some fortresses on the shores of Catalonia. It was not to be supposed that he would ever succeed in getting possession of the kingdom. If, therefore, Philip was left in possession of the country of which he was, in any case, virtual

master, favourable conditions in other respects might be expected from France. The road to peace was thus cleared when the Emperor Joseph I. died, on April 17th, 1711, leaving no son, so that the Hapsburg claimant to the Spanish throne became heir to the inheritance of the German line and to the imperial crown.

Eugene's Agreement with France This entirely unexpected event—the emperor died of small-pox—sealed the fate of the Great Alliance. The Minister in charge of English foreign policy, Henry St. John, Viscount Bolingbroke, immediately entered into secret negotiations with Louis XIV., without giving the queen full information as to his intentions. He deceived the emperor's ambassadors and the Dutch by a pretended attitude of firm adherence to existing compacts and to the peace proposals of 1709. But he would guarantee no subsidies, and supported no plan of military operations. Prince Eugene himself paid a rapid visit to London to urge the continuance of the war, but was coldly dismissed. The Duke of Marlborough, who could do as he pleased with the army, might have put an end to a situation intolerable to himself had he determined, on his own responsibility, in conjunction with Eugene, to invade France, which was now quite defenceless.

A special agreement with France on October 8th, 1711, made England's withdrawal an accomplished fact. All that was required of Louis was a solemn declaration that Philip of Anjou renounced his claim to the French throne, and some general promises with regard to the indemnity payable to the combatants. When England invited the Dutch to consider negotiations for peace, the latter did not venture to shake off the Tory yoke and to take up the ideals of the great Prince of Orange. The troops of all the allied princes, the Prussians, Hanoverians, and Danes, marched out of the English encampment.

The Great War at an End Eugene was at the head of 122 battalions and 273 squadrons, and was ready to march upon Paris; but the Amsterdam merchants were no longer inspired with that spirit which had raised their maritime state to the position of a European power.

The War of the Spanish Succession was at an end. Louis XIV. dictated the conditions of peace, which was concluded on April 11th, 1713, in Utrecht without the emperor's concurrence. Louis XIV.

recognised the succession of the House of Hanover in England, left to England the Hudson Bay territories—in modern British North America—gave Holland a number of "barrier" fortresses on the French-Netherland frontier, and gave the kingdom of Prussia part of the Orange inheritance, the principality of Neuchâtel in Switzerland, the counties of Mörs and Lingen and parts of Guelders. As to Spain and her colonies, a new Bourbon dynasty was founded by Philip V. and his descendants. Portugal obtained the land on the Amazon, the Duke of Savoy got the kingdom of Sicily. To the emperor were left Naples, Milan, and the rest of the Spanish Netherlands. Sardinia and Luxemburg, with Namur and Charleroi, were evacuated in favour of the Elector of Bavaria until his native dominions should be restored.

It was the hardest of all conditions that the emperor and the kingdom should be obliged to receive into favour the Wittelsbach arch-traitor, that they should have to restore to him the lands which had been justly confiscated. The emperor was unable to continue the war. Of this fact

Prince Eugene Yields to France Prince Eugene was well aware, and after continuing the war upon the Rhine for a year, he bowed to

the will of France, and concluded the peace negotiations of Rastadt and Baden on March 7th and September 8th, 1714. Of these, the main points were the recognition of the Peace of Utrecht and the reconciliation of Max Emanuel with the emperor. A project of exchange had been seriously considered by these two—the kingdom of the Netherlands with Luxemburg in return for Bavaria. In spite of the protestations of his brother, Joseph Clemens of Cologne, Max Emanuel would have been ready to close with the bargain, preferring to stay amid the gaiety and wealth of Brussels to returning to Munich. It is worth while to remember that affairs in South Germany might have run a very different course from what they actually took. At that time Prussia could never have entertained the remotest idea of thwarting the growth of the Austrian power in South Germany. Fifty years later, when the proposal for exchange was renewed, Frederic the Great was able to prevent its accomplishment by force of protest, without appealing to force of arms.

HANS VON ZWIEDINECK-SÜDENHORST

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
AGE OF
LOUIS XIV.
VII

ENGLAND'S RESTORED MONARCHY THE REVOLUTION AND THE UNION

ON the death of the Protector his office was conferred by Parliament upon his son, Richard Cromwell, a well-meaning country gentleman who had nothing but his name to recommend him for the first position in the state. The army, however, was determined to assert itself in the settlement. Finding that Richard Cromwell would not allow the military power to claim equality with the civil government, it forced him to abdicate, and invited the Rump to assemble. Forty-two of those whom Cromwell had rejected in 1653 responded to the summons, but were soon discovered to be no more tolerant of military rule than they had been six years earlier.

A council of officers expelled the Rump for the second time, and made a shift to govern by the commissions which they held from the late Protector. The general indignation of civilians warned them that this system could not be maintained, and once more, on December 26th, 1659, the Rump was brought back to Westminster. All was confusion and uncertainty when Monk, the ablest and most moderate of Cromwell's lieutenants, made his appearance on the scene leading the troops with which the Protector had supplied him for the maintenance of order in Scotland.

Monk's intentions were a mystery to others, and possibly what passed for supreme duplicity on his part was in fact the result of genuine perplexity. He confined himself to assurances that he would maintain the supremacy of the civil power, and took steps to procure a Parliament which would command the general support of the nation. He induced the Rump to recall the Presbyterian members who had been expelled by Pride's Purge; he induced the Presbyterians to give their votes for the final dissolution of the Long Parliament. The stage was thus cleared of the body which had so long pretended, without justice, to represent the wishes of the people.

A new Parliament, composed of two Houses, was summoned, and the Commons were chosen once more by popular election. The two Houses met on April 25th. They contained a strong Royalist majority; for the arbitrary acts of Charles I. had been obliterated from memory by the still more arbitrary conduct of the Long

The Famous Declaration of Breda

Parliament, the Protector, and the Majors-General. Within a few days of assembling, the new Parliament—called a convention, because summoned without royal writs—had before it a manifesto from Charles II., who was then living under the protection of the United Netherlands. This document, the famous Declaration of Breda, removed the last fears of those who had resisted the late king. It promised a free pardon to all persons who should not be expressly excepted from the amnesty by Parliament. It promised to tender consciences such liberty as should be consistent with the peace of the kingdom, and expressed the king's willingness to accept an Act of Toleration. It referred to Parliament all the disputes concerning the lands which had been confiscated in the late troubles. Without delay the two Houses voted unanimously for the restoration of the monarchy. In May, 1660, Charles II. returned to his own amid scenes of the wildest exultation.

The promises which he had made were indifferently fulfilled, for, as it turned out, no protection for Puritans or Common-

Charles II. on the Throne

wealth men was to be obtained from Parliament; the promises which Charles had made of submitting to the arbitration of Lords and Commons left him free from all but moral and prudential restraints. The Convention Parliament, which contained many moderate men, was dissolved on the king's return, on the pretext that it was irregularly constituted, but in reality because it wished to protect the Presbyterian ministers who were in

possession of church benefices, and to make an equitable provision for the purchasers of lands which had been confiscated.

The Cavalier Parliament, which met immediately afterwards, was filled with hot-headed Cavaliers and Episcopalians. It allowed all Royalists who had been punished with confiscation to recover the whole of their estates by ordinary process at law. It declined to hear of any compromise in religious matters, and proceeded to pass a number of disabling Acts which were levelled against the Puritan clergy and laity. This so-called Clarendon Code—which took its name from the king's chief adviser—excluded all Dissenters from municipal office, imposed a more rigid test of uniformity upon ministers of

religion, disqualified for preferment all who had not received episcopal ordination, prohibited dissenting conventicles of every description, and forbade nonconforming ministers to come within five miles of a city or chartered borough. With cynical disregard for the expectations which the Declaration of Breda had excited, the king gave his assent to all these measures. His conduct was the more odious because he was himself out of sympathy with the victorious Anglicans. At heart a Catholic, he secretly intended to secure toleration for his co-religionists at the first opportunity. He made some attempt to benefit

them, and incidentally the Dissenters, by issuing a declaration of indulgence to suspend the operation of the penal laws.



RICHARD CROMWELL
The son of the great Protector, he had none of his father's genius for government. Though he succeeded his father as Protector, he quietly acquiesced in the Restoration.



GENERAL MONK DECLARING FOR A FREE PARLIAMENT

This able soldier, realising the condition of anarchy into which the country was falling, proceeded to London, where the Rump Parliament had resumed its sittings, and on February 16th, 1660, openly declared himself to be in favour of a free Parliament. The Long Parliament came to an end a month later, and the restoration of the monarchy soon followed.

From the painting by E. M. Ward, R.A., by permission of the Art Union of London



THE MONARCHY RESTORED: CHARLES II. RETURNING TO ENGLAND

The son of the ill-fated King Charles I., Charles II. was born at St. James's, London, in 1630. On January 1st, 1651, he was crowned King of Scotland at Scone, and invaded England some months later at the head of an army of 10,000 men. Cromwell met and defeated him at Worcester, and after some adventures he escaped to France. When it was resolved to restore the monarchy, he was recalled to England and placed upon the throne of his father.

From the painting by C. M. Padday, by permission of the Religious Tract Society

But when Parliament protested against this stretch of the prerogative, he at once withdrew the obnoxious manifesto. He feared, as he said, to be sent again upon his travels; the prospect of committing or conniving at injustice had no fears for him.

Despite the exuberant loyalty of Parliament, there were many respects in which the power of Charles II. was more limited than that of his father. The legislation of 1641 remained for the most part unrepealed. It was out of the question to think of reviving the Star Chamber and the



KING CHARLES II.

He was dissolute and utterly untrustworthy, and while a Roman Catholic in heart, he did his best to conceal from his subjects his adhesion to that faith. His reign was a failure.

other prerogative courts. Parliament voted the king a liberal income, but for additional supplies he was entirely dependent on the Commons; nor were they inclined to vote subsidies without demanding a strict account. The experience of the Civil War made the name of a standing army odious, and it was with difficulty that Charles contrived to retain a few regiments of Monk's army. In the debates of both Houses the king's policy and his Ministers were sharply criticised. It is from this reign that we date the formation of

a parliamentary opposition well organised and skilfully led; for the opposition in the Long Parliament had soon passed beyond the limits of party war and had become a revolutionary caucus. The king had therefore to walk warily.

The objects which he cherished— independence for himself, toleration for Roman Catholics—were repugnant to the majority in Parliament and the nation. He therefore looked abroad for help, and like Cromwell, but with very different motives, made a French alliance the pivot of his foreign policy.

England, as a part of Catharine's dower, Bombay and a firmer foothold in India— formed a new link with France, which had long affected to support the cause of Portuguese independence. Immediately afterwards the king sold Dunkirk to Louis for a round sum of money. The new understanding encouraged Charles to declare war against Holland in 1665, and English commercial jealousy was gratified at the same time that Louis received a proof of the value of an English alliance. Louis at first played a double game.



THE LANDING OF CHARLES II. AT DOVER ON MAY 26TH, 1660

From the painting by E. M. Ward, R.A.

The old commercial feud between England and the Netherlands supplied him with a partial justification. The Navigation Act was renewed in 1660 with the express object of damaging Dutch trade. This facilitated friendly relations with Louis XIV., who had long cherished the idea of absorbing in his dominions the heretical and republican Dutch. In 1662 Charles married Catharine of Braganza, a Portuguese princess. The marriage—otherwise notable, because it gave

England stood in the way of his schemes for the extension of French trade and the establishment of French supremacy at sea. For a time he assisted Holland against England; but in 1667 he was won over to a secret treaty with Charles, under which the latter agreed, in return for French neutrality, to further the designs of Louis upon the Spanish Netherlands. The Dutch war, in which the rival fleets had fought desperate battles with alternating fortunes, was then wound up. It

BEAUTIES of the COURT of CHARLES II



QUEEN CATHERINE



COUNTESS OF SUNDERLAND



DUCHESS OF RICHMOND



NELL GWYNN



COUNTESS OSSORY



LADY GRAMMONT



LADY SOUTHESK



DUCHESS OF CLEVELAND



THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON IN THE YEAR 1666

Following the Great Plague in 1665, when 100,000 of the city's inhabitants died from the scourge, London, in 1666, was the scene of a terrible conflagration, which cleansed the city of the dregs of disease. The city was practically reduced to ruins, 13,200 houses being burned, and 200,000 people rendered homeless. The above view represents Ludgate, St. Paul's, and, in the extremity of the scene, the ancient and beautiful tower of St. Mary-le-Bow.

had served its purpose, and Charles made no attempt to revenge the disgrace which he experienced from a Dutch raid upon the shipping in the Thames and Medway. On the contrary, in 1668 he consented to the formation of a triple alliance with Sweden and Holland, by which he pledged himself to resist the French designs upon the Spanish Netherlands. But

The Secret Dealings of Charles II.

But the secret object was still to raise his value in the eyes of France, and an alliance with Louis was effected in 1670 by the secret Treaty of Dover. Louis, swallowing his resentment at the trick which had been played upon him, promised Charles a considerable pension on condition that he should have the help of English troops against the Netherlands. Charles undertook to avow himself a Catholic at a convenient opportunity, and was promised in that case the support of a French army.

Only one or two of the king's most trusted advisers were admitted to a full knowledge of these provisions, and Charles never fulfilled the undertaking to declare himself a Catholic. But for the remainder of his reign he was the pensionary of Louis, and in European politics England usually figured as the satellite of France. In 1672 the English navy supported a French

invasion of the Netherlands, and in 1673 bore the brunt of a severe battle in the Texel. The land operations of Louis were foiled by the constancy of William of Orange. The French alliance was thoroughly unpopular, and Charles bowed to the wishes of his subjects so far as to conclude peace with Holland and to bestow on William the hand of his niece Mary of York in 1674. But the secret understanding with Louis remained unbroken. Three years later Charles refused to support the Dutch against a new French invasion; and if at times he appeared to humour the popular desire for a war with France, his object was merely to obtain more subsidies.

On the other hand, he refrained from entangling himself too deeply in the plans of Louis, and his main efforts were devoted to a conflict with the opposition, led by Shaftesbury. This able party manager had been at first a Cavalier, then a supporter of Cromwell, then an ardent advocate of the Restoration and a member of the Cabal Ministry which was formed in 1668 after the fall of Clarendon. Suspicion of Charles' designs and disappointed ambition soon drove Shaftesbury to resign his office. From 1673 to 1681 he led every attack of the Commons upon the Crown,

Crown and Commons in Conflict

ENGLAND'S RESTORED MONARCHY

and spared no artifice to discredit the Ministries through which the king worked tortuously towards an absolutism. In 1678 the revelations of Titus Oates served Shaftesbury as a pretext to spread the alarm of an alleged Catholic plot formed to destroy Anglicanism by introducing French troops into England. It made little difference to the unscrupulous party leader that a number of innocent Roman Catholics were in consequence condemned to death. He followed up the attack upon the king's religion by impeaching Danby, the chief Minister, and Danby was saved only by the dissolution of Parliament.

In 1679 the opposition secured a more honourable triumph in forcing upon the king the Habeas Corpus Act, by which the traditional remedies against arbitrary arrest and detention were made more effectual. Finally an Exclusion Bill was introduced to prevent the king's brother, James of York, from succeeding to the throne. James, unlike Charles, was a conscientious Catholic. There was a probability that he would do his utmost to procure not merely toleration but ascendancy for the oppressed Catholics; and the dangers of a Catholic reaction seemed grave enough to give Shaftesbury the

support of many moderate politicians. But there can be little doubt that private aims determined his conduct. He knew that from James he had nothing to hope and

much to fear. His complicity in the outcry against Catholics would never be forgiven by the heir presumptive. On the other hand, there was every prospect that if Parliament should follow Shaftesbury's wishes and confer the succession upon Monmouth, an illegitimate but favourite son of the king, and the chief hope of the Anglican party, the Protestant demagogue might reasonably aspire to the post of chief Minister.

The question of the succession was the all-absorbing topic in the next three Parliaments. Shaftesbury's influence procured innumerable signatures to petitions calling on the king to disinherit

his brother; and the Protestant faction were nicknamed "Petitioners," in contradistinction to the "Abhorrrers," who supported the king. But the king defended his brother's right with tenacity. The old instincts of loyalty reasserted themselves in the country, and after the abortive Parliament of Oxford in 1681 Shaftesbury fled into exile, a beaten man. He had laid the foundations of the great Whig party, but his rash precipitation discredited his followers; in the last two years of the reign they were exposed, without popular disapproval, to a merciless persecution. London and other Whig

cities were adjudged to lose their charters, and all municipal offices were filled with royal nominees. Russell and Sidney were executed on a charge of conspiracy in 1683.



LONDON'S CITIZENS ESCAPING FROM THE GREAT FIRE

From the painting by Stanhope A. Forbes, A.R.A., by permission of Messrs. Hildesheimer & Co.



THE DISGRACE OF LORD CLARENDON: LEAVING WHITEHALL PALACE AFTER HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE KING IN 1667
Chancellor under Charles II, Edward Hyde, Lord Clarendon, was for many years the king's favourite Minister, but when he remonstrated with his royal master on the licentiousness of the court he immediately fell under his displeasure. After a lengthy interview with the king at Whitehall, Charles emerged first from the audience, and turning his back upon Clarendon, as shown in the above picture, walked along the path by himself. The fallen Chancellor was banished from the kingdom, settled at Montpellier, and died at Rouen seven years later.

From the painting by E. M. Wurch, R.A., in the National Gallery

ENGLAND'S RESTORED MONARCHY

Never had the establishment of absolutism seemed more probable than in the latter years of Charles. Reaction is the dominant note in the domestic history of England between 1660 and 1684, and Parliament in its own way was not less reactionary than the Crown.

In more than one sense, however, the Restoration marks the beginning of modern England. The intellectual attitude of the nation was altering. Some great Puritans lived and wrote under the last two Stuart kings; but Milton and Bunyan, Penn and Baxter, are the glorious survivors of a vanquished cause. The satirist and the comedian are now the characteristic figures of the literary movement. Dryden and the dramatists of the Restoration bear witness to the triumph of French influence over older modes of thought and style. Their work was more than the mere effect of reaction—it was inspired by the ambition to recover touch with the artistic and intellectual society of the Continent, from which England had been entirely estranged by twenty years of fanaticism and warfare.

The growth of scientific interests, attested by the foundation of the Royal Society in 1660, was in part a continuation of the native movement which Bacon had initiated, and was largely due to the interest excited by his writings. But the work of Isaac Newton (1643–1727) is closely related to the mathematical researches of Descartes and Pascal on the one hand, and to the astronomical discoveries

of Galileo on the other. Newton and his contemporary Robert Boyle, the father of English chemistry, were in the highest degree original; but their enthusiasm for natural science and their conception of method were affected by the example of foreign *savants*. Meanwhile, the mercantile

classes were developing new fields of enterprise and laying the foundations of a great commercial supremacy.

The one title of Charles II. to the reputation of a national statesman is to be found in his care for trade, and for the colonies, upon which the hopes of trade depended. He gave up Nova Scotia to the French colony of Canada in 1668, and suffered the island of St. Kitts to



EARL OF SHAFTESBURY AND DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM
A Royalist colonel, who afterwards went over to the Parliament, the Earl of Shaftesbury was one of the commissioners sent to Breda to invite Charles II. back to England; he died in 1683. The Duke of Buckingham had the reputation of being the most wicked man at the court of Charles II. His sad end is pictured on page 4477.



Lauderdale



Arlington



Clifford

THREE MEMBERS OF THE NOTORIOUS CABAL MINISTRY

John Maitland, Duke of Lauderdale, taken prisoner at Worcester in 1651, lay a prisoner for nine years in the Tower, at Windsor, and at Portland; at the Restoration he became Scottish Secretary of State; he died in 1682. Like Lauderdale, the Earl of Arlington was a member of the Cabal Ministry, and earned for himself an evil reputation as a betrayer of trust. The scar on his nose, seen in the portrait, was received at Andover during the Civil War. A Catholic member of the Cabal, Thomas Clifford was, in 1672, created Lord Clifford of Chudleigh. He died in 1673.

be conquered by the navy of Louis XIV. in 1666. But England gained a predominant position in the West Indies; the American colonies of the Dutch were annexed and retained at the conclusion of the Peace of Breda in 1667. Charters were granted to a private company for the exploitation of Hudson's Bay, and to Penn, the Quaker, for the settlement of Pennsylvania in 1680, while the name of the Carolinas records the fact that they were first colonised in this reign. From the Bay of Fundy to Charlestown, the whole east coast of North America was now in English hands. At the same time the decline of the Dutch maritime power, shattered by continual wars and undermined by the Navigation Acts, prepared for the growth of an English empire in India, which had hitherto been the battleground of Dutch, French and Portuguese. The East India Company profited by the exhaustion of competitors and threw out new tentacles. As early as 1639 it had acquired Fort St. George (Madras); and in 1668 it took over from the king the equally important station of Bombay. In 1686, shortly after the death of Charles, Calcutta in the Ganges delta was acquired by a treaty with the Great Mogul. Sensualist and dilettante though he was, Charles watched the growth of trade and colonies with an enlightened interest; he formed within the Privy Council a special committee to handle all questions connected with these interests.

The death of Charles II., in 1685, was followed by the peaceful accession of his brother, James of York. The new king had every intention of continuing his brother's autocratic system. But the revenue which Parliament had granted to Charles was not, for the most part, hereditary, and it was therefore essential that the new king should meet Parliament at the first opportunity. The new House of

Commons showed an unexpected degree of loyalty. Fear of civil war had brought all moderate men into the Tory party; the king's demands were satisfied without murmuring or hesitation. This success was immediately followed by others of a

less peaceful kind. The rising of Argyle in Scotland and that of Monmouth in the South of England were both crushed with ease, and James believed that the Protestant party, in whose interests these rebellions had been raised, was now at his mercy. Not content with a savage persecution of Monmouth's partisans, who were condemned and executed by scores in the course of

the course of Judge Jeffreys' Bloody Assize, the king took steps to give the Catholics a legal equality with Protestants,

in the expectation that it would then be possible to place the administration entirely in the hands of his co-religionists. The Test Act of the last reign had provided that every public servant should make a declaration against transubstantiation, and receive the Sacrament according to the Anglican rite.

In defiance of the Act, James gave military commissions to Catholics, and met the remonstrances of Parliament by a prorogation. The judges decided a test case in favour of the king's power to dispense from the operation of the penal laws; whereupon James issued a declaration of indulgence in favour of both Catholics and Protestant dissenters.

This arbitrary suspension of the laws provoked a storm of indignation. Even the Dissenters sided with the opposition, for Louis XIV., by his recent Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, had aroused suspicions of a general Catholic conspiracy against Protestants. Petitions against the declaration poured in upon the king. He endeavoured to repress the agitation by means of the law courts. The Archbishop Sancroft and six of his suffragans, who had joined



LORD WILLIAM RUSSELL
Third son of the fifth Earl of Bedford, Lord William Russell was a prominent politician in the reign of Charles II.; his fate is depicted on the following page.



ALGERNON SIDNEY
The second son of the second Earl of Leicester, he was charged with complicity in the Rye House Plot, and was condemned, and beheaded on December 7th, 1683.



AFTER THE RYE HOUSE PLOT: THE TRIAL AND CONDEMNATION OF LORD WILLIAM RUSSELL

On his way to Newmarket, Charles usually passed a farmhouse near Hoddesdon in Hertfordshire, and to the epemics of the king this seemed a favourable place to bring about his death. But in June, 1683, the plot known as the Rye House Plot was discovered, and among the notable people accused of implication in the conspiracy was Lord William Russell, who was brought to trial on June 13th, 1683. He offered only a feeble defence; the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and Russell was executed at Lincoln's Inn Fields on July 20th.

From the picture by Sir George Hayter

with him in signing such a petition, were put on their trial for seditious libel. But they were acquitted by the jury, and received a popular ovation when they left the court. There were fears that James would now resort to force, for he had taken over Catholic troops from Ireland, and had quartered them at Hounslow in the neighbourhood of London. But the majority were prepared to wait in patience for the accession of Mary of Orange, a Protestant princess and the wife of the man who had so successfully upheld the cause of the Dutch Protestants against Louis XIV.

These hopes received a rude shock when it was announced that the queen, Mary of Modena, had given birth to a son. The Princess of Orange and her husband professed to regard the child as supposititious, a belief for which no plausible foundation could be discovered. But admitting his legitimacy, it was still certain that he would be

educated as a Catholic, and the nation was thus confronted with the prospect of a dynasty hostile to the Anglican Church. The Church had restored Charles II.; it now expelled his brother.

The survivors of the Whig party found themselves at the head of so numerous a following that they had no hesitation in summoning William of Orange to come and seize the throne by force. The stadtholder was willing enough to seize the opportunity of bringing England into the European league which he had built up against the aggressive designs of France. But Holland was already at war with France, and it was difficult to leave the theatre of military operations. Only the mistakes of James and

Louis made it possible for the prince to cross the Channel. James in his blind infatuation refused the troops which were offered by his ally; Louis, instead of directing his march against the Netherlands.



SIR ISAAC NEWTON

This great natural philosopher did much to widen the bounds of knowledge. The fall of an apple in his garden in 1665 started the train of thought that led to the discovery of universal gravitation.



THE TRIAL OF ALGERNON SIDNEY ON A CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON IN 1683

Algernon Sidney was brought to trial at the King's Bench Bar, four months after the execution of Lord William Russell, for a treasonable libel wherein he asserted the power to be originally in the people and delegated by them to the Parliament, to whom the king was subject, and might be called to account. Though he had not printed, published or circulated his writing, he was condemned to death, and executed on Tower Hill on December 7th, 1683.

From the picture by F. Stephanoff



THE MISERABLE END OF THE GAY DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM

Foremost among the courtiers who surrounded Charles II. and participated in his vices was George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, whose gay life came to an unlooked-for end. Broken in health and in fortune by his career of extravagance and dissipation, the reckless nobleman retired to a country mansion at Helmsley, in Yorkshire, and in that neighbourhood, in the house of a tenant, he died in 1684. Fever was brought on as a result of sitting on damp ground after a long run with the hounds, and Buckingham seems to have died comfortless and unattended, without a friend near him.

From the picture by A. L. Egg, R.A.

allowed his attention to be diverted to the Rhine. The Prince of Orange was therefore able to leave Holland unprotected; he landed at Torbay without molestation, and began his march on London. Everywhere he was greeted with enthusiasm. James was deserted by soldiers, officers, Ministers, and private friends. He attempted to leave the kingdom by stealth, but was apprehended by a mob of hostile Kentishmen and brought back a prisoner to London. It was only with the connivance and at the suggestion of William, to whom such a captive would have been a source of great embarrassment, that the king ultimately made good his escape.

A convention parliament assembled after the flight of James to discuss the future settlement. At that moment the Stuart cause



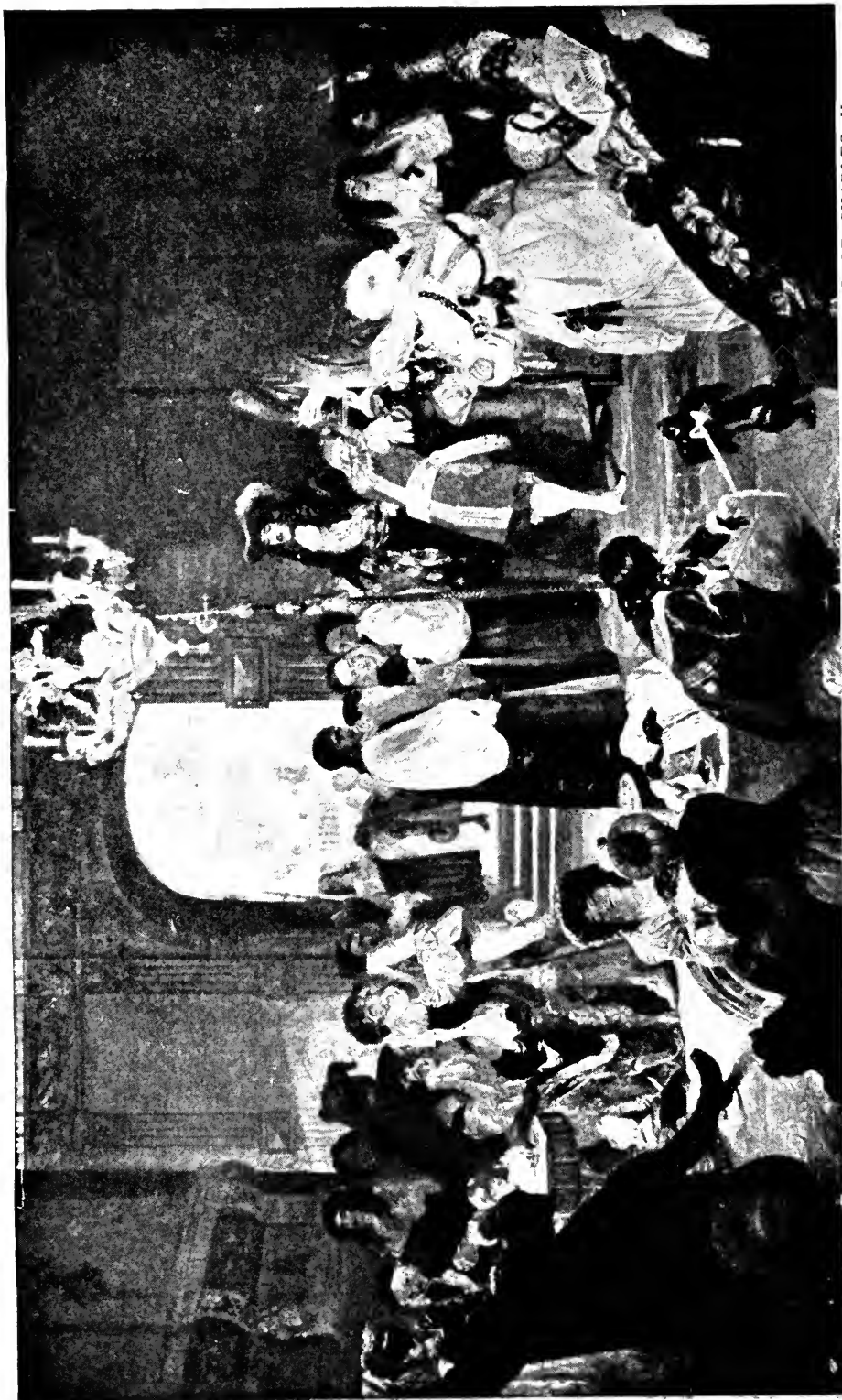
THE POET DRYDEN

John Dryden, born in 1631, wrote poems on the Restoration and on the coronation of Charles II., and was the author of many satires on the public men of the time.

James to they accepted the Declaration of Right in which the principal abuses of the prerogative for which the last two Stuarts had

supporters. Both Houses resolved that the throne was vacant and that a Catholic succession was incompatible with the national safety. There were some who wished to restore James on conditions; and others who would have preferred to leave him the kingly title, appointing William of Orange as regent with the full powers of a king. But these proposals, the work of Tories, were speedily dismissed. The Whigs desired to name Mary as queen and leave her husband in the position of a prince consort, but the objections of William proved an obstacle. The final decision was to recognise the prince and princess as joint sovereigns. But they were elected only on condition that

they accepted the Declaration of Right in which the principal abuses of the prerogative for which the last two Stuarts had



THE DYING KING: SCENE IN THE ANTE-CHAMBER AT WHITEHALL DURING THE LAST MOMENTS OF CHARLES II.
After reigning for twenty-four years, Charles II, died in 1685, in his fifty-fifth year. The king had always enjoyed excellent health, and his death, which followed an illness lasting for only five days, came upon the nation with surprise. The above picture shows the scene in the ante-chamber to the king's apartments at Whitehall during the dying moments of Charles.
From the picture by F. M. Ward, R.A., in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

ENGLAND'S RESTORED MONARCHY

been responsible were enumerated and condemned. The Declaration—afterwards confirmed, with modifications, as the Bill of Rights—settled the crown on William and Mary, with remainder to the survivor; then on the heirs of Mary, then on Mary's sister Anne and her heirs, and in the last resort upon the heirs of William. These arrangements emphasised the elective character of the royal dignity and the supremacy of Parliament. It is, however, remarkable that no steps were taken to provide new means of asserting parliamentary control. The Revolution was but the first step in the process of constitutional reform, which continues for more than a century after 1688. From 1689 until the death of

William III. in 1702 the strife between the king and Parliament was bitter and almost continuous. The Dutch prince was, in his own fashion, not less arbitrary than the Stuarts, and his pretensions might have produced his expulsion if England could have spared him; for even the Whigs, to whom he owed the throne, complained that he would not be entirely guided by their advice. He was determined to be the slave of no one party in the state, and in foreign policy to act as his own Minister. Whatever the motives of this independence, the results were good. He saved the Tory party from proscription; he would not allow the Dissenters to be cheated of the toleration which they had loyally refused



ROBERT BOYLE

The father of English chemistry, Robert Boyle distinguished himself in that branch of science; he was the inventor of a compressed air pump. Born in 1627, he died in 1691.



THE NOBLE REBEL: THE LAST HOURS OF ARGYLE BEFORE HIS EXECUTION

The Earl of Argyle, associating himself with the Monmouth rebellion, put himself at the head of a Scottish rising, but his followers, dismayed at the increasing force of the enemy, gradually fell away from him. Falling into the hands of his enemies, the brave nobleman was convicted of high treason and beheaded at Edinburgh on June 30th, 1685.

From the fresco by E. M. Ward, R.A., in the Houses of Parliament

to accept from James II.; and although his persistent hostility to France was censured, the event proved that he had gauged the ambitions of Louis XIV. more correctly than English politicians.

His path, however, was smoothed by the existence of perils which he alone could face. There was a rebellion in Scotland which promised, but for the death of the leader Dundee, to spread through all the Highlands. Dundee fell in the hour of victory at Killiecrankie in 1689, but the Highlands were not pacified for another two years. The resentment caused by the massacre of Glencoe in 1692, and by the commercial jealousy of England towards the rising merchant class of Scotland, made the northern kingdom a source of constant anxiety. In Ireland there was a more prolonged war. The Catholics rallied to James II.; London-derry, the chief stronghold of the Ulster Protestants, had to endure a three months' siege; the signal victory which William achieved over French and Irish forces at the Boyne in 1690 drove James II. from the island, but left his supporters in the field. It was only late in 1691 that the Irish Catholics laid down their arms and the French auxiliaries of Sarsfield departed, under the Treaty of Limerick.

At sea, the French fleet which Colbert's genius had produced challenged the English naval supremacy. Admiral Torrington was disgracefully beaten off Beachy Head in 1690, and the south coast experienced a foretaste of the terrors of invasion. But this danger, too, was met. The great victory of Russell at La Hogue

in 1691 not only averted invasion—it inflicted a blow on the French fleet which Louis could not or would not afford to repair. Henceforth the ambitions of the

Grand Monarque were concentrated upon the land war. In this, too, England's interests were nearly concerned, since the dynastic revolution had linked her fortunes with those of the Low Countries, and she was now a party to the League of Augsburg. This danger lasted longer than the rest. The final settlement was delayed till 1697. But in that year, by the Treaty of Ryswick, France recognised the Revolution settlement of the succession.

Meanwhile the position of William in England grew more precarious.

A number of the prominent Whig lords had long corresponded with the exiled king in his refuge at St. Germain. Parliament persistently opposed the maintenance of a

standing army, and would pass only an annual Mutiny Bill, voting the necessary supplies from year to year. In spite of the financial reforms of Godolphin and Montague, the credit of the government was bad. The foundation of the Bank of England in 1694, one of the most notable measures of the reign, was a device of Montague for raising a loan which otherwise could have been obtained only with difficulty; and the growth of the national debt, though an inevitable consequence of the French war, provided the opponents of the new régime with an effective argument. The Toleration

Act in 1689 was but a mutilated measure; William was foiled by the Houses in his scheme for abolishing the tests, so far as they affected Protestants. The Triennial



KING JAMES II.

He was the second son of Charles I., and succeeded his brother, Charles II., in 1685. Quite alienating himself from his people, and losing his throne, he ultimately fled to France.



THE DUKE OF MONMOUTH

Said to be the illegitimate son of Charles II., he was created Duke of Monmouth in 1663. When King James II. came to the throne, Monmouth asserted his own right to the crown, but was defeated and beheaded.

ENGLAND'S RESTORED MONARCHY

Act of 1694, providing that a new Parliament should be summoned at least every three years, was a limitation of the prerogative which the king accepted with great reluctance. After the death, in 1694, of his wife, whose personal popularity had stood him in good stead, William was compelled to put himself in the hands of the Whigs. More than once he was driven in these years to protect himself by the use of the veto, and by threatening that he would retire to Holland if further pressed. After the Treaty of Ryswick he reluctantly acquiesced in a considerable reduction of the army and dismissed his favourite Dutch Guards; but, in spite of these concessions, the opposition insulted him

by examining and partially cancelling the grants of confiscated lands which he had bestowed upon his partisans in England and Ireland. His cold manner, his foreign extraction, his preference for Dutch friends, and his indifference to English party questions, were contributory causes to his unpopularity. But with the Tories the chief motive of attack was their repentance for the desertion of James, while the Whigs felt that Parliament had not attained that paramount position to which it was rightfully entitled. The Act of Settlement in 1701, which was primarily intended to bring the Hanoverians into the succession after Anne and her heirs, expressed in a series of new limitations the mistrust which



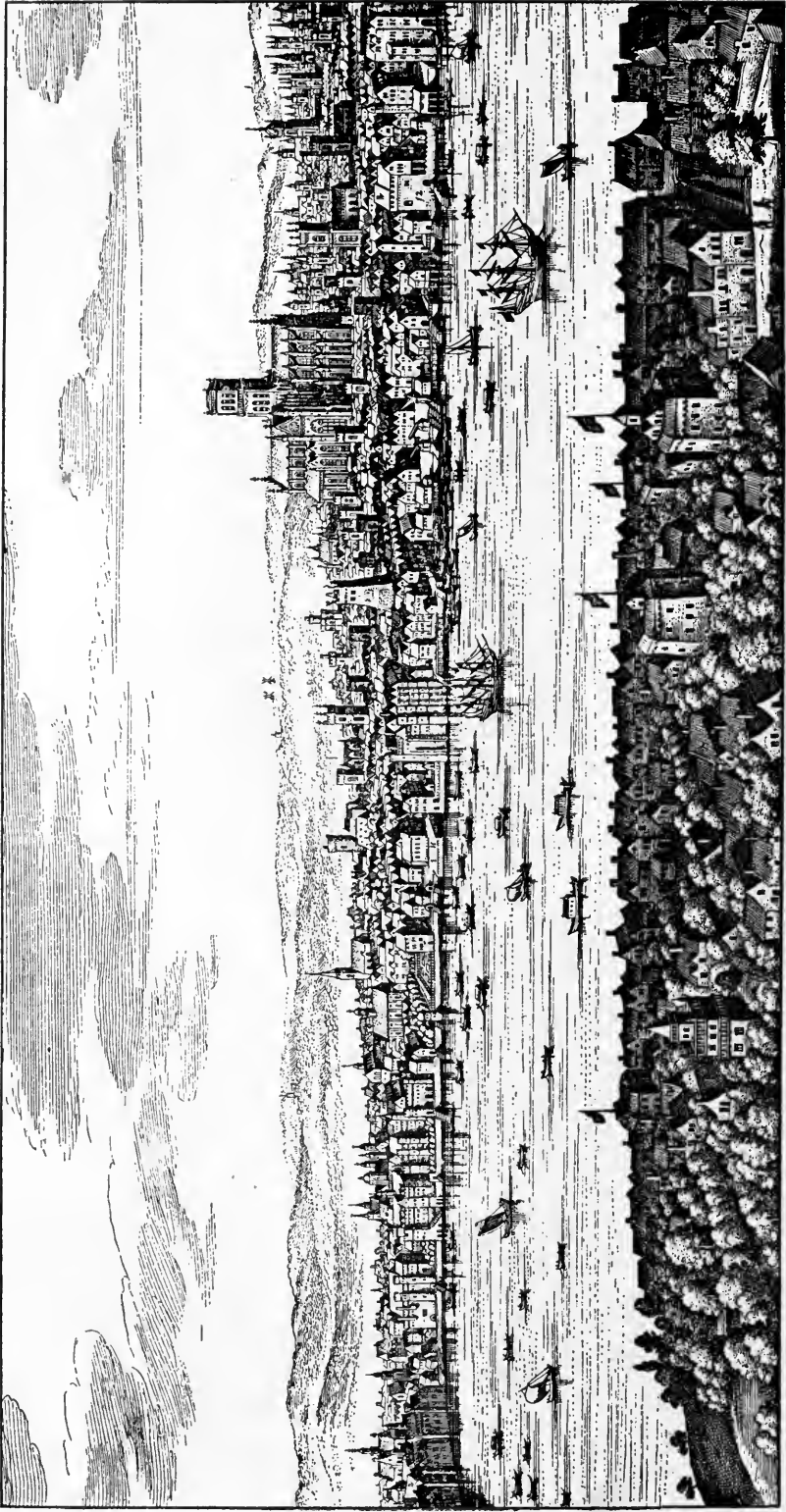
THE INFAMOUS JEFFREYS

A monster in human shape, Judge Jeffrey earned a reputation for cruelty which can find no parallel in history. He died in the Tower, where he lay a prisoner, in 1689.



RICHARD BAXTER BEFORE THE DREAD JUDGE JEFFREYS

Lord Chief Justice in the reign of James II., Judge Jeffrey delighted in cruelty, and so inhuman was his treatment of the unhappy people dragged before him that his name became a byword throughout the land. He sent hundreds to death in connection with the Monmouth rebellion in the West of England. This picture represents the learned Dissenter, Richard Baxter, before the bar of the dreaded judge, who, with the view of gaining favour with the newly-ascended monarch, James II., is heaping insults upon the head of the preacher, whom he afterwards committed to prison.



Whitehall

Barleigh House

Swan Theatre (with flag)

St. Bride's

Bear Garden (with flag)

St. Paul's
Globe Theatre (with flag)

Bow Church

GENERAL VIEW OF LONDON AND THE THAMES FROM A PLAN OF THE YEAR 1666

This shows the river from Whitehall to a point in line with the Guildhall. Names of buildings on the north of the river are given in the upper and those on the south in the lower line.



St. Anthony's
Winchelsea House

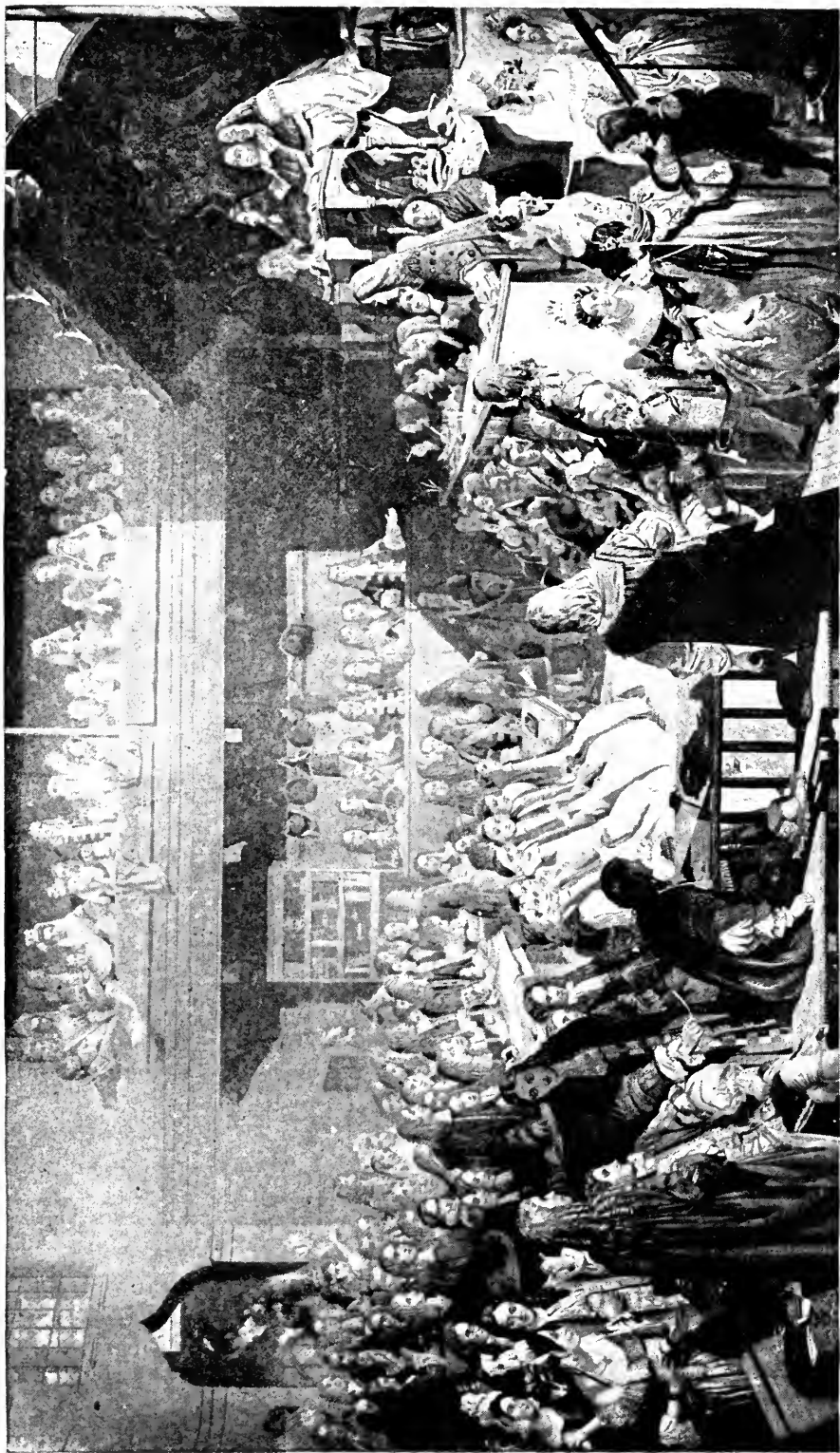
St. Laurence Poultry
St. Mary's, Southwark

St. Dunstan's in the East
London Bridge and Traitors' Gate

The Tower
St. Olave's

GENERAL VIEW OF LONDON AND THE THAMES FROM A PLAN OF THE YEAR 1666

This section continues that on the preceding page from the Guildhall, part of which is seen on the extreme left at the top of the picture, to a point some distance east of the Tower



KING JAMES DEFIED BY THE CLERGY: THE TRIAL OF THE SEVEN BISHOPS IN 1688
Desirous of restoring popery to his realms, King James, on April 27th, 1688, published a new Declaration of Indulgence, which he commanded the clergy to read from their pulpits. As this order practically called upon them to co-operate in the overthrow of their own Church, they declined to read the Declaration, and seven bishops, who had presented a written resolution of protest to the king, were thrown into the Tower. These leaders of the Church—Sanicroft, Archbishop of Canterbury; Lloyd of St. Asaph; Ken of Bath and Wells; Turner of Ely; Lake of Chichester; White of Peterborough; and Trelawney of Bristol—were brought to trial before the King's Bench on June 30th, and being found "Not Guilty" were acquitted.



KING WILLIAM III. AND QUEEN MARY

When the nation became weary of the tyranny of King James II., an invitation to go to England and redress their grievances was extended to William III. of Orange, Stadtholder of the United Provinces, whose wife was the daughter of the English king. He landed at Torbay on November 5th, 1688, with an English and Dutch army of 15,000 men; all parties quickly flocked to his standard, and the throne, which after the overthrow and flight of James was declared vacant by the Convention Parliament, was offered to William and Mary.

From the portraits by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

the Whigs felt for the prerogative. These precautionary measures were somewhat modified in the next reign, 1706, but the Act in its final shape demanded that the sovereign should adhere to the Church of England; that no war should be opened for the defence of foreign territory without the consent of Parliament; that no alien should sit in Parliament or the Privy Council; that the judges should hold office during good behaviour.

In the last months of William's life a closer union between himself and his subjects was created by the opening of a new French war. It was ostensibly undertaken to prevent the European balance from being overthrown by the union of the French and Spanish Crowns in the Bourbon family. This was a danger which William had long foreseen and feared. The schemes of partition by which he had attempted to avert it have been elsewhere described. The smaller powers of the Continent concurred from the first in the general principle that the balance of power should be maintained by a division of

the Spanish heritage. English politicians were not agreed as to the necessity of enforcing such an arrangement by an armed demonstration; Somers and Montague, the chief of the king's advisers, narrowly escaped an impeachment for their share in the treaties of partition. But the merchants were clearer-sighted than the politicians. It was soon perceived that a Bourbon dynasty in Spain would strain every nerve to exclude English trade from the Spanish ports in the New World.



VISCOUNT DUNDEE

He relentlessly carried out the royal instructions for the suppression of the Covenanters in Scotland, and was fatally wounded at the battle of Killiecrankie in 1689.

There was considerable excitement when Louis accepted the Spanish inheritance for Philip of Anjou in November, 1700. But it was an accident that induced the whole nation to take up the quarrel of the mercantile interest. James II. died in September, 1701. On his death-bed he received a visit from the King of France, and the latter, in a moment of chivalrous impulse, announced his intention of recognising the exile's son as the lawful King of England. This was an open insult to England and a violation of the Peace of Ryswick. In Parliament and in the nation it produced



A RIVAL FOR THE THRONE: JAMES II. RECEIVING THE NEWS OF THE LANDING OF WILLIAM OF ORANGE

By his attempts to restore the Roman Catholic religion in the kingdom, King James gradually lost his popularity. When news reached the king of the landing of William, Prince of Orange, he was surrounded by his courtiers in an apartment in Whitehall Palace, and his agitation so overcame him that the letter containing the information fell from his hands.

From the painting by E. M. Ward, R.A., in the National Gallery



MONMOUTH'S BID FOR THE THRONE: THE REBEL BEFORE THE KING

After the death of Charles II., in whose reign he had been exiled, the Duke of Monmouth, natural nephew of King James II., returned to England, and placing himself at the head of a rebellion against the reigning sovereign, soon had a following of 6,000 men. Meeting the king's forces at Sedgemoor, in Somersetshire, he was defeated after a desperate struggle and took refuge in flight. Discovered later on disguised as a peasant, Monmouth, with his arms bound behind him, was brought before James and threw himself at the king's feet. He ended his life on the scaffold.

From the painting by John Pettie, R.A.



THE BATTLE OF THE BOYNE, THAT SEALED THE FATE OF JAMES II.

Forsaken by his people, who turned with enthusiasm to welcome William of Orange, James II. fled to Ireland, where he could still count upon the support of the Roman Catholics. On July 1st, 1690, was fought the famous battle of the Boyne between the armies of King William III. and the ex-King James, his father-in-law. The troops of the latter gave way before the powerful onslaught of the new king's forces, and when James, viewing the battle from a neighbouring hill, witnessed the defeat of his cause, he rode towards Dublin. A few days later he escaped to France.

From the painting by Benjamin West, R.A., by permission of Messrs. Henry Graves & Co.



A LOST CAUSE: THE FLIGHT OF JAMES II. AFTER THE BATTLE OF THE BOYNE, IN 1690

From the painting by Andrew C. Gow, R.A., in the Tate Gallery

an outburst of passionate indignation which the excuses offered, upon maturer deliberation, by the King of France were powerless to calm. William at once proceeded to utilise the favourable opportunity. His life was cut short by a fall from his horse in the spring of 1702; but the Grand Alliance was already formed, and his position as the general of the allies devolved upon a successor who was thoroughly fitted to continue his work both in diplomacy and on the field of battle. It may even be questioned whether William could have achieved the great success which fell to the lot of the Duke of Marlborough.

The new queen had been a cipher at the courts of her father, her sister, and her brother-in-law, and a cipher she remained, except for the fact that upon her favour the ascendancy of Marlborough depended. Marlborough's wife was for many years the chief confidant

of Anne. The husband and wife had sacrificed all other considerations to identify themselves with the fortunes of the future queen, and they now reaped their reward.



EARL OF GODOLPHIN

Though this nobleman stood by James when the Prince of Orange landed in England, the new king reinstated him as First Commissioner of the Treasury; he also held office under Anne. He died in 1712.

Marlborough became captain-general of the military forces; his friend Godolphin received the white staff of the treasurer and the supreme control of home affairs. Tories by conviction, they sacrificed their party feeling to the exigencies of the war. Their Ministry contained from the first a number of the Whigs, with whom the war was especially popular because declared by William; and after 1708 the two chief Ministers decided to rely altogether on that party. The military events of the struggle with France

are related elsewhere. It lasted with little interruption until 1711. The Low Countries, the valley of the Danube, the Spanish peninsula, and the Lombard plain were the chief theatres of the war; but the decisive operations were confined to

ENGLAND'S RESTORED MONARCHY

the first two of these, and are closely associated with the name of Marlborough. The balance of power, which meant little to England, gave Marlborough more concern than her commercial interests, which meant much. He showed a greater anxiety to damage the French than to benefit his own countrymen, and he continued the war long after Louis had signified his willingness to concede everything that England had a right to expect. That Marlborough made war in order to make money was a vulgar slander. The sums which he received from contractors and foreign powers were perquisites of a kind which all generals of the age felt themselves at liberty to take. But the duke undoubtedly reflected that his position would be precarious when peace was once concluded, and it is probable that he would have been more pacific if his doubts on this head could have been satisfactorily set at rest.

It was a court revolution which led at length to England's withdrawal from the war. When the Tories had parted company with Marlborough they gradually coalesced to form a compact opposition, of which Harley was the manager and Henry St. John the controlling mind. Both had been members of the Marlborough and Godolphin Ministry; both were evicted in 1708 to make room for Whigs. Thirsting for vengeance, they turned to Anne, in whom they saw the key of the situation. An ardent Anglican, the queen had quarrelled with the Whigs because they offered opposition to the Occasional Conformity Bill (1702-1706), a measure designed to prevent Dissenters from evading the sacramental tests.

Repeated quarrels with the Duchess of Marlborough had strained the queen's friendship to breaking point. A new favourite and kinswoman of Harley was therefore able to undermine the position

of the war party, which was, in the meantime, discredited with the electorate by the furious attacks of Swift and other Tory pamphleteers. The Whigs, to crown all, made the mistake of prosecuting a popular Tory preacher, one Dr. Sacheverell, who had used his sermons as a vehicle for criticisms of the Revolution and the defence of the doctrine of Non-resistance. The majority of the electorate were High Churchmen, and in theory devoted to the principles of the divine right of kings. The Triennial Act made it impossible to prevent Parliament from changing in composition with all the changes of popular opinion. The elections of 1710 produced a Tory House of Commons; and although, in the undeveloped state of political theory, the queen would have been

justified in standing by Marlborough and the Whigs, the elections gave her the opportunity of asserting her personal and religious prejudices. Harley, now Earl of Oxford, and St. John, now Viscount Bolingbroke, came into office. Marlborough was recalled in 1711, deprived of all his offices, and threatened with charges of embezzlement.

The change of government entailed a change of foreign policy. The Tories had for some time past denounced the war as needless, unwarrantable, and ruinously expensive. They could not continue it without employing Marlborough, and they were eager to appropriate the fruits of his victories. Accordingly they opened negotiations behind the backs of the other parties to the Grand Alliance. In their eagerness for a settle-

ment they overreached themselves. The King of France took advantage of their haste to demand terms more favourable than those which he had offered two years previously, and the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 conceded nearly all that



CHARLES MONTAGUE

A Chancellor of the Exchequer and a great financier, he instituted the Bank of England; he later became Earl of Halifax, and died in 1715.



LORD CHANCELLOR SOMERS
He was a recognised authority on civil and constitutional law; in 1692 he became Attorney-General, and was Lord Chancellor from 1697 till 1700.

he demanded. The territories ceded to England were inconsiderable, and the trade privileges—the Asiento Contract for the monopoly of supplying the Spanish colonies with slaves, and the right of sending one merchant ship a year to Portobello—were equally insignificant. It was natural that such terms should produce intense dissatisfaction with the government which accepted them. Bolingbroke hoped to appease the mercantile classes by arranging a supplementary treaty of commerce with France; he actually obtained the assent of Louis to a reciprocal reduction of tariffs. But the interests threatened made their protests heard in Parliament, and the commercial treaty was rejected. It was suspected that the Ministers forced on the peace negotiations in order to leave their hands free for Jacobite intrigues. This was not altogether true. The Tories knew, indeed, that the Elector of Hanover, who would succeed Anne under the Act of Parliament, regarded them with implacable suspicion. But it would have been madness to think of forcing the Pretender upon the country. His religion alone put him out of the question as a possible successor. Bolingbroke accepted the Hanoverians as an unpalatable necessity; he used the time of grace to strengthen the Tory hold upon central and local administration. He hoped, by a skilful use of patronage, to fortify his position so strongly that the elector would be forced to accept a Tory Ministry. The death of the queen occurred before Bolingbroke had time to

complete the execution of his designs. Up to the last he had been hampered by the vacillation of Oxford, who would have preferred to make terms with the Whigs. Oxford was at length dismissed, but only a few days before the queen's death. The accession of George I. was accordingly followed by a proscription of the Tory party. They were accused of corresponding with the Pretender. Bolingbroke fled the country, Oxford was impeached and imprisoned. All offices

were put into the hands of the Whigs, and the monopoly thus acquired by one party in the state was retained until 1761.

The union with Scotland, though an episode but slightly connected with the general course of events, is, from our modern point of view, the most momentous result of Queen Anne's reign. The union of the Parliaments had been projected by James I., and, for a moment, realised by Cromwell. Cromwell's experiment had been accom-



QUEEN ANNE, LAST OF THE STUART SOVEREIGNS
The daughter of James II., she was the last of the Stuart sovereigns, succeeding to the throne in 1702, on the death of William III., who died without issue. Her husband, to whom she was married in 1683, was Prince George of Denmark. The political troubles of the time gave the queen little rest, and she died on August 1st, 1714.

panied by the establishment of free trade between the two countries, a measure which went far towards making the Scots content with the loss of national autonomy. But Cromwell's policy was reversed at the Restoration. Lauderdale and the other members of the clique which managed Scotland for the last two Stuarts were opposed to any measure of union, because it would diminish their power and emoluments; nor was it difficult to create a prejudice against union in the mind of the Scottish Parliament. But the commercial classes suffered by their exclusion from English and colonial trade; the

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failure of the Darien scheme in 1695, a project for establishing a Scottish colony on the isthmus of Panama, proved that the Scots could not hope to obtain a share in the trade of the New World except under the shelter of the English flag. Many causes combined to prevent them from accepting the union as a commercial necessity. The Glencoe massacre in 1693, a romantic loyalty to the house of Stuart, resentment against the jealous spirit which England had shown in all commercial dealings, the fear of increased taxation, the certainty of diminished national dignity, were obstacles which it took years to overcome. In 1703 the English Act of Succession, which disposed of the crown of Scotland without reference to the wishes of the Scottish people, provoked a storm. Scotland retaliated by an Act of Security in 1704, which provided that on the death of Anne the Scottish succession should be settled by the national legislature, and

of securing union by the grant of free trade. The great difficulty that lay in the way was to induce the Scottish Parliament to vote for its own annihilation. Fortunately there had been no general



THE EARL OF OXFORD AND VISCOUNT BOLINGBROKE
 Skilled in parliamentary law, Robert Harley was appointed Speaker in 1701; in 1710 he became Chancellor of the Exchequer, and was created Earl of Oxford. On a charge of high treason in connection with the Treaty of Utrecht he was committed to the Tower, but was released in 1717. Henry St. John was created Viscount Bolingbroke in 1712. He held office in various ministries.

election since the Revolution; the Anglo-philic element was larger in the legislature than in the nation. A judicious use of such inducements as peerages strengthened the party of the union.

The fears of Presbyterians were removed by emphatic assurances that their Church should under no circumstances be disestablished. The Highland chiefs were pacified by the guarantee of their hereditary jurisdictions. In the matter of taxation Scotland was liberally treated, and she received a sum of \$2,000,000 with which to pay off her debt and to compensate the sufferers of the Darien scheme. Last, and most important, equality in trade and navigation was granted to Scotland. On these terms the Act of Union was passed in 1707. It provided for the



THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH AND SARAH JENNINGS
 The military exploits of the Duke of Marlborough have been described in the preceding chapter. His wife, Sarah Jennings, had almost boundless influence over Queen Anne, which she employed to procure the professional advancement of her husband. Her power came to an end in 1711, when she was superseded in the queen's favour by her own cousin, Mrs. Masham.

that the successor to the English crown should be ineligible unless Scotland were in the meantime admitted to full rights of trade and navigation. The English Parliament was thus taught the necessity

representation of Scotland in the united Parliament by forty-five commoners and sixteen elected peers, for the fusion of the executives, for the lasting union of the crowns.

H. W. C. DAVIS

WESTERN
EUROPE
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THE
AGE OF
LOUIS XIV.
VIII

DENMARK'S DESPOTIC MONARCHY THE NATION'S FAILURE TO ATTAIN GREATNESS

AT the close of the Swedish war in 1660, Denmark was in a sad plight. She had lost some of her most valuable provinces; her finances were in complete chaos; the whole country had been pillaged and laid waste; poverty and distress reigned everywhere. As a first step towards remedial measures a diet was summoned to Copenhagen in 1660, where representatives of the nobility, the clergy, and the burgh class met together. The burgesses and the clergy had for some time

Denmark's Unpatriotic Nobility

been growing more and more embittered against the nobles. They were indignant at their selfishness and despised them for the poor rôle they had played during the war, while the burgesses, and especially those of Copenhagen, were proud of their valiant defence of the capital. At first all efforts to improve the condition of the country were frustrated by the opposition of the nobles, who were unwilling to surrender any privilege or to pay any tax. Then the burgesses and the clergy, who had capable leaders in the persons of the burgomaster Nansen and Bishop Svane, joined forces.

Seeing that the privileges of the nobility would have to be abolished before any progress could be made, Nansen and Svane, in collusion with the king—who was apparently neutral, though both he and the queen in reality kept secretly in touch with the non-privileged classes—brought forward, in October 1660, the proposal to constitute Denmark a hereditary monarchy. The burgesses and clergy immediately accepted the proposal; and though the Rigsraad opposed, it was forced to give way, whereupon the ceremony of taking the oath of allegiance to the hereditary sovereign was celebrated with great splendour. The conditions of Frederic's election to

the throne were now annulled, and the next step was to work out a new constitution. The diet was, however, unable to come to an agreement, and Svane therefore proposed that the king should be empowered to draw up the constitution. Owing to the king's great popularity, which he had gained during the siege of Copenhagen by his courage and self-sacrifice, the proposal was readily accepted.

Soon afterwards the diet was dissolved, and the king issued a document in which he claimed absolute power for himself. This document was circulated for signature by the representatives, and a despotic monarchy was thus approved by the nation. By the "Kongelov," or King's Law, of November 14th, 1665, which was to be looked on as an unalterable and fundamental law for both of Frederic's kingdoms, the king was placed above human laws and given the supreme power in all affairs of both Church and State. The only conditions imposed upon him were that he must be a member of the Lutheran Church, and that he might neither divide his possessions nor alter the constitution.

The new constitution resulted in a change of administration. The Rigsraad was dissolved and the management of affairs transferred to six government boards, whose presidents formed the king's council of state. Feudal tenure was abolished, and the country was divided into districts managed by paid officials, the "Amtmoend." The parishes were deprived of their rights of patronage, and the town councils and burgomasters were appointed by the Crown. By reason of these changes the nobles lost not only their political power, but, owing to the confiscation of their fiefs, their most important sources of revenue, and were no longer



KING CHRISTIAN V
The first king of the Oldenburg Dynasty, Christian V. succeeded to the throne of Denmark in 1670, and reigned with a fair measure of success. He died in the year 1699.

entirely exempted from taxation. Finding themselves unable to accommodate themselves to the new order of things, they gradually withdrew from the court and the state service.

The old nobility had played its part and made way for a new court nobility, consisting for the most part of Germans. To this new nobility, whose function it was to lend splendour to the throne and support to the king, were accorded even greater privileges than to the old. On his estates the nobleman was almost a king; he administered justice, had the rights of ecclesiastical patronage, levied taxes, and raised troops. The Danish despotism was, on the whole, a benevolent one, for the king looked upon himself as the father of his people, and was always anxious for their welfare. Among other things the kings of this

period deserve great credit for their legislation—the Danish and Norwegian Laws of 1683 and 1687 enacted by Christian V.—and their administration of justice. They also supported the University, encouraged popular education, and worked for the improvement of economic conditions, especially in the spheres of commerce and manufacture. But their legislation was not always a success; they frequently lacked the necessary insight. Moreover, they were biased by the prejudices of their time. Unable to refrain from interfering in all directions and making rules and laws for all circumstances, they prevented a free and natural development, and the effect of this was especially marked in the case of manufactures, which they endeavoured, in a strictly protectionist spirit, to assist by



ADMIRAL NIELS JUEL

He commanded the naval forces of Denmark in the "Scanian War," and, defeating the Swedes, landed in Scania, where he and his men were welcomed as liberators.



THE FALL OF THE LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR: GRIFFENFELD ON HIS WAY TO PRISON
 Count Griffenfeld, whose real name was Peder Schumacher, was Minister of Foreign Affairs under Christian V., and rising rapidly from one dignity to another he eventually became Lord High Chancellor. He opposed the war with Sweden, in spite of the fact that the king was in favour of it, and soon after the outbreak of hostilities his enemies brought about his fall in 1676. Accused of high treason, he was condemned to death, but on the scaffold this sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. After twenty-two years in prison he was set free, but died shortly afterwards.

From the painting by F. C. Lund

DENMARK'S DESPOTIC MONARCHY

high tariffs and all kinds of prohibitions with regard to imports. It was only towards the end of the eighteenth century that this policy was changed. The maintenance of a costly court, the expenditure on the army and navy, which the sovereigns always strove to keep in an effective condition, and the financial assistance given to manufacturers and trading companies, swallowed up large sums of money; and in order to meet this drain—the taxes, heavy as they were, being insufficient for the purpose—the government was compelled to have recourse to various measures, not always of the wisest, such as hiring out their troops to foreign princes, selling the churches, and the demesnes, etc. But it was all of no avail; the financial position in the eighteenth century was anything but satisfactory, and the kings frequently found themselves in difficulties.

It was long before the kings of Denmark could resign themselves to the loss of Scania, and Frederic's son, Christian V. (1670–1699), renewed the war with Sweden (the "Scanian War," 1675–1679). The Minister of Foreign Affairs was at this time Count Griffenfeld. His real name was Peder Schumacher, and he was the son of a German wine-merchant in Copenhagen. He had the good fortune to attract the notice of Frederic III. and to win his confidence, was made Royal Librarian in 1663, and in 1665 was commissioned to draw up the king's Law. Under Christian V. he rose rapidly from one dignity to another, was ennobled in 1671, and made Lord High Chancellor in 1673. He was a gifted and well-informed man, energetic and capable in his administrative work; and it was he who carried through the changes resulting from the new form of government and established absolutism on a firm basis. As Minister of Foreign Affairs he was opposed to the war and wished to maintain peace between the Scandinavian states. But at court there was a war party, which was hostile to Griffenfeld, and the king himself was in favour of war. After war broke

out his enemies compassed Griffenfeld's fall in March, 1676. In spite of his great gifts he had grave failings. He was mercenary, not above bribery, and arrogant. He was accused of high treason, and the king, weary of tutelage, withdrew his favour. He was condemned to death, but on the scaffold this sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. After spending twenty-two years in prison he was set free, but died soon afterwards on March 12th, 1699.

The war with Sweden did not fulfil the cherished hopes of the Danish king, although Sweden, as the ally of France, was at the same time involved in war with Brandenburg. At the end of the century Christian's son, Frederic IV. (1699–1730), concluded an alliance with Russia and the combined kingdom of Saxony and Poland against Sweden. This



FREDERIC IV. OF DENMARK
He succeeded his father, Christian V., in 1699, and the earlier part of his reign was taken up with war against Sweden. Copenhagen was rebuilt by Frederic, who was a good friend of the peasants.

led to the great Scandinavian war of 1700–1721. Frederic began operations by an attack on Duke Frederic IV. of Gottorp, brother-in-law of the King of Sweden, but was obliged by Charles, who had effected a landing on Zealand, to make peace in 1700.

When, however, Charles was defeated in 1709 at Poltava by Peter the Great, Frederic renewed his alliance with Peter and Augustus II., declared war against Sweden, and landed in Scania. He was, nevertheless, compelled to retire after suffering heavy losses, and

had to renounce his claim to Scania, while Sweden paid him an indemnity of 600,000 thalers, surrendered the exemption from tolls in the Sound granted her at Brömsebro, and undertook not to assist the Duke of Gottorp to recover his possessions in Schleswig, which Frederic had confiscated on account of the duke's breach of neutrality during the war. By the Treaty of Frederiksborg the long-standing disputes between Denmark and Sweden were brought to an end. Denmark's struggle to become a great power had brought her nothing but loss. Sweden's power had also been broken in the last war, but Denmark gained nothing thereby. The chief power in the Baltic now passed into the hands of two new powers, Russia and Prussia.

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THE AGE
OF
LOUIS XIV.
IX

THE GREAT NORTHERN WAR SWEDEN'S BRAVE STAND UNDER CHARLES XII.

THE Regency which became responsible for the government of Sweden on the death of Charles X. did little to improve the state of the country, and totally neglected the education of the young king. The resumption of crown lands was not continued; the regents considered only their own interests and those of the nobles. In their foreign policy they were irresolute and lacking in independence, and even accepted bribes from foreign powers. The Estates were at variance.

At the beginning of 1668 Sweden joined the Triple Alliance against France. Soon after, however, Louis XIV. succeeded in dissolving this alliance and in attracting Sweden to his side by the promise of large subsidies. When Louis made an attack on Holland, in 1672, Sweden was also implicated in the war. As Louis hoped, the Swedes attacked Brandenburg at the moment when the elector was fighting against the French on the Rhine. Every such attempt of the Swedish government to aggrandise itself at the expense of Brandenburg was bound to fail because there was no personality at the head of the government combining, as did Charles Gustavus, political talent with military experience, capacity, and boldness.

This attack became the occasion for the Great Elector's most brilliant and most popular exploit—the battle of Fehrbellin. "It was not a cheerful moment in the prince's life, a life that was a constant succession of care and struggle, disappointment and danger; his eldest son had just died; one of his campaigns had come to a disgraceful termination, and his every opponent was pointing to him as the cause of the disaster; he was tormented by the gout and could not leave his bed; his wife was nearing her confinement; the subsidies had not come which he required for the pay of his brave troops, upon whom, as ever, depended the future of his house and his

position in the Councils of the German princes; yet, in spite of all, there was no weakness and no timidity." Frederic William relied so firmly upon himself and his comrades that he must have seen that the Swedes had delivered themselves into his hands. It was soon clear to him that he could expect but little help from the imperial court. Negotiations with Holland were protracted to a wearisome length, although William of Orange kept true faith with the Elector. Denmark was ready to help, but wanted money; only Brunswick was ready and willing to bring up help at once.

Frederic William did not wait. With 5,000 horse, 8,000 dragoons, 1,200 infantry, and fourteen guns he hastened into the territory occupied by Sweden, surprised Colonel von Wangelin in Rathenow, and pressed so hard upon General Waldemar Wrangel, the brother of the field-marshal of Charles Gustavus, that he was obliged to give battle at the Ferry of Bellin. The battle opened with a splendid cavalry charge led by Prince Frederic of Hesse-Homburg with an impetuosity perhaps excessive, but, fortunately for the elector, successful in its purpose, for the Swedes, though they made a brave defence, were no match for the troops of Brandenburg.

The old Marshal Derfflinger, whose Upper Austrian origin did not prevent him from showing the utmost fidelity to the Margrave of Brandenburg, completed the defeat of Wrangel by his clever tactical dispositions, and so overwhelming was that defeat that the marches were freed from the enemy by this one blow. The German people felt that this victory of the Brandenburger was a national exploit, a relief from the weight of a foreign domination which had been borne with growing discontent even by the strongest partisans of Protestantism. Brandenburg was considered for the first

**Swedish
Defeat
at Bellin**

**The Great
Elector's Finest
Exploit**

**Germany's
Pride in
the Elector**

time as an integral part of the nation and its elector was looked upon as the man and the prince for whom the heart of Germany had long been yearning. In numerous pamphlets Protestant writers defended his action in defeating the Swedes, who were no longer the champions of the faith. The defeat encouraged the Danes also to declare war against Sweden. For three successive years the Swedes suffered disaster upon disaster. At the battle of Bornholm, on June 11th, 1676, their fleet was almost entirely destroyed by the allied Dutch and Danish, among whom a few Brandenburg ships were to be found; a Danish army occupied Schonen; the elector penetrated to the coast line, and at length, on December 22nd, 1677, took Stettin after a siege which was carried on with splendid tenacity by both sides. The Swedish kingdom was saved from destruction only by the battle of Lund, which the young but discreet King Charles XI. won against the Danes.

The negotiations which Louis XIV. had in the meantime entered upon at Nimeguen concluded the war in the north by the Peace of Saint-Germain with Brandenburg on June 29th, 1679, and the Peace of Lund with Denmark on September 26th, 1679. The elector had to give up Pomerania. Sweden sustained only the loss of her provinces on the east bank of the Oder. The war had, however, greatly injured the domestic prosperity of Sweden.

The country was impoverished and involved in debt, the provinces on the frontiers were devastated, and the state was helpless to cope with the general distress. The king and his confidential advisers were agreed that the one effectual remedy was to remodel the political and social organisation of the country. The first task of Charles was to reduce the power of the council and the upper nobility; he succeeded in accomplishing this with the help of the other Estates and of the gentry.

The Estates sanctioned a new constitution in 1680 and 1682, by which Sweden was practically transformed into an absolute monarchy. The Riksdag became

a royal council, which the king summoned at his pleasure; the king had the power to enact laws without consulting the Riksdag.

The Estates still kept some control over the granting of taxes. At the same time the members of the regency were called to give an account of their administration by decree of the Estates in 1680, who also directed their efforts to a second resumption. The regents were sentenced to pay heavy fines, the resumption of crown lands was effected on a much greater scale, and with the utmost rigour, not only in Sweden itself but also in the Baltic provinces and in the older Danish and Norwegian provinces. These measures resulted in completely revolutionising the conditions of land ownership, and destroyed the power of the nobility by levelling the barriers of privilege which had separated

the counts and barons from the inferior nobility, and by securing freedom for the peasants. Property was more evenly divided, and the public revenues increased enormously. The resumption of crown lands had, however, this drawback, that great indignation was aroused in many places by the severe and arbitrary measures through which it was effected. In the Baltic provinces the king's conduct almost occasioned a revolt; there his contempt for private rights was the cause of a fatal resentment.

The abundant means which Charles XI. now had at his disposal were appropriated exclusively to improving the political, military, and economic condition of his country. The land was strengthened against attack by the formation of a navy, and the erection of fortresses and a new naval port at Karlskrona. The reorganisation of the army, which had been begun by Charles IX. and Gustavus Adolphus, and which has partially remained in effect up to the present day, was completed. It was decided that in future the soldiers should be billeted on the estates of the peasants, who in return were exempted from military service in times of peace. Certain crown estates were freed from taxation on condition that they defrayed the expenses of the cavalry, while the



CHARLES XI. OF SWEDEN
The only child of Charles X. he was under a council of regency until 1672. He fought with success against the invading Danes, and proved himself a wise and able ruler

The Swedish Army Reorganised

THE GREAT NORTHERN WAR

officers received their maintenance from the crown lands. At the same time Swedish soldiers were levied to defend the foreign provinces. The finances and the administration were subjected to the careful revision which they so urgently required. Charles also turned his attention to all branches of industry. Although his own education had been so deficient, he knew the value of learning, and interested himself especially in the education of the people. He strongly impressed upon the clergy the necessity of teaching the peasants to read.

New life was also infused into every branch of literature. As early as the sixteenth century the literary activity of Sweden, which up to that time had been unimportant, received an impetus from the Reformation, especially as the kings

of the House of Vasa took a keen interest in the development of the language and literature and tried to advance scholarship in every way. The earliest Swedish literature was entirely designed for edification, and consisted of devotional, and theological controversial treatises. The most celebrated writers were the reformers Olaus and Laurentius Petri, who also made some attempts at writing history from the Protestant standpoint; while the Catholic point of view was represented by the ex-bishops Johannes and Olaus Magnus. These last wrote in Latin, which remained for a long time the language of literary men. In the seventeenth century

literature lost its devotional character and became more remarkable for beauty of thought and diction. This transformation



CHARLES XII. OF SWEDEN

Succeeding his father in 1697, he was faced by an alliance of Russia, Denmark, and Poland, and thus there began the great Northern War, which lasted from 1700 to 1721.



THE CAPTURE OF THE TOWN OF MALMO BY COUNT MAGNUS STENBOCK

A distinguished general, Count Magnus Stenbock took part in the earlier campaigns of Charles XII., and had a large share in the victories of the Swedish arms. In 1709 he captured the town of Malmö, and had other equally noteworthy successes. He ended his life in a Danish dungeon in 1717, after being defeated by the combined Russians, Danes and Saxons.

was due chiefly to G. Stjernhjelm, who died in 1672, "the father of Swedish poetry," who modelled his writings on the ancient classics and popularised the old metres.

After the death of Charles XI., on April 15th, 1697, his son, Charles XII., became king, and although not yet fifteen years old was declared of age at the end of 1697.

Characteristics of the New King Charles XII. Charles had enjoyed a good education. Like his father he was noted for an earnest piety and strict morality; his mode of life was temperate and simple. As a child he exhibited that love of honour and audacity, along with that obstinacy and perversity, which characterised him throughout his life. It was generally considered that he possessed only moderate abilities, because he seemed to devote his time only to bear hunts and other equally dangerous pastimes. Accordingly his neighbours, who were jealous of the power of Sweden, thought that this was the best opportunity to recover what they had lost. Russia, Denmark, and Poland formed an alliance, and immediately began the great Northern War (1700-1721).

Once again in this struggle the Swedish military success flared up like some brilliant firework. At one time it might have been thought that under a new hero-king the Gothic peoples were to regain the high prestige which Gustavus II. Adolphus and Charles X. Gustavus had won for them.

But fate decided otherwise; in Sweden's stead a new great power arose in Eastern Europe, a Slav kingdom under the guidance of the Russians, the neighbours of the Poles—a people gifted with admirable political capacities. Having no suspicion of their historical destiny, the Russians, through the agency of a wise prince, were raised in the course of but one generation to a position which enabled them to participate in the constitutional progress which Central and Western Europe had gradually achieved, and to

The Rapid Progress of the Russians create a vigorous constitutional organisation for themselves. It is true that, even to the present day, their state is based on the will of the Tsar; the limited capacity of the Slavs for constitutional progress is obvious in the case of the mightiest kingdoms of Slavonic nationality.

Take away the personality of Peter the Great, and who can conceive the transition from unimportant Muscovy to the Russian Empire? Who can separate the fate of

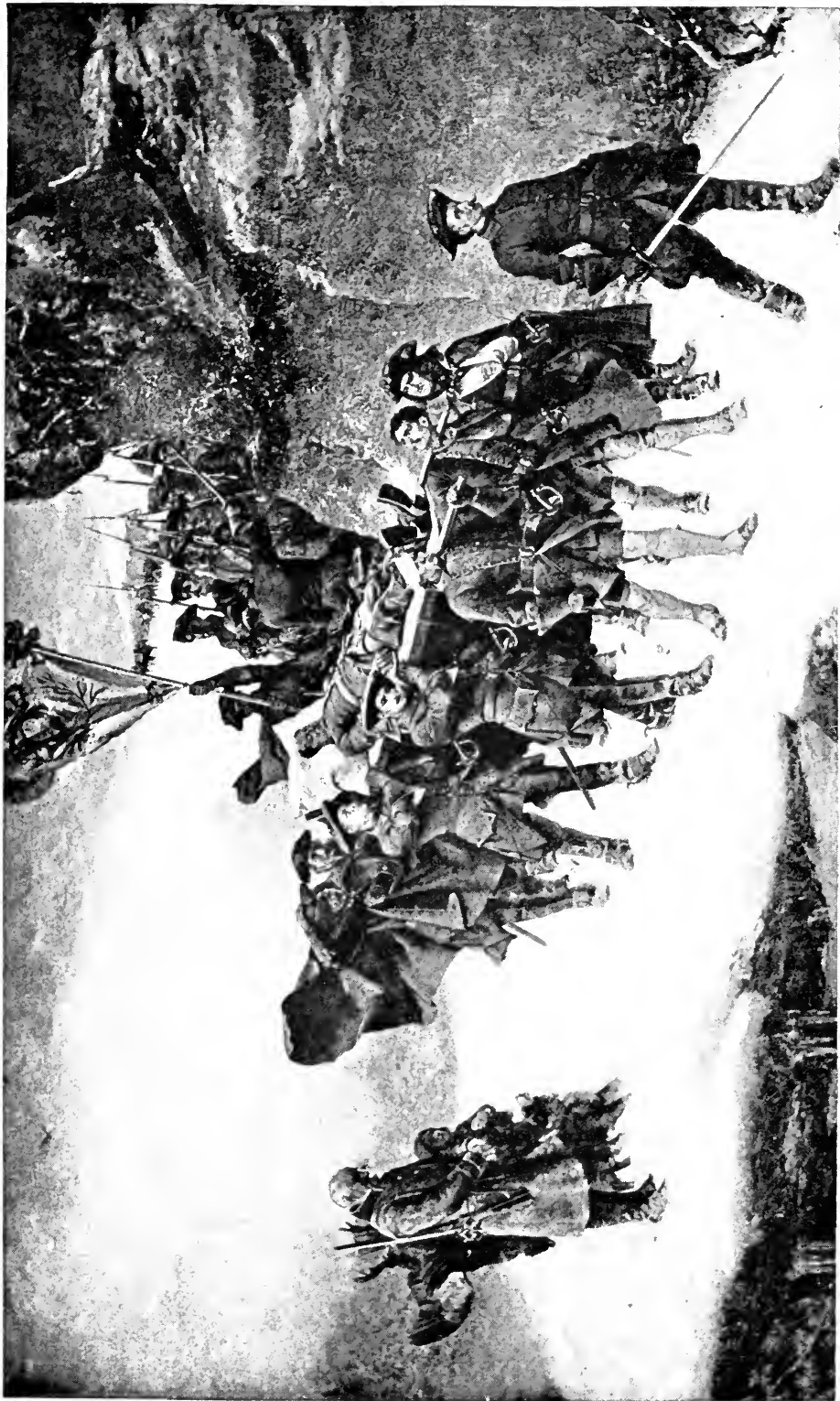
the monarchy which he created from the actions of his successors? Palace revolutions, revolts, military conspiracies, assassinations—these have been the deeds of special parties in particular cases; they were in no case the expression of national will. The progress of an administration, which could have advanced but very slowly during two centuries if it had not served to strengthen dynastical power, has invariably consisted of borrowings from foreign constitutions.

It was foreigners who were Peter's teachers and demonstrators; in foreign countries he acquired the ideas upon which he constructed his state. The mingling of Romanoff blood with that of Holstein-Oldenburg and Askanien-Thuringen preserved the ruling house from a relapse into the Muscovite character of a Fedor, Ivan, or Alexei, and gave it a European stamp. It was its princes that have made Russia the European power in which the Slav nations have become great and strong. The useful qualities of the Russians have been their capacity for subordination, their obedience, and their invincible confidence in the Tsar

Peter the Great's Work for Russia as God's vicegerent upon earth. These characteristics have made them superior to the Poles; by these they have been made equal to their great share in the world's history, which the Tsar Peter I. recognised as theirs, and took upon himself and laid upon his successors.

The immediate result of this recognition, which was matured during Peter's travels in Western Europe, was his share in the attack directed against Sweden by Frederic Augustus of Saxony-Poland, which gave him the opportunity of gaining a seaboard on the Baltic. In spite of his victory at Asov in 1696, which his conquest of the Crimea would have enabled him to turn to account by employing means similar to those with which he had to fight the Swedes, he was ready to conclude peace with the Porte on July 2nd, 1700, in order to have a free hand for his undertakings in the north, for he was well aware that connection with the east was of no use to him, but that the opening up of communication with the west would secure the stability of his internal reforms and advance the entry of Russia into the ranks of the European powers.

Denmark attacked Holstein; the Duke of Holstein, Frederic IV., had married Hedwig Sophia, the sister of Charles.



THE FUNERAL PROCESSION OF KING CHARLES XII. OF SWEDEN, IN DECEMBER, 1718

Skilled in the art of war, Charles XII. of Sweden was engaged throughout his entire reign in battles with the enemies of his country. He was undaunted by defeat, and when overcome by Prussia and her allies in 1713, he immediately reorganised a new army and fleet. Invading Norway for the second time in 1718, he was killed on December 11th while besieging the fortress of Frederiksten, near Frederikshald. He became the favourite national hero on account of his heroism and his marvellous victories his morality and his contempt of death.

Peter attacked Esthonia, and Augustus sent an army against Livonia. Charles refused all attempts at reconciliation, and declared that he would not enter upon an unjust war nor would he end a just one before he had humbled his enemies. He first of all directed his attention to Denmark. King Frederic IV.

Poland's King Dethroned

was compelled by the Peace of Travendal, on August 18th, 1700, to retire from the alliance and to acknowledge the independence of the Duke of Holstein-Gottorp. In the same year he inflicted a severe defeat upon Peter at Narva on November 30th; but instead of following up his victory he first attempted to crush his cousin Augustus, whom he bitterly hated. He accordingly advanced through Courland and Lithuania and conquered Warsaw and Cracow. Augustus was declared to have forfeited the crown of Poland and Stanislas Leszczynski was proclaimed king in 1704.

In the meantime Peter had been successful in the Baltic provinces, and had founded St. Petersburg in Ingermanland. Charles, however, remained several years in Poland in order to establish Stanislas in his kingdom, and then pressed on into Saxony, where Augustus the Strong was compelled by the Peace of Altranstädt in 1706 to renounce the Polish crown for himself and his descendants, to acknowledge Stanislas, and to withdraw from all his alliances. Charles stood now at the height of his glory. Louis XIV. made every endeavour to gain his assistance in the War of the Spanish Succession.

Charles, however, wished to overthrow Peter, the Tsar of Russia. But instead of advancing to St. Petersburg he marched towards the Ukraine to ally himself with the Cossack hetman Ivan Mazeppa, and afterwards to proceed to Moscow. Without waiting for reinforcements, which were on the way, he entered South Russia. The

Defeat and Flight of Charles XII.

Russians had in the meantime laid waste the country and defeated the general, Lewenhaupt, who was to have brought up the Swedish reinforcements; Mazeppa, however, whose treachery was discovered, came as a fugitive to the Swedish army. In spite of this Charles continued his march, and arrived at Poltava in spring. Peter hurried to the relief of the town, and gained a brilliant victory over Charles on July 8th, 1709; the king escaped with

difficulty, and fled with 500 followers across the Dnieper and the Bug into Turkish territory. The battle of Poltava decided the fate of the North; Russia had taken the place of Sweden as a great power.

The power of Sweden had begun to decline even before 1709. After the battle of Poltava, Frederic III. and Augustus II. renewed their alliance with Russia. Augustus drove Stanislas out of Poland. The Danes landed in Scania, which, however, they were soon compelled to leave. Peter, who had completed the conquest of the Baltic provinces, devastated Finland, while his fleet threatened the coast of Sweden. The majority of the German possessions had been lost. In this desperate situation the Council of State, in spite of the prohibition of the king, summoned the Riksdag, where dethronement was seriously considered. On hearing this, Charles, who had been in Turkey for five years, decided to return home. As "Captain Peter Frisch" he rode in sixteen days through Hungary and Germany, and arrived on November 22nd, 1714, at Stralsund, which was the last possession of the Swedes in Pomerania.

Charles the National Hero of Sweden

In the meantime Prussia, which was anxious to obtain Pomerania, and Hanover, which had bought Bremen and Verden—a conquest from the Danes—had attached themselves to the enemies of Sweden. After a heroic defence Charles was obliged to surrender Stralsund, which was besieged by the allies, and return to Sweden.

He assembled an army, which he took to Norway, in 1716, but he was compelled to return to Sweden. Two years later he made a second attempt to conquer Norway, and advanced against the fortress of Frederiksten near Frederikshald in Southern Norway. There, on the evening of December 11th, 1718, a bullet from the fortress put an end to his restless life. The siege was at once raised, and his brother-in-law, Frederic of Hesse, led the army back to Sweden. In spite of the misfortunes into which Sweden was plunged by his obstinacy Charles became the favourite national hero on account of his morality and his heroism, his contempt of death, and his marvellous victories. During his stay on the continent, and also after his return home, he worked zealously at reforming the government, and these reforms bear witness to his impartial sagacity.

HANS VON ZWIEDINECK-SÜDENHORST.



THE ENDING OF THE OLD ORDER THE FIFTY YEARS AFTER LOUIS XIV. THE BOURBON POWERS AND GREAT BRITAIN

THE Treaty of Utrecht and the death of Louis XIV. mark a definite epoch. For half a century France had pursued an aggressive policy which, if completely successful, would have made her the dictator of Europe. In spite of the disasters of the last great war, Louis so far achieved his primary object that a Bourbon instead of a Hapsburg was seated on the Spanish throne; the old-time fear of a great Hapsburg domination in Europe had given place to the fear of a Bourbon domination. But a Bourbon Union would never come forward as the champion of the papacy; the transition was completed by which commerce was to replace religion as the explicit motive in the contests of nations. Again, in achieving the hegemony of Europe, France had of necessity found the Hapsburgs her great rivals: in maintaining the hegemony, it was now Great Britain which threatened her power.

It was largely the accident of the ejection of the Stuarts from England, the accession of the Dutch stadtholder, and the support Louis gave to his exiled cousins, that had involved France and England in war; for the next century the most fundamental antagonism was to be that between French or Bourbon and British interests. There remained, indeed, sundry bones of contention, mainly in Italy and the Mediterranean, between Austria and Spain—the German Hapsburg power may now be definitely associated with the name of Austria—but the vital struggle was to be concerned with trans-oceanic supremacy. At the outset, however, the new conditions were not realised. The death of

Louis, in 1715, placed on the throne his great-grandchild, Louis XV., a sickly infant. In spite of renunciations, no one could feel any certainty that his uncle, now Philip V. of Spain, would not, after all, assert his claim to the succession if the child died; while under the existing instruments, Philip, Duke of Orleans, now

The Troubled Condition Of Europe

regent, was the heir-presumptive. Orleans wanted his claim secured as against Spain; the Hanoverian king of Great Britain wanted his secured against a Stuart restoration by French help; so the two governments mutually agreed to support each other. The dynastic connection between the two Bourbon thrones did not become a bond of political union till the prospect of an attempt to make them one had disappeared; and even then the helm of state in France, as in Britain, was in the hands of a Minister who had no mind to decide political issues by the arbitrament of war.

The recent struggle had borne much less heavily on the island power than on either France or Spain; but, for all three, peace and financial reorganisation were needed. In England both these ends were procured with success; for five-and-twenty years her warfare consisted in an abortive Jacobite rising and in occasional naval demonstrations, in the course of one of which she incidentally annihilated the Spanish fleet. From 1720 to 1739 Walpole persistently maintained a policy which treated the financial prosperity of the country as outweighing all other considerations, and the national wealth was immensely increased. In Spain, on the other hand, the marriage of King Philip

A New Era in Europe

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to Elizabeth Farnese introduced a spirited foreign policy directed primarily against Austria in Italy. The Minister Alberoni endeavoured at the same time to revive the Spanish sea power, but his efforts were wrecked by a premature collision with

Britain's Check To Spain's Naval Ambitions

the British squadron in the Mediterranean, off Cape Passaro. In consequence of this war, the Sicilies passed under Hapsburg dominion in 1720; though a few years later, in the course of territorial exchanges springing from the war of the Polish succession, a branch of the Spanish Bourbons was established on the Neapolitan throne. But this general misdirection of Spanish activities did not tend to strengthen resources which required to be carefully husbanded.

Meanwhile, France, like Great Britain, was avoiding wars of an exhausting kind. The Orleans régime was demoralising to the character of the upper classes from its extreme licentiousness; the noblesse was very distinctly on a downward grade, and in this respect matters were not improved when the king himself was old enough to become the real centre of the court. About 1727, the septuagenarian Cardinal Fleury became first Minister. In conjunction with Walpole, Fleury directed his efforts to maintaining European peace, but he was less successful than the English Minister in keeping his country entirely clear of war. He, however, accomplished the rapprochement with Spain which was expressed in the secret Family Compact of 1733, directed against Austria and Great Britain, of which the primary design, based on the knowledge of Walpole's intense aversion to war, was to act diplomatically or otherwise against Austria, and then take in hand an isolated England.

It was fortunate for the latter that the fundamental necessity of overwhelming her sea-power escaped the Bourbon plotters. Consequently, when the violence of popular excitement forced the governments of Great Britain and Spain into war

against their will in 1739, Great Britain was always able to hold her own, with the more security, because this naval "War of Jenkins' Ear" was soon merged into a Continental struggle—the "War of the Austrian Succession," which absorbed most of the energies of France, wherefrom the naval power reaped the usual advantage.

The opportunity for attacking Austria came first through the question of the succession to the crown of Poland. The monarchy of that country was elective. Stanislas Leszczynski, the father of the French king's wife, was the popular candidate; Augustus of Saxony, the son of the last king, was favoured by Austria and Russia. Louis consequently had a personal interest in the question, while Spain had none, so far as Poland was concerned; but the Bourbons might gain something from a war with Austria, which, if it did nothing else, would loosen the bond between Austria and Great Britain, since Walpole might be safely relied upon to abstain from active intervention.

The war was carried on without energy or marked ability in any quarter, but not without a considerable drain on the resources of the armies of all the combatants, while Walpole, content to exercise mere diplomatic pressure, husbanded the national wealth of Great Britain. The ultimate result was that the Austrian candidate got Poland, and Austria got from the powers a perfectly valueless guarantee of the "Pragmatic Sanction," which was to secure the whole of the Hapsburg succession to the emperor's daughter Maria Theresa. In Italy, however, she transferred the Sicilies to a Bourbon dynasty, and received Parma and Piacenza; Tuscany was transferred to the Duke of Lorraine, Maria Theresa's husband. He in exchange handed Lorraine over to Stanislas by way of compensation for the loss of Poland, and France got so much of clear profit, since this meant that she acquired Lorraine. The time was certainly not yet ripe for



LOUIS XV. OF FRANCE

He was little more than an infant when the death of his great-grandfather, Louis XIV., in 1714 left to him the throne of France. He lived a life of excess and debauchery, and he died from an attack of smallpox in 1774.

Bartering European Territory

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the Bourbons to make an open attack on Great Britain; but events proved too strong for the governments concerned. The colonial and commercial policy initiated by Colbert early in the reign of Louis XIV. had planted French settlements in rivalry to those of the British, both in India and in North America. That the competition in India would be brought to the decision of the sword had hardly occurred to French or English statesmen, though in America that event was growing more and more conspicuously imminent. Holland had already fallen out of the race, and an acute observer might have recognised that a decisive struggle between France and Great Britain was as inevitable as any political event can be. On the other hand, the causes of friction between Spain and England were more obvious and palpable, though in their nature there was nothing new. From the days of Elizabeth, Spain had maintained her monopoly in South America by restrictions and regulations which English sailors had always endeavoured to evade or defy. There was an eternal cross-fire of charges and counter-charges; of illegal trading by Englishmen, of illegal exercise of powers by Spanish officials.

The diplomatists in 1739 found themselves face to face with an outburst of popular sentiment in both countries which they were wholly unable to control. Walpole, in spite of his apprehension that Spain would be joined by France—information had reached him of the Family Compact—and his conviction that the combination would be too strong for Great Britain, was forced to declare war, amid national jubilation. Great as a peace Minister, he was wholly unfitted to grapple with the conduct of a war, and the naval operations were marked by an inefficiency which was not absolutely disastrous only because the Spanish inefficiency was equally conspicuous. The process of "muddling along" gradually brought to the front commanders

who were able to make use of the incomparably superior material of the British Navy, and to ensure its ascendancy; but it was well for England that Fleury had neglected to make the French fleet capable of effective intervention.

In fact, French attention was absorbed by events in another quarter. The Emperor Charles VI. died; according to the Pragmatic Sanction, his daughter was to succeed to all the Hapsburg dominions, and it had been the emperor's aim to secure the election to the imperial crown also for her husband. But the Elector of Bavaria claimed the succession to Bohemia and became a candidate for the empire. The renouncing of Austria would provide spoils for various powers, who found no difficulty in producing technical excuses for breaking their pledges.

The attack was opened by Frederic of Prussia, who seized Silesia on a flimsy pretext. France promised her support to the Bavarian Elector. British and Hanoverian interests alike brought Hanoverian troops and British subsidies to the support of Maria Theresa; Spain, of course, took her stand on the other side.

The events of the war need not be detailed. From a British point of view, the complete success with which Commodore Martin imposed neutrality upon Naples, and the gallantly fought battles of Dettingen and Fontenoy, are its most interesting episodes, apart from the last Jacobite rising in 1745, which is described elsewhere. The heterogeneous combination against Austria had no common aims. Frederic of Prussia left the allies when Maria Theresa abandoned Silesia to him. In the early campaigns neither French nor Bavarian armies generally distinguished themselves, though in the later stages of the war the French Marshal Maurice of Saxony, commonly known as Marshal Saxe, showed himself perhaps the ablest of the commanders after Frederic of Prussia. It is curious to observe that until 1744



DUKE OF ORLEANS
Philip of Orleans became regent when the crown of France fell to Louis XV., and remained in that office till his death in 1723.



CARDINAL FLEURY
When Louis XV. took the government into his own hands, Fleury became his chief adviser. Against his will, he was drawn into the War of the Austrian Succession.



THE BATTLE OF FONTENOY IN THE WAR OF THE AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION

In this battle, fought on May 11th, 1745, at the Belgian village of Fontenoy, near Tournay, the French, under Marshal Saxe, were opposed by a smaller allied army of British, Dutch and Austrians, under the Duke of Cumberland. When several direct attacks against the French had failed, Cumberland formed, most of his British and Hanoverian troops into a single column 4,000 strong and advanced. He was, however, not supported by the Dutch, and was compelled to retire, having lost 4,000 men.

From the painting by Felix Philippoteaux in the Victoria and Albert Museum

THE BOURBON POWERS AND GREAT BRITAIN

France and Great Britain were not nominally at war with each other, while each took the field as "auxiliary" of one of the principal combatants. In that year Frederic again joined the allies, to desert them again before the close of 1745.

The French arms were persistently successful under Marshal Saxe in the Netherlands, and those of Austria in Italy. The assertion of British naval predominance brought about the capture of Louisburg on the St. Lawrence, and would probably have had decisive effects on the struggle which Duplex had begun in India if the powers, all alike weary of the war, had not terminated it in 1748 by the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle. Frederic had won Silesia, and Maria Theresa had lost it. Otherwise, the peace practically restored all conquests on all hands. There had been an enormous expenditure of life and of money with insignificant result. Before a decade had passed, another conflagration was raging which concluded very differently. The War of the Austrian Succession had decided nothing except the facts that Prussia was a first-class military power, and that there

The Balance of Power in Europe

would be no more attacks on the established dynasty in England. The combinations of the Powers, however, were to be on entirely new lines. In the first place, Spain retired altogether under a pacific king, Ferdinand; the aggressive influence of Elizabeth Farnese came to an end with his accession. In the second place, the exhibition of Prussia's developed power had created alarm and jealousy, while the loss of Silesia had filled Maria Theresa with vengeful feelings, and Frederic's personality had excited the keen animosity of two other important dames—the Tsarina, and Mme. de Pompadour, who now ruled Louis.

In the third place, the issue between French and British, both in India and in America, grew more and more acute. Hence it became certain that when war did break out France and Great Britain would be on opposite sides, and Austria and Prussia would be on opposite sides. How the partners would pair off, however, remained uncertain. But while Great Britain, under the incompetent Newcastle, merely drifted into alliance with Frederic, Austria deliberately sought the French alliance, in defiance of all tradition, while Louis was influenced thereto partly by the Pompadour, partly by the superstition that he could square the account with Heaven for

his private vices by supporting the Catholic Austria against the Protestant Prussia. Here we are concerned mainly with those aspects of the Seven Years War which especially affected the Franco-British rivalry; and even among these, the events which took place actually in India or in America have been or will be treated at length in other parts of this work. But while the details in various fields of the great struggle can best be thus dealt with in isolation, we shall also find it most convenient to set forth here the relation in which the several contests stood to each other.

French and British had to finish in India a duel, the result of which had already become a foregone conclusion, while the French and British governments had been at peace and the rival companies were fighting out their quarrel as auxiliaries of rival native potentates. Nothing but the mastery of the seas could now have given the victory to France. The genius of Montcalm and the lack of organised cohesion among the British Colonies in America made the issue there more doubtful, until British naval superiority cut the French off from aid out of France.

The one chance for France in the duel was to devote her whole energies to matching her rival on the sea. But her energies were divided, while those of Great Britain were concentrated. England's wealth enabled her to supply her ally Frederic with the sinews of war of which he was sorely in need. Thus aided, his genius enabled him to make head against the seemingly overwhelming circle of his foes; France exhausted her resources in launching against him the great armies which were shattered by him or by his lieutenant Ferdinand of Brunswick at Rosbach and Crefeldt and Minden. The quality of the French armies, and especially of its aristocratic commanders, had grievously degenerated since the days of Louis XIV.

Pitt's Inspiring Genius

On the other hand, when the stupid incompetence under which Great Britain entered on the war was replaced by the inspiring genius of Pitt, officers and men by land and by sea showed themselves worthy of the highest traditions of the nation. France had created a navy during the years of peace, but the two great fleets from Toulon and Brest were both annihilated in 1759 off Lagos and at Quiberon; the British

squadrons swept the seas unchallenged. Even if Wolfe had failed before Quebec, British reinforcements would ultimately have prevailed over Montcalm in his isolation. When it was altogether too late, a new king in Spain returned to the principles of the Bourbon Family Compact in support of France, but the only effect was

Britain the Mistress of the Seas

to place the Spanish settlements at the mercy of British fleets. It seemed merely a question of time before every French or Spanish island should fall a prey to the mistress of the seas, when the new king, George III., and his Minister, Bute, resolved to terminate the war at the price of the most recent conquests, and to leave their stubborn Prussian ally deserted—for which he never forgave them. Fortunately, however, some of his foes had already retired, and the rest were too exhausted to continue a struggle in which their superior numbers had been repeatedly overmatched by Frederic's genius.

The character of the Seven Years War, which opened with the successful attack of the French upon Minorca in 1756, and ended with the Treaties of Paris and Hubertsburg in 1763, was determined mainly by two factors. First, Great Britain deliberately and consciously fought, not for the balance of power in Europe, which had dominated international politics since the days of Wolsey, but for trans-oceanic empire, conditioned by naval supremacy; whereas France divided her energies.

In the second place, the problem of the balance of power had itself changed, because the Hapsburgs no longer dominated Central Europe; Prussia had appeared as an effective rival—so effective that France was ready to help her old rival to recover her old predominance in order to crush the new Power. But a third feature was that Russia now began to play a much more direct and prominent part in the affairs of Western Europe than she had hitherto

Russia's Advance in Power

done—a position from which she was not again to recede. Incidentally also the fact was marked that Spain, Holland, and Sweden would thenceforth be unable to take more than subordinate places.

The result of the war was decisive in favour of Great Britain as concerned the supremacy of the British race—though subsequently divided—beyond and upon the seas; and in favour of Prussia as securing her equality with Austria; while France was further

than ever from that hegemony of the west which Louis XIV. had seemed to attain. The "Grand Monarque" appeared to have achieved his object when the Spanish crown was accepted for his grandson Philip on the death of Charles "the Bewitched" of Spain, and he could declare that "the Pyrenees no longer existed."

The war of the succession would have taken a different course if he had not proceeded to convert England into a most energetic, instead of a very doubtful opponent, by his recognition of the Chevalier as James III., an act which dispelled the apathy of England as a nation to the war, for the recollection of their unhappy condition under James II. and his predecessor, Charles, made the people determined to resist to the utmost any attempt to restore the Stuarts to power; and, disastrous as the war proved, it left the Bourbons in possession of Spain as well as of France. Circumstances, however, prevented the Bourbon combination from becoming a consolidated force. The Bourbon was King of Spain, but its ruler was Elizabeth Farnese, whose horizon was limited by her

Spain's Peaceful Progress

Italian ambitions and her desire to secure a great inheritance not for her stepsons, the heirs of the Spanish throne, but for her own offspring. A Spain perpetually plunging into every war which gave her a pretext for attacking Austria had no chance of restoring her finances and reorganising her administration so as to play an ambitious part with any effect. It was not till Elizabeth's stepson Ferdinand ascended the throne, and her influence was lost, that Spain, in a decade of peace, was able to make real material progress. Hence, the Family Compact was, in fact, infinitely less dangerous to either of the powers against which it was aimed than it might have been made by cool-headed statesmanship.

But the main fabric which Louis XIV. had built up, grandiose, magnificent to outward view, was deficient in real strength. Building on Richelieu's foundations, he had concentrated the state in the monarchy. The power of the crown was absolute beyond all European precedent, and administration had been in the hands of men selected by their king—whether judiciously or otherwise—on account of their fitness, not on account of their birth. Louis XIV. had, in fact, inclined to follow the precedent of the Tudors in England, in giving a preference to servants who did not belong to the



FAVOURITES OF LOUIS XV.: THE YOUNG FRENCH KING IN THE COMPANY OF HIS FRIENDS
Reproduced by permission of Braun, Clement et Cie.

old aristocracy. Under his successor, Louis the Well-beloved, the aristocracy, to a great extent, recovered their hold on administration, whereby efficiency was greatly impaired. Thus, the chiefs of the armies which took the field against Frederic II. and Ferdinand of Brunswick were of a type utterly inferior to that of the antagonists of William III. and Marlborough. Again, sheer absolutism can be successful only when the monarch himself is either a man of high capacities or is endowed with a happy faculty for selecting able Ministers. Louis XIV. was tolerably qualified in both respects, Louis XV. in neither. It is true that France owed a good deal to Fleury, though the close of his career was marked by ill-success very much like Walpole's in England; but Louis was a mere boy when he bestowed the office of first Minister on his aged tutor, whom he had enough intelligence to love and respect.

After Fleury died, at the age of ninety-three, Louis tried to emulate his great-grandfather and be his own first Minister, of which the practical outcome was that the king's mistress—the most important of the series was the Pompadour—was virtually the mistress of France; though the king might, and frequently did, carry on political intriguing of his own behind her

back, while she was intriguing behind the backs of Ministers. It was a curious freak of popular favour which gave him the title of *Bien-aimé*, the "Well-beloved," on his recovery from an illness, while he was still a young man—in his later years the epithet would have been fitted to him only in bitter irony. The crown, with no diminution of its absolutism, was already being rendered contemptible; the series of national fiascoes and disasters which reached their culminating stage between 1758 and 1763 ruined its prestige. In France, even the large element of bombast and theatricality which characterised Louis XIV. had rather increased than diminished the force with which the Monarchy appealed to the popular imagination; but the splendours of Louis XV. were palpable tinsel. The prestige of the aristocracy, which had stood high under the old king, when merit was in demand, was destroyed by the incompetence, and more than incompetence, of conspicuous members of the order, when merit ceased to count.

The better men among the noblesse were alive to the decadence, but were unable to counteract it. The reign of Louis the Well-beloved was sapping the foundations both of monarchy and of aristocracy, and was making France ready for the Revolution.



THE VICTORIOUS FRENCH AFTER THE BATTLE OF FONTENOY

Marshal Saxe, who is shown seated on his white palfrey in the picture, was in command of the French army at the battle of Fontenoy in 1745, against which the Duke of Cumberland and his British and Hanoverian troops marched in vain.

From the painting by Horace Verneŕ

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
ENDING
OF THE
OLD ORDER
GREAT BRITAIN
II

GREAT BRITAIN UNDER THE WHIGS AND THE EARLIER GEORGIAN PERIOD

THE German prince who succeeded Anne on the British throne, and his son after him, were men of narrow understanding, unpopular in their adopted country, and more interested in the fortunes of Hanover than in those of the kingdom to which they were indebted for wealth and consideration. Owing to ignorance of the English language they dropped the custom of personal attendance at the meetings of the Cabinet, which thus acquired a new independence and consideration. Their power was shown chiefly in the choice of Ministers. Although the practical impossibility of ruling without a parliamentary majority was now admitted, the king had still considerable freedom in choosing between the rival leaders of the predominant party. At an early date the Whigs broke up into groups, which were held together by family influence or personal considerations. By a skilful use of the jealousies which separated these groups, the king could often assert his personal ideas. George I. did not care. He disliked the English; he asked nothing better than to be left to his mistresses and his potations. He would have nothing to do with the Tories; but he was content with any Whig Ministers who could secure him in the enjoyment of an ample civil list, and his family in the succession to the Crown. Such a Ministry, however, he did not obtain at the first attempt. That formed in 1714, under the leadership of Townsend and Stanhope, contained but one man of marked ability; and Robert Walpole was at first only the Paymaster of the Forces. He rose, however, in 1715, to be Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the real brain of the administration.

The stolid acquiescence of the country at large in the establishment of the Hanoverian dynasty was sufficiently demonstrated by the apathy with which an attempt at a Jacobite restoration was

received in this year. The death of Louis XIV. destroyed any possible prospects of French assistance; nevertheless, the Earl of Mar raised some of the clans in Scotland, and some county gentlemen, headed by Thomas Forster and the Earl of Derwentwater raised the Jacobite standard in England. The English rising collapsed ignominiously at Preston; on the same day Mar fought a drawn battle with Argyle at Sheriff Muir, after which the Scottish rising also fell to pieces.

The Cabinet, having weathered the insurrection, provided against any sudden reaction of popular feeling in England and Scotland by the Septennial Act in 1716, which extended the maximum duration of Parliament from three years to seven. The Act was so worded as to cover the Parliament by which it was passed, and a general election was thus postponed to quieter times. But a personal quarrel between Walpole and Stanhope led to Walpole's secession; he became the leader of the Parliamentary Opposition.

In 1720 the Government was fatally compromised by the failure of the South Sea Bubble, a scheme for vesting the English rights of trade with the Spanish colonies in a single chartered company. The South Sea Bubble was the outcome of one of those manias for speculation to which commercial communities are particularly liable in the first stages of their development; and France suffered in this same year from a financial crisis produced by the collapse of Laws' Mississippi Company.

But the English Government, or certain members of it, had connived at the tricks by which the price of the South-Sea stock was inflated to excess; their conduct incurred the greater odium because the company had been founded under the protection and guarantee of the State. They fell ignominiously; and Walpole, admittedly the first

**The King's
Dislike of
the English**

**Collapse
of Jacobite
Risings**

**Walpole's
Genius in
Time of Panic**



KING GEORGE I. IN HIS CORONATION ROBES

A great-grandson of James I. of England, George I., who had been Elector of Hanover since 1698, was proclaimed King of Great Britain, according to the Act of Settlement, on the death of Queen Anne in 1714. Though king he took little part in the government of the country, the affairs of which were in the able hands of Sir Robert Walpole, and, his affections remaining with Hanover, he lived there as much as possible. He died at Osnaabrück in 1727.

financier of the age, was called into power that he might minimise the consequences of the crisis. The skill with which he wound up the company assured his popularity.

Walpole earned further gratitude from the commercial classes by a policy of peace and retrenchment, and by reforming to some extent the customs tariff. The country had inherited from the past a number of import duties of which the majority impeded trade without increasing the revenue. By abolishing these

Walpole took the first step towards free trade. His power was in danger at the death of the old king, in 1727, for although the Prince of Wales and Walpole had acted together when Walpole was in opposition, their friendship had been destroyed by Walpole's rise to power. But there was no other Whig who fulfilled the necessary conditions for the first place in the Cabinet. Walpole was continued in office, not through choice, but of necessity, until he succeeded in capturing the ear of



THE BURSTING OF THE SOUTH-SEA BUBBLE: THE SCENE IN CHANGE ALLEY DURING THE FINANCIAL BOOM

The South-Sea Bubble was the name given to a scheme propounded by a company of merchants, embodied as the South-Sea Company, to buy up all the debts due by the government to other companies; and, as the company itself had not sufficient capital for that purpose, the government offered it the means by issuing lists of subscriptions, or share lists, for carrying out a scheme for trading to the South Seas. It secured a most promising enterprise in the hope of obtaining a good return on the money with the company. Then the grand scheme collapsed, a financial panic followed, and the company's directors were punished.

From the painting by F. M. Ward, R.A. at the National Gallery.

Caroline, the queen of George II. The king's marital infidelities were gross and numerous; but the influence of the queen was supreme in political affairs, and her alliance with Walpole, continued without a break until her death in 1737, secured the Minister against court intrigues. Walpole is the first Prime Minister in the modern sense of the word. In practice he discarded the theory that all Ministers of the Crown were on an equality, and entitled to differ as they pleased upon political questions. In his Cabinet Walpole would have none but subordinates. One by one his ablest colleagues were forced to leave the Ministry because they would not bow to his wishes, and in time the novel spectacle was to be seen of a Whig government suffering from the attacks of a Whig Opposition. Carteret and Pulteney, the chief of these disappointed rivals, were abler speakers and more brilliant politicians than the Minister. But Walpole rested secure in the confidence of the commercial classes and in the possession of a parliamentary majority. He has been reproached with inventing a system of parliamentary corruption. The charge



THE GREAT WALPOLE
Sir Robert Walpole was the first Prime Minister in the modern sense of the word. When he retired in 1742 he was created Earl of Orford.

is unfair, for the House of Commons had been corrupt before the Revolution, and still more so in the reign of William III. Walpole's bribery was more remarkable for success than for originality, and the sums which he spent on this purpose have been grossly exaggerated.

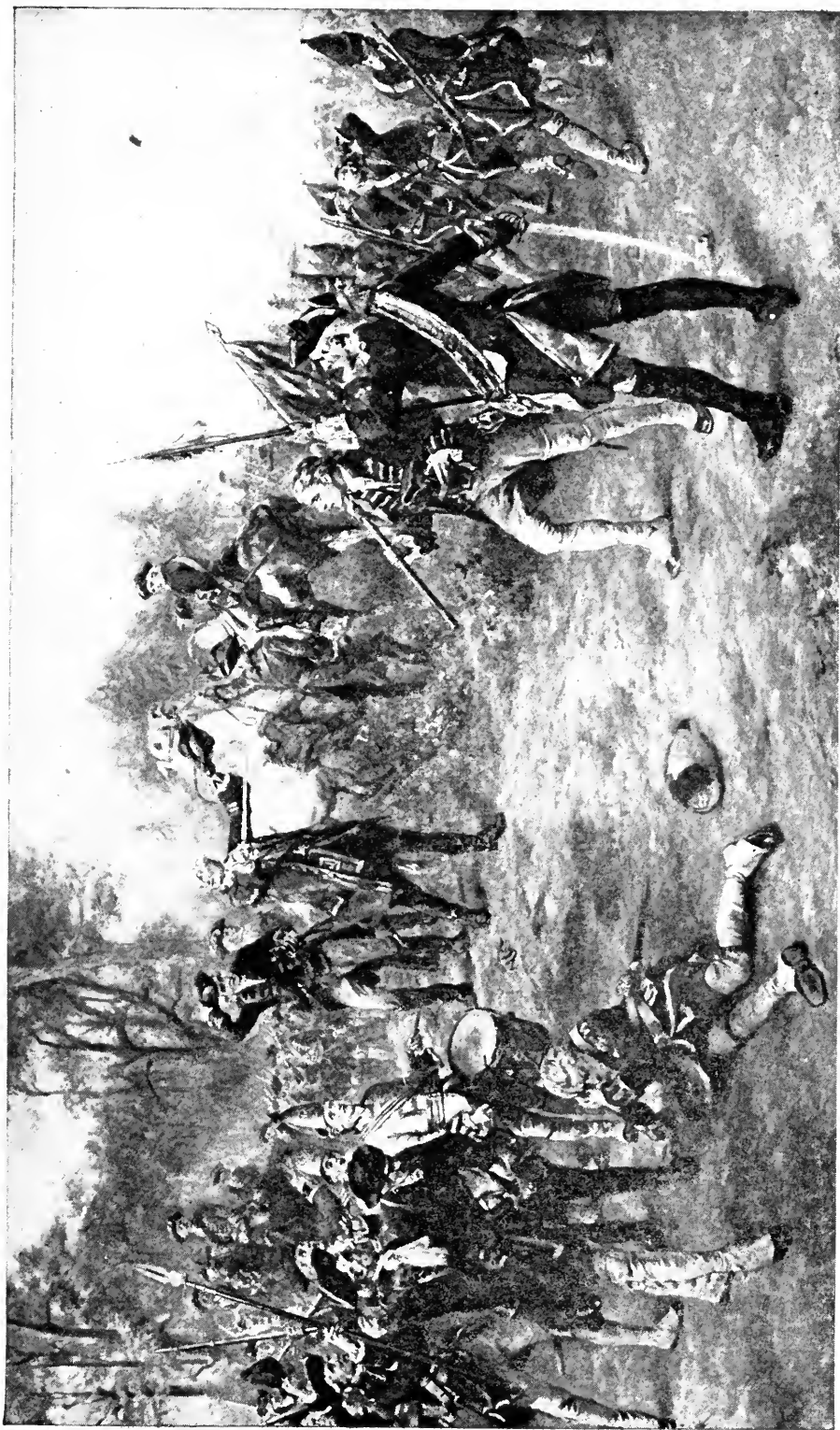
Even in the early eighteenth century the opinions of the House of Commons were largely influenced by the state of public feeling. The votes for which Walpole

paid in cash and places were only his while he remained popular out of doors. In the end he lost his majority through the opposition of the merchant class, whose Minister he had been in a peculiar sense. For this class peace and retrenchment might do much, but a part of what they desired could be secured only by war.

Spain resented the commercial clauses in the Treaty of Utrecht, the more so because English traders in American waters contrived to extract from the treaty larger advantages than the framers of the treaty had ever contemplated. Stanhope and Sunderland had guarded against Spanish designs by a Triple Alliance with France and Holland, in 1716. Walpole



GEORGE II. OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
The earlier years of the reign of this monarch have been described as "the most prosperous period that England had ever known." He succeeded his father, in 1727, as King of Great Britain and Ireland, and died suddenly at Kensington on October 25th, 1760.
After the painting by R. E. Pine



THE LAST BRITISH SOVEREIGN IN BATTLE: KING GEORGE II. AT THE BATTLE OF DETTINGEN, IN THE YEAR 1743
Britain was involved in the War of the Austrian Succession, and at the battle of Dettingen, June 10th, 1743, George II. was at the head of the British and Hanoverian troops, this being the last occasion on which a British sovereign commanded an army in the field. The victory of the British arms was more creditable to the gallantry of the king than to his military skill.
From the painting by Robert Hillingford

endeavoured to continue this policy, and believed that he might count implicitly upon the pacific intentions of the French Minister, Cardinal Fleury. But Fleury's influence was not always supreme in the councils of Louis XV.; and in 1733 a family compact was secretly concluded between the Bourbons of Spain and France with the direct object of curtailing the maritime supremacy of England.

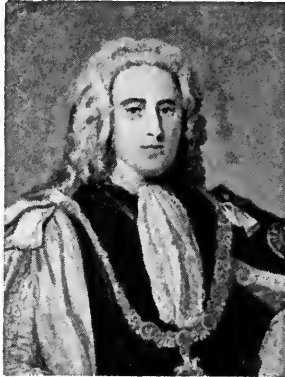
The result of the compact was soon apparent in more vigorous attempts on the part of Spain to repress the trade which English smugglers had developed with the Spanish colonies. The Spanish government began to assert the right of searching English ships on the high seas, and treated suspected crews with unjustifiable severity. The story of a certain Captain Jenkins, who had lost an ear in an affray with Spanish coastguards, raised a tempest of indignation in the country. Walpole, though convinced that the war would be disastrous, since he believed that the country would be unable to cope with the expected combination of the French and Spanish powers, bowed to the will of the country and undertook the management of the war. But he was vigorously denounced in the Press by Bolingbroke, whom, with rare forbearance, he had permitted to return to England, and in Parliament by the rival Whigs whom he had evicted from office. He showed no ability as a War Minister; his great mainstay, Queen Caroline, was dead; the hostile forces were united in their animosity towards him. For these reasons his party dissolved. He resigned in 1741; and the management of the war devolved on his successor Carteret (1742-1744).

The retirement of Walpole inaugurates a new phase in British foreign policy; we may call it the colonial phase. Colonies, sea power, and sea trade had been among the objects for which England fought in the Stuart and revolutionary epochs;

but the usual tendency had been to regard these objects as subordinate to the time-honoured aim of preserving the European balance. In the period now to be surveyed the balance is still a consideration; with Carteret and George II. it was the decisive consideration. But it rapidly fell into the background, and the attention of the middle classes and of the ablest Ministers was soon concentrated upon North America and India. In British history the period of colonial wars includes a struggle between the component parts of the constitution. There is an attempt to reverse the Revolution settlement and to restore the old predominance of the king over Parliament. This struggle is in part responsible for the reverses which Britain experienced in the colonial period; and the loss of America caused it to be terminated in favour of Parliament.

There is, therefore, a close connection between foreign policy and domestic history, but it is a connection which becomes intimate only when the struggle with France is far advanced. At the beginning of the period British history is merely the history of a war.

Carteret, the successor of Walpole, was unique among the politicians of the day in his mastery of the German situation. This gained him the ear of George II., and the two combined to involve the country in the War of the Austrian Succession. Public feeling was with them because they took the side opposed to that of France. But their object was to shield Hanover against France and Prussia, to preserve the integrity of the Austrian dominions, and to maintain the balance in Germany; the nation, on the other hand, regarded the war chiefly in its colonial bearings. Hence the subsidies which the Minister lavished upon German princes soon occasioned biting criticisms, and William Pitt won his spurs by attacking Carteret in the House of Commons. "This great,



DUKE OF NEWCASTLE
A supporter of Walpole, he succeeded his brother, Henry Pelham, as Premier in 1754. He retired in 1756, but became Prime Minister again in 1757, and died in 1768.



CAPTAIN ANSON
Like another Drake, this famous voyager circumnavigated the globe, plundering the Spanish colonies and merchant fleets. In 1761 he became Admiral of the Fleet.

GREAT BRITAIN UNDER THE WHIGS

this powerful, this formidable kingdom," said the future confederate of Frederic II., "is now considered only as a province to a despicable Electorate." The victory of Dettingen, in 1743, more creditable to the personal gallantry of George II. than to his skill as a general, did not pacify the Opposition. Carteret, though a brilliant debater, failed to convince the country that his plans were sound, and failed also to redeem their defects by discovering successful generals. He was forced to retire in 1744, and the management of affairs passed to his former colleagues, the Pelhams. The Pelhams were poor diplomats, and as War Ministers beneath contempt. But their enormous influence and their skill in party management enabled them to keep a working majority.

Henry Pelham, the Prime Minister, took into the government all the Tories who might have been dangerous. The opposition which he had to encounter came chiefly from his fellow Ministers, and mattered little, since the Duke of Newcastle, his brother, kept the Commons well in hand. The chief care of the brothers was to extricate themselves from the war. They helped Austria with subsidies alone, and, in 1745, concluded a separate peace with Prussia which compelled Maria Theresa to acquiesce in the loss of Silesia.

But the war with France continued, and went badly. An English army was defeated at Fontenoy in 1745, and the Duke of Cumberland shared with the allies the humiliation of Lauffeld in 1747; nor were the successes of the navy conspicuous. The remarkable voyage in which Captain Anson (1740-1744) circumnavigated the globe, like another Drake, plundering the Spanish colonies and merchant fleets, was a feat of more brilliance than profit to the

country. Under the Pelhams nothing was effected at sea except the capture of Cape Breton, in 1745, and the destruction of two French squadrons. The commerce of France suffered by the war, but her losses were of a temporary character. Both

army and navy had deteriorated under the peace administration of Walpole, and the government was further hampered by the Scottish rebellion. Hence, little was gained by the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748. England and France resigned their conquests, the Pretender was expelled from France, and the French recognised the Hanoverian Succession. It was a truce rather than a peace. But the Pelhams made the mistake of counting upon a lengthy peace, and began to reduce the strength of the army and navy.

In Great Britain, the most important feature of a war, otherwise lacking in significant results, was the episode of "the Forty-five." Jacobitism made its last serious attempt in that year, led by the young "Pretender" (*i.e.*, claimant),

Charles Edward Stuart. Without hope of foreign aid, the prince landed almost alone, in the west of Scotland. The passionate loyalty of chiefs and clansmen placed him at the head of an army of Highlanders. Edinburgh fell into his hands; the camp of the government commander, Sir John Cope, was surprised and his forces were put to ignominious rout. A few weeks later, Charles was over the Border, marching on London, where wild panic prevailed. But when he reached Derby, counsels of prudence or despair triumphed. The

English Jacobites had not risen; the gathering armies of the government were bound to annihilate his force if he advanced, unless something like a miracle happened. From the moment the retreat began, the cause was hopelessly lost.



"THE OLD PRETENDER"

The son of James II. of England and of his second queen, Mary of Modena, James Francis Edward failed in his efforts to win back the throne from which his father had been driven.



"THE YOUNG PRETENDER"

Prince Charles Edward Stuart, son of "the Old Pretender," was quite as unsuccessful as his father in his attempts upon the Crown, though he aroused the love and enthusiasm of the Scottish people.



CHARLES EDWARD STUART, "BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE"

There is no more romantic story in history than that of the young Stuart prince who fought in vain for the throne of his forefathers. If the devotion and enthusiasm of friends could have achieved the triumph of his cause, then "Bonnie Prince Charlie" would have succeeded; but the nation as a whole had no desire to bring back the Stuart dynasty. Prince Charles landed in Scotland from France in 1745, held court at Holyrood, defeated Cope at Prestonpans, and with 6,500 men marched into England. At Culloden on April 16th, 1746, his cause received its death-blow.

From the painting by John Pettie, R.A., photographed by Caswall Smith

GREAT BRITAIN UNDER THE WHIGS

In spite of a severe defeat inflicted on General Hawley, at Falkirk, Charles had to withdraw into the Highlands. Thither the Duke of Cumberland pursued him; the last hopes of the Stuarts were extinguished on the Field of Culloden, and with them the last hopes of the Scottish patriots who still hankered for separation from England. The government, indeed, aroused considerable indignation even among loyalists by the severity of the treatment which it meted out to the rebels. But the Highlands, where alone a new rebellion might be

From 1746 the history of Scotland was one of increasing prosperity and of brilliant intellectual development. The historian and philosopher Hume; Adam Smith, the founder of economic science; James Thomson, the poet of Nature; Macpherson, the editor and forger of the Ossianic poems—these are perhaps the best known figures of this northern renaissance. But they were supported by other writers and thinkers of more than respectable merit; and the day was not far distant when Burns and Scott were to express in their different manners the quintessence of the national character.



AFTER CULLODEN: PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD A FUGITIVE IN THE HIGHLANDS

Defeated by the Duke of Cumberland at Culloden, "the Young Pretender" fled to the Western Highlands, where, surrounded by loyal friends, chief among whom was the heroine Flora Macdonald, he evaded capture. After five months' wandering, he escaped to France. The above picture represents the Stuart prince sleeping in a cave on the hillside, while his faithful Highlanders stand by on guard, a reward of \$150,000 having been offered for his capture.

apprehended, were disarmed; and the power of the chiefs was undermined by an act abolishing their jurisdictions.

The clansmen murmured against the new rule of peace and law, but the only possible escape lay in emigration to the New World, or enlistment under the colours of the British army. Both courses were extensively adopted; and if, on the one hand, emigrants contributed to the bitterness of the feud between England and the colonies, on the other hand, the Highland regiments, raised by the elder Pitt, became a most valuable element in the British army.

The Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle separated England from Austria, the one ally to whom she had been bound by all the ties of interest; for Maria Theresa bitterly resented the pressure which the Pelhams had put upon her to secure her concurrence in the European settlement. And France presumed upon English isolation. Both in North America and in India the pioneers of French colonisation waged unremitting war upon the interests of England. In the New World attempts were made to form a cordon of French forts extending from Canada to Louisiana,

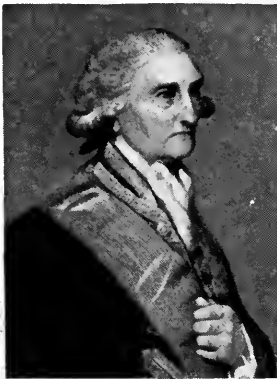
in order that the British might be confined to the eastern littoral; and the colonists of Nova Scotia had cause to complain of French aggressions. Meanwhile Duplex, the French representative in India, used the feuds and dynastic wars of native states to extend his country's influence throughout the Province of Madras. In 1751 there was open war between the British and French for the ascendancy in the Carnatic. The crisis brought Robert Clive to the front, and after his achievement at Arcot British predominance in the south of India was very soon assured.

This success, however, momentous as it proved in the future, did not allay the anxiety of the British Parliament. The interests of commerce formed at this time the all-engrossing topic of debate. There was a general feeling of insecurity. Ministers did not command the confidence of the country, or even of the members who voted for their measures. Many critics asserted that the Whig system of government by corruption had sapped the national morale and energy. Nothing, it was thought, but a great war, conducted by a man of genius, could save the country from the fatal lethargy which had overtaken it. War broke out in America in 1754, and found Ministers unprepared. The death of Henry Pelham left Newcastle confused and irresolute. He could barely manage the selfish groups into which the Whig party was



ADAM SMITH
A Scottish political economist, he won fame by his "Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations"—a book which influenced the legislation of the period.

The war he was incapable of managing. His nominee, General Braddock, was defeated and killed on the way to Fort Duquesne in 1755; the Ohio and Mississippi seemed to be lost for ever. Outside Parliament there was the greatest readiness to help the Ministry by private effort. A loan of \$5,000,000 was subscribed three times over as soon as floated; large bounties were paid for recruits out of voluntary subscriptions. Newcastle hit by accident upon the popular means of satisfying popular demands. In 1756, by concluding with Prussia an agreement



TWO FAMOUS ADMIRALS: RODNEY AND HAWKE
These brave seamen reasserted the maritime supremacy of England by the victories of Quiberon and Lagos, the destruction of Cherbourg, and the bombardment of Havre. Rodney was created a peer with a pension of \$10,000 a year. Lord Hawke, in 1766, was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, and in 1768 became Admiral of the Fleet.



PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM
William Pitt, the great statesman, made his mark in the government of England during a critical period of its history. He was raised to the peerage as Lord Chatham in 1766.

which was really, though not avowedly, directed against France, he prepared an adequate resistance to the coalition of France and Austria, which was forming under the auspices of Kaunitz. But the failure of Byng at Minorca, the capture of Oswego Fort by Montcalm, the fall of Calcutta before Surajah Dowlah in 1756, were events which seemed to stamp his administration as hopelessly inefficient, and to seal the doom of the colonial policy.

At this juncture he discovered in William Pitt the necessary War Minister. Pitt had been Paymaster of the Forces for a time, but his voice had been chiefly heard in opposition. He was without private influence or official experience; he was known chiefly as a brilliant debater and rhetorician. But he commanded the confidence of the people, and soon showed that



ADMIRAL RODNEY BOMBARDING THE FRENCH TOWN OF HAVRE IN 1759
Anchoring before Havre in the month of July, Admiral Rodney bombarded the town, setting it on fire in several places.

their confidence was justified. Ruling the House of Commons by the influence which he borrowed from Newcastle, he was, nevertheless, a democratic leader, who boasted that he had received his mandate from the country, and would render his account to the people rather than to the Crown. His successes were doubly welcome, because they were felt to be won in the face of a corrupt party system and an unsympathetic sovereign. Pitt had two great and obvious



KING GEORGE III.

Born in London in 1738, he succeeded to the throne in 1760, and, not content to leave the affairs of the country in the hands of his ministers, took a leading part in its government. He has been described as "brave, honest, and religious," and as representing the "type of the ordinary Englishman." In 1811 he became permanently insane.

defects as a statesman — he was impatient of detail, and he spent money with unnecessary profusion. He had an invincible love of the theatrical, which appeared not merely in his private behaviour, but also in his public policy. On the other hand, he grasped the European situation at a glance; and the help, both in money and in men, which he lavished upon Frederic the Great proved the soundest of investments. Pitt boasted, and with good reason, that he would conquer America on the

banks of the Elbe; for France found herself involved in a desperate Continental war, which left her powerless to watch the interests of Canada. The Indian victories of Clive and Eyre Coote (1757-1761) owed little to Pitt's direct assistance; but it was the European war which enabled Clive to crush Surajah Dowlah, and Coote to destroy the settlement of Pondicherry in 1761.

The events of Pitt's war ministry can be mentioned only in the briefest way. Hawke and Rodney and Boscawen reasserted the maritime supremacy of England by the victories of Quiberon and Lagos, the destruction of Cherbourg, and the bombardment of Havre.

In 1762 the French West Indies were one by one annexed, and the accession of Spain to the side of France was avenged by the capture of Havana and the Philippines. On land Wolfe and Amherst were no less successful in their attacks upon Canada. The former perished, in the moment of victory, at Quebec in 1759, but the reduction of the colony was completed by his colleague in the following year.

But Pitt's successes were brought prematurely to an end by a change of sovereigns. The old king died in 1760; and the successor, his grandson, George III., mounted the throne with a fixed resolve to free the prerogative from the trammels of the Whig ascendancy. The principles of Toryism, discredited in the country and banished from Parliament, had found an asylum in the royal family. The new king had been trained in the theories of Bolingbroke, who from his retirement had consistently preached the specious doctrine that a king should be above all parties,

and should choose his Ministers without reference to their connections. The odium which corruption had brought upon the party system emboldened George III. to apply these lessons without loss of time.

He sowed dissension in the Cabinet of Pitt and Newcastle, persuaded the majority to vote against the opening of war with Spain, and in 1761 drove Pitt to seek refuge for his mortification in retirement. Newcastle was ousted in 1762 and the king's tutor, Lord Bute, was called to the head of the administration.

Bute's first act was to renounce the Prussian alliance and to conclude the Treaty of Paris in 1763. The treaty could not fail to be advantageous,

but less was gained than the successes of Pitt had entitled the country to expect. Havana and the Philippines were restored to Spain, as having been taken after the conclusion of peace; Guadeloupe, the

wealthiest of the West Indies, and Pondicherry, the chief of France's Indian settlements, were abandoned without any valid reason. France surrendered Canada, Cape Breton, Grenada, the Leeward Islands, and Minorca; but she retained St. Pierre and the Miquelons, with valuable fishing rights on the Newfoundland coast, and on the mainland she kept her foothold in Louisiana. The peace was sharply criticised in England.

Bute and the queen-mother, upon whose favour he mainly depended, became the most unpopular persons in the country. Bute retired, and a new double constitutional struggle was inaugurated between the king and Ministers, and between mother country and colonies.

ARTHUR D. INNES



QUEEN CHARLOTTE

In 1761, the year after he ascended the throne of Great Britain and Ireland, George III. married Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, whose portrait is given above.



LORD BUTE

After the retirement of Pitt and Newcastle, the King's tutor, Lord Bute, was called to the head of the administration, and his first act was to renounce the Prussian alliance and to conclude the Treaty of Paris. He died in 1792.

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
ENDING
OF THE
OLD ORDER
III

THE GREAT HAPSBURG MONARCHY AND THE SUCCESSION OF MARIA THERESA

THE decision of the question of the Spanish succession, the conquest of Hungary, the fact that since the Peace of Westphalia the so-called German inheritance had unceasingly shown a tendency to separation from the empire, made it imperative that there should be some formal constitution of the Hapsburg possessions, a first tentative effort for the formation of a comprehensive state. There was no Austrian state in existence, there was merely a family property, a union of kingdoms and countries, with or without constitutional ties, with or without common interests, brought into mutual relation only through the person of the monarch, possessing the most varied privileges and burdened with the most diverse obligations. The circumstances which had favoured the formation of a great dynastic power proved so many obstacles to the creation of a united kingdom. Many attempts have been made to date the first beginnings of the kingdom. The permanent union of Bohemia and Hungary to the German Alpine territory, dating from 1526, has been considered a starting point; so have the attempts made at the outset of the seventeenth century to form a general conference of Landtag delegates. The recognition of the hereditary monarchy of the Hapsburgs in the lands of the Hungarian crown in 1687 has been indicated as showing the need for closer connection between the several parts of the Hapsburg estate. But all these phenomena are to be explained as results of the growing power of the nobles, and have, moreover, merely proved the general fact that the formation of independent kingdoms from the several parts of the Hapsburg territory was an impossibility.

The Starting Point of the Hapsburgs

The resumption of the plan of uniting Bohemia, Moravia, and the Silesian principalities under a foreign rule split upon the rock of religious discord, and the Catholic powers were obliged to intervene

to secure the hereditary rights of Ferdinand II. The battle of the White Mountain put an end to the Bohemian constitution; that is, to the idea of the Bohemian countries as an independent unity, with their own government, their own military and financial system. Bohemia was then closely united to the German Empire through the person of the prince. Had the Palatinate ruler maintained his ground, he would have been reduced to strengthening to the best of his power the ties which united Germany to the empire and to securing the support of the Protestant orders by making concessions to the empire. In that case the Germanisation of the Czechs would have been brought about through the identity of their Church with that of the pure German countries.

Battle of the White Mountain

The Catholic reaction had been carried out against the revolutionary Protestant parties without any consideration for the direction taken by the tide of national movements. Catholicism neither needed nor desired assistance from German sources, as its strength was based upon the Romance and Slavonic, not upon the German peoples. The conquest of Hungary would certainly have been impossible without the help of Germany and her armed provinces; but the empire had allowed the House of Hapsburg without protest to grasp the advantages gained, because it was itself unable to extend its supremacy over so large and so far distant a country, owing to the lack of an organised administration and of a standing imperial army. The means employed by Brandenburg-Prussia for the amalgamation of its different provinces into one state were impracticable for the House of Hapsburg. It was impossible to introduce a uniform administration for Hungary, Bohemia, and a dozen German duchies and counties with the same rapidity and success as Prussia had attained. The royal House

Obstacles to Hapsburg Administration

of Austria was involved to a far greater extent than were the Hohenzollerns in every European quarrel and complication. For many decades it could have found no opportunity to turn its attention to domestic organisation, leaving aside questions of European importance and abandoning a foreign policy which made for disunion and disruption.

The Victorious Army of Prince Eugene

Only critics without historical training, who would judge the past by the alien conceptions of the present, would suppose that a dominating position could ever have been attained by the so-called idea of constitutional totality in old Austria, conceived from the point of view of a Roman emperor, who was at the same time King of Hungary, and thought it his duty to uphold his claims of succession to Spain and Naples, to Milan and to the Netherlands.

A common unity is to be seen for the first time in the army of Prince Eugene. However, it was not the Austrian, but the "emperor's" army which he led from victory to victory. This, compared with the "imperial" army, was a uniform whole, whether fighting in Italy or in the Netherlands. Within the empire it was often subdivided. Troops from special provinces and districts were joined to its regiments, and were commanded by generals who were paid by the empire and not by the emperor. The armed provinces of the empire were far readier to protest against the division of their contingents than was the emperor in the case of his own forces; consequently we can speak of the Brandenburg-Prussian, of the Bavarian, even of the Hanoverian army before we can employ the term "Austrian" army. The diplomatic service of the German Hapsburgs acted in the name of the emperor, as more privileges were thus to be enjoyed. As regards revenue, receipts came in from the most varied sources—feudal aids,

An Insoluble Problem in Statecraft

grants from the Landtag, subsidies, tithes, general taxes—so that it would have been impossible to draw up a separate balance-sheet for the state revenue of Austria alone.

The creation of a state without national union, without even a leadership supported by a majority capable of great exertions, could not possibly be the work of a few generations; it is a problem in statecraft which has remained insoluble

to the present day. The first steps which brought the solution somewhat nearer could proceed only from the ruling house itself; they consist in the constitutional recognition of the ruling power as a unity and in the securing of the succession in order to obviate disruption.

Ferdinand I. could see no special danger to the power of the ruling house in the disruption and dissolution of his dominion into separate principalities; he considered that the position of the imperial monarch was of overpowering predominance. The master of the inner Austria territories, Styria, Carinthia, and Carniola, the Count of Tyrol and the possessor of the Swabian and Upper Rhine frontiers, could only pursue the policy marked out by their imperial brother or cousin. The "fraternal quarrel," the party differences between Rudolf and Matthias, show the possibility of strong opposition between the members of one and the same house. Spanish interest in the strength of the German family, and also the interest which the Catholic Church had in the maintenance of Catholicism in the Alpine and household territories, were

The Causes of Ferdinand's Supremacy

the motive causes of Ferdinand II. supremacy over the possessions of the German House of Hapsburg. The special position of the Tyrol under his brother Leopold was a concession to personal and private rights of inheritance, an indulgence which left no permanent effect upon the constitution, as the Tyrol branch became extinct in the second generation.

Neither Ferdinand II. nor Ferdinand III. had the opportunity of settling the succession to the collective inheritance according to family regulations, as they had only one successor capable of government. Leopold I., however, contributed to the regulation of the succession when he and his eldest son Joseph renounced the Spanish succession in favour of the second son, the Archduke Charles. The emperor then made an openly expressed agreement with his sons, that the succession in the two lines should go by primogeniture; that is to say, that Charles and his descendants should inherit the undivided German Hapsburg lands upon the extinction of the male line in Joseph's family, and similarly Joseph and his descent were to have the whole Spanish monarchy should the Spanish line now founded by Charles become extinct. Should the male

THE GREAT HAPSBURG MONARCHY

issue fail in both lines simultaneously—that is, before the descendants of either could succeed—then the right of primogeniture was to pass to the daughters in Joseph's line, these also preceding Charles's female issue as regards the Spanish succession.

This pact as to the mutual succession was attested by the three parties concerned on September 12th, 1703, and declared by them to be the expression of a custom previously subsisting in the House of Hapsburg. It was further extended by the will of Leopold I., dated April 26th, 1705, by which he secured his son Charles in the possession of the Tyrol and the land on its frontier, though "without the right of making alliance or war," in case nothing should come down to him of the whole of the Spanish succession. The Emperor Joseph I. died in the

prime of life without male issue and without making definite arrangements for his daughters. According to the Pact of 1703, Charles VI. was sole heir to all the Hapsburg possessions, both German and Spanish. He actually entered into possession of both, inasmuch as he extended his power over a considerable portion of the Spanish dominion. Joseph's daughters yielded precedence to his own. For the former, the emperor was bound merely to provide according to the custom of his family.

Joseph's sudden death had thrown the imperial Privy Council into some perplexity as to the fate of his kingdom. They sent a request to Charles, who was still in Spain, asking him for a definite explanation. This explanation was not given until April 19th, 1713, before an assembly of court dignitaries and of the highest officials of Lower Austria. The emperor had the "Pact of mutual succession" read aloud, and then

Territories Claimed by Charles VI.

delivered a speech, wherein he laid down that by the arrangement all kingdoms and territories possessed by the Emperors Leopold and Joseph passed to himself, and that "these territories should remain undivided, passing to the male issue of his body in primogeniture so long as such issue should exist; upon the extinction of the said male issue the succession should pass,

undivided in like manner and according to the order and right of primogeniture, to the legitimate surviving daughters." Only upon the failure of such legitimate issue of the ruling emperor was the right of succession to pass to the daughters of Joseph, also by primogeniture.

The Famous Pragmatic Sanction

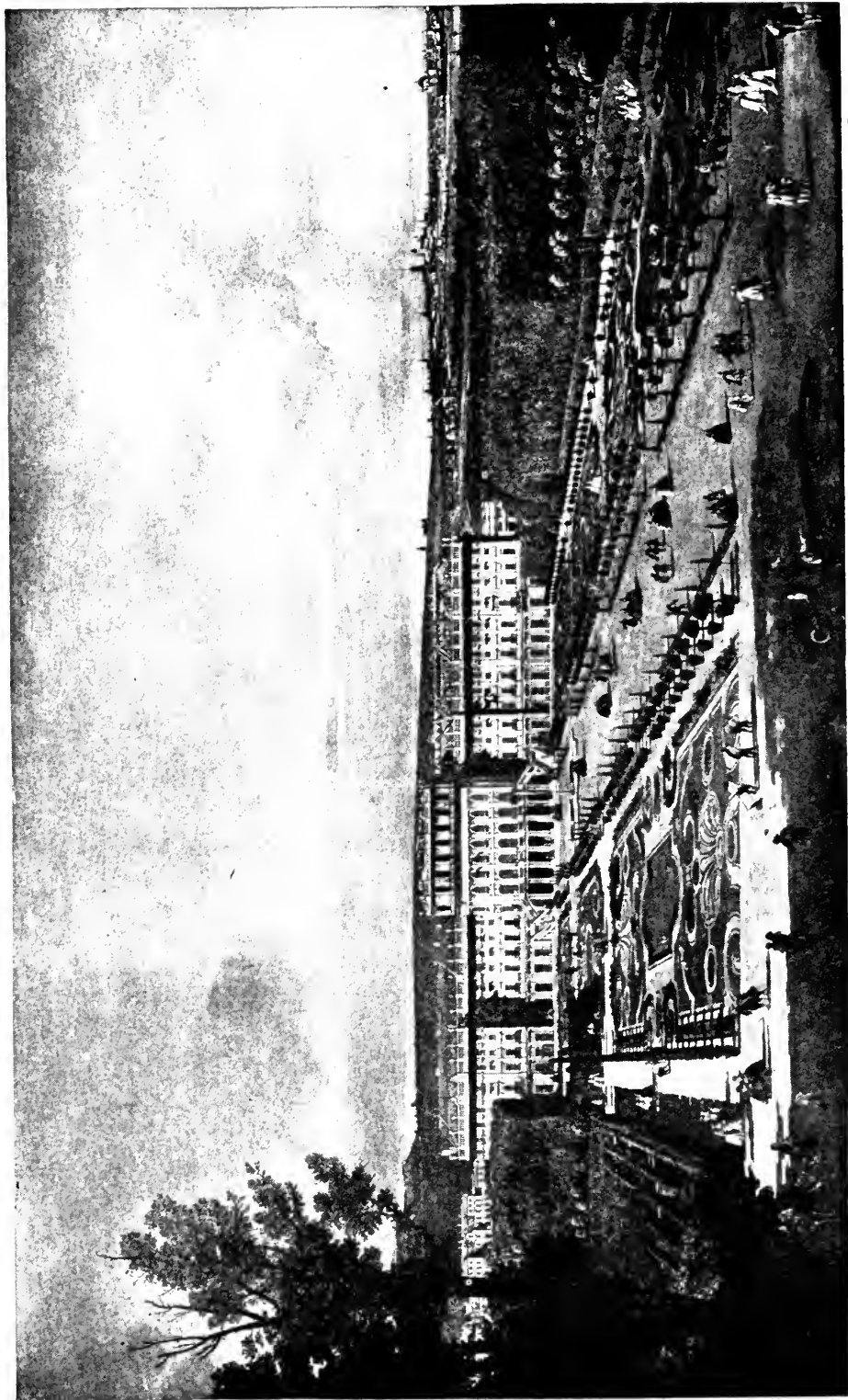
This transaction and the emperor's explanation were embodied in a protocol known as the Pragmatic Sanction of the Emperor Charles VI., which is to be considered as one of the constitutional foundations of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The comparatively few words which express the contents of the document determine the permanent union of the territory of the German Hapsburgs in the form of a great power, which union is founded upon the exercise of a uniform



EMPEROR CHARLES VI.
He was declared emperor in 1711 on the death of his brother, Joseph I., and added considerably to his territories. The Pragmatic Sanction was the object of his policy.

government throughout the kingdoms and provinces which compose that territory. The uniformity consists not only in the supremacy of the one monarch, but also in his exercise of the governmental powers vested in himself. These powers proceed, it is true, from his relations with individual kingdoms and provinces, but they are conjoined in personal executive power possessed by the monarch, and are expressed in decrees of uniform applicability. "The right of war, of peace and of alliance"—that is to say, the entire foreign policy—is subject to the exclusive will of the general ruler of the whole area; he alone has the right to raise an army by means of the supplies granted by the kingdoms and provinces, and with this his army to defend the interests of his house and of all the territories in the possession of that house.

The uniformity and universality of the ruling power cease at this point. Nothing is recognised by the Pragmatic Sanction as common to or binding upon the whole state except that which can be immediately deduced from the sovereignty; hence the dynastic powers of the German Hapsburgs were not constituted as a state by the Pragmatic Sanction, although they did constitute a "great power," in view of the influence which they were able to exercise upon the course of European affairs.



MARIA THERESA'S BEAUTIFUL PALACE AS IT WAS IN HER TIME, WITH VIEW OF VIENNA IN THE DISTANCE

From the painting by Belotto

In the solemn declaration of Charles VI. no account was taken of the relations of the sovereignty to individual provinces, for this would have implied the raising of constitutional questions and complications; naturally, the destiny of the whole empire could not be made contingent upon the ultimate issue of these. The numerous provincial bodies politic were by no means on an equality in point of strength, and a compacted agreement with them would not have produced a statute of so fundamental a nature as could be brought about by a simple expression of will on the part of a number of kings, dukes, and princes. By far the easier course was to obtain a supplementary consent from the several Landtags to the emperor's declaration which was laid before them. Negotiations for this purpose were begun in the year 1720, on the infant Archduke Leopold's death. He was the emperor's son, born in 1716, and there was no other male issue surviving.

When the Pragmatic Sanction was delivered to the Landtags, letters were also sent, speaking for the first time of the "object" of the Sanction. Upon the "union" of the kingdom and provinces (so ran the wording) depended the prosperity of the kingdom and the "peace of the populations, provinces, and vassals."

Within the government area the proposal was issued for the calling of a "congress of the provinces." The Landtag of Lower Austria urged the advisability of an "hereditary alliance," whereby the provinces as a whole should mutually guarantee their interdependence. Although Prince Eugene was apparently in favour of this method of introducing the general representation of the provinces, yet the government declined to agree, for fear of encroachment and confusion. Proceedings of this kind might arouse misgivings in such cases as that of Hungary, for since 1712 the Croatian provinces had begun to form a closer connection with the provinces of Inner Austria, with which they had many political and

economic interests in common, particularly the question of resistance to the Turks; and in this way their constitutional ties with Hungary threatened to grow relaxed.

In Bohemia and in the other hereditary provinces assent to the Pragmatic Sanction was given without difficulty, stress only being laid upon the maintenance of "privileges" and of provincial regulations. In Bohemia it was thought unnecessary to make special mention of the peculiar rights of either one of the two nationalities under the empire; but the town of Eger, before which care had been taken to lay the proposals for regulating the succession, associated itself and its territory with the assent given by the Bohemian Landtag,

"without detriment to the privileges granted in respect of the Eger pawn-money by the Roman emperors and the kings of Bohemia." The Tyrol provinces regretted that they were deprived of the prospect of having a resident prince of their own, and demanded that the future reigning lord should be of "German blood."

In Hungary, provincial representation was a national and constitutional institution, and had lost but little of the power which it had possessed in previous centuries; hence the discussions in the Landtag of 1722-1723 have a greater importance than any which took place elsewhere in the Hapsburg territories. As early as 1712 Hungary had demanded that every province of the empire should enter into a special convention to recognise their common ruler under any circumstances, and to contribute a fixed sum for the maintenance of the military frontier guards and the garrisons in the Hungarian fortresses, since Hungary was conscious of its position as buffer state between the Turks and the hereditary territories and Bohemia, and therefore desired a guarantee of continued support. Moreover, in the statute wherein the Landtag formulated its decision upon the question of the succession the condition was laid down

Assent to the Pragmatic Sanction



THE EMPRESS MARIA THERESA
The daughter of the Emperor Charles VI., she was appointed by her father heir to his hereditary thrones, and at his death, in 1740, became Queen of Hungary and of Bohemia and Archduchess of Austria. She died in 1780.

A "Congress of the Provinces"

that the heir or heiress of the Hapsburg House, whom they were ready to recognise as monarch, was to enter upon the possession of an "indissoluble whole," composed of the totality of the Hapsburg territories. No portion of the hereditary territory was to be alienated by division or in any other

Conditions of the Hapsburg Succession

hereditary whole, including the kingdom of Hungary and its adjoining territory.

Thus the Hungarian Landtag of 1722-1723 displayed a dualism in its conclusions, and described its relations to the ruling house and to the non-Hungarian possessions of that house with a clearness and accuracy which gave it an indisputable advantage in all constitutional difficulties over the Germanic-Slavonic-Roman territorial group, which had hitherto been heavily burdened by the difficulty of assimilating certain districts.

In Hungary the constitutional value of the Pragmatic Sanction was far more highly estimated than in the other countries, whose representatives had accepted the rules for the succession without being fully informed of the importance of the step they were taking, and had missed the opportunity of anticipating the agreement with Hungary by first procuring a settlement of their own affairs and mutual rights and duties. In this case they would have been able to propose conditions to the Hungarian state, under which they would have been prepared to guarantee the desired support. In like manner, unfamiliarity with the historical development of the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy, an astonishing lack of general political education and of real constitutional knowledge, is the reason why the German liberals of the nineteenth century have made claims upon the common kingdom which it can never hope to meet by reason of its origin and organisation.

Charles VI. and his council were not inclined to attach too much importance to the expressions of assent received from the Landtags of the hereditary territories. They were by no means penetrated with the idea that the unity of the kingdom and the provinces was wholly indispensable. From the territories over which they ruled they did not think it possible to evolve a state capable of developing sufficient strength to secure its existence against aggression. Only one man believed in this

possibility, even as he believed in the high capacity of the imperial army—namely, Prince Eugene, known as the "Savoyard," although he was a true Austrian. It was against his desire that the emperor had subordinated his entire policy to the one object of securing the recognition of his rules for the succession by the European powers. From the Peace of Rastat onwards there was no congress, no treaty, no conclusion of peace—and there was a remarkable number of these during his reign—into which he did not foist some clause upon this point.

The guarantee of the Pragmatic Sanction by the empire was of the highest importance, because the withdrawal of the German-Austrian territory from the empire was thus made possible, and the Hapsburg House gained the right of uniting into a constitutional whole such of its possessions as belonged to the empire, the imperial provinces, and the kingdom of Bohemia, which was "conjoined" to the empire with its neighbouring territory, together with an independent state, such as Hungary. During the

Austria and the German Empire

negotiations carried on in Regensburg upon this subject the German Empire declared itself entirely on the side of the imperial house, recognised the necessity for the existence of an Austrian monarchy, and showed the connection of the empire with it. "This declaration of assent may be considered as the first compact of the German Empire with Austria, for the Reichstag treats with the House of Hapsburg as with an independent power, for the maintenance of which the empire came forward in its own clearly recognised interests."

The credit of securing this guarantee belongs to Frederic William I., King of Prussia, who had become the emperor's ally by the compacts of Königswusterhausen on October 12th, 1726, and of Berlin on December 23rd, 1728. It was through his powerful influence that the proposals were carried in the Reichstag in spite of the opposition of Bavaria and Saxony. The tour which he made in 1730 round certain German coasts which had as yet taken no share in the discussions was undertaken with the object of gaining their support for the emperor and of recommending them to concur in the guarantee. Bavaria and Saxony opposed it in vain. Notwithstanding the wavering attitude

Eugene's Faith in the Future



MARIA THERESA APPEALING FOR HELP TO THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT

The death of the Emperor Charles VI. was followed by the accession of his daughter Maria Theresa to the Hapsburg territories and by the claims of other powers for a share in these great possessions. Terrified at the approach of the allied army to Vienna, Maria Theresa, with her infant son, who afterwards became Joseph II., fled to Hungary, where she was received with enthusiasm. Appearing before the Hungarian Parliament at Presburg with her son in her arms, she called upon the nation to defend her against her enemies, and, stirred by her appeal, the whole assembly rose, and, drawing their swords, exclaimed, "Our lives and our blood for your Majesty! We will die for our king, Maria Theresa!"

From the picture by Laslett J. Fott

of the Palatinate, they were unable to secure a majority in the college of electors ; consequently, the only course open to them was to protest against the resolution of the Reichstag and to declare that it was not binding upon themselves.

In consequence, the imperial government could certainly conclude that, notwithstanding the numerous arts of diplomacy which they employed to secure the guarantees, a struggle against the female succession in the House of Hapsburg would inevitably ensue, for the two protesting electors proceeded to lay claim to certain portions of the inheritance upon the strength of their connection with the imperial family. Joseph I.'s eldest daughter, Maria Josepha, had married Frederic Augustus II. of Saxony on August 20th, 1719, and her sister, Maria Amalia, had married Charles Albert of Bavaria on October 30th, 1722. Hence the obvious course of a clever politician would have been to cleave at all costs to the strongest supporter, Prussia, and to bind that country to the interests of the imperial house even at the price of voluntary concessions.

But Austria during the last few years had been slackening the bond between herself and Prussia. Though she had to thank Prussia, and no one else, for the passing of the guarantees, she declined to continue the support which she had previously promised to the king in the matter of the Juliers-Cleves inheritance. To ask that the Austrian statesmen of the period should have clearly foreseen that the foundation of an independent monarchy was incompatible with a permanent sovereignty of the empire would be to ask overmuch of them, although we now can see that to break away from the narrow limits of the provinces of the empire and at the same time to claim supremacy among them was impossible. The time had come when it would be necessary to

The Death of Emperor Charles VI. struggle for influence with the rising military power of the North German state. But from the standpoint of practical politics it may be asserted that the neglect of Prussia was inspired by false conceptions of the strength of the respective parties, and that the loss of the Prussian support was not to be counterbalanced by the dearly bought assent of France to the guarantee. With the death of the Emperor Charles VI., on October 20th, 1740, that royal

family became extinct which had been founded by Rudolf I. and carried by Charles V. to the highest pitch of earthly power. The countries which the Pragmatic Sanction had declared to be a political whole were now obliged to act for the maintenance of that measure. It was now to be decided whether the position of the German Hapsburg house should be assumed by the Hapsburg-Lorraine family, which rested on the alliance—May 13th, 1717—of the eldest daughter of Charles VI., Maria Theresa, with Francis, Duke of Lorraine ; whether that family should continue to hold in connection the territory of the Hapsburgs in all that wide extent which had made it the equal of powers founded upon a national basis.

The division of the territory was demanded by the Elector of Bavaria, Charles Albert, over whose youth the Emperors Leopold and Joseph had watched with true paternal care during the proscription of his father Max Emanuel. In 1722 he had been privileged to marry the latter emperor's second daughter. He based his claims upon numerous points of relation to the family, the importance of which seemed to be increased by a falsification in the will of Ferdinand I. of Bavaria. He claimed all the family territory, and declared Maria Theresa to be Queen of Hungary only.

Claims on the Hapsburg Territories The threats of Charles Albert would have been of little moment if Bavaria had not had numerous supporters in Austria itself, and if Maria Theresa had had only this opponent to deal with. But a far more dangerous enemy arose in the person of King Frederic II. of Prussia, who succeeded to the throne in the year of Charles VI.'s death. He denied the validity of the guarantee given by Prussia, as the deceased emperor had not made the return which he had promised. He claimed compensation for the principality of Jägerndorf, which had been lost to his family owing to the collapse of the Winter kingdom, and also for the Schwiebus district, which his grandfather, Ferdinand I., had been forced to cede.

In either case the question of the justice of the claim was to him a matter of indifference. Frederic grasped at the chance of recovering these districts for which there had been so much strife, for he considered that he required Lower Silesia to

round off his possessions on the Oder, and had no intention of letting slip an opportunity so favourable for his own aggrandisement. He offered Maria Theresa his support against Bavaria, and was ready to vote for the election of her husband as emperor; further, he was prepared to guarantee her German possessions and to pay a subsidy of 2,000,000 thalers for military preparations if Silesia as far as Breslau was ceded to him. It was not an impossible bargain for Austria, and a far-sighted politician would probably have recommended it; but Frederic did not wait for any acceptance. In the middle of December, 1740, he poured 20,000 men into Silesia. At no matter what cost, the Austrian court declined to recognise the legality of an act of mere marauding on a grand scale.

The young Archduchess and Queen of Hungary, with all the warmth of that ardent character which makes her so attractive a personality, assented to the counsel of the passionate Bartenstein, who declared against the Prussian proposals. She was actuated by indignation against infidelity, real or supposed, by a natural dislike to giving up land or property, and, finally, by the firm conviction that it was her duty to cling to the heritage which she had taken up at all costs. The Hapsburgs were never covetous, but were obstinate in their defence of their rights.

Maria Theresa's stand against Prussia is an act rather of moral worth than of political importance. Her courage and her obstinacy, which proceeded from an invincible trust in God, enabled her people the more readily to see in her house the natural continuation of the old royal family whose sorrows and joys they had shared for the last 500 years. They shared also in her unjustifiable hatred against Frederic, and gave her their genuine sympathy as to one oppressed and persecuted. German from the crown of her head to the sole of her foot, with all the

virtues of the German wife and mother, a mistress both dignified and gentle, a stern commander at need, of strong determination, thorough and true in hate and love alike, endowed with that splendid beauty which stirs enthusiasm, it was not only in her native land that she won her people's hearts; even by hostile nations she was speedily known as the "Great Empress." Uncertainty and vacillation, the two deadly enemies to monarchical power, were unknown to her. She may have been deceived as to the forces which she had at her disposition, but she was well aware of the special characteristics of her empire. It was plain to her that Hungary's independent administration must be preserved, whereas the administrative power was to be centralised in the "German and Bohemian hereditary

land." Though consenting to coronation, she did not permit the Bohemian constitutional privileges to grow larger, and kept a careful watch upon the uniformity and equality of the administration. Her full appreciation of the value of proper administration fitted her to walk in the ways which lead to the forming of states. With Maria Theresa begins the difficult transition from dynastic to constitutional power, which has continued to our own time. It should have come to an earlier conclusion, but the unjustifiable concessions made by liberalism to the form of the constitution have hindered its consummation.

Under Maria Theresa the relations of the ruling house to Bohemia partook for the second time of the character of a supremacy based on conquest. The kingdom had to be conquered by force of arms after it had already submitted to the imperial government. In November, 1741, the Elector of Bavaria invaded Bohemia from Upper Austria, of which he had already gained possession. Prague surrendered almost without resistance, and there he received homage to himself as



CHARLES ALBERT VII.
He was elected and crowned Holy Roman Emperor on January 24th, 1742, although he possessed no territory. He died in 1745.



GRAND DUKE OF TUSCANY
Francis of Lorraine, afterwards the Grand Duke of Tuscany, married Maria Theresa in 1736, and in 1745 was elected Holy Roman Emperor.

king on November 25th. The constitutional representatives of Bohemia then surrendered the rights of the Hapsburg House without scruple. No fewer than 400 members of the Bohemian orders—among them men who bore honoured names—took the oath of allegiance in person, although no irresistible pressure was put upon them. The Bavarian "peoples" would have been considerably embarrassed if the Bohemian nobles, who were ever ready to boast of their dependency upon the imperial house, had remained in their castles and organised a guerrilla warfare instead of hastening to Prague to kiss the hand of the Elector of Bavaria.

It was not until Maria Theresa had made peace with Prussia that she found her power equal to driving the Bavarians out of the country, together with the French, who were supporting them. These latter felt no pricks of conscience in thus breaking the guarantee which they had given to the Pragmatic Sanction. Beaten in the two battles of Mollwitz, on April 10th, 1741, and of Chotusitz, north of Caslan, on May 17th, 1742, she agreed to give up Silesia with the exception of the principalities of Troppau and Teschen and the larger part of Jägerndorf. On the other hand, she was also obliged to sacrifice Glatz—of importance as being indispensable to the agreement with Frederic. However, the treaties of peace concluded at Breslau on June 11th and at Berlin on June 28th, 1742, were not made in an honourable spirit.

Hardly had Maria enjoyed the benefits of the pacification, reconquered Bavaria, and convinced the world that her empire was a living reality, when she began to make plans for revenge upon Prussia. She was not attracted by the possibility of gaining Bavaria in place of Silesia, a proposition which might have been mentioned early in the negotiations, the motive being the utter cowardice of Charles Albert VII., who had been elected and crowned Roman Emperor on January 24th, 1742, although he possessed no territory—Maria Theresa's husband would have had to cede Tuscany to the Wittelsbacher as his share of the bargain. By the Peace of Fussen, on April 22nd, 1745, she gave back

Bavaria together with the upper Palatinate to the Elector Maximilian Joseph III., the son of the Emperor Charles VII., who had died on January 20th, 1745. She recognised the imperial position of his father, and entered into negotiations with Saxony, Russia, and France.

Frederic II. had been already convinced that Austria's alliance with these powers would cost him not only Silesia but also his position in Europe, and made, therefore, his second invasion at the end of August, 1744. At Hohenfriedeberg, on June 4th, and at Soor, on September 30th, 1745, he beat the Austrians, and also the Saxons at Kesselsdorf on December 15th, 1745, and secured his possession of his acquisitions by the second treaty of peace, which was concluded in Dresden on Christmas Day, 1745. Austria gained thereby the recognition of Maria Theresa's husband, the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Francis, as Roman Emperor. His election had taken place on October 4th, and the consent of the Bohemian electorate was obtained through Brandenburg-Prussia.

The Queen of Hungary and Bohemia thus became emperor. In the eyes of posterity the imperial dignity which encircles her is not merely the reflection of the somewhat tarnished crown with which she saw her husband adorned in Frankfurt.

During her reign a remarkable phenomenon comes to pass, in that her empire gained a title wholly different from that which usually attaches to the word. Maria Theresa really begins the succession of the Austrian emperors, and with her is bound up the conception of an Austrian state.

If after the second Silesian war Austria had considered her quarrel with Prussia as terminated she would have been able to make far greater progress in respect of her internal development. Apart from this fact, a renewal of the alliance with Prussia would have brought about the complete downfall of the Bourbons, and perhaps have made possible the acquisition of Naples. The Minister Kaunitz, upon one occasion—in 1751—put forward these ideas, but relinquished them in face of the opposition of the empress. The policy of



PRINCE VON KAUNITZ
Minister under the Empress Maria Theresa, Kaunitz failed to advance the development of the Austrian state and only checked it by renewing hostilities with Prussia.

THE GREAT HAPSBURG MONARCHY

Kaunitz was as disastrous as that of Metternich. Not only did Kaunitz fail to advance the development of the Austrian state, but he checked and interrupted it by renewing hostilities with Prussia. How much might have been attained with the resources which were squandered and wasted in the Seven Years War, under such adroit and prosperous guidance as Maria Theresa displayed in the regulation of her home affairs! In any case, it would not have been necessary to subordinate every requirement of Hungary to the settlement of constitutional relations with neighbour-

historic antagonism of Hapsburg and Bourbon was lost in the personal antagonism of the two German sovereigns. The empress had found herself compelled to acquiesce in the act of deliberate robbery by which Silesia had been torn from her dominion; but she could not forgive it. The formation of a league for the overthrow of Prussia became a passion with her. There were German states which entirely sympathised, and the Russian Tsarina had her own grudge against Frederic, which made her a probable ally. Under existing conditions, neither Spain



THE MARKET PLACE OF VIENNA IN THE TIME OF MARIA THERESA

From the painting by Belotto

ing countries, and with Croatia in particular. The commercial undertakings of Charles VI. might have been renewed. The persecution of the Protestants in the Alpine territories, which were already sufficiently depopulated, whereby valuable productive forces were destroyed, would not have been thought necessary by Maria Theresa had she not thought to discover supporters of the hated Prussian king even among her co-religionists at home.

Maria Theresa was, in fact, so completely possessed by her antipathy for Frederic that it absolutely dominated every other political consideration. The

nor Sweden was likely to affect European military combinations materially, but it was certain that Great Britain and France would be drawn into the vortex. It is scarcely surprising that Maria Theresa sought the French in preference to the British alliance. As a military power on the Continent, France was *prima facie* the more effective; her armies counted for more than British subsidies, and the incapable Newcastle was at the head of the British Government. France joined the league, while Newcastle was surprised to find himself in the same galley with Frederic.



FREDERIC WILLIAM I. AND THE CROWN PRINCE: MEETING BETWEEN FATHER AND SON

For a time the relations between Prussia's great king, Frederic William I., and the Crown Prince were not of the happiest, the treatment which the son received from his father being of a harsh and humiliating character. But a better understanding was arrived at, and in the above picture an affectionate meeting between father and son is depicted. Towards the end of May, 1740, the king became so unwell that the Crown Prince was summoned, but before his arrival Frederic William had slightly recovered and was able to be wheeled out in front of the palace, where he witnessed the laying of the foundation stone of a new building. The king died three days later—on May 31st.

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
ENDING OF
THE
OLD ORDER
IV

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRUSSIA THE KINGDOM UNDER FREDERIC WILLIAM I.

THE fate of a state is sometimes dependent upon the individuality of its princes. Even in republics it is impossible for mediocrities to hold the reins of power without inflicting permanent loss upon the nation. Monarchies vary in importance with the capacities of their rulers. Prussia has to thank the Hohenzollerns for the rapidity of her rise. In modern times we look in vain for a family which had produced four important statesmen endowed with creative powers within two centuries. These were the Elector Frederic William and the first king of the same name, and the kings Frederic II. and William I.; and of these four Zollerns, the Great Elector and the great Fritz were men of genius.

It was a long time before Frederic William I. (1713-1740) gained the reputation of a really great king. The period of the Declaration, with its many false ideas upon the nature of the state, did not point him out for praise. It took his own son a considerable time to appreciate his merits. But we from our point of view can see clearly how much Prussia and the German nation owe to him. We see that he strengthened the state, without which there could have been no German unity, and made it able to struggle for its existence; that his son would never have become "the Great" had he not been educated as he was.

If it be true that the German schoolmasters prepared the way for the great victories of the nineteenth century, then Frederic William was their prototype—the greatest schoolmaster who ever educated a people and made them equal to the tasks of life. Education of this kind he had none. At the court of his parents there was no one to sympathise with the lofty aspirations which rose in him, and what he saw there filled him only with repugnance. The extravagance which he could not curb incited him to habits of economy,

which his mother considered miserly, and condemned in no measured terms. In his early youth he had learned to keep an eye upon every department of business, a training which enabled him successfully to track embezzlement to its source. When he returned from the Netherland campaign of 1710, with energy and insight fully matured, he overthrew the system of Sayn-Wittgenstein and Wartenberg, whereby the public funds had been irresponsibly squandered. To his action is also to be ascribed the banishment of these two untrustworthy Ministers from court and country.

When he entered his royal office, Frederic William I. astounded the whole world by the rapidity and the radical nature of his reforms. The Prussians looked upon him as a tyrant, the outside world laughed at him and considered him as scarce responsible for his actions. A strange kind of court, where the state horses were sold, the silver plate melted down, the highest dignitaries fined or treated as common criminals for inaccuracy in their accounts! Was it seemly for a king to rise betimes and spend hours over deeds and accounts, revise expenditure and drill recruits? Should he walk into the houses of the Berlin citizens at dinner-time, taste the food as it was placed on the table, and inquire how much each dish cost? The valuable results of his energy were lost sight of in the consideration of his more obvious demerits—a furious and unbridled temper, bursts of indiscriminating passion, an exasperating suspicion of members of the family as of officials—demerits concerning which the most sinister rumours went about. His wife, Sophia Dorothea of Hanover, was largely to blame for the false reports of Frederic William which were to be heard at almost every court in Europe. She objected to the primitive manners which

**How the
King was
Slandered**

**Prussia's
Debt to her
Great King**

the king favoured, and considered the lack of etiquette and the painful stinginess of the court economy as insulting and degrading to herself. The elder children, Frederica Sophia Wilhelmina, who became Countess of Bayreuth in 1731, and the Crown Prince—born January 24th, 1712—

The King's Radical Reforms

were materially influenced by the exasperation of their mother at their father's apparent sternness and cruelty. However, at the end of the first decade of the new government it could not be denied that this extraordinary monarch with his corporal's cane had completed a great task. Debts had been paid, the treasury was full, a standing army was in existence the like of which was not to be seen anywhere in Europe, and a centralised system of government had been introduced, which was invariably reliable and accurate in its working and was equal to any demands upon it. The Prussian king was not confronted with such great difficulties as those which hampered Joseph II. in his no less ardent zeal for reform. But it must not be forgotten that the Great Elector had already done away with the claims and privileges of the provinces, that the position of the Hohenzollerns in Prussia was utterly unlike that of the Hapsburgs in Hungary, that the lords of Cleves and of the Mark could be routed with even less expenditure of force than was needed to deal with the Belgian communes, and, finally, that a common faith and nationality made a secure foundation for the construction of a uniform system of administration.

In spite of these advantages, Frederic William I.'s early attempts to introduce this wonderfully organised administration were not entirely successful. He made mistakes, and often saw his hopes frustrated. A separate financial department for civil and for military necessities proved to be an impracticable arrangement. "The fact that the duties of the officials were often coincident or conflicting occasioned confusion, and laid unnecessary burdens upon the subject." The king readily admitted this fact; he brought the causes of distress in the several districts before the notice of the government

officials, and on December 20th, 1722, he resolved upon the constitution of a General Directory, which should henceforward control the whole of the financial business. The advantages of this centralisation soon became obvious to the taxpayers.

Especially beneficial in their effects were the clearness and simplicity of the judicial administration, and the certainty of obtaining justice, which was felt by every one of the king's subjects, no matter what his position. The confidence of the subject was gained by the keen supervision maintained by the king himself over every official and every department. He knew the needs of his people from his own experience and from his frequent interviews with representatives of the most varied classes of society. No social question was ever overlooked or neglected

by him. He provided for the support of the poor, drove gipsies and vagabonds out of the country, opposed the encroachments of the privileged citizen classes in the towns, and freed handicrafts from the restrictions imposed by the guilds. What the common-sense and supervision of one man could do for the discovery and reform of abuses was done by this king; he had no theoretical training to guide him, but he had an unusual power of appreciating economic conditions, and was therefore able to free the productive forces of his realm

from restrictions and to make them in the highest degree serviceable.

Frederic William was not a "soldier king," although he considered himself to be such, as indeed he was called by the numbers of curious visitors who arrived from all parts to see the giant grenadiers at Berlin and to marvel at the complicated

manœuvres which were then practised by every arm of the service. At any rate, he attached the highest importance to the

Prussian military forces. He knew perfectly well how it was that his grandfather had been able to turn an influential province into a European monarchy. He recognised that the new German kingdom must compensate for the small extent of its territory by the strength of its armament. As he desired a large and powerful



PRUSSIA'S GREAT KING
Prussia will ever be indebted to Frederic William I. He accomplished a great work and astounded the whole world by the rapidity and the radical nature of his reforms.

Prussia in Need of a Large Army

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRUSSIA

army, he concentrated his political talents upon questions of administration, for he saw correctly that a great military power can be founded only by a well-built and carefully administered state. His father had had scarcely 30,000 men under arms, and even with these had been able to play a very considerable part in the great War of Succession. But he dared not pursue his advantages to the uttermost, because he was unable to cope with an alliance of foreign powers. So early as 1725, Frederic William was able to call out an army of

that a supply of recruits and of material for further levies was guaranteed. Even in the first year of his reign Frederic II. was able to raise the number of battalions from sixty-six to eighty-three. And all these troops were armed on a uniform system, admirably drilled, trained in quick-firing, and able to be in marching order within twelve days. When Maria Theresa came to the throne the effective strength of the Austrian army was 107,000 infantry and 32,000 cavalry. But the concentration of these forces was a matter of great



PRUSSIA'S VIGOROUS KING, FREDERIC WILLIAM, VISITING A BOYS' SCHOOL

When Frederic William I. ascended the Prussian throne he immediately instituted reforms, some of which were so radical and thorough-going as to astonish the whole world. He made himself acquainted not only with the details of government but also with the condition of his people, visiting the homes of the Berlin citizens at dinner-time, tasting their food and inquiring what each dish cost. In the above picture the king is seen paying a visit to a boys' school.

64,000 men at shorter notice than any other power, and his troops were better equipped and trained than the Austrians or the French. At his death, the standing army consisted of 66 battalions of infantry, 114 squadrons with 18,560 horse, six companies of field artillery, four companies of garrison artillery, and 43 engineer officers. This was the army of a great power.

By the canton regulation of May 1st and September 15th, 1733, service in the royal regiments was made compulsory upon the larger part of the population, so

difficulty; the various items of equipment were by no means complete, the commissariat was hampered by lack of funds. Hence the Austrian forces were by no means superior to the Prussian.

However, Frederic William's attention was not concentrated solely upon increasing the numbers and improving the efficiency of his army; he was also able to secure a higher social position for his officers than was held by the officers of any other Continental army. He was the first officer upon the throne. In the Prussia of

his time the officer's uniform became the king's state dress, and gained a high prestige from that custom. Under him the nobility of his territories, especially those east of the Elbe, became permanently connected with the army, as only by military service could they come under the king's special notice or lay claims to special distinction. Notwithstanding the roughness with which Frederic William was pleased to express his sentiments, he raised the standard of honour among his officers, and strictly maintained it at a high level. The officer was obliged to obey his superior without question, but to this obedience the condition was attached that his "honour should remain intact." Such a spirit was infused into the rank and file that a soldier upon furlough would parade his connection with the army before his village companions with pride. The military forces which Frederic William left to his son were permeated by a strong sense of their common unity.

He never himself employed the weapon which he had forged. In 1715, when he began the Pomeranian campaign against Charles XII. of Sweden, in which he gained Further Pomerania as far as the Peene, Usedom, and Wollin, the principles of his military organisation had not brought forth their fruit and his great work had hardly been begun. In later years he succumbed to the influence of the diplomacy peculiar to the period, with its restless striving after alliance, its intricate complexity of compacts and guarantees; and even when his claims were entirely justified, he hesitated to throw his power into the political balance. We may well ask what would have been the position of the Great Elector in Europe if he had had money and troops at his disposal to the same extent as his grandson.

Frederic William's last days were saddened by a bitter disappointment. He had concluded the Convention of Berlin with Austria, which had been brought about by the dexterity of Count Seckendorff, on December 23rd, 1728, in the conviction that the interests of the Houses of Hohenzollern and Hapsburg were at one. He had fulfilled his promises, and it was through his efforts that the Pragmatic Sanction had been recognised throughout the empire. But the conviction was forced upon him that the emperor

A New Spirit in the Army of Prussia

would not help him to his rights in the matter of the Juliers inheritance, the acquisition of Berg and Ravenstein. He was unable to free himself from the network of intrigue with which he was surrounded. However, after long doubts and years of devouring anxiety, he at length became convinced of the inspiring fact that in his son he could behold "his future avenger."

The education of this son, the struggle with his weaknesses, real or imaginary, the painful cure which he imposed for the feeble spirit, the vacillating will of this youth, whose more refined disposition seemed to his father to arouse wishes incapable of accomplishment, even foolish and immoral—the whole of this story might form the basis for a powerful drama. It was not a cruel amusement in which the father indulged at the expense of a child whom he could not understand; it was the execution of a duty which he felt incumbent upon himself as king, which was forced upon him by his theory and conception of the monarch's position. The tendencies to distraction, to study of current literature and art, the desire for

The King's Harsh Treatment of his Son

comfort and display, which Frederic William observed in the Crown Prince, filled him with anger, drove him to abuse and chastise the young man striving for independence, whom he thought it his duty to hate, though he had a warm love for him in the depths of his heart. His father's degrading treatment and the contempt which he showed towards him before all the courtiers and before his military suite drove Frederic to attempt flight at the beginning of August, 1730, in his eighteenth year.

Desertion was the king's name for this unfortunate plan, which was nothing more than an effort for self-help. A court-martial was appointed to determine the life or death of the future king. In durance vile, Frederic was obliged to await their decision upon his future. On November 6th, 1730, he was forced to behold the execution of his confidential friend, Hans Hermann of Katte, and to have upon his conscience the terrible burden of the death of a true, courageous, and devoted man.

After the inconceivable anguish of these events, it became possible for him to find consolation and renewed pleasure in life by working at the study of the administration in the Küstrin military and departmental offices. The king's

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRUSSIA

expectations of him are shown by his few words to the Seneschal von Wolden: "He is to do exactly as I desire, to get French and English ways out of his head, and anything else that is not Prussian; he is to be loyal to his lord and father, to have a German heart, to cease from foppery and from French, political, damnable falsity; he should pray diligently to God for His grace and keep the same ever before him, for then will God so dispose all things as to be opportune and eternally serviceable to him." The change in the king's temper, the renewal of his confidence in his son, was brought about by the latter's straightforward repentance and confession that he had done wrong and had led astray the accomplice in his attempted flight.

Then followed the heavy trial of marrying a wife he did not love, whom his father had chosen for him, the Duchess Elizabeth Christine of Brunswick-Bevern. This great sacrifice was made on June 12th, 1733. In the end he was able to live with his wife, if not in complete happiness, at

The King's Dying Tribute to his Son

any rate without disagreement, and at times with something of sympathy. His father, too, no longer opposed his mental development, his philosophical and scientific studies, his interest in art; for he recognised that Frederic was a thoroughly efficient officer and an excellent regimental commander. Upon his deathbed, on May 31st, 1740, Frederic William could say to the officers whom he had summoned to take leave of him: "Has not God been gracious to me, in giving me so brave and noble a son?" In the dreams which came to this son, when he found himself opposed to the armies of Europe, he once met his father, as Reinhold Koser relates, at Charlottenburg. He had been fighting against Marshal Daun. "Have I borne myself well?" he asked. And Frederic William replied: "Yes." "Well, then, I am satisfied; your approval is worth more to me than that of the whole world."

The foundations for the rise of Prussia to the status of a great power had been laid by Frederic William. Frederic II. (1740-1786) recognised the full extent of what had been done, and put the state to that proof of its strength which was to

make its importance manifest to Europe at large. This importance consisted in its capacity for carrying out the intentions which had been declared in the foundation of its system—namely, effective resistance to a superior number of great powers. However, the immediate object was the aggrandisement of Prussia in the Oder district, the strengthening of the central district, in which the electorate itself had risen, the strengthening of the Marks on the Havel and the Spree, the securing of Berlin by pushing forward the frontier toward the south-east. There lay the Silesian principality with a Protestant population closely related to that of the Marks.

For 300 years the Hohenzollerns had been turning their eyes in this direction. In 1523 they had bought the Duchy of Jägerndorf; in 1537 they had concluded an hereditary alliance with Frederic II., the Duke of Liegnitz, Brieg, and Wohlau, whereby the Great Elector in 1686 had fondly hoped to acquire the Schwiebus district. He had been deceived, as his son had promised to restore this insignificant strip of territory to Austria after his father's death.

In 1694 Austria insisted upon her rights, and did not spare the elector—to whom she was afterwards obliged to concede the title of king—the shame of this compulsory transference. She was formally within her rights; but it was an act of indiscretion which led to disastrous results. By statutes and judgments a state can be neither created nor upheld. Moreover, the period had long since passed when the affairs of the individual, and especially personal claims to the inheritance and amalgamation of territories, could be of decisive importance in such questions as these. Such claims were made only as a means of proposing those demands which a state was obliged to make by virtue of its own necessities.

Austria Asserts her Rights

The conception of "rounding off territories as was expedient" was bound up with the practice of "adjustment of conflicting interests," which had become naturalised in every court since the time when the European powers had bid against one another for the Spanish inheritance.





DRESDEN, "THE GERMAN FLORENCE": THE MARKET PLACE OF SAXONY'S CAPITAL ABOUT THE YEAR 1750
From the painting by Belotto in the Royal Gallery, Dresden

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
ENDING OF
THE
OLD ORDER
V

FREDERIC THE GREAT THE SILESIAN AND SEVEN YEARS WARS

ON October 20th, 1740, a few months after Frederic had ascended the throne, the male line of the Hapsburgs became extinct. He had no objection to seeing the Hapsburg territories pass undivided to the successor; he was even ready to lend the support of his army; but he demanded a *quid pro quo*, a cession of territory, which would have enabled his own state to carry on an independent policy regardless of its powerful neighbours. He desired the immediate cession of Lower Silesia, and in return for this he was ready to waive those rights to the Juliers inheritance which his father had so highly valued. A technical excuse was found in the proofs, sound or otherwise, which the old professor, Johann Peter von Ludewig, put together in Halle in favour of the Brandenburg rights to the four Silesian principalities. The question was neither simple nor straightforward, and both sides may have well believed in the justice of their respective claims. But it was enough for Frederic that his demands were dictated by political necessities. If he thought of "rights" at all, it was of the moral claims, arising out of his help to his neighbour, to whom his house had rendered important services, which he had recently declared himself ready to continue to the same or even greater extent.

We can easily understand the king's anxiety to turn a favourable political situation to the best advantage. It is no less easy to understand his resolution to secure himself in the possession of Silesia by force of arms, before the negotiations with Austria had begun, because the political talent which has conceived a plan at once begins to calculate the means available for carrying it into execution, and because, of all the possible means whereby territory may be acquired, seizure is undoubtedly the easiest and the most certain. Frederic II. could not but presume that his

invasion of Silesia on December 16th, 1740, would almost inevitably lead to war. But for war he was prepared if Austria should reject his demands.

As a matter of fact, he was obliged to employ the whole of the yet untried power of his state to gain possession of Silesia, and therefore exposed himself to the danger of collapse and total ruin. His action is not to be justified by the intrinsic worth of Silesia, but by the enormous importance attaching to the accomplishment of his own will and the maintenance of the claims which he had preferred. The three Silesian wars are something more than a struggle for Silesia. They are the struggle for the success of Prussian policy—that is, the creation of a new German great power. Of final importance for the result were the solidarity of the Prussian system of government, the loyalty and capability of its people in all the emergencies of war and of peace, the moral strength and military qualifications of the king. As a leader the great Fritz not only saved his Prussian kingdom from destruction, but also won the hearts of the Germans.

For how long a time had there been no warrior to rejoice the heart of every honest German? Not since Warsaw and Fehrbellin. The little Savoyard had dealt hard blows; Starhemberg had directed many a fierce charge, splendid songs were sung of Marlborough, but none of these possessed the popularity which Frederic the Great enjoyed. What made so deep an impression was the fact that the fate of the king himself was wholly contingent upon the result of his battles.

The Secret of Frederic's Popularity The same phenomenon recurs in the case of Napoleon I. Moreover, it was a new art of war which Frederic had learned, an art which in some respects developed before the eyes of his contemporaries as he practised it. No poet and no painter has yet escaped the critic's censure, and the truth holds

good of every general and strategist. "Strategy is not a science," as Prince Kraft of Hohenlohe-Ingelfingen shows; "it is an art, which must be inborn." Strength of character, power of decision, are elements indispensable to strategical capacity. Study may improve a man's powers, but it cannot make him a strategist. To this he must be born. Frederic the Great was a born strategist. He certainly did not gain much advantage by study; he learned the art of war by waging it. It is by no means generally admitted that he was a master in the art of war. His nearest relation, his brother Prince Henry (1726-1802), has given vent to the severest stricture upon his methods, without consideration for the fact that such criticisms recoiled upon himself

Now, he is said to have been always ready to give battle; again, we are told in confidence that he was a coward at heart. The contemporaries of Frederic the Great never realised the great strides which the art of war made under him. Napoleon was the first to give him his due merit. Frederic abandoned the system of keeping the enemy occupied by a number of concurrent operations, of inflicting a blow here and there, of driving him out of his positions and so gradually gaining ground. The destruction of his enemy's main power was the object which he invariably kept in view. "Throughout the Seven Years War," says Bernhardt, "in every one of the battles which he planned—battles far more decisive than any of Napoleon's combinations—the object in view was the utter destruction of the hostile army. Such especially was the case at Prague and at Leuthen, where the plan of destruction proved entirely successful. So, also, at Zorndorf, at Kunersdorf, and even at Kolin; to a less extent at Rossbach, where it was necessary to take immediate advantage of a sudden favourable opportunity, produced by instantaneous decision." The first Silesian war coincided with the Bavarian invasion of Upper Austria

and the Franco-Bavarian attempt in Bohemia. The Field-Marshal Schwerin won the battle of Mollwitz on April 10th, 1741, owing chiefly to the admirable manœuvring powers and the excellent firing drill of the Prussian infantry. At

Czeslau, on May 17th, 1742, it was the king's generalship which brought the campaign to a favourable issue. He it was who decided upon the timely retreat from Moravia; he personally carried out the opportune junction with the younger Leopold (Maximilian II.) of Anhalt-Dessau. The battle was decided by the invincible steadiness of the Prussian battalions. Surprising had been the rapidity of the

king's attack upon Silesia, and no less surprising to the allies was the one-sided Peace of Breslau, in which, for the first time, the possession of Silesia was promised to him. In calm confidence as to his own strength, he paid no attention to the irritation and the reproaches of France. He knew that his co-operation in the general war would meet with glad approval should he find himself again obliged to take up arms.

The conventions which Maria Theresa concluded with Great Britain, Saxony, and Sardinia aroused his anxiety for Silesia. On June 5th, 1744, he concluded a fresh alliance with France, and invaded Bo-

hemia, this being the second Silesian war. In the autumn he was obliged to evacuate the country. However, by a brilliant victory at Hohenfriedeberg on June 4th, 1745, he shattered the hopes of his destruction which had been entertained by the quadruple alliance—Austria, Saxony, Great Britain, and Holland. The decision and the simplicity of his arrangements had revived the confidence of the army in the leader whom they did not yet understand.

He was able quietly to observe the advance of the Austrian and Saxon armies over the mountains, until he made a night march from Schweidnitz and attacked the enemy before they could concentrate. The Saxons were overthrown at Striegau before the Austrians could get into line



FREDERIC THE GREAT

He succeeded his father as King of Prussia in 1740. On the death of the Emperor Charles VI., he claimed part of Silesia, and, invading that province, defeated the Austrians. He died in 1780.

**Frederic's
Genius
in Battle**

FREDERIC THE GREAT

of battle. They began the fight when they had completed this operation, with their customary loyalty and bravery, but could not resist the fury of the Prussian cavalry; the dragoon regiment "Bayreuth," under Gessler, made a wonderful charge. The victories of Soor on September 30th, and of Kesselsdorf on December 15th, so decisively proved the superiority of the Prussian arms that the empress was again forced

the compact concluded between Austria, France, and Russia—the compact of Versailles, signed at Jouy, on May 1st, 1756—aimed at war with Prussia under any conditions, so that Frederic was forced to anticipate the attack of an overwhelming force, or whether Frederic made the existence of an alliance which in no way threatened himself an excuse for carrying out the conquest of Saxony, upon which



THE YOUTHFUL FREDERIC THE GREAT AT RHEINSBERG

From the painting by W. Amberg

to yield Silesia in the Peace of Dresden on December 25th, 1745. Frederic did not attempt to disturb the position of the Austrian House in Germany, and recognised the imperial dignity of Francis I., the husband of Maria Theresa.

Even till recent times the most divergent opinions have been held upon the outbreak of the Seven Years War, which Prussia began by invading Saxony on August 28th, 1756. The question is, whether

he had determined long before. On January 16th, 1756, the compact of Westminster was concluded at Whitehall between Prussia and Great Britain, which it was hoped would bring about a rapprochement with Russia, at that time in alliance with England. Even Frederic could hardly have foreseen that the only result of the compact would be to arouse Elizabeth's dissent and to cause the withdrawal of Russia. Nor would anyone

maintain that if Frederic had not himself anticipated the outbreak of hostilities, Prussia would have been left in undisturbed possession of Silesia, and that the policy of Count Kaunitz would have made it unnecessary for him to defend his acquisition. It was impossible to pass by this short cut through the protracted operation of defining the internal relations

How Frederic Impressed the German Nation

of Germany; and whether the path was entered earlier or later is a question of very minor importance.

Entirely independent of this question is the deep impression made by Frederic's personality upon the German nation.

That impression is founded upon the fact that the great king and his loyal people fought for seven years against the five greatest powers, who in mere point of numbers were far superior to them—Austria, France, Russia, Sweden, and the German Empire—that they survived the bitter struggle, and were not crushed to the earth. It does not detract from the brilliance of Frederic's splendid resistance to the circle of foes that it would not have been possible without the gold which Britain provided, together with the fact that after 1757 his Anglo-

Hanoverian allies absorbed the attention of France—an aspect of the question dealt with in another chapter. Whether Prussia had only herself to thank for the war, or whether it was forced upon her by her enemies, the fact remains that it was a heroic fight of the weak against the strong, which excites admiration and has caught the fancy and imagination of those contemporary with it. "A true instinct guided the German people even in paths where the way could not be clearly seen or the landmarks noted; that instinct taught them that upon this struggle their all was staked, that once again the past, as in the Thirty Years War, was summoning all her strength to destroy the future of Germany. Every mind which strove to cast away the narrow trammels of German intellectual life at that

Great Forces on the Side of Prussia

time, and to rise to a future of greater freedom, splendour, and beauty, ranged itself upon Frederic's side—the youthful Goethe and the older Lessing, who had now risen to the full height of his powers."

At the outset the war was brilliantly successful. Saxony was occupied and its army forced to surrender at Pirna, on October 16th, 1756. By the victory of



A POPULAR KING: FREDERIC THE GREAT RECEIVING HIS PEOPLE'S HOMAGE
From the painting by Adolph Menzel

FREDERIC THE GREAT

Lobositz on October 1st, Frederic opened the way for his march into Bohemia. On May 6th, 1757, he defeated the Austrians at Prague, in which battle Schwerin was killed, advanced to besiege the town, and then turned upon the army which was advancing to its relief under Daun.

At Kolin, on June 18th, 1757, his impetuous advance received its first check. The victory of the Austrians is to be ascribed rather to the bravery and endurance of

their troops, especially those of Saxony, than to the combinations of the general, and principally to the fact that Prince Maurice of Anhalt-Des-sau misunderstood an important order from the king, and made a movement which thwarted his plans. This victory speedily freed Bohemia from the enemy. After the defeat, which had utterly crushed the spirit of his generals, Frederic alone retained his perspicacity and presence of mind. He saw that he must give up the bold offensive movements which he had hitherto carried out, and act upon a general method

of defence, to be maintained by offensive measures upon occasion. However, he did not give up the advantages to be gained by keeping his troops in the enemy's country until the last moment, and remained in Bohemia until he was forced to retreat upon the Lausitz by the advance of Prince Charles Alexander of Lorraine and Bar upon Silesia.

Frederic left his brother Augustus William—the father of Frederic William II.—in charge of the defence of the line

of the Oder, and having successfully induced the Austrians to give battle at Zittau, he crossed the Elbe at Dresden, in order to repulse Soubise, who had joined the imperial army. Their advance upon the Elbe was an important movement, in view of the fact that the Anglo-Hanoverian army, under the Duke of Cumberland, had been defeated by a French army under Marshal Richelieu, and had been forced to capitulate at

Closter Seven, on September 8th. Frederic, however, had already determined to act on the defensive only against the French, and to attack the Austrians, who were making rapid progress in Silesia, when Soubise gave him, on November 5th, 1757, the opportunity of fighting the battle of Rossbach, one of the most welcome victories ever gained by a German army. Frederic's intellectual superiority made it an easy task for him to cut through the slow enveloping movement of his opponents by a single adroit manœuvre. The brilliant charge of the Seydlitz cavalry then

routed and put to flight the 43,000 men who were attacking 8,500 Prussians. The French fled to Hesse and Frankfort, the imperial troops to Franconia. The Anglo-Hanoverian army, now placed under the command of Ferdinand of Brunswick, held the French attacks in check on the west through the remainder of the war.

But the danger of losing the whole of Silesia was now extreme, and a movement was accordingly made in that direction. A brilliant raid of the Austrian hussars



FREDERIC THE GREAT ON THE BATTLEFIELD

From the painting by Adolph Menzel

to Berlin had no real military importance, but it showed with appalling clearness how far the enemy's lines had been pushed toward the capital. Two months later the army commanded by the Duke of Brunswick-Bevern had been several times defeated by the Austrians and driven back to the walls of Breslau. On November 22nd, 1757, they were there attacked in their entrenchments and forced to retreat from the right bank of the Oder. As the king was hastening from Saxony to Silesia, he was met by messages of misfortune upon misfortune; first, the loss of the battle, and two days later the capture of the Duke of Bevern and the surrender of Breslau without attempt at resistance.

On December 2nd Frederic joined the remains of the defeated army. His forces now amounted to 22,000 infantry, 12,000 cavalry, 96 light battalion guns, and 71 pieces of heavier artillery. The only possibility of saving Silesia lay in striking a decisive blow.

Who before Frederic would have dared the venture? However, his mind was made up, even before the Austrians had determined to march against him. Charles of Lorraine had urged the policy of attack, in spite of the advice of the cautious Daun, who would have preferred to await the king in security at Breslau. Charles seems not to have desired to bring about a battle, but to have been convinced that Frederic would be forced to evacuate Silesia forthwith, when he found the vastly superior Austrian army in motion against him, consisting of 90,000 men, including the Würtemberg

and Bavarian contingents. On December 5th, 1757, the king saw from Heidau the long battle line of his enemy, extended over the space of a mile. Before their eyes Frederic concentrated almost his entire force against the Austrian left wing, after his own left had made a successful attack upon the Saxon advanced guard, which was not pushed home. Daun and the Duke Charles did not perceive Frederic's plan when their left wing was vigorously attacked and thrown back upon the centre at Leuthen. When the duke brought up reinforcements from the right wing, the cavalry were broken by the charge of sixty Prussian squadrons who had been standing undercover. There was no protection for the centre, and an utter rout was the consequence. The Austrians lost 21,000



FREDERIC THE GREAT IN OLD AGE

men (12,000 of them prisoners), 116 guns, 51 standards, and 4,000 waggons. The price paid by the Prussians for the victory was 6,300 men and 200 officers.

The result of the victory of Leuthen, the most complete and remarkable which Frederic ever gained, was equalled only by the skill with which it had been won. The king had directed his blow against the hostile power so as to drive it from the Bohemian line of retreat in a north-easterly direction, and the defeat consequently produced

entire confusion. Charles of Lorraine brought only 35,000 men back with him across the mountains. Eighteen thousand fled to Breslau, where they were forced to surrender on December 21st. The whole of Silesia was evacuated as far as Schweidnitz. The action of a leader of genius, who addresses himself to the heaviest



LEADERS IN THE SEVEN YEARS WAR

Ernst Gideon Baron von Laudon, whose portrait is first given, entered the Russian service in 1732, but later exchanged into that of Austria. He displayed great talent in the Seven Years War, and also as field-marshal in the war against the Turks. Hans Joachim von Zieten also distinguished himself greatly in the Seven Years War.

FREDERIC THE GREAT

tasks, and at the decisive moment calmly chooses the means calculated to produce the required result, was never more brilliantly displayed. The victor of Leuthen was henceforward indestructible. The campaign of 1757 is typical of the whole war. The king acted prematurely in supposing that the retreat of the Russians from Prussia implied their retirement from the alliance with Austria. By calling up the division of the old Field-Marshal Hans von Lehwald he made the kingdom the theatre of the war from that time onward. In spite of the redoubled attack of Seydlitz, he was unable to gain a victory at Zorndorf on August 25th, 1758. Until the autumn of 1760 Frederic was able to prevent the junction of the armies of Laudon and Daun. The amalgamation of these forces would have been his inevitable ruin. On August 15th he succeeded in checking Laudon at Liegnitz

On November 3rd fortune smiled upon him at Torgau, where Zieten snatched a victory from the Austrians which they had thought within their grasp, and forced Daun to retreat upon Dresden. In 1761, ill-feeling between Laudon and Alexander Borrissovitch Buturlin saved him from being overwhelmed by 130,000 Austrians and Russians at Bunzelwitz, from August 18th to September 9th. There was no other decisive battle. The war ran its course until the death of the Empress Elizabeth, on January 5th, 1762, and the definite retirement of Russia brought its conclusion near, in spite of the defection of England under Bute's administration.

The Peace of Hubertsburg on February 15th, 1763, caused no change in the distribution of territory in Germany. However, it secured Prussia for the third time in possession of Silesia, and so paid her the price for which she had spent her power. The imperial throne was secured to the house of Maria Theresa and with the assent of Brandenburg her son was elected at Frankfort, March 27th, 1764.

Frederic, King of Prussia, has become a German national hero. He did not appreciate the future open to the nation which sang his praises; but he made his will to be law from the Baltic to the Alps.

HANS V. ZWIEDINECK-SÜDENHORST



THE STANDARD-BEARER OF THE PRUSSIAN ARMY



Daniel Defoe, 1659-1731



Jonathan Swift, 1667-1745



Sir Richard Steele, 1672-1729



Joseph Addison, 1672-1719



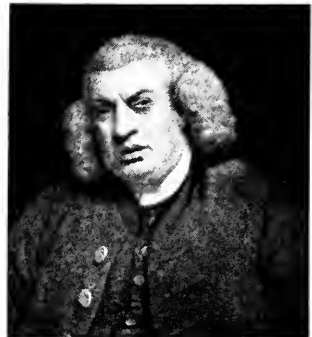
Alexander Pope, 1688-1744



Samuel Richardson, 1689-1761



Henry Fielding, 1707-1754



Samuel Johnson, 1709-1784



Laurence Sterne, 1713-1768



Tobias Smollett, 1721-1771



Oliver Goldsmith, 1728-1774

GREAT ENGLISH MEN OF LETTERS FROM DEFOE TO GOLDSMITH

WESTERNEUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
ENDING
OF THE
OLD ORDER
VI

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE AMERICAN WAR THE REVOLUTION IN NATIONAL INDUSTRY

THE primary purpose which George III. set before himself on ascending the throne of Great Britain—a nation at last united and loyal throughout to the reigning dynasty—was to re-assert the personal power of the monarch. The old scheme of meeting the claim of parliamentary rights with the claims of royal prerogative was dead and done with. The new scheme was for the Crown to acquire in Parliament itself the ascendancy which the exigencies of the Revolution had bestowed upon the dominant Whig families. To that end the two great obstacles were the personality of Pitt and the remains of solidarity among the Whigs. Out of a further disintegration, the Crown might hope to extract a dominant party of its own.

With the overthrow of Pitt, the king had won the first battle for ascendancy. But it was easier to break and disunite the dominant party than to find another which should be at once submissive to the royal views and respected in the House of Commons. Several experiments of an unsuccessful and sometimes humiliating character had to be made before George III. discovered a Prime Minister after his own heart. The great parties of the past, those which had opposed and supported the programme of the Revolution, no longer existed. In their place stood groups of politicians, united by attachment to a great name or fortune, returned to Parliament, as a rule, by the patrons whom they followed, and more concerned to secure a place or a pension than to study the situation and needs of the nation. The process which led to the victory of the king caused England, between ephemeral Ministries and a legislature partly corrupt, partly apathetic, to drift towards a crisis compared with which the last two wars were trivial. Lately the arbiter of Europe, she was to be exposed to humiliation at the hands of her own colonies. The causes of friction between the

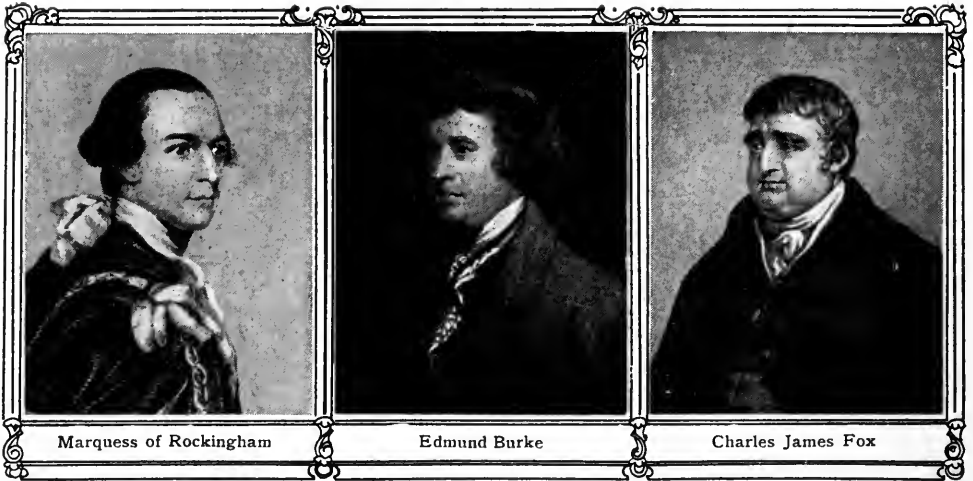
**Britain
Drifting towards
a Crisis**

mother country and the American colonies can be traced back to the beginning of the eighteenth century. The different settlements, which extended from Massachusetts in the north to Georgia in the south, had been founded at different times and by very various types of men.

Colonists From the Old Country Some had emigrated to escape from religious persecution; some had left England burdened with debt or the sense of failure in the profession which they had originally chosen; others, again, were the younger sons of landed families; others felt the desire for a life comparatively untrammelled by convention. Not a few were natives of Ireland or Scotland, whom the real or fancied wrongs of their native land had driven into exile.

But all the colonists, whether patriotic or the reverse, whether they had prospered or failed, whether they had been well or ill treated in their mother country, were moderately well contented to remain dependent on the British Crown so long as they were allowed to manage their own affairs through elected legislatures. In all the colonies, whether proprietary or formed by independent enterprise, there was a passionate love of freedom; all had imitated to some extent the forms of English government, had preserved the English common law, and had cherished the traditional English mistrust of the executive. In each colony the head of the executive was a governor appointed by the Crown or the proprietor; and the acts of this official were watched

Jealousy in the Colonial Parliaments with the more jealousy because he represented an authority extraneous to the colonies themselves. Hardly less acute was the jealousy which each colony entertained for its neighbours. It was well nigh impossible to secure concerted action between the colonial Parliaments. Their members could hardly conceive of co-operation except as entailing loss of



THREE EMINENT STATESMEN IN THE REIGN OF GEORGE III.

The Marquess of Rockingham, as leader of the Whig Opposition, was called upon to form a Ministry in 1765. He resigned in the following year; in 1782 he again became Premier and died the same year. Burke's introduction to parliamentary life began in 1765 when he became private secretary to the Marquess of Rockingham, and his eloquence soon won for him a high position in the Whig Party. During the American War Charles James Fox strongly opposed the coercive measures of government; when Pitt came into power a long contest between these two statesmen began.

independence. This was the more unfortunate because in the French power they had a common enemy. The attempt to connect Louisiana with the Great Lakes had been an equal menace to all. Nor could the danger have been averted but for English help. The colonies contributed less than was expected to the work of conquering Canada. Now that Canada had become a British dependency they were inclined to think of the danger as finally removed; they resented the policy of the home government in maintaining a permanent military force for their protection, and they were disinclined to find money for this object. They considered that England derived from the Navigation Laws sufficient advantages to reimburse her for whatever expense she had incurred on their behalf; and they resented even that degree of control to which they had been subjected from their first foundation. "England," said Vergennes, after the conquest of Canada, "will soon repent of having removed the only check which kept her colonies in awe. She will call on them to contribute towards supporting the burden they have helped to bring upon her, and they will answer by shaking off all dependence."



JOHN WILKES

His political career began when he was elected for Aylesbury in 1757 as a supporter of Pitt. He met with varied fortunes during his life, which came to an end in 1797.

The prophecy was soon fulfilled. Grenville, one of the Ministers whom George III. endeavoured to train in his own views, resolved that the colonists ought to bear a part of the burden represented by the national debt. Finding that a more rigorous collection of the customs at colonial ports would not yield the sum that he thought proper, and having utterly failed to obtain the promise of adequate votes from the colonial legislatures, he persuaded the English Parliament, in 1765, to impose a stamp tax in the colonies. There could be no doubt that Parliament possessed the legal right to do this. But the colonists treated the tax as the opponents of Charles I. had treated ship money. They denied the legality of the Stamp Act, and roused in the mother country a feeling of irritation which threatened to overcome all prudential motives. The successors of Grenville's Ministry, the Rockingham Whigs, saved the situation by repealing the obnoxious Act before the quarrel had become irreparable. But this concession, in 1766, was accompanied by a Declaratory Act asserting the abstract right of Parliament to levy taxes on the colonies as a formal concession on the part of the

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE AMERICAN WAR

Ministry to offended national pride. No practical consequences were intended to follow from the declaration of right. But the next Cabinet had the temerity, in 1767, to impose a duty upon tea and other goods imported into America. It is one of the ironies of history that Chatham, the most vigorous defender of colonial independence, was the nominal chief of this administration. But he was incapacitated by illness, and remained unconscious of the hare-brained scheme until the mischief had been done. It is true that the right of England to impose customs, as distinct from excise duties, had been admitted in the past, and that the new taxes were a flea-bite as compared with the restrictions of the Navigation Laws, which the colonists endured with patience. But American suspicions had been aroused by the Declaratory Act, and the colonists were



DEFENDER OF GIBRALTAR

After serving in the Continental wars, George Augustus Elliott was, in 1775, appointed Governor of Gibraltar, which he heroically defended against the French and Spanish.

flushed with their recent victory. New protests poured in; there were squabbles with governors and affrays with British troops. It became necessary for the Government of George III. to choose between submission and the use of force. The government had now fallen completely into the king's hands. During a series of weak administrations he had kept control of patronage, and by systematic corruption had organised in the House of Commons a party of "King's Friends," upon whom he could rely for unwavering support. It made little difference to him that Parliament had ceased to represent the nation, and that Middlesex, the most important of the free constituencies, had twice returned to Parliament a notorious profligate, John Wilkes, for no better reason than to attest their satisfaction at the virulent attacks which his newspaper delivered on the



THE LAST SPEECH OF THE EARL OF CHATHAM IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

The scene represented in this picture took place in the old House of Lords—the Painted Chamber—on April 7th, 1778. The Earl of Chatham, then in his seventieth year, had spoken against the recognition of the independence of the American colonies, and when attempting to rise in order to reply to some criticism of his speech, he fell back in a convulsive fit and was carried from the House. He died about a month later and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

From the painting by J. S. Copley, R.A., in the National Gallery

Government. Still less was the king moved by the satire and argument of the constitutionalists. The letters of Junius, an anonymous writer of no common order, exposed every member and measure of the Ministry to ridicule.

Edmund Burke published one of the most famous pamphlets, the "Thoughts on the Present Discontents," to prove that the new system of personal government was fatal to liberty and political morality. To such attacks the king responded by bringing into power Lord North, a man whose

The colonies were now in arms for the principle that without representation there should be no taxation. In 1773 a Boston mob destroyed the cargoes of English tea which were lying in their harbour. An attempt to make the whole community of Boston responsible led to the summoning of an inter-colonial congress; the cause of Boston became that of all the colonies in 1774. North now began to think of retreat, but it was too late. In 1775 a new congress assembled to prepare for armed resistance; it was immediately followed by an attack



FATAL RIOTS IN LONDON STREETS; THE GORDON RISING IN THE YEAR 1780

The passing of a Bill in 1778 for the relief of Roman Catholics from certain disabilities gave rise to riots in the city of London. Headed by Lord George Gordon, 50,000 persons marched to the House of Commons on June 2nd, 1780, to present a petition for its repeal. For five days dreadful riots took place, many Catholic chapels and houses being destroyed. The troops were called out, the above picture showing the Honourable Artillery Company, under Sir Bernard Turner, in Broad Street. No fewer than 210 of the rioters were killed, 248 wounded, 133 arrested, and 21 executed.

From the painting by Wheatley

genuine abilities, good humour, and political experience were marred by a blind deference to the wishes of his master. The king and North might have assuaged the popular indignation against the colonies. They chose rather to inflame the mutual ill-will of the disputants. At first they preserved the appearance of conciliation by repealing all the new duties except that on tea. It did not make any practical difference whether they excepted one tax or left the whole number still in force.

on British troops at Lexington, by the siege of Boston, and by the repulse of the besieging colonial army from their position on Bunker's Hill. From these beginnings blazed up the War of Independence (1775-1781), of which the events will be related in a later volume. It was a struggle in every way discouraging to England and damaging to the national prestige. The British armies, separated by enormous tracts of sea from supplies and reinforcements, had a hopeless task before them;



GIBRALTAR UNDER SIEGE: THE HEROIC DEFENCE OF THE ENGLISH AGAINST A COMBINED FRENCH AND SPANISH ATTACK

By the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 England came into possession of Gibraltar. Years later she was called upon to defend this formidable fortress against France and Spain, whose fleets and armies vainly besieged it for nearly four years. The Governor, George Augustus Elliott, afterwards Lord Heathfield, defended the place with conspicuous ability. The above picture illustrates an incident on September 13th, 1782, when the enemy conducted their assault from floating batteries, but the flotilla was set on fire and terrible destruction followed.

From the picture by J. S. Copley, R.A., in the Corporation Gallery, London.

for although the colonies decided to secede only by the barest of majorities, the loyalists had little power to help the royal forces, and there was no one centre of the rebellion at which a blow could be delivered with fatal effect. But, allowing for these disadvantages, the generals of George III. made a poor use of their resources; and

**America's
Struggle
for Freedom**

the war revealed a portentous decline in the efficiency of the navy. It may indeed be said that the war was lost at sea, for, when France joined the cause of the colonies, in 1778, her fleet patrolled the coast of North America with such success that no adequate communications could be maintained with England, and the West Indies were reconquered one by one.

Moderate statesmen urged that measures of conciliation should be tried, Burke arguing that no taxes could ever compare with the profits of the colonial trade, and that expediency must be considered before questions of abstract right and justice, Chatham taking the line that America had been treated like a slave, and must be compensated with complete acknowledgment of her freedom from control. Had Chatham been recalled to power this generous attitude and the glamour of his reputation might have prevented the final separation. But he died in 1778, after delivering in the House of Lords a last impassioned protest against the royal policy; and North remained in power till the end of the war.

The struggle, so far as America was concerned, closed with the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781. The national pride was slightly soothed by the subsequent successes which Rodney gained at sea over the French, and by Elliott's heroic defence of Gibraltar against the Spaniards in 1782. But it was obvious that the prize for which Great Britain had fought must be abandoned; the more obvious because Ireland, after well nigh a century of Protestant ascendancy and subjection to the British Parliament, was visibly verging upon armed rebellion. The Rockingham Whigs, who had done their best to prevent the war, were called into power that they might bring it to an end. The negotiations which they opened were terminated by the death of their leader, the most honourable and consistent party leader of the eighteenth century; but in 1783 the Treaty of Versailles, with France and with

**The United
States
of America**

the colonies, was at length concluded. The colonies, under the title of the United States, were recognised as independent. France and Britain made a mutual restoration of conquests, except that France retained Tobago and Senegal. Spain was pacified with Minorca and Florida; but Gibraltar, of which the vast strategic importance was now fully recognised, remained in British hands.

The Treaty of Paris left Great Britain with an empire which was sadly mutilated, but still considerable. It included in the western hemisphere not only Canada, but also Jamaica and some of the richer islands of the West Indies. In the East the governorships of Clive and Warren Hastings had led to an expansion of the territories governed by the East India Company. The Calcutta settlement now formed the capital of an immense province which took in the whole valley of the Ganges as far as Benares; further to the south the coast district of the Circars had been annexed, and in the extreme south of the peninsula, where the territory actually under British rule was small, the British

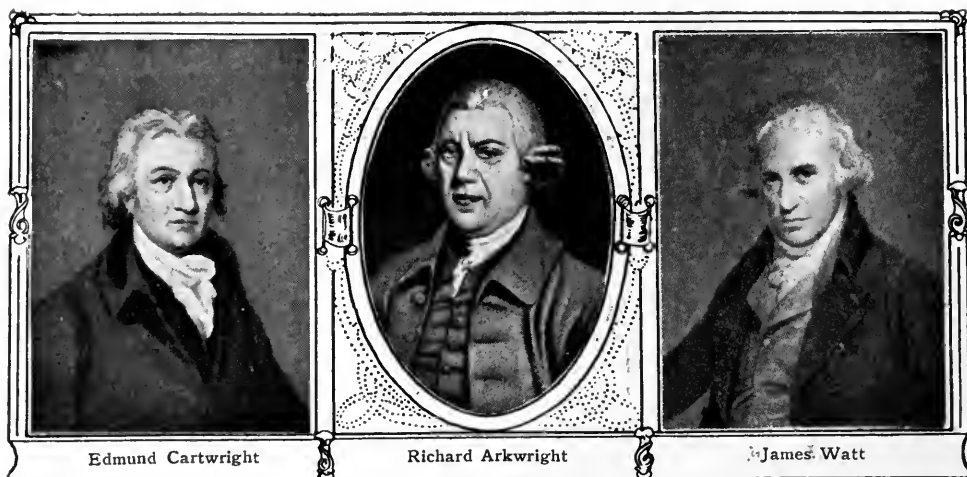
**Founders
of the Indian
Empire**

name was respected far and wide. The Regulating Act of 1773 had brought the company under the control of the state, and the appointment of the Governor-General now rested with Parliament; the territories of the company might therefore be considered as national dependencies. The growing importance of India was revealed by the conflict which arose between George III. and the Whigs in 1783 on the subject of the Indian government.

An India Bill, to place, for the time being, the patronage of political appointments in the hands of a parliamentary committee, gave rise to a feud between the king and the coalition Ministry of Fox and North which ended in the defeat and retirement of the Ministers. But Clive and Hastings were not yet recognised as the founders of an empire. Both had cause to complain of national ingratitude. Clive died by his own hand, in consequence of an implicit censure by the House of Commons on his Indian administration. Warren Hastings, who retired from office in 1785, was impeached for malversation on the evidence of private enemies, and the trial dragged on for years before it ended in his acquittal. Only recently have the characters of these great men been vindicated from the aspersions which



A GROUP OF HAPPY PRINCESSES: THREE OF THE CHILDREN OF GEORGE III.
This picture, reproduced from the painting by J. S. Copley, R.A., in the Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace, shows three pretty princesses, the children of King George III. The figure with the uplifted tambourine is the Princess Mary, who afterwards became the Duchess of Gloucester. The Princess Sophia is behind the carriage, while the child in the carriage is the Princess Amelia. She was the favourite child of the king, and it is said that her death, when she was only twenty-seven years old, hastened, if it did not actually cause, the terrible malady which afflicted him.



THREE FAMOUS INVENTORS OF THE GEORGIAN PERIOD

Edmund Cartwright, the inventor of the power-loom and other labour-saving machines, was rector of Goadby-Marwood, in Leicestershire, and received a grant of \$50,000 from Government in recognition of his services to industry and invention. Richard Arkwright invented cotton-spinning machines and established a large factory in Derbyshire driven with water power; while James Watt, by his discoveries in connection with the properties of steam, benefited the human race.

their contemporaries were too ready, in the heat of party conflict, to accept as proved.

In 1783 all Britain's colonial possessions seemed unimportant in comparison with those lost. Adam Smith, whose great work on the "Wealth of Nations"

appeared during the American war, was of the opinion that the national prosperity had been gravely compromised by the mistake of developing trade with America to the neglect of all other markets. The monopoly secured by the Navigation Acts and similar restrictive measures had indeed produced an unhealthy inflation of particular industries. Yet English commerce survived the shock of the American secession and continued to prosper. The country had, in fact, already developed its manufactures to such a point that it was industrially in advance of all its Continental rivals.

This development was of a comparatively recent date. The era of the great mechanical inventors began only in the reign of George II. Kay, the inventor of the flying shuttle, which effected a revolution in the weaving industry in 1738, was the pioneer of the new movement. He made it possible to extend the trade in manufactured woollens, and to open that in cotton stuffs. Soon after 1760 there came in close succession a number of further improvements. Hargreaves, a native of the Lancashire town of Blackburn, was led by the need for a more regular and abundant supply of yarn to

devise means of spinning by machinery. In 1767 he produced the jenny, which enabled one weaver to drive and superintend a number of spindles simultaneously. The neighbours of Hargreaves, seeing their profits threatened, broke the machine to pieces, and the hapless inventor was all but killed in the riot. His machine was, however, patented in 1770. In 1769, Arkwright, also a native of Lancashire and a barber by trade, produced a roller machine for spinning by water power. He, too, had to contend against local persecution, and his factory was burnt to the ground; but he rebuilt it, and lived to double the prosperity of his native place. In 1779 Samuel Crompton, a poor weaver, invented the spinning-mule, so called because it combined the principles of Hargreaves' jenny and Arkwright's water-plane. Finally, in 1785, Cartwright, a clergyman, extended the use of machinery to the process of weaving, and produced a power-loom.

But hitherto the only source of mechanical power had been the water-wheel, except that steam was used for mining-pumps. James Watt discovered, in 1769, the means of setting a wheel in motion by a steam-driven piston; and a form of steam power was thus produced which could easily be applied to every sort of machine.

The introduction of machinery meant a vast extension of the textile trades and the growth of urban manufacturing centres.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE AMERICAN WAR

The invention of the steam-engine decided that the north of England, where coal was chiefly to be found, should become the headquarters of the new industrialism; and the north thus began to assume that pre-eminent position which hitherto belonged to the south-eastern counties and the weaving districts of the south-west. New towns sprang up, and the demand for a readjustment of parliamentary representation naturally increased. But this was not the only change. The introduction of machinery bore hardly upon the less intelligent of the hand labourers. It ruined many old centres of industry. It elevated the skilful and quick-witted, but it made the struggle for existence harder and swelled the ranks of the proletariat. It also complicated the task of government, both in the spheres of foreign and domestic policy. The necessity of protecting industrial interests became more obvious than ever; the danger of social agitation and revolution was increased by the growth of town populations imperfectly educated and civilised, living under institutions which had been framed for the government

of small communities and were inadequate to control disorderly multitudes.

The tale of industrial development is told by the statistics of English exports. In 1793 their value was \$100,000,000; in 1800 it had almost doubled; in 1815 it exceeded \$250,000,000. This expansion took place in the midst of great wars, when England was fighting hard for the mastery of the seas, and for a part of the period under consideration, the normal development of trade was impeded by the Continental system of Napoleon. The growth of national prosperity was not entirely dependent upon new manufactures. In agriculture also there were great improvements. The enclosures which had been made in the sixteenth century for the sake of sheep-farming had done much to destroy the old open-field system of cultivation. The introduction of "convertible husbandry" furnished another incentive for the creation of compact holdings in place of those composed of scattered strips in the common fields. But the open-field system still dominated more than half of England.



JAMES WATT AS A BOY: DISCOVERING THE CONDENSATION OF STEAM

That the child is father of the man was wonderfully demonstrated in the case of James Watt, the discoverer of the condensation of steam. As a boy he would sit by the fire watching the steam as it issued from the kettle, and wondering whether this force could be put to any practical purpose. In the above picture he is shown holding a spoon to the mouth of the kettle on the table in order that he may test the strength of the steam. In later years Watt became a great inventor, his discoveries in connection with the properties of steam completely revolutionising the methods of travelling.

From the painting by Marcus Stone, R.A., by permission of Messrs. Graves & Son

It was the growth of population consequent upon industrial changes which now accelerated the change from the mediæval to the modern methods of agriculture. The native farmer was protected against foreign competition by an import duty on corn. He was encouraged to produce for exportation by a bounty system. And these artificial inducements, although taxing the community for the benefit of a class, did much to promote a more scientific agriculture.

About 1730 the experiments of Lord Townsend led to the use of an improved and more elaborate rotation of crops. The breeding of stock was raised to a fine art by the Leicestershire grazier, Bakewell. An enormous number of private Acts of Parliament were passed to sanction the enclosure of particular localities. The process was not completed before the middle of the nineteenth century, but upwards of a thousand Acts of this description were passed between 1777 and 1800.

The increased profits of farming under the new methods went chiefly to those who had the necessary capital for effecting extensive improvements; and one consequence of the agricultural revolution was the disappearance of the yeoman farmer. Undoubtedly the growth of great estates made for increased production of wealth; but with the yeoman vanished one of the sturdiest and most valuable elements of the population, which was ill replaced by the class of tenant farmers.

Before this work enters on the new era of European history opened by the French Revolution, a brief survey of the literary development of the eighteenth century becomes necessary. It is not surprising that this period—an age of great wars, political tension, and economic development—should produce a literature which was polemical and often political in character, or that with the old religious ideas and the old social system the characteristic qualities of seventeenth-century poetry and prose should evaporate away.

The Augustan Age of English Literature

Poetry, in fact, almost ceased to exist, for Alexander Pope (1688-1744), though choosing verse for the medium of his utterances, was by nature a critic, satirist, and translator, a poet at moments only, and, as it were, by accident. He is the most characteristic figure of the so-called Augustan age of English literature. All

his best work is satirical. The "Rape of the Lock" (1714) is a personal satire on feminine foibles, the "Dunciad" (1728-1743) a savage attack upon the professional writers of Grub Street, from whose malice Pope had received pin-pricks which he was incapable of forgiving. The "Essay on Man" (1734), though professedly a philosophical poem, is redeemed from oblivion chiefly by the passages in which Pope analyses the failings of his contemporaries. Avowedly the pupil of Dryden, he shows the influence of his master, both in matter and style. But he is less political than Dryden, and far surpasses his model in the management of their favourite metre, the heroic couplet.

A metre less fitted for poetry than this, of which the whole effect depends upon antithesis, neatness of phrase, and compression of meaning, can hardly be imagined. But for the expression of a sarcastic common-sense, for the scornful analysis of character, it is unrivalled. Pope's use of the heroic couplet entitles him to rank among the great masters of literary form. There is much

The Great Writers of the Period

in common between Pope and Swift. But the latter chose to express himself in prose; and his satire was at once more indiscriminate and more reserved than that of Pope. Swift at his best is characterised by a grave irony, and his thought is more antithetic than his style. A Tory pamphleteer of no mean order, Swift is best known for two satires of a perfectly general character—the "Tale of a Tub," which ridicules, under cover of an allegory, the Reformation and the quarrels of the Churches; and the "Travels of Lemuel Gulliver." In the latter work Swift attacks humanity at large, and passes gradually, under the influence of a melancholy bordering on mania, from playful banter to savage denunciation, which inspires, and is inspired by, loathing.

Swift died insane, and there is a morbid element in his best work even from his early years. The cynicism of his age mastered, soured, and finally destroyed a powerful nature. It could not sour Addison and Steele, the two great essayists of the Augustan age, whose contributions immortalised the "Tatler" and "Spectator," two otherwise ephemeral journals. Like Pope and Swift, they are critics of human life, but their criticism is tempered with humour and a genial sympathy.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE AMERICAN WAR

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) is a critic in a different vein; for many years the literary dictator of London society, he sat in judgment on books and theories and writers. He is typical of the second phase in the literature of this period, a phase in which literature becomes more impersonal.

But the writers of this phase still keep the attitude of critics. In poetry they aim, above all things, at the observance of rule and proportion. In prose they devote themselves to the delineation of character, and are most successful in the new field of the novel. Goldsmith, Sterne, Smollett, Fielding, and Richardson, much as they differ in other respects, are alike in their realism; their characters, however whimsical, belong to contemporary society.

The eighteenth century was characterised by a shallow rationalism. But every age has its exceptions, and this produced three philosophers of a profound and penetrating genius. Berkeley (1685-1753), an Irish dean and bishop, laid the foundations of modern idealism in his works on the "Theory of Vision" (1709) and on the "Principles of Human Knowledge" (1710). The crude scepticism which he demolished was replaced by the more subtle speculations of David Hume (1711-1776), whose "Treatise of Human Nature" (1739-1740), "Essays Moral and Political" (1741-

1742), and "Principles of Morals" (1751) represent the last word of agnosticism in metaphysics, and are memorable for having provoked Kant to elaborate a system not less critical, but more serious and more stimulating, than that of Hume.

In political philosophy the period produced Burke's expositions of the organic conception of society. A Whig politician, member of Parliament, and Minister of State, Burke (1729-1793) was originally drawn to study abstract principles by his dislike for the Toryism of Bolingbroke and George III. The "Thoughts on the Present Discontents" (1770) was the first of a series of writings in which Burke unfolded not only his conception of the English constitution but also the ideas and principles which underlie all political societies whatever. Unsurpassed as an orator and in the marshalling of complicated facts, he is greatest when he deals in generalisation. His speeches on American taxation and on conciliation with America are of lasting worth, apart altogether from the occasion to which they refer; and the numerous writings in which he attacked the French Revolution (1790-1796) are the most complete defence of the old order upon which the Girondists and the Jacobins made war.

H. W. C. DAVIS



RETURNING THANKS FOR THE KING'S RECOVERY: SERVICE IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
This picture shows the choir of St. Paul's Cathedral during a Thanksgiving Service held in the famous building on St. George's Day, 1789. The king, George III., had been seriously ill, and this service took place on his recovery.

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
ENDING
OF THE
OLD ORDER
VII

GERMAN POWERS AFTER THE PEACE PRUSSIA'S RAPID FALL FROM GREATNESS

THE Seven Years War had witnessed an altogether unprecedented combination of the powers, in which the great but only recently organised state of Eastern Europe had joined with the traditional antagonists, Austria and France, in an unsuccessful attempt to crush another great but recently organised state in Middle Europe. At the end of the war, personal causes detached Russia from a combination on which her ruler had originally entered mainly on personal grounds. France was detached from it by the losses and the exhaustion entailed by the maritime and trans-oceanic triumphs of Great Britain.

The natural outcome was that Austria should tend to reconciliation with Prussia, and both to something like a common understanding with Russia, the interests which affected all three being centred in Poland; that Continental affairs should virtually cease to interest Great

Prussia's Desire for Peace

Britain; and that the Bourbons, so far as they could afford to make their energies felt outside their own kingdoms, should seek opportunities for injuring Great Britain rather than for interfering with the Germanic states.

For Frederic of Prussia, the first requirement was peace. In territorial extent, in population, and in resources, his kingdom was surpassed by each one of the three chief powers which had united for his destruction. At each one of them, his infinite energy had enabled him to strike blow for blow and something more. But the strain had been terrific; rest, recuperation, reorganisation, were absolutely imperative. It was quite necessary to be ready to face a new war, in order to make sure that there should be no new war to face. The proffer of a Russian alliance was welcomed by him as a guarantee of peace. If Pitt in England had returned to power effectively, as he did nominally in 1766, the alliance of the northern powers—Russia, Prussia, and

Great Britain—as a counterpoise to the existing association of Hapsburgs and Bourbons, might have become a reality. But even then the British Ministry, absorbed in the process of irritating the American colonies, gave no attention to European questions; and immediately after the Peace of Hubertsburg, Frederic had no inclination to rely on the nation which had deserted him under Bute's guidance, and showed no signs of evolving a trustworthy or far-sighted administration under the leadership of Grenvilles and Bedfords.

The Critical State of Poland

Frederic and the Tsarina Catharine understood each other, though their formal alliance did not take place till March, 1764. The affairs of Poland were at a critical stage, and Russian and Prussian interests there could be pursued harmoniously. The ulterior objects of the two were indeed opposed. Catharine would have liked to annex Poland, but, failing that, wished for a government there which would dance to her order. Frederic wanted for himself Polish Prussia, which intervened between Brandenburg and East Prussia. But, in the meantime, an election to the Crown of Poland was imminent; and it suited both him and Catharine to oppose a candidate of the House of Saxony, now ruling, and to maintain within Poland the cause of religious equality. Austria, on the other hand, favoured the Saxon dynasty and the cause of Catholic domination, while the recent policy of France had associated her with Austria and with Saxony. But neither France nor Austria was prepared—as Catharine was—to take a resolute line, and the Tsarina obtained the election of her candidate, Stanislas Poniatowski. Russian domination was secured, but the policy, when pursued, alienated many of the Poles who had at first supported her, and stirred Austria

Poland Dominated by Russia

THE GERMAN POWERS AFTER THE PEACE

and France to a more active hostility. Both powers endeavoured to detach Frederic from Russia; and here Frederic found his own opportunity of detaching Austria from France by a scheme of partition to which Russia might be prevailed upon to assent.

Now, it must be noted that the position of Austria had become somewhat anomalous.

Maria Theresa was queen, and continued queen till her death in 1780. But her husband, the Emperor Francis, died in 1764, when their son Joseph succeeded to the imperial crown, his brother Leopold becoming Grand Duke of Tuscany, for which Lorraine had been exchanged some thirty years before. Joseph began operations as emperor by a series of attempts to reform the imperial system, without success; nor could he apply his reforming enthusiasm to the Austrian dominions, where his mother still retained control. In foreign affairs, however, he was able to exercise a leading influence, although Kaunitz, Maria Theresa's Minister, retained his position. Broadly speaking, though the queen was less impulsive and less warlike than of old, her attitude to Prussia was never friendly, and her inclination continued to favour the French alliance. Joseph, on the other hand, had a warm admiration for his mother's great antagonist.

The overtures of France to Prussia were received with extreme coldness; those of Austria, though made more or less at the instigation of France, were much more welcome. A friendly meeting was arranged between Frederic and Joseph in 1769, which had little direct result, beyond establishing friendly personal relations and impressing on Catharine of Russia the importance of keeping on a satisfactory footing with Frederic. She was already involved in a war with Turkey; and the success which was attending her arms increased the likelihood of Austria wishing to intervene, and therefore to associate herself with Prussia.

A second meeting took place between Frederic and Joseph in the following year, 1770; and this time a practicable scheme was formulated. It seemed probable at the moment that Russia might establish herself in Roumania, a prospect not at all to the liking of Austria. The Porte appealed to the two powers to mediate. If they insisted on Russia



THE EMPEROR JOSEPH II.

The son of Francis I. and Maria Theresa, he was elected King of the Romans in 1764, and became Emperor of Germany in the next year. A feature of his reign was the suppression of 700 convents. He died in 1790.

resigning her conquests, they must offer some compensation: Poland provided the wherewithal. Poland could offer no effective resistance, and she had reached a stage of political disintegration which almost warranted the doctrine that she had forfeited her right to a separate national existence. But if Russia was to have compensation in Polish territory for resigning Roumania, Prussia and Austria might reasonably demand a share in the spoils as the price of their assent. If they agreed on a partition,

there was no one to say them nay. Great Britain, under Lord North, had her hands more than full with colonial troubles, and France had no interests sufficiently strong to rouse her to active intervention. So Russia, Prussia, and Austria, after protracted negotiations, settled how much of Poland each was to have, and how much was to be left to the puppet king, Stanislas, and the Polish Diet was bullied and bribed into ratifying the partition. Frederic got West

Prussia, the main object of his desire; Austria got Red Russia. The provinces assigned to Russia were larger though less populous; but what was left over as "independent" Poland was virtually a Russian dependency. The business was completed in 1772.

To Frederic, the acquisition of West or Polish Prussia was of immense strategic importance; but the negotiations revealed, and the partition brought nearer, dangers against which it was necessary to guard. The contact of the great Slav power with Teutonic Europe and with the Slavonic dominions of Austria was growing

more intimate and, potentially at least, more menacing. The menace could be held in check if Austria and Prussia presented a united front; but of this there was no present prospect. Joseph's ambitions did not harmonise with Frederic's requirements; for Prussia it was a serious question whether the aggression of Austria or of Russia was the more to be feared, while Joseph's aspiration for the extension of power in Germany, to which Frederic was necessarily opposed, distracted him from the primary need of maintaining guard against Russia. How-

**The Place
of Prussia's
Security**

ever, if Frederic was between the upper and the nether mill-stones, there was always with him the chance that one or both of the mill-stones would get the worst of it. As regards Russia, Prussia's present security lay in the dominant attraction for that power in the direction of the Danube and the Crimea.

Joseph's original idea of strengthening the imperial power by remedying abuses in the imperial system had failed; the scheme had in effect been replaced by a desire to extend and consolidate the Hapsburg territorial dominion so as to give Austria a dictatorial ascendancy

throughout Germany. Joseph was not actuated by a mere vulgar thirst for conquest. The successful politician is the man who knows how to adapt the means which he can control to the ends he has in view. The successful politician rises into the great statesman if the ends in view are great ends; the measure of his idealism is the measure of his greatness. But the idealist who fails to grasp the relation between means and ends fails as a statesman, though his failure may be more admirable than a meaner man's success. Joseph was an idealist who failed.

He was conscious of crying evils which he wished to remedy. To apply the remedies, he wanted despotic power; but he found himself unable either to apply the remedies judiciously or to secure despotic power effectively. It may be questioned whether the remedies, even if he had been able to apply them despotically, would have had the desired effect. The benevolent despot was, however, a favourite ideal with the very considerable body of those who identified political liberty with anarchy—who were soon to point to the French Revolution as a gruesome warranty for their views. Unfortunately, in Joseph's case neither the benevolence nor the



THE CORONATION PROCESSION OF THE EMPEROR JOSEPH II.

In this picture the magnificent coronation procession of the Emperor Joseph II. is seen passing through the inner court of the royal residence at Vienna. The former residence of the chancellor of the empire stands in the background.

despotism was appreciated by his subjects. Joseph, then, was fain to extend his territories, while Frederic disapproved unless he saw his way to an equivalent—accession of strength for himself. An opportunity presented itself at the beginning of 1778. The electoral House of Bavaria became extinct; the succession to the Duchy reverted to an elder branch of the same stock—in the person of Charles Theodore the Elector Palatine. Charles Theodore was elderly and childless; he was easily persuaded to recognise a very inadequate Hapsburg claim to a large slice of Bavaria. Only two German princes were directly affected.

France on the Side of America

If Frederic raised an opposition, there would be no great powers to support him. Russia was busy with Turkey, England with America, and France would side with Austria, if with either. Nevertheless, Frederic did oppose, successfully. The chance of French support for Austria disappeared, as France turned her energies to helping the American colonies against Great Britain; and Russia showed symptoms of intervening in spite of her Turkish war. Maria Theresa was opposed to her son's policy. Joseph found himself obliged to be content with a small portion of what he had claimed and to recognise the Hohenzollern title to succession in Anspach and Baireuth.

In 1780 Maria Theresa died, and Joseph could now follow his own course unfettered. Hitherto his mother had kept the domestic rule of the Austrian domain in her own hands, and had held in the main by Hapsburg tradition, for which the son showed no respect. Alive to the immense success which had been achieved by the organisation of Prussia which Frederic had built up on the foundations very thoroughly laid by his father and by the Great Elector, Joseph tried to force a similar system on his own diverse dominions. The primary idea of Prussian absolutism had been the rapid subordination of all personal and class interests to the strengthening of the state which answered like a machine to the control of the single master mind. But in Joseph's dominions there were very powerful class interests which had been established for centuries, and declined to vanish at the monarch's fiat. The nobles, the town corporations, the clergy, in turn found their privileges or endowments attacked

The Master Mind of Prussia

by the reformer, while elementary rights of the peasantry were legalised. The supremacy of the State over the Church was emphasised, and general toleration and religious equality before the law were established.

All these things were in themselves excellent; but they not only excited the classes who were directly affected, but created the utmost alarm throughout the principalities of the empire, the more so as the Hapsburgs, or Lorrainers, now dominated the college of princes in the Imperial Diet. This end had been achieved by the election of one of the emperor's brothers as Archbishop and Elector of Cologne. It appeared that the emperor was not unlikely to force upon the minor states reforms of the same nature as those which he had been carrying out in his own hereditary dominion. German liberties were at stake; not, that is, the liberties of the bulk of the population, which had never possessed any, but the right of each petty ruler to rule within his own territory. If the petty princes were to make head against imperial aggression, they must be leagued with some great power, and the only one available was Prussia. Now the emperor and Kaunitz recognised in Prussia the great obstacle to Joseph's ambitions within the empire. Frederic, with a natural inclination to a league with Austria to hold Russia in check, habitually found himself forced towards a league with Russia to hold Austria in check. Russia, with a Turkish goal in view, had on the whole a preference for an understanding with Austria rather than an alliance with Prussia. Austria, with an eye to Germany, was prepared for such an understanding, which was, in fact, arrived at very shortly after the accession of Joseph to the Austrian throne.

Since France and Great Britain were both still outside the mid-European complications—since, that is, they were absorbed in their own mutual relations or domestic difficulties—Frederic was isolated. He could not afford to appear unsupported as the champion of the petty princes, as in the recent Bavarian affair he had posed as the champion of state rights, as opposed to imperial aggression. At that time the understanding between Russia and Austria had not been established. Now, however, Joseph provided the occasion for uniting Germany—which had

The Obstacle to Joseph's Ambitions

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hitherto proved impossible. The Netherlands had passed decisively from Spain to Austria at the Treaty of Utrecht, but Austria had always found them troublesome rather than useful, for reasons which a glance at the map makes obvious. They were exposed to French attack, and difficult to defend. Joseph, foiled in his previous attempt to acquire Bavaria from the Elector Palatine, now proposed an exchange. Roughly speaking, Charles Theodore was to hand over Bavaria and receive the Netherlands, which, with the Lower Palatinate, were to form a reconstituted kingdom of Burgundy.

Such a scheme would involve danger to the independence of more than the petty principalities. To thwart it, Frederic took the lead in the formation of a defensive league, in which it was no longer a matter of great difficulty to induce practically all the German states to join, a league known as the Fürstenbund. It had not, indeed, the elements of permanency, of German unity, but it effected the immediate purpose of putting a stop to Austrian aggression within the empire. The Fürstenbund fell to pieces after a brief interval, but it had destroyed the Bavarian scheme. What further effect it would have had if Frederic had been succeeded in Prussia by another king of the same quality is matter of conjecture. But he died in 1786, and his nephew and successor Frederic William II., was no masterful genius. Frederic died leaving the German states united in a league of which Prussia held the unquestioned hegemony. But at that time no lesser man than Frederic himself could have accomplished what Bismarck was one day to carry out.

Frederic's Work for Prussia

No man, we are told, is indispensable. Nevertheless, history repeatedly presents us with the truth that many a great man's work has gone to pieces after his death for lack of a successor of the same calibre. Frederic had created a Prussia of tremendous efficacy, but the efficacy depended mainly on the competence of the man who controlled the machinery. His creation had been made possible by the remarkable ability of two of his

predecessors, in spite of certain grotesque characteristics. After Frederic, the greatness of Prussia fell to pieces; had there come no Bismarck and no Moltke, it might never have been restored in its fulness. But at the least, Frederic's rule had accomplished this, that even under incompetent rulers Prussia was not likely again

Prussia after Frederic's Death

to become a negligible quantity in European politics. Three years and six months after the Great Frederic, Joseph also died. By this time the French Revolution was in full career, though most liberal-minded onlookers were rejoicing in the expectation that its outcome would be liberty in the sense of constitutionalism. The Bastille had fallen, but another year had to pass before the death of Mirabeau. The monarchs of

Europe had not yet taken alarm; and Leopold, Joseph's successor, was able to carry out a policy which was at once liberal and pacificatory. He shared Joseph's progressive ideas, but his intelligence was eminently practical. Being content to work patiently, he had been able to work effectively in his Duchy of Tuscany; and in a reign which was all too brief he succeeded in conciliating the outraged interests, and in reconciling both the Netherlands and the Hungarian nobles to the Austrian supremacy, without



EMPEROR LEOPOLD II. He became emperor in 1790 on the death of his brother Joseph II., and proved himself a powerful ruler. He died two years after his accession.

materially curtailing the practical benefits which Joseph had thrust upon his unappreciative subjects. In a similar spirit, he dropped his brother's aggressive policy, but his diplomacy recovered the German hegemony which had passed to Prussia.

The change in the relative positions of the two powers is a conspicuous illustration of the importance of personalities. Frederic had been replaced by Frederic William, Joseph by Leopold. Within six months of the latter event, the powers in general had recognised the change in the situation, and their moral support was transferred from Prussia to Austria. But in France events were moving rapidly towards a European catastrophe; at the critical moment, two years after his accession, Leopold died, and with his death disappeared the last chance of the catastrophe being averted.

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
ENDING
OF THE
OLD ORDER
VIII

THE BOURBON POWERS AND THE APPROACH OF THE REVOLUTION FRANCE ON THE EDGE OF THE VOLCANO

THE pacific King Ferdinand of Spain had been succeeded on the throne by his half-brother Charles III., the son of Elizabeth Farnese, who had previously managed to obtain for him the crown of Naples, the third Bourbon kingdom. Naples was now transferred to Ferdinand VI., a younger son of Charles. The accession was followed by that belated revival of the Family Compact which drew Spain into the Seven Years War at a moment when the British dominion of the seas had been completely established; and she had already lost Havana and the Philippines, and was in a fair way to lose the rest of her insular possessions when she was saved by the Peace of Paris, which restored most of her losses.

During the reign of Charles, which lasted till 1788, an enlightened domestic policy was followed, which, like that of Joseph II. in Austria, aimed at the abolition of the privileges of the nobles and the Church, with the double object of benefiting the state as a whole, and of strengthening the Crown in particular. Charles's second intervention in international politics for the humiliation of Great Britain was no more successful than the first had been. France took up the cause of the American colonies in 1778; Spain followed suit in the vain hope of recovering Gibraltar, which successfully defied blockades and bombardments, and Rodney shattered the French fleet at the battle of The Saints, when it was on its way to the rendezvous off Hayti, where the Spanish fleet was to join it and so create a combined force which should wipe out the British navy. The pleasing prospect was dissipated by the overthrow of De Grasse, and Spain got nothing by her intervention.

The domestic policy of Charles in Spain had been anticipated by Portugal under the able Minister Pombal, who achieved

a practical dictatorship for many years under King Joseph II. Again the method adopted was that of benevolent despotism, a war of the Crown against class privileges, and the imposition of salutary reforms by a despot—the principle remaining the same whether the despot happens to be the monarch himself or an all-powerful Minister. The dictatorship, however, was ended by the death of Joseph in 1777, when Pombal was dismissed by his successor, and a reactionary policy was inaugurated.

Portugal was without weight in the European balance, though her friendly relations with Great Britain were to prove very valuable to the great naval power in the course of the Napoleonic wars. Nevertheless, Pombal's activities were not only a typical example of the theory of reform by way of a monarchy; in one particular, he gave the other Western states a direct lead. It was Portugal that first struck hard against the Order of Jesuits, which dominated the Catholic countries of Europe. Their privileges were threatened by the whole movement against privilege, and their power made them particularly formidable to the reformers.

The implication of the Jesuits in a supposed plot against the king and his Minister gave Pombal his opportunity. They were deported, and their property confiscated in 1759. The blow was followed up in France, where the Jesuit organisation was

condemned as illegal in 1761, and the Order was suppressed by edict three years later. Before another three years had passed, Spain had followed suit, and expelled the Jesuits; and the third Bourbon dynasty in the two Sicilies copied the example set them. The death of Pope Clement XIII., who had done everything in his power to support the Order, was

**The First
Blow at
the Jesuits**

**France and
Spain Support
America**

**The Jesuits
Expelled
from Spain**

followed by the election of Clement XIV., who yielded to pressure and condemned it in 1773, thereby according to the general belief, sacrificing his own life, since his death, in the following year, was attributed to poison, and the poison was attributed to the Jesuits, but the story proved to be quite baseless.

The Seven Years War had injured France more than any of the other powers, not only by the greatness of her losses, but by the destruction of her prestige and the ruin of her finances. Her army in the days of Louis XIV. had been the best in Europe; her generals had been unsurpassed until Marlborough and Eugene were matched against them; the spirit of her troops had remained indomitable to the end. In the War of the Austrian Succession a marshal of the French army—albeit a German—had been the ablest commander, with the exception of Frederic of Prussia, and the French soldiery had achieved credit. But in the Seven Years War the French commanders were worthless, and their troops became demoralised. France was not only defeated; she was discredited in the eyes of Europe, and her rulers were discredited in the eyes of her own people.

No respect could be commanded by a court where a Pompadour was supreme, and where the Pompadour herself was later succeeded by the Du Barry. No respect could be entertained for a noblesse which had failed in the one field wherein it professed to recognise a duty—the field of arms; a noblesse which had sunk for the most part into parasites of the court; a noblesse which, outside of La Vendée and Brittany, had ceased to be the leaders and rulers in their own territories, where they were habitual absentees. The monarchy, while preserving certain social aspects of feudalism, had destroyed it as a disintegrating political force; but in so doing had destroyed it

also as a cohesive social force, killing the sense of public responsibility in the seigneurs, while intensifying their arrogance as a caste. Louis XV. was not without suspicions that a cataclysm must result from such conditions, but he counted on the system outlasting his time—and the system suited him. His despotism was complete; but if it was not exactly tyrannical, neither was it benevolent; the grandson who succeeded him was benevolent enough, but unfortunately was at the same time both morally and intellectually incompetent.

Choiseul, the Minister into whose hands the principal direction of affairs had passed during the war, was honest and capable, but no genius. His interest was absorbed in foreign affairs, and he did not realise that domestic reconstruction was

necessary before France could recover her power and prestige. On the other hand, he did realise that the downfall had been brought about by the British sea-power; his policy was one primarily of preparation for another contest with Great Britain, which would demand a persistent development of the French navy. It would demand also a persistent abstention from expensive continental complications—a truth which had never been grasped by the rulers of France since Louis XIV. had neglected Colbert for Louvois. Choiseul did nothing to check the coming revolution; but France owed it mainly to his policy in the sixties that when she again challenged Great Britain, in 1778, the fleets met on terms of equality, for which there was no precedent except in the months between the battles of Beachy Head and La Hogue, ninety years before; that her squadrons were able to operate decisively in preventing the relief of Yorktown and compelling Cornwallis to surrender, thereby securing the American victory; and that even when Rodney regained the all-but-lost naval supremacy



CHARLES III. OF SPAIN
A younger son of Philip V., he succeeded his half-brother, Ferdinand VI., on the throne of Spain in 1759. He died in 1788.



JOSEPH I. OF PORTUGAL
A war of the Crown against class privilege marked the reign of this king, whose able Minister, Pombal, achieved a practical dictatorship for many years. Joseph died in 1777.

BOURBON POWERS AND APPROACH OF THE REVOLUTION

for England, Bailli Suffren still more than held his own in Indian waters. Choiseul's government came to an end in 1770, when the king fell under the domination of Madame du Barry. His tenure of office covered two events of importance—the expulsion of the Jesuits, and the annexation of Corsica. The islanders, under the leadership of Paoli, revolted against the dominion of Genoa; Great Britain, busy with American demonstrations and Middlesex elections, declined the protectorate offered her by the insurgents. Genoa sold Corsica to France, which established her government there; and Napoleon Bonaparte was consequently born a French subject in 1769.

The Maupeou government, which followed the fall of Choiseul, carried non-intervention further than that Minister himself; had he remained in office it is possible that the Eastern powers would not have been left to partition Poland according to their own convenience. But Maupeou found enough

to occupy him in the internal affairs of France, where the Paris Parliament—not a representative, but a legal body, as we have noted before—was endeavouring, as it had done at intervals since the days of Richelieu, to limit the powers of the executive in its own interest. Maupeou abolished the Parliament, and replaced it by a new legal body, not a close corporation like the old one, but consisting of Crown nominees. The administration of justice was in fact improved, but, instead of being a check on the power of the Crown, the judiciary was brought more under its control. The fundamental conception of liberty in England has always been the supremacy of the law over the executive; European governments, whether monarchical or democratic, have rarely

been able to free themselves from the conviction that the executive has the right to override the law. The fall of the Parlement was not a step in the direction of liberty in this sense; the privileges it abolished were liable to misuse, but were not so likely to be dangerous to liberty as the control of the administration of justice by the Crown.

In 1774 Louis the Well-beloved went to the grave unmourned. He was followed by his grandson, Louis XVI., a well-intentioned monarch of irreproachable character, unique in respect of the domestic virtues among the Bourbon princes, but wholly devoid of the qualities necessary for grappling with a crisis. His wife, Marie Antoinette, was the daughter of Maria Theresa, and the sister of Joseph II.; endowed with charm, brilliancy, even nobility of character, but young, impulsive, self-confident, and injudicious.

Maupeou and his colleagues were dismissed; Maupeou became chief Minister, and with him were associated Turgot, Vergennes, and Malesherbes. A clamour was at once raised for the restoration of the Parlement, which was carried out in opposition to Turgot's wishes, though with general popular applause; and the Parlement renewed its old obstructive policy. Of the four Ministers named, Vergennes concerned himself entirely with foreign affairs; Turgot and Malesherbes were reformers; Maupeou, their actual head, was at best no statesman but a second-rate politician, intent on present popularity, but without either insight or foresight. Turgot was a statesman with both insight and foresight, but he was not a politician. He relied on the intrinsic merits of his policy, but was no adept at manœuvring for influential support. It was only through



POPE CLEMENT XIV.

In earlier life he was a supporter of the Jesuits, but, yielding to pressure, he condemned the Order. His death, in 1774, was falsely attributed to poison.



THE MARQUISE DE POMPADOUR
For twenty years the public affairs of France were controlled by this woman, who was a mistress of Louis XV. Her favourites were appointed to high offices in the State; her policy was disastrous to the country. She died in 1764.



LOUIS XVI., KING OF FRANCE

France was in a deplorable condition when, in 1774, Louis XVI. succeeded his grandfather, Louis XV., on the throne. For a time he was popular with the people, but evil days followed, and he was brought to the guillotine in 1793.

the despotism that his aims could be achieved; it was necessary to him to strengthen rather than to limit the power of the Crown.

In a state in which the normal expenditure very considerably exceeded the normal income, and the masses of the population were already taxed to the limit of endurance, Turgot recognised that economy was a primary necessity. He proceeded to cut down expenses with great success, but to the extreme annoyance of the nobles and others who had profited by the extravagance. He was of the economic school of the physiocrats who held that all wealth comes out of the land, and that all restrictions and burdens should be removed from commerce and manufacture; from which it followed that the incidence of taxation should be altered. The noblesse who battered

on their exemptions perceived that they were likely to lose these privileges and to become the victims. The clergy were alarmed by the ascendancy of a man who was known to have contributed to the *Encyclopédie*, and to be approved by their declared enemy, Voltaire, while he was supported by Malesherbes, a friend of toleration, who wished to see the Edict of Nantes revived. Maurepas was afraid of finding himself displaced by Turgot, and the court was disgusted by his economies. The scarcity resulting from bad harvests was attributed, according to recognised rule, to Turgot's reforms, which had been initiated by the establishment of free trade in corn within the kingdom, and there were popular riots.

For a time Louis stuck to Turgot, and the Minister continued to press schemes of reform. The *corvée*, or forced labour, was to be abolished; a tax on land was to pay for the labour. Labour was to be free to transfer itself from one industry to another. There were to be more economies. Protestant



MARIE ANTOINETTE, QUEEN OF FRANCE

The queen of Louis XVI., she became notorious for her pleasures. In the horrors that came upon France with the Revolution she exhibited wonderful courage, and in 1793 she died at the guillotine.

disabilities were to be removed. But the pressure on the king became too strong. The forces of reaction combined for the overthrow of the innovator; Turgot and Malesherbes were both forced to resign in 1776.

Maurepas replaced Turgot, after an interval of sheer incompetence, by the banker, Necker, who hoped to restore the finances not by changing the incidence of taxation, but by borrowing, which his financial reputation enabled him to do on comparatively reasonable terms. So far, class interests found him less dangerous than his predecessor. But he was a Protestant, and therefore distrusted by the clergy; he was an economist, and therein was no improvement upon Turgot in the eyes of the courtiers; in the matter of privileges he was in effect a reactionary, and so lost the support of those who had applauded Turgot. Nevertheless, his methods did actually provide the immediate ways and means, in spite of the fact that France now plunged into a costly war. The moment had come for dealing a blow to Great Britain.

The first skirmish on American soil between the colonial militia and the British regulars had taken place a year before Turgot's retirement. The younger members of the French aristocracy, who had begun to develop enthusiasm for liberty and the rights of man, were soon volunteering to help the gallant Republicans to cast off the yoke of the tyrant, and forming a source, perhaps, of more

embarrassment than advantage to George Washington. When two years had passed, the colonies were still unsubdued; then, in the autumn of 1777, the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga produced a feeling that the colonies were going to be the

winning side. Benjamin Franklin was welcomed in Paris with demonstrative enthusiasm. Necker, who had to find the money, was no more willing for a war than Turgot had been, but the torrent of sentiment was irresistible. France formally recognised the independence of the United States, and adopted an alliance which was equivalent to a declaration of war with Great Britain.

The French navy took the seas. Choiseul's naval policy found its justification. A fleet under D'Estaing sailed for American waters which was stronger than the fleet at Lord Howe's disposal; while a second squadron was able to fight a drawn battle with a British squadron off Ushant. By the command of the sea, the British had hitherto been able to compensate the disadvantage of carrying on their operations in a remote and hostile territory; now that advantage was lost. A year later, Spain followed the lead of France, and the prolonged siege of Gibraltar began. The French fleet continued to keep the British fleet inoperative; when, in 1781, Cornwallis was shut up in Yorktown, the French commander was

able to prevent the British from relieving him; Yorktown fell, and with it the last hope of British success. Six months later, Rodney shattered De Grasse's fleet in the Battle of the Saints by the manœuvre known as "breaking the line"—a novelty then, but thereafter a favourite method of attack

with the British naval commanders. The attempt to overthrow the naval supremacy had failed, but the purpose with which France had entered upon the war was achieved; the British empire had been decisively rent in twain. Neither



CHANCELLOR OF FRANCE
Nicholas Augustin de Maupeou became Chancellor of France in 1768, succeeding his father in that high office. He was dismissed on the death of Louis XV. in 1774.



THE REFORM MINISTERS, MALESHERBES & TURGOT
Both of these Ministers were reformers and were associated with Maurepas on his becoming chief Minister of France. For defending the king, Malesherbes was arrested in 1793 and guillotined the following year. As Controller-General of France, Turgot was responsible for a great scheme of reform, but he was dismissed and died in 1781.

of the combatants had any wish to continue the struggle, and with the Peace of Versailles in the year 1783.

From the French point of view the best that can be said for the French intervention is that without it the colonies might possibly have been forced into temporary submission; and the Americans had reason to be grateful to the power which had undoubtedly made their task very much easier. But the injury to England was the only good that France got out of the war. It would never have been entered upon if the French Government had suspected the impulse which it was to give to the revolution in France itself. The financial situation had already been sufficiently serious; the large addition to the expenditure had necessitated heavy borrowing, and the nation was threatened with insolvency. But beyond that, the political order in France was a pure despotism, the social order was one of caste, and the French Government had committed itself to unqualified support of a revolution which had proclaimed explicitly that the rights of man were its warrant and republicanism its ideal. If the French Government recognised the rights of man, it confessed itself a manifest monstrosity; its approval of republicanism was an outrageous paradox; its enthusiasm for the bourgeois Franklin was a grotesque absurdity. Out of its own mouth the old order stood condemned. It had pronounced its own doom.

Long before the war was over, Necker followed Turgot. In fact, he had found



VOLTAIRE, POET AND SATIRIST

One of the world's greatest satirists, Voltaire was born at Paris in 1694 and died in that city in 1778. From his versatile pen came numerous poems and satires, while in his later years his writings violently assailed Christianity.



THE FRENCH WRITER, ROUSSEAU
Jean Jacques Rousseau was born in 1712, and his literary success began when, in 1750, he was awarded a prize by the academy of Dijon. He began his famous "Confession" in England, and died suddenly in 1778.

himself compelled not only to multiply economies, but to resort also to the application of some other of Turgot's principles. The Interests began to combine against him in his turn, and the process of borrowing was becoming increasingly difficult. Therefore, in 1781, he issued the "Compte rendu," or public financial statement, contrary to precedent. For the moment the tide of opposition was stayed, but it soon became possible to point out some of the fallacies on which this proof of financial success rested, while it exposed to the whole world the extravagances which still survived. Maurepas and Vergennes both determined on his downfall. Necker thought himself strong enough to

defy them, and proffered his resignation. The resignation was accepted, and Maurepas had to find a new Finance Minister. But the case for the reformers—the case against the Government—was immeasurably strengthened.

After the death of Maurepas, in November of the same year, 1781, the king did not appoint another Premier, and became more dependent on the queen, who had just given birth to the Dauphin. Necker's immediate successors, Joly de Fleury and d'Ormesson, held office for a brief period, and on October 3rd, 1783, the Marquis de Calonne, a profligate and spendthrift roué, became "controller general," or director of finance. His system of the most mad extravagance with an empty treasury at once satisfied the courtiers; he called an unbounded expenditure of money the true

BOURBON POWERS AND APPROACH OF THE REVOLUTION

principle of credit, and scoffed at economy. The parasites sang the praises of the "ministre par excellence," for whom millions were but as counters, while the people received "panem et circenses" (doles and shows) through his great public works in Paris, Cherbourg, and elsewhere.

Calonne reduced Necker's system of borrowing to a fine art. All money melted in his hands, and in order to obtain loans he was forced at once to give up large sums to the bankers; as unconscientious as John Law in the second decade of the eighteenth century, he

assembly of notables, by which order could easily be established. He extolled his administration before it, and attacked Necker. This led to a paper war between them resulting in the triumph of Necker. When Calonne demanded a universal land tax, he was met by shouts of "No" from every side, and the notables insisted on learning the extent of the deficit. He admitted at last that it amounted to 115,000,000 francs. The Archbishop of Toulouse, Loménie de Brienne, then brought up the clergy to the attack, and reckoned out a deficit of 140,000,000. The



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AT THE COURT OF FRANCE IN 1776

Taking an active part in the deliberations which resulted in the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776, Benjamin Franklin visited Paris in order to secure foreign assistance in the war. The bitter feeling prevailing in France at that time against England favoured the mission of the distinguished American, and France agreed to send help.

From the painting by Baron Jolly

courted bankruptcy. The scandalous affair of the Diamond Necklace, into which the queen's name was dragged by vile calumniators, was a fitting product of Calonne's age of gross corruption. When he was at the end of his resources, he brewed a compound of the schemes of Vauban, Colbert, Turgot, and Necker, put it before Louis in August, 1786, and requested him to go back to the system of 1774, and to employ the abuses to the benefit of the monarchy. At the same time he induced him to act as Charlemagne and Richelieu had acted in their day, and summon an

court effected the fall of Calonne on April 9th, 1787, and the quack left France, while the popular voice clamoured for the return of Necker. The courtiers, however, persuaded Louis to summon the archbishop who had overthrown Calonne, and actually to nominate him "principal minister."

Loménie de Brienne was an actor of exceptional versatility, a philosophising self-indulgent place-seeker, who wished to carry measures by the employment of force, and yet was discouraged at the least resistance. When the notables refused him the land tax, he dismissed them; they

now took back home with them full knowledge of the abuses prevailing at Versailles, and paved the way for the Revolution. The archbishop had a very simple plan by which to meet the financial problem, but he was soon involved in strife with the Parlement. The people sided with the latter, clubs sprang into existence, pamphlets were aimed at the court, especially at "Madame Deficit," the queen, and her friend, the Duchess of Polignac, whose picture the mob burnt, together with that of Calonne. The Parlement, exiled to Troyes, concluded after a month a compromise with the Government, but insisted on the abandonment of Brienne's stamp duty and land tax.

Louis, who posed as an absolute monarch, played a sorry figure in the "séance royale" of November 19th, in which the Duke of Orleans won for himself a cheap popularity, and in the "lit de justice," or solemn meeting of Parlement, of May 18th, 1788. On this latter date the Parlements were reduced to the level of simple provincial magistrates, and a supreme court, or "cour plénière," constituted over them. This was the most comprehensive judicial reform of the "ancien régime"; but the Crown did not possess the power to carry it out. The courts as a body suspended their work; Parlements, clergy, nobility, and the Third Estate leagued together against the centralising policy of the Crown; Breton nobles laid in Paris the foundation-stone of what was afterward to be known as the Jacobin Club; the provinces, especially Dauphiné, were in a ferment;

and revolutionary pamphlets were sold in the gardens of the Palais Royal, the residence of the Duke of Orleans. Louis, however, lived for the day only. The loyal Malesherbes vainly conjured him not to underestimate the disorders, and pointed out the case of Belgium under Joseph II., and of the American colonies of Great Britain. Louis was too engrossed in hunting to read the memorial.

The winter of 1788-1789 brought France face to face with famine. Brienne was without credit, and a suspension of payments was imminent. It was high time to find an ally against the privileged classes, which granted him no money, and Brienne looked for one in the nation. He invited every-

one to communicate with him on the subject of summoning the States-General, which had not met for 170 years, offered complete liberty of the Press on this

national question; and let loose a veritable deluge; 2,700 pamphlets appeared. Their utterances were striking. First and foremost there was the pamphlet of the Abbé Siéyès, vicar-general at Chartres, entitled "Qu'est-ce que le Tiers État," a scathing attack on clergy and nobility, and a glorification of the Third Estate, which Siéyès emphatically declared was the nation, and as such ought to send to the National Assembly twice as many representatives as the two other estates. Thirty thousand copies of this pamphlet were in circulation in three weeks.

Count d'Antraigues in his pamphlet recalled the proud words with which the justiciar of Aragon did fealty to the king: "We, each of whom is as



JACQUES NECKER

Occupying in turn the offices of Director of Treasury and Director-General of Finance, he was responsible for many remedial measures. He added to his popularity in 1788 by recommending the summoning of the States-General.



PHILIP "ÉGALITÉ" OF ORLEANS

He became Duke of Orleans on the death of his father, in 1785. He disseminated books and papers advocating liberal views, and revolutionary pamphlets were sold in the gardens of the Palais Royal, his ducal residence.



"THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE"; THE BRITISH VICTORY OVER THE FRENCH OFF USHANT ON JUNE 1ST, 1794
From the painting by T. Gudin at Versailles

great as thou, and who, combined, are far more powerful than thou, promise obedience to thee if thou wilt observe our rights and privileges; if not not." The count attacked, with Rousseau, the distinction of classes, explained that no sort of disorder is so terrible as not to be preferable to the ruinous quiet of despotic

The Heaviest Scourge of an Angry Heaven

power, and called the hereditary nobility the heaviest scourge with which an angry Heaven could afflict a free

nation. Jean Louis Carra called the word "subject" an insult as applied to the members of the assembled estates, and termed the king the agent of the sovereign—that is, of the nation. Even Mirabeau, who more than any other had suffered in the fetters of absolute monarchy, took up his pen, called upon the king to abolish all feudalism and all privileges, and counselled him to become the Marcus Aurelius of France by granting a constitution and just laws. His solution was "war on the privileged and their privileges," but his sympathies were thoroughly monarchical.

Louis then promised that the States-General, which the popular voice demanded, should meet on May 1st, 1789, and dissolved the "cour plénière." The archbishop, on the other hand, suspended the repayment of the national debt for a year, and adopted such desperate financial measures that everyone considered him mad. On August 25th he was dismissed from office; the mob burnt him in effigy and called for Necker, on whom the country pinned its last hopes.

When the arbitrary power of the Crown had been exercised by a despot of ability such as Louis XIV., resistance on the part of the Interests had been crushed. When they had been exercised by a ruler of inferior ability to the social and pecuniary advantage of the Interests, they had not aroused the resistance of caste. But since the accession of Louis XVI. things had been

Evil Effects of the Ancien Régime

different. The evil effects of the "ancien régime" under Louis XV. had reached a climax. Every

Finance Minister in turn now found himself compelled sooner or later to make demands on the pockets of the privileged classes, to attack their immunities, and to call the arbitrary powers of the Crown to his aid in doing so. Hence the privileged classes found themselves in antagonism to the arbitrary powers of the Crown; and hence

again they found themselves advocating the limitation of these powers by the summoning of the States-General—a constitutional assembly of the three estates of the realm, nobles, clergy, and commons, which had not been summoned since 1614.

The idea, of course, was that the Third Estate would count only when it was in accord with the other two. That the "Tiers État" was to capture the supremacy was not at all in the programme of the Parlements or the clergy, or of one section at least of the aristocrats who supported the demand. On the other hand, the demand itself was applauded by all those who had learned to look upon the British constitution as the best existing model, by those who had fallen in love with the American revolution, and by the populace, which reckoned that in the States-General it would become articulate.

Inevitable also was the recall of Necker; the reign of the series of amateurs who had succeeded him had been ruinously costly, and had not even saved the privileged classes; whereas the honesty of Necker and his reputation as a financial expert were still untarnished.

France's Grave Disease

Nevertheless, Necker was not the man for the hour. The problem for France was not merely that of raising money; that problem existed as a symptom of the disease of the whole body politic. Until the disease itself should be attacked, that particular expression of it could find only temporary alleviation, whereas in Necker's eyes it was the whole disease.

He looked upon himself as indispensable; he saw that the States-General was inevitable; but he did not see that it was going to be master of the situation. In fact, so little did he realise the enormous importance which was going to attach to that body that a fundamental question as to its constitution was left for its own decision when it should assemble. Were the three orders to vote separately—that is, were there to be three chambers of equal weight—or were they to vote together, the majority in the aggregate being decisive? If the former course were to be followed, the two privileged orders could resist any attack; if the latter, privilege was doomed. For it had been granted that the Third Estate should have double representation, roughly 600 members as against 300 for each of the others; and there were enough reformers

among clergy and nobles to turn the scale decisively. Necker left the point undetermined, though the double representation would be palpably meaningless unless it gave the doubly-represented double weight. With this preliminary issue before it, the States-General met on May 5th, 1789.

Politically and socially, mediæval Europe was the outcome of two forces—feudalism and clericalism. The mediæval passed into the first stage of the modern when a third force, the individualism, which was the essence of renaissance, was brought to bear upon these two; the resultant was the Western Europe of the eighteenth century. When the third force overwhelmed the other two in the French Revolution, the second modern stage was reached. The isolation of England had saved her from being gripped like the Continental nations by either feudalism or clericalism; hence she had acquired a strong central government centuries before any European nation had done so. A rigid caste system had never established itself; she had broken free from Rome with hardly a struggle; for five centuries her Commons had never been inarticulate, and for four centuries her labouring classes had been free from villeinage. She had been able to advance steadily without a revolution at all. What she had called revolution was little more than successful resistance to attempted reaction. From the time of King John the party of progress had invariably repudiated the charge of innovation and appealed, not to doctrines of abstract right and theories of what ought to be, but to concrete rights legally confirmed by charter, by statute, or by ancient custom.

But during those centuries on the Continent feudalism and clericalism had reached their full development, though not without a certain antagonism between themselves. Feudalism must issue politically either in absolutism or in distinegration, or in a combination of the two. In France Louis XI. was able to direct it towards absolutism; in the empire imperial absolutism failed, and Germany became a loose confederation of states; but in the separate states absolutism triumphed. The political downfall of feudalism, however, did not destroy it socially. The boundaries between class and class developed into almost impassable barriers between hereditary castes. The law

strengthened the barriers and emphasised the distinction by multiplying privileges and immunities on the one side and intensifying disabilities on the other. The new force, individualism, hardly at the outset attacked feudalism either on its political side, where it was collapsing by its own nature, or on its social side, where it had not then reached its full development. Primarily the great onslaught of individualism was directed against clericalism. Where clericalism made terms with absolutism, it survived; where it did not, Protestantism was victorious. The combination of political absolutism, social feudalism and clericalism culminated in the France of Louis XIV. And to that model every one of the Western states approximated, with modifications, except Great Britain, Holland, and Switzerland.

Now, individualism—the spirit which asserted itself in the Renaissance and the Reformation—is at bottom the claim of the individual to inquire, to judge, and to act for himself, so far, at least, as his doing so does not impede his neighbour's power to do likewise. Absolutism is the negation of the individual's right to act for himself politically; caste or privilege imposes artificial restrictions on one class for the advantage of another, socially. Clericalism is the negation of the individual's right to inquire and judge for himself intellectually. Each may serve worthy ends in particular stages of development, but each is in direct antagonism to individualism.

Since inquiry and judgment precede action, the demand for freedom of inquiry and judgment became vigorously militant before the demand for freedom of action. It had been so far victorious as to sever one half of Western Christendom from Rome in the sixteenth century, and to overthrow the Jesuits in the eighteenth. But latterly the attack on clericalism had changed its character; the champions of the movement were the intellectual descendants of Erasmus rather than of Luther. They were more logical than the heroes of the Reformation; but they were less moral, being actuated more by contempt for the irrational and the absurd than by positive religious conviction. Their protagonist was Voltaire, who assailed clericalism as the intellectual enemy with merciless ridicule and invective.



RULER AND PEOPLE: LOUIS XVI., KING OF FRANCE, AMONG HIS POOR PEASANT SUBJECTS
From the painting by Herment at Versailles

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But the movement had changed also in another way. As the right to inquire and to judge became decisively recognised, inquiry applied itself more boldly to the political and the social fields. Herein, England gave the lead. She had worked out her own salvation in practical fashion, without much conscious theorising, and presented to the world the example of a state in which the average individual possessed a degree of liberty without other parallel—in thought, in speech, and in action.

Hobbes had written his theoretical justification of the absolutism which broke down, and John Locke had provided a more or less logical basis for the constitutionalism which succeeded. Hobbes, and Locke after him, both based

their theory of the structure of civil society on the hypothesis of an original contract by which aggregates of men had voluntarily subjected themselves to a governing authority. Both also recognised the existence of certain fundamental rights of the individual which could not be abrogated by any contract. The two conceptions, of contract as the origin of society and of the Rights of Man, as postulates, became the basis of extensive speculation culminating in the emotional propaganda of Jean Jacques Rousseau. In Rousseau's account, the "contrat social" had been an insidious device by which the few had been enabled to domineer over the many, and he demanded a new contract based upon the Rights of Man. How such doctrines were impregnating the whole atmosphere of political speculation may be seen from the explicit manner in which the apologists of the American revolt claimed the Rights of Man as their justification.

Apart, however, from the emotional expression of abstract theories, inquiry in the political field had taken a new direction. Montesquieu had undertaken the task of analysing existing or formerly existing institutions and comparing their working, initiating the application of the historical and comparative methods. He had

pointed to the British constitution as the one under which the maximum of individual liberty was actually to be found, and attributed the fact to the separation of the sovereign functions and to the balance of political powers. A revolution on Anglo-American lines was made to appear possible; and with modifications borrowed from the idealised republicanism of Ancient Rome, appealed with considerable force to the intelligent, the intellectual, and the pedantic. In short, a constitutionalism which was content to be monarchical in form while republican in effect was presented as an attractive ideal, especially to the younger generation, who were, or wished to seem, progressive. Nevertheless, such an ideal was quite incompatible with



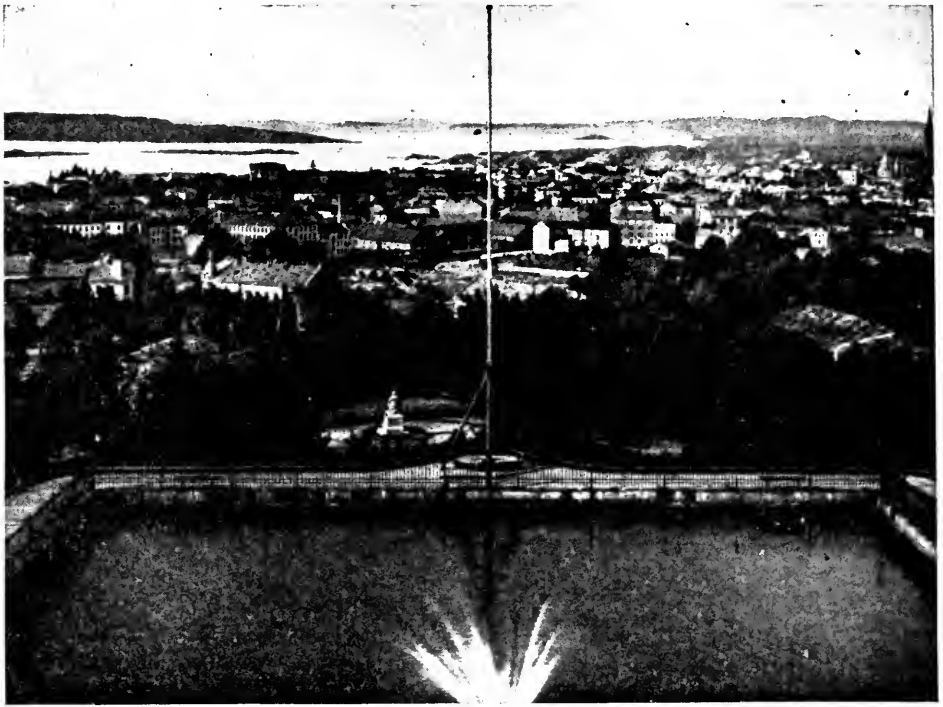
JEAN LE ROND, D'ALEMBERT
This great mathematician and Encyclopædist was born in 1717, and among his many writings were books on philosophy, literary criticism and the theory of music. He died in 1753.

Rousseauism, although consistent enough with the teaching of Diderot, D'Alembert, and the Encyclopédie. On the practical side, immense additional momentum was given to the revolutionary movement because in its earlier stages it found champions among the best of the intellectuals and of the aristocrats, who did not realise the uncontrollable character of the forces that were being let loose.

Those forces were, in their origin, more social than political. A system under which the whole weight of taxation rested upon a population usually at or below the hunger-line was endurable only so long as it was irresistible. The population hitherto had suffered and hated, but endured perforce. The suffering and hatred were on the verge of becoming not only articulate but clamorous as the people began to perceive that endurance might not be necessary, that defiance might be possible, that the system might be shattered. The iniquities of privilege were patent to all except the minority who profited by them; even among the minority there were not a few who felt and deplored the injustice.

The States-General had now been summoned to deal with the problem. What would the States-General do with it?

ARTHUR D. INNES



GENERAL VIEW OF THE CITY AS SEEN FROM ST. JOHN'S HILL



THE STORTING, DENMARK'S IMPOSING HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

CHRISTIANIA, THE BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL OF NORWAY

Photochrome

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IX

DENMARK'S GREAT ERA OF PROGRESS THE REVIVAL OF NORWAY'S PROSPERITY

AFTER the great Scandinavian war there followed for Denmark a long period of peace, which enabled the nation to recruit its energies and which was of the utmost importance for the internal development of the country. Its intellectual life was greatly influenced from abroad, not only from Germany, as before, but also from Western Europe. New ideas were introduced, interest in public affairs grew stronger, and gradually radical reforms were carried out in various directions. Pietism, imported from Germany, became widespread, especially among the lower classes; and Frederic IV.'s son, Christian VI. (1730-1746), influenced by this movement, exerted himself to promote the intellectual and spiritual welfare of his subjects.

In all parts of the kingdom schools were erected where the children could be taught religion, reading, writing, and arithmetic. Literature, too, now set itself the task of

The "Academic Period" in Denmark

working for the enlightenment and education of the people. In the Reformation period a national literature had grown up which was of the greatest importance for the development of the vernacular as a literary language and for the education of the masses. But soon there was a return to Latin, and scholars were almost ashamed to make use of their mother tongue. It was the "academic period." Science, it is true, had been studied with success, and Denmark could boast of distinguished names—the astronomer Tycho Brahe; Niels Stensen or Steno, the founder of geology; Thomas Bartholin, the well-known anatomist; and the physicist Ole Römer, who became famous by his calculation of the velocity of light.

But the labours of these scholars were without influence on the intellectual life of the nation, for whose education practically nothing had been done. Even poetry was the business of scholars—an artificial product, in imitation of Germany. Yet there were at this time a few poets not

without originality, such as A. Arreboe, who has been called the father of Danish poetry; the Norwegian poet Peter Dass, whose popularity has not even yet died out, and Thomas Kingo, highly esteemed as a writer of hymns. But, on the whole, the literary output was poor. It

Holberg's Influence on the Nation

was only with the appearance of Ludvig Holberg (1684-1754) that Danish literature changed its character and became the educative force which it now is for the whole nation. Holberg was influenced by the intellectual life of Western Europe, and desired, like the philosophers of the eighteenth century, to "enlighten" his countrymen, to exterminate ancient prejudices and follies, and to spread useful knowledge. His writings are of many kinds, including satires, comedies, and historical and philosophical works. His purpose being to educate the people, he wrote in Danish, in the development of which as a literary language he rendered valuable service, though he himself was actually a Norwegian. He had several followers, who, as apostles of "enlightenment" and "rationalism," aimed at being useful to the state and the nation, and worked through their writings for the cause of "universal happiness."

The poets of the latter half of the eighteenth century received strong stimuli from abroad, from the English poetry of Nature, from Rousseau and from German sentimental and national literature, especially from Klopstock, who spent a considerable time in Denmark. The Danish poets, the chief representative of whom was

The Poetry of Denmark and Norway

Johannes Ewald, followed the last-named direction, which the Norwegians, influenced by English and French literature, opposed, openly showing their dislike to it by the formation in 1772 of the Norwegian Society, the heart and soul of which was Joh. Herman Wessel. The new ideas continued to spread, and bore fruit in the great reforms which

characterise the last decades of the eighteenth century. The king who was reigning at that time, Christian VII. (1766-1808), was feeble-minded and incapable of performing his duties, and was in consequence soon obliged to leave the real work of government to his Ministers. In the early years of his reign, Bernstorff, the capable statesman who brought the disputes with Gottorp to a satisfactory conclusion, took the chief part in the government; but in 1770 he had to make way for the German physician, Struensee, who had known how to gain the confidence of the king and the affection of the queen, the English Princess Caroline Matilda.

Struensee was imbued with the ideas of the age of enlightenment, and carried out sensible reforms, such as establishing the freedom of the Press, abolishing the examination of prisoners under torture, and so forth. But his measures were introduced too hurriedly and unsystematically, and many of them aroused great opposition, besides which he incensed the people by his lax morality and his contempt for the Danish language.

At the court he had numerous enemies, and they succeeded in bringing about his fall; he was arrested on January 17th, 1772, accused of lèse majesté, and beheaded on April 28th. Most of his reforms were cancelled by the new government, the most influential member of which was Ove Høegh-Guldberg. On

April 14th, 1784, the Crown Prince Frederic took up the reins of government, and, though still young himself, showed his ability to select capable advisers, the most prominent being Count Bernstorff, whose moral reputation was without blemish.

Both Frederic and his Ministers were in favour of reform; they took in hand a number of Struensee's earlier plans, but proceeded with caution, and thus imparted strength and durability to their measures. The Press regained its freedom, the administration of justice was improved, and many of the bonds that fettered commerce and agriculture were unloosed, for the state of the peasantry was still disgraceful.

Frederic IV., it is true, had abolished the old serfdom; but under his successor a new form of it had been introduced. The regulation had been made—partly to facilitate conscription and partly to ensure a supply of labour for the landed proprietors—that the peasantry were not to be allowed to leave their native place as long as they were liable for military service; as a consequence they were tied to the soil during the best part of their lives, and abandoned to the tyranny of the landowners, who harassed them with claims of compulsory service and with heavy taxation. Serfdom was now abolished—in 1788, and in the duchies in 1797—and by this reform the peasantry attained real freedom. Their condition was also improved in other ways, with the result that the landowners were no longer able to treat them as they liked. Agriculture now made rapid progress, and the value of land was quintupled between 1750 and 1800. Commerce and shipping also entered upon an



KING CHRISTIAN VI.

He was the son of Frederic IV., and, ascending the throne of Denmark and Norway in 1730, applied himself to promoting the intellectual and spiritual welfare of his subjects.



TWO FAMOUS DANISH ASTRONOMERS

Ole Rømer, whose portrait is first given, a distinguished philosopher and astronomer, became famous by his calculation of the velocity of light. Tycho Brahe, who belonged to an earlier period than Rømer, prosecuted his studies as an astronomer with great success, discovering serious errors in the astronomical tables, and observing a new star in Cassiopeia.

era of prosperity. In the tariff law of 1797 the protectionist policy was given up; the embargoes on imports were for the most part abolished and the duties were reduced. With a view to encouraging commerce, an agreement had been

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concluded with Sweden and Russia—the Armed Neutrality of July, 1780—even at the time of the American War of Independence; and Bernstorff was able to prevent Denmark and Norway from becoming involved in hostilities. Danish and Norwegian vessels sailed all the seas without let or hindrance, and carried on a profitable trade with the belligerents.

After the extinction of the old royal house in 1319 Norway had become united first with Sweden and then with Denmark in 1380. From this time the country rapidly deteriorated; it could not maintain its independence in the union. The prosperity of the country was ruined by the Hanseatic League, which was steadily increasing in power; at the same time Norway was terribly devastated in the fourteenth century by several pestilences.

The retrogression of the material welfare of the country was accompanied by a decline in the literary life; after the middle of the fourteenth century almost all literary activity ceased. The Danes made their way into the country and obtained civic rights by intermarriage. They brought with them the Danish language, which displaced old Norwegian as the literary language, and strongly influenced the colloquial language of the towns. While Sweden had freed herself from Danish supremacy and was entering upon a time of prosperity, Norway was treated almost like a province of Denmark after the "Counts' war" of 1536; it is true it retained the title of kingdom and had its own laws, but it lost its Council of State; and was governed by the Danish Council of State and Danish officials. The Reformation was introduced in 1536 by peremptory decree; the churches and monasteries were pillaged. Little trouble was taken to instruct the people of the country in the new doctrines; indeed, the Danish government concerned

itself very little at first about the country. It was only towards the end of the sixteenth century that Norway began to regain its strength; Christian IV. (1588-1648) in particular worked zealously for its welfare. The natural resources of the country were



KING CHRISTIAN VII.

Feeble-minded and incapable of performing the duties of his position, he left the work of government to his ministers. He married the English Princess Caroline Matilda.

turned to better advantage; the power of the Hanseatic League was broken. Commerce and navigation revived. Forestry and mining became more important; the towns increased in number and size: Christiania was founded in 1624. In addition to the peasantry a class of citizens and mariners was springing up. The nobles were not so numerous and had not so many privileges as in Denmark; neither did they possess the power of depriving the peasants of their independence. It is true that the land suffered through the war between Denmark and Sweden, and also lost the provinces of Herjedalon, Jemtland, and Bohuslen; but, on the whole, it made quiet progress.

The situation improved still more after 1650, when an absolute government was introduced into Denmark and Norway.



THE ORACLE OF DENMARK
Count Bernstorff was Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1751 till 1770. By Frederic the Great this capable statesman was characterized as "The Oracle of Denmark."

Norway was freed from the Danish feudal lords and stood directly under the king, who interested himself just as much in Norway as in Denmark. The administration and judicature were improved; a new code of laws was issued in 1687, and public offices were often filled by Norwegians. The Norwegians soon became distinguished in many departments of life. Ludvig Holberg, "the Father of Modern Danish-Norwegian Literature," was a Norwegian. Trade and commerce flourished. The last years of the eighteenth century were particularly fruitful; at that time, during the revolutionary wars, Denmark-Norway was able to preserve a neutral attitude, and down to their time there was no ill-feeling in Norway against Denmark and the union.

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SWEDEN'S TIME OF STRIFE

THE BLOODLESS REVOLUTION UNDER GUSTAVUS III.

ON the death of Charles XII. without issue, his sister Ulrica Eleonora, who had been married to Frederic, hereditary prince of Hesse, was chosen queen, but she was obliged to renounce the absolute sovereignty in February, 1719. The war soon came to an end in the new reign. Hanover received Bremen and Verden, Prussia the southern part of Nearer Pomerania, and Russia the provinces of Ingermanland, Esthonia, and Livonia, with Viborg Len, from Finland. Denmark was satisfied with 600,000 thalers; Sweden abandoned her claim to exemption from tolls in the Sound, and promised not to protect the Duke of Gottorp.

Ulrica Eleonora resigned the crown in March, 1720, in favour of her husband; Frederic received allegiance as king. However, a new form of government limited the power of the king still more. The king became quite dependent upon the Council of State and the Riksdag. The supreme power was in the hands of the Riksdag, which assembled every three years and had the right of supervising and altering all the decrees of the king and of the Council of State.

National affairs were first discussed in the standing committees, among which the "secret committee" soon obtained the greatest influence. The nobles had the predominance in the Riksdag; they alone had a seat and a vote in the Council of State and filled all the important offices. The period between 1720 and

1772 is generally called the "time of liberty." For a long while after the long and devastating war the country was in a most wretched condition; the finances were in the greatest confusion. However, the situation improved more rapidly than might have been expected, thanks principally to the Chancellor, Count Arvid Horn. In order to further his country's interests he preserved a wise and cautious demeanour towards other nations.

At home, also, there was plenty to do: new laws were necessary, and the finances had again to be set in order; all branches of industry required careful attention. In a short time manufactures and mining, commerce and navigation, revived.

With increased prosperity, however, the voices of the malcontents made themselves heard. There was a certain section of the people who could not reconcile themselves to the loss of the Baltic provinces, and, goaded on by France, they had become dissatisfied with Horn's foreign policy; they wanted war with Russia in order to regain what they had lost. They derisively termed Horn and his followers "Nattmössor" (Night-caps), while they called themselves "Hattar" (Wide-awakes). In this way Sweden soon became the scene of fierce party quarrels. The contending parties had recourse to any expedient which might injure their

opponents, and by which they could attract followers to their own side; as both factions were equally venal, corruption became more common. The neighbouring nations watched the internal strife with joy, for it promised advantage to them at the expense of Sweden, and foreign ambassadors spared no money to prolong the strife in the interests of their own states. The "Wide-awakes" received bribes from France, the "Night-caps" from Russia.

In the year 1738 the "Wide-awakes," under the leadership of Charles, Count of Syllenberg, succeeded in gaining the upper hand. In 1741 they declared war against Russia. The generals Wrangel, Lewenhaupt, and Buddenbrock, were defeated by the Russians, and at last were forced to surrender. In the meantime Sweden was engaged with the question of the succession to the throne, as Ulrica Eleonora had died childless in 1741. A few, and among them the peasants, desired the Danish Crown Prince (Frederic V.) as successor. This was actively opposed by Elizabeth, the Tsarina of Russia, who

feared the power of a united North; she therefore promised easy conditions if the Swedes would elect the Gottorp prince, Adolphus Frederic, who enjoyed her favour. The "Wide-awakes" succeeded in effecting his election, and in the Peace of Abo, on August 7th, 1743, Russia gave back the greater portion of Finland.

The "Wide-awakes" maintained their power for several years. Like the "Night-caps," they aimed at promoting national industries; their methods, however, were extremely ill-advised and extravagant. It is true, manufactures flourished, but in a way which was unnatural and injurious to other branches of industry, especially to agriculture. Commerce and navigation were handicapped by various prohibitions and by heavy custom duties; the finances were in disorder, and the national debt steadily increased.

It must be admitted that the "Wide-awakes" rendered great service to the arts and sciences; they founded an academy of painting and sculpture and another for science, and lived to see the fruits of their labours. The study of natural science reached a high state of perfection; its most celebrated representatives were Linné (Linnæus), who died in 1778, and the physicist, A. Celsius, who died in 1744. The well-known mystic E. Swedenborg also belongs to this period. Among other great men should be mentioned the historian S. Lagerbring, and O. Dalin, and the philologist, J. Ihre. In the cultivation of poetry the Swedes took as their models French and English poets. Dalin, who is mentioned above, wrote epics, lyrics, satires, and dramas; he is recognised as the father of modern Swedish æsthetic literature.

King Frederic I. died in 1751. His successor, Adolphus Frederic, was a weak, insignificant man, but his wife, Louisa Ulrica, a sister of Frederic II. of Prussia, who was both talented and fond of power,

desired to extend the authority of the king. However, her attempt to overthrow the "Wide-awakes" failed so hopelessly that the king and queen were still more humiliated. The king was not even able to prevent the "Wide-awakes" from attaching themselves to the enemies of Prussia in the Seven Years War and declaring war against Frederic II. The war was carried on so carelessly that Sweden completely forfeited her military reputation. It also aroused such indignation against the "Wide-awakes," with whose unsatisfactory government the people were already dissatisfied, that the "Night-caps" succeeded in overthrowing them and regaining their influence. If the "Wide-awakes" had been too extravagant with public money, the "Night-caps" were too economical. They declined to give the manufacturers the large loans and the assistance on which many depended, with the result that they were compelled to stop work. On account of the consequent lack of employment and distress, the "Night-caps" became so unpopular that in 1769 they were forced to give way to the "Wide-awakes." Thus the two parties continued their struggles, without, however, allowing the phantom king to take advantage of their strife by increasing his own power; even the threat of Adolphus Frederic that he would resign his crown had no effect. Russia, Prussia, and Denmark, who had in view the dismemberment of Sweden, naturally sought in every way to prevent any change in the constitution. Thus Sweden was for a time threatened with the same fate which soon afterwards overtook unfortunate Poland.

Gustavus III., the son of Adolphus Frederic, came to the rescue of the country. He was on the Continent at the time of his father's death, but on hearing the news at once hurried back to Sweden, firmly resolved to make an end of internal strife



FREDERIC I. OF SWEDEN
Hereditary prince of Hesse, Frederic married Ulrica Eleonora. When her brother Charles XII. died without issue, she was chosen queen, but resigned in favour of her husband.



A GREAT BOTANIST
Born in 1757, Carl Linnæus, more than any other man, enriched the science of botany. In 1742 he became professor of botany at Upsala University. He died in 1778.

overtook unfortunate Poland. Gustavus III., the son of Adolphus Frederic, came to the rescue of the country. He was on the Continent at the time of his father's death, but on hearing the news at once hurried back to Sweden, firmly resolved to make an end of internal strife

and to recover for the crown its former splendour. He gained the approval of the officers and soldiers for his plan. On August 10th, 1772, by a coup d'état he arrested the councillors and the leaders of the Estates, and on August 21st compelled the Riksdag to sanction a new constitution, by which the king received absolute power,

A Revolution Without Bloodshed

appointed the members of the Council, which retained only the power of giving advice, and shared the legislative power with the Estates. This revolution was received with joy by the people, and was effected without bloodshed; those who had been arrested were set at liberty without being prosecuted or punished. The neighbouring nations were indignant at the coup d'état, and threatened war. Gustavus took vigorous precautions, and the storm was soon stilled.

In the years following his coup d'état Gustavus made good use of his new powers. He was talented, learned, and affable, and having been influenced by the liberal ideas of the Encyclopædists, which were being diffused all over Europe, he was strenuously endeavouring to carry out useful reforms. The law-courts were improved, the finances reformed, the freedom of the Press was introduced, and the fetters which impeded trade and other branches of industry were removed. Gustavus was especially interested in art and science; he founded the Swedish Academy in 1786, the Swedish Theatre in 1773, and the Musical Academy in 1771. The plastic arts were also making progress, in particular sculpture. I. T. Sergel, who died in 1814, was the greatest sculptor of his age. In literature the French style prevailed, and was adopted by Gustavus, who was himself a dramatist, and by several poets who had gathered round him—namely, I. H. Kellgren and K. G. af Leopold; while others who kept themselves free from French influence and went their own way were K. M. Bellmann, B. Lidner, and A. M. Lenngren.

Thus the first years of Gustavus's reign were fortunate for Sweden, and the king himself was very popular among the people. Gradually, however, the worse

side of his nature gained the ascendancy. He was soon in want of money through his love of splendour and extravagance, and, in order to meet his necessities, he took measures which aroused great dissatisfaction, especially among the lower classes. It was the lower classes, however, to whom he looked for support against the nobility, who could never forgive him for his coup d'état. When he observed that his popularity was declining, he thought that he could recover it by a successful war. In 1788 he found a pretext for declaring war against Russia, and marched through Finland, across the Russian boundary, while the fleet was instructed to sail towards St. Petersburg at the same time. But he was scarcely across the boundary when the officers mutinied, and demanded



GUSTAVUS III. OF SWEDEN
The son of Adolphus Frederic, in 1771 he succeeded his father. The early years of his reign were successful, but in 1792 he was fatally wounded at Stockholm.

that he should summon a Riksdag and conclude peace, for he had acted unconstitutionally in declaring war without the consent of the Riksdag. Gustavus hurried back to Sweden, where he won the support of the people, who were indignant at the revolt, summoned the Riksdag, and, on February 21st, 1789, carried the "Säkerhetsakt," which granted him almost unlimited power.

The war was continued, but the favourable opportunity was lost, and the war soon came to an end on August 14th, 1790, with the Peace of Werelä, which in

every respect confirmed the former state of affairs. Gustavus desired to help his friend Louis XVI. against the Revolution; and accordingly, in 1791, concluded a treaty with Russia, and conceived the plan of advancing into France at the head of a Swedish and Russian army. However, a conspiracy was formed among

The King Shot at a

Masked Ball

the nobility, whose indignation had reached its height since the introduction of the "Säkerhetsakt." At a masked ball at Stockholm Gustavus was mortally wounded on March 16th, 1792, and died a few days later. Gustavus left a son, Gustavus IV. (Adolphus, 1792-1809), who was not of age, and the brother of Gustavus, Charles, Duke of Södermanland, undertook the government.

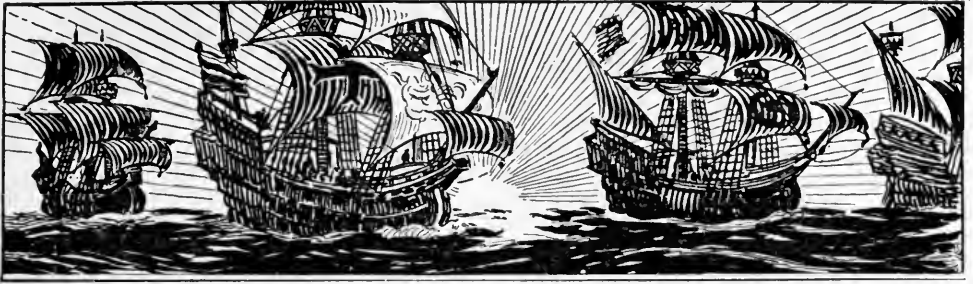
HANS SCHJÖTH

GREAT DATES FROM THE REFORMATION TO THE REVOLUTION

A.D.		A.D.	
1509	Henry VIII. king of England. Albuquerque appointed Viceroy of the Indies	1578	The " Spanish Fury " of Antwerp. Don John sent to the Netherlands. Pacification of Ghent.
1511	Holy League formed against France		Rudolf II. emperor
1513	Henry in Picardy. James IV. of Scotland killed at Battle of Flodden. James V. succeeds. Leo X. elected Pope. Rise of Wolsey. Swiss Confederation completed	1578	Death of Don John. Parma sent to Netherlands
1515	Charles of Burgundy succeeds to the crowns of Castile and Aragon. Francis I. king of France. Battle of Marignano	1579	Union of Utrecht
1517	Martin Luther challenges Indulgences	1580	Annexation of Portugal to Spain. Desmond's rebellion in Ireland. Drake completes his voyage of circumnavigation
1519	Charles succeeds to Hapsburg dominions and is elected Emperor Charles V.	1584	Death of William the Silent ; and of Anjou (Alençon), making Henry of Navarre heir to French throne
1520	Field of Cloth of Gold. Blood-bath of Stockholm. Luther burns the Pope's Bull. Magelhaens passes Straits of Magellan	1585	Raleigh's first Virginia colony. Sixtus V. Pope. " War of the Three Henries " in France
1521	Diet of Worms. Adrian VI. Pope. Cortes in Mexico. War between Charles and Francis	1588	English in Netherlands. Babington's plot
1522	England joins the war. Knights' war in Germany	1587	Execution of Mary Stuart
1523	Clement VII. Pope. Gustavus Vasa king of Sweden. Frederic of Holstein king of Denmark	1588	Spanish Armada. Assassination of Henry of Guise. Christian IV. king of Denmark
1524	German Peasants' War.	1589	Henry IV. claims succession to Henry III.
1525	Battle of Pavia	1592	Clement IX. Pope
1526	Charles marries Isabella of Portugal	1592	Henry IV. accepts the Mass
1527	Sack of Rome by Imperial troops. Crowns of Hungary and Bohemia conferred on Ferdinand of Austria. Brother of Charles V.	1598	Treaty of Vervins ; Edict of Nantes. Death of Philip II. and Lord Bureleigh. Philip III. king of Spain
1529	Peace of Cambrai. Protest of Spain. Turks before Vienna. Fall of Wolsey.	1600	Charter of English East India Company
1530	Confession of Augsburg. Formation of the Schmaldeic League	1603	James I. of England. Union of English and Charles IX. king of Sweden [Scottish crowns
1531	Death of Zwingli	1604	Paul V. Pope
1532	Treaty of Nuremberg. Pizarro in Peru	1605	Twelve years' truce between Dutch and Spain.
1533	England repudiates Papal allegiance. Ascendancy of Thomas Cromwell	1609	Charter of Virginia
1534	Paul III. Pope. Francis makes Turkish alliance	1610	Henry IV. assassinated. Louis XIII. king of France
1535	Visitation of English monasteries. Charles V. in Tunis	1611	Gustavus Adolphus king of Sweden
1536	Pilgrimage of Grace. War renewed between Truce of Nice [Charles V. and Francis	1612	Matthias emperor
1538	Order of Jesuits receives Papal sanction	1613	Princess Elizabeth of England marries Elector Palatine
1540	Calvin supreme at Geneva. Algerian expedition of Charles V. Diet of Regensburg (Ratisbon)	1614	Last States-General called in France till 1789
1541	War renewed between Charles and Francis. Scottish forces routed at Solway Moss. Death of James V. and accession of infant Mary Stuart	1617	Ferdinand of Carinthia recognised as heir to Matthias
1542	Henry joins Charles against France	1618	Bohemian revolt begins Thirty Years War
1543	Peace of Crespy	1619	Bohemians elect Frederic of the Palatinate. Ferdinand becomes emperor
1544	Council of Trent begins	1620	Battle of White Mountain. Voyage of Mayflower
1546	Death of Luther. Schmaldeic War.	1621	Philip IV. king of Spain
1547	Edward VI. king of England. Henry II. king of France. Defeat of Protestants at Muhlberg. Rout of Interim of Augsburg [of Scots at Pinkie	1624	Supremacy of Cardinal Richelieu in France begins
1548	Julius III. Pope. Fall of Somerset in England	1625	Charles I. king of England
1549	Maurice of Saxony heads German Protestants.	1626	Protestants under leadership of Christian of Denmark. Wallenstein comes to aid of emperor.
1552	Peace of Passau		Battle of Lutter
1553	Mary Tudor queen of England	1628	Petition of Right. Assassination of Buckingham
1554	Mary marries Philip of Spain	1629	Withdrawal of Denmark. Emperor issues Edict of Restitution
1555	Beginning of Marian persecution. Pacification of Augsburg. Paul IV. Pope	1630	Dismissal of Wallenstein. Gustavus Adolphus lands
1556	Charles V. abdicates. Philip succeeds to Spain and Burgundy. Ferdinand in Germany	1631	Gustavus wins victory of Breitenfeld
1557	Lords of the Congregation in Scotland. War between France and Spain.	1632	Wallenstein recalled. Gustavus killed at Lutzen
1558	Loss of Calais. Mary Stuart marries Dauphin. Elizabeth queen of England	1633	Northwest in Ireland
1559	Treaty of Cateau Cambresis. Francis II. king of France. Religious settlement in England	1634	Death of Wallenstein. Battle of Nordlingen
1560	Treaty of Leith. Charles IX. king of France. Ascendancy of Catharine de Medic	1635	Claim of Ship-money. France at war with Spain
1561	Mary Stuart returns to Scotland	1638	National League and Covenant in Scotland
1562	Massacre of Vassy. Beginning of Huguenot wars in France	1639	Death of Bernard of Saxe-Weimar. The Bishops' War (Scotland)
1563	End of Council of Trent. Peace of Amboise	1640	Accession of Frederic William, the Great Elector of Brandenburg. Meeting of Long Parliament
1564	Maximilian II. emperor	1641	Execution of Strafford. Insurrection in Ireland
1565	Mary Stuart marries Darnley	1642	Beginning of Great Rebellion in England. Mazarin's rise to power in France
1566	Pius V. Pope	1643	Louis XIV. king of France. Anne of Austria regent. Solemn League and Covenant between Parliament and Scots. Duc d'Enghien (the Great Condé) defeats Spaniards at Rocroi
1567	Murder of Darnley. Mary forced to abdicate. Huguenot wars in France. Alva in the Netherlands	1644	Battle of Marston Moor
1568	Mary Stuart takes refuge in England	1645	Battle of Naseby
1569	Suppression of insurrection of Northern earls in England. Battles of Moncontour and Jarnac in France	1648	Peace of Westphalia. Beginning of war of the Fronde
1570	Treaty of St. Germain. Papal Bull deposing Elizabeth. Assassination of Regent Moray	1649	Charles I. beheaded. Commonwealth in England. Cromwell in Ireland
1572	Revolt of Netherlands. Gregory XIII. Pope. Battle of Lepanto. Massacre of St. Bartholomew. Death of John Knox	1650	Death of Montrose. Battle of Dunbar
1573	Alva recalled from Netherlands	1651	Battle of Worcester. Escape of Charles II. Navigation Act
		1652	Anglo-Dutch war begins. War of the Fronde ends
		1653	Cromwell made Lord Protector
		1654	Charles X. king of Sweden. End of Dutch war
		1658	Cromwell at war with Spain
		1657	French alliance with Cromwell. Blake at Santa Cruz
		1658	Capture of Dunkirk. Death of Cromwell
		1660	Stuart Restoration in England. Louis XIV. assumes government in France. Charles XI. king of Sweden. Treaty of Oliva
		1661	Death of Mazarin. Colbert in France. Clarendon in England
		1662	Charles II. of England marries Catharine of Braganza. Dunkirk sold to France

GREAT DATES FROM THE REFORMATION TO THE REVOLUTION

A.D. 1665	Independence of Portugal under the house of Braganza recognised. Charles II. king of Spain. Anglo-Dutch war begins	A.D. 1727	George II. king of England. Walpole retains
1667	End of Dutch war. Fall of Clarendon. Beginning of the "War of Devolution." Louis XIV. invades the Netherlands	1729	Treaty of Seville [power. Treaty of Vienna
1668	Cabal Ministry in England. Triple Alliance (England, Holland, and Sweden)	1731	Second Treaty of Vienna
1670	Treaty of Dover between Louis and Charles	1733	Secret family compact between French and Spanish Bourbons. War of Polish succession begins
1672	France and England attack Holland. Fall of the Grand Pensionary and rise of William of Orange (nephew of Charles II.)	1735	War of Polish succession ends. Bourbon dynasty in the two Silesias
1673	European coalition	1738	France guarantees Pragmatic Sanction
1674	England withdraws from war. Turenne's campaign in Alsace	1739	War of Jenkins' Ear begins between Spain and Great Britain
1675	Death of Turenne. Victory of Great Elector at Fehrbellin	1740	Frederic II. king of Prussia. Death of Emperor Charles VI.; Austrian succession claimed by Maria Theresa under Pragmatic Sanction, challenged by Charles of Bavaria. Frederic occupies Silesia; first Silesian War
1677	William of Orange marries Mary, daughter of Duke of York	1741	War of Austrian succession
1678	Treaty of Nimegueu. Titus Oates and the Popish Plot in England	1742	Charles VII. of Bavaria emperor. Fall of Walpole
1679	Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye. Rising of Scottish Covenanters. Habeas Corpus Act	1743	Battle of Dettingen. Treaty of Fontainebleau
1681	Louis seizes Strasburg	1744	Marshal Saxe in the Netherlands
1682	Accession of Peter the Great in Russia	1745	Francis I. of Tuscany (Lorraine), husband of Maria Theresa, emperor. Charles Edward lands in Scotland and invades England
1685	James II. king of England. Louis revokes the Edict of Nantes	1746	Jacobite cause crushed at Culloden. Opening of Franco-British struggle in India. Duplex and La Bourdonnais capture Madras. Ferdinand French invade Holland [VI. king of Spain
1686	William of Orange forms League of Augsburg	1747	Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle restores conquests
1688	The Great Elector succeeded by Frederic III. Louis invades the Palatinate. William of Orange lands in England	1751	Clive at Arcot
1689	William III. and Mary accept Declaration of Right. Battle of Killiecrankie. Grand Alliance	1754	Collisions of French and British colonists in America
1690	Battle of Boyne	1756	Alliance of Great Britain and Prussia. League against Russia. French take Minorca. Frederic invades Saxony. Seven Years War begins
1692	Massacre of Glencoe. Irish Penal Laws passed. Battles of La Hogue and Steinkirk	1757	Pitt in power. Clive's victory at Plassey. Battles of Prague, Kolin, Rosbach, and Leuthen
1694	Bank of England established	1758	Battles of Crefeld, Zorndorf and Hochkirch. Choiseul in power in France
1697	Treaty of Ryswick. Prince Eugene defeats Turks at Zenta. Charles XII. king of Sweden. Party government initiated by Whig Junto	1759	Battles of Minden, Kunersdorf, Lagos, Quiberon and Quebec. Pombal in power in Portugal. Charles III. king of Spain
1698	First (Spanish) Partition Treaty	1760	Battles of Leignitz, Torgau and Wandewash. George III. king of England
1699	Collapse of Scottish Darien scheme. Second Partition Treaty	1761	Bute predominant. Pitt retires
1700	Spanish Crown accepted by Philip (V.) of Anjou. Northern war. Charles XII. defeats Danes and Russians at Narva	1762	Spain joins France; Russia becomes neutral
1701	Louis acknowledges James Edward Stuart. England joins Grand Alliance. Frederic III., Elector of Brandenburg, becomes King Frederic I. of Prussia	1763	Treaties of Paris and Hubertsburg
1702	Anne queen of England. War of Spanish succession. Charles XII. invades Poland	1764	Suppression of Jesuits in France. Stanislas Poniatowski king of Poland. Battle of Buxar (Bengal)
1704	Marlborough and Eugene rout French at Blenheim. Rooke takes Gibraltar	1765	Joseph II. emperor. Grenville's Stamp Act
1705	Joseph I. emperor	1766	Rockingham Ministry repeals Stamp Act. Pitt forms Grafton Ministry and becomes Earl of Chatham
1706	Marlborough wins battle of Ramillies. Eugene wins battle of Turin	1767	Jesuits expelled from Spain. Charles Townsend's Colonial taxes
1707	Defeat of allies by Berwick at Almanza. Treaty of Union between England and Scotland united as Great Britain	1768	France acquires Corsica from Genoa. Middlesex elections
1708	Battle of Oudenarde	1769	Meeting of Frederic and Emperor Joseph
1709	Battle of Ramillies. Charles XII. defeated at Poltava	1770	Second meeting. Fall of Choiseul in France. North's Ministry in England
1710	Fall of Whigs in England. Conference of Gertruydenberg	1771	Abolition of Parlement by Maupeou
1711	Archduke Charles becomes Emperor Charles VI. Fall of Marlborough	1772	Partition of Poland. Gustavus III. king of Sweden
1713	Treaty of Utrecht establishes Bourbon dynasty in Spain. Frederic William I. king of Prussia	1773	Jesuits condemned by the Pope. North's Indian Regulating Acts
1714	Treaty of Rastadt. George I. king of England. Hanoverian dynasty begins. Philip V. marries Elizabeth Farnese	1774	Louis XVI. king of France. Maurepas restores the Parlement. Penal Acts against Massachusetts. Warren Hastings Governor-General of India
1715	Louis XV. king of France; Orleans regent. Jacobite rising of the "Fifteen"	1775	Turgot's reforms in France. Beginning of American War of Independence
1716	Eugene overthrows Turks at Peterwardein	1776	Necker in France. American Declaration of Independence
1717	Great Britain, France, and Holland form Triple Alliance; later joined by Austria	1777	Joseph II. claims Bavarian succession. Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga
1718	Treaty of Passarowitz. Alboroni in Spain. Spanish fleet destroyed at Cape Passaro. Death of Charles XII.	1778	France supports America
1720	End of Northern war. Promulgation of Pragmatic Sanction by Emperor Charles VI. Collapse of South Sea Bubble in England, and Law's Mississippi scheme in France	1779	Spain joins war
1721	Walpole's administration begins in England	1780	First armed neutrality. Death of Maria Theresa
1723	Orleans regency ends in France	1781	Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown. Reforms of Joseph II.
1724	Ripperda in Spain	1782	Fall of North. Whig Ministries in England. Rodney's victory of The Saints. Grattan's Parliament established in Ireland
1725	Catherine I. in Russia	1783	Peace of Versailles. Independence of U.S.A. recognised. Calonne in France. Coalition of Fox and North; the younger Pitt becomes Prime Minister
1726	Cardinal Fleury becomes First Minister in France	1784	Pitt returned to power; remains till 1801
		1785	Pitt's India Act. Frederic II. forms the Furstenbund
		1786	Frederic William II. king of Prussia
		1788	Revolt of Netherlands against Joseph's reforms. Recall of Necker, and summoning of States-General



THE COMMERCE of WESTERN EUROPE

FROM THE REFORMATION TO THE REVOLUTION

THE EFFECTS OF THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE DISCOVERIES

THE permission obtained from the Pope by the rulers of Spain and Portugal to extend their power over unknown or untrodden regions was a result of the long-continued war with the Mohammedans, which to the successors of Gregory VII. and Urban II. was a continuation of the Crusade policy of the papacy. The sovereigns of the Iberian Peninsula finally succeeded in driving oversea the enemy who had come upon them in the eighth century.

The bloodshed of 700 years was brought to a close by the conquest of Granada in 1492. It now became necessary to render the regained territory secure by occupying the Mediterranean coast of Africa. In fact, both Spain and Portugal undertook this task, but with the means at their disposal success seemed very uncertain. It was for this reason that Henry the Navigator, who died in 1460, endeavoured to find a new strategic base of operations, as well as new allies and means, to be used against the infidels. Columbus and his patroness, Isabella of Castile, were also inspired by the same thought. Spaniards and Portuguese alike were filled with the idea of making use of the treasures of India and China in their struggle against the Mohammedans. Yet neither Spain nor Portugal was able to carry out its plans in respect to the conquest of the Barbary States.

The Struggles Against the Mohammedans

The Christians were able to capture and hold only single points along the coast, the so-called "presidios." The attacks of Charles V. on Tunis and Algiers were ineffectual, and Sebastian's campaign against Morocco ended in 1578 with a defeat that was decidedly injurious

to the future influence of Portugal. The kings of Spain were obliged to defend the interests of their subjects against the Mohammedans in the Eastern Mediterranean also—above all, the commerce of the Catalonians, who, since the time of the Crusades, had been the rivals of the Italians and Provençals in the Levant. Moreover, Sicily had been under the dominion of Aragon for centuries, and Naples became a dependency of Spain in 1504. It was necessary to defend political and economic interests against the followers of Islam in this region also.

Conditions in the Levant had become completely altered since the end of the Crusades. The Byzantine Empire was no longer in existence, and the Mohammedan kingdom of the Turks had arisen in its place. There were no longer any Genoese or Venetian settlements in the Black Sea region. Anatolia was now a Turkish province. Syria and Egypt had been under the dominion of the Sultan of Constantinople since the beginning of the sixteenth century. The sole remains of the colonial empire of Venice in the Eastern Mediterranean were a few islands, constantly threatened, and indeed conquered piecemeal. In addition to Spain and Italy, there was still another region which the Hapsburgs, on whose empire the sun never set, were obliged to defend against the Mohammedans. This was Austria, their hereditary kingdom. To be sure, dexterity and good luck had enabled them in the year 1526 to establish the great union of

The Great Empire of the Hapsburgs

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nations from which the Austro-Hungarian monarchy developed in later times ; but, owing to the quarrels of the different ruling factions in the lands of St. Stephen, they were unable to avoid the loss of the greater part of Hungary. It was greatly to the advantage of the Hapsburgs that the protection of German Austria was

The Crescent's Failure at Vienna

looked upon as a common German, indeed as a common European, cause. Hence Suleiman II., accustomed as he was to victory, failed to plant the crescent on the walls of Vienna in 1529.

The most important part of the policy of Spain, the repulse of the Turks at the time of their final advance against Christendom, was greatly obstructed owing to the fact that France, under Francis I., was all the while waging a war of self-preservation against the Hapsburgs. Feeling that the existence of his monarchy was threatened by the supremacy of Spanish power, Francis had entered into negotiations with the Porte as early as 1525, when in prison in Madrid. The Franco-Spanish War of 1526-1529, together with the contemporary attacks of Suleiman on Hungary, compelled the Hapsburgs to divide their forces in order to protect themselves on both sides. A few years later, in 1535, Francis I., fully conscious of the gravity of the step, formed an alliance with the Turks. This was the first open union which had ever been entered into by a Christian-Latin power with the followers of the Prophet. The Turks in return put the French king in possession of a Mediterranean fleet.

The Spaniards were not only prevented from becoming the rulers of the Mediterranean, but, owing to their position as champions of Christianity, were obliged to forfeit the remains of their commerce in the Levant. In this the Catalonians and the city of Barcelona were the greatest sufferers.

The Castilians had nothing to lose in the East, and were looked upon by the other Spaniards as the founders of a world-policy that appeared to be the height of madness. The decline of commerce in the Levant rendered more acute the antagonism

between the different parts of the Spanish Empire, which were bound together only by dynastic ties. In the meanwhile France harvested the material fruits of her unchristian alliance with the Mohammedan East. A commercial treaty, drawn up on very similar lines to the old Hanse compacts, and offering a model for later treaties, was concluded in 1535. It was based on the principle of reciprocity as against other powers. The French in the East were to pay the same tolls and taxes that the Turks themselves paid to their government, and vice versa ; further, it was agreed that the French should be legally answerable to their own consuls alone, and that they should be permitted to worship according to their own religion in Mohammedan lands. The French flag succeeded to the privileges of the Venetian,

and was moreover displayed by all vessels of other nations sailing under French protection. In contrast to the Spaniards, the Venetians did not allow themselves to be driven from their trade with the Levant. As in earlier times, they would now have preferred to slip in between the hostile powers of the West and East ; but during the sixteenth century it was necessary for them to be armed and on their guard against both the sultan, who desired to get possession of the remains of their colonies, and the emperor, or, rather, the House of Austria, whose



HENRY THE NAVIGATOR
The fourth son of John I., King of Portugal, he encouraged voyages of discovery, and, at his own expense, fitted out important expeditions. He died in 1480.

sphere of interest in the plain of the Po and beyond the Adriatic extended dangerously near to the boundaries of the territory subject to Venice. Although the Continental possessions of Venice were likely to draw her into serious complications, without the revenues from these

Eastern Commerce of Venetians

lands she would be unable to provide the troops and ships required for the defence of her position in the East. The

false notion that the Oriental commerce of the Venetians came to an end because of the discovery of an ocean route to India, and that trade was wrested from Venice by Portugal, is old and seemingly ineradicable. In reality, Venice continued to carry on traffic with the Levant not only throughout the sixteenth

THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE DISCOVERIES

century, but until the beginning of the eighteenth, so that at least seven or eight generations passed before the commerce in question entirely lost its earlier importance. Had the Venetians been as stubborn as the Hanseatics, there is no doubt that they would have lost their Oriental trade much earlier than they did.

When they saw that Alexandria was declining for lack of an import trade, because the Portuguese had closed up the entrance to the Red Sea, they did not hesitate for a moment to desert the former mistress of the Eastern Mediterranean, and transferred their headquarters to Aleppo, for the reason that the Syrian city had once more become a market for the products of Asia. Arabs, Persians, and Armenians brought merchandise thither from India; for the Portuguese, much as they wished to do so, had not succeeded either in closing the Persian Gulf permanently, in blocking up the overland routes, or in driving the Arabs from the Indian Ocean. They had indeed been successful in rendering the old commercial routes more difficult of access, but they had by no means destroyed them. The fate of

Business Enterprise of Venice

Venetian trade in the East did not lie in the hands of the Portuguese, but depended upon the moods, peaceful or warlike, of the sultan. How capable the Venetians were of adapting themselves to adverse circumstances was shown by the fact that they struck out an entirely new commercial route, and one, moreover, for which the chief instrument of their trade, their mercantile marine, was practically useless; this was the caravan road that led diagonally across the Balkan Peninsula from Constantinople to Spalato. All wares that did not find purchasers in the last-named city—where trade was entirely in the hands of Venetian merchants—were sent to the capital by ship. Thus Venice was still able to supply her old customers outside of Italy with merchandise from the Orient, in spite of Lisbon and Antwerp, although, to her great regret, she was not able entirely to do away with their competition.

Both before and after the period of discoveries the Upper Germans were the most reliable customers of the Venetians. It was an advantage to the South German merchant, now reaching out more vigorously than ever in all directions, that, in spite of the south-east passage to India, the Portuguese and the Netherlanders

were unable to monopolise the entire trade in Asiatic products. The Germans had their choice of Venice, Lisbon, and Antwerp. There was no reason why they should neglect Venice; indeed, there was a far better market for the sale of German products there than in the newly-established commercial centres of the West.

How was it, then, that Venetian ice could have so suddenly, as the traditional formula postulates, lost her commanding position in the world's trade? Even granting that the Orient had in reality been hermetically sealed by the Portuguese and Turks, this would not have been sufficient to destroy the trade of Venice, of which one of the chief supports was her domestic industry. During the sixteenth century, the height of the Renaissance, and until late in the seventeenth, Italy dominated the artistic taste of all Europe.

The commercial language, customs, and methods of Italians became widely diffused over Northern and Western Europe for the first time in the sixteenth century. Indeed, the discoveries through which the commerce of the Apennine Peninsula is said to have been destroyed actually contributed, if not to an increase in the commercial power of Italy, at least to an enlargement in its area of distribution; for Venetian and Genoese importers were among the very first to supply Seville and Lisbon with the merchandise that was sent out to the Transatlantic possessions in accordance with the Spanish and Portuguese system of colonisation. The older commercial races, the Italians and the Germans, had no reason for fearing the Spaniards and Portuguese; the English and the Netherlanders were far more dangerous rivals. It was in the North, along the line that divided Central from Northern European commerce that the Venetians were first compelled to retire from competition. About the year

1560 they suspended the regular sea voyages which they had been in the habit of making to the Low Countries and the British Isles ever since the year 1318, while, on the other hand, English and Dutch navigators had become constant visitors to the Mediterranean.

There can be no doubt that the centre of gravity of the world's commerce gradually swung westward to the Atlantic coast during the course of the sixteenth century,

yet without bringing with it any sudden destruction to German or Italian trade. Both Germany and Italy stretched forth their tentacles over the Iberian Peninsula and the newly developing centres of the world's trade. Adaptation to altered circumstances was now possible, inasmuch as the old and clumsy method of

Wonders of the New World

barter had in a large degree been superseded by the use of money and credit; consequently, geographical displacements of trade were no longer of any great consequence.

The New World proffered her peculiar flora and fauna to the conquistadores of the sixteenth century in their entire tropical profusion. The existence of a strange race of human beings who lived in other moral conditions was also of consequence to the masters of the new hemisphere, although phenomena of nature and civilisation were of but minor interest to men whose activities were almost exclusively limited to the obtaining of gold.

However, it was at least necessary to settle in the new continent, and to look at it as a territory for residence and subsistence. Had Europe, or even Spain, suffered from excess of population during the sixteenth century, the New World would have been from the very first what it really became only during the nineteenth century—a region of expansion for such civilised nations of the world as are lacking either in land or in means of subsistence. Since at that time Europe, and especially Spain, had too few rather than too many inhabitants, the New World was at the beginning an unlimited arena for the deeds of adventurers, a fair field for missionaries eager to make converts, and a tremendous crown demesne for the government, which bore and continued to bear the expenses of discovery and conquest, and naturally, according to the principles of government which then prevailed, desired an immediate reimbursement of its outlay.

The Early Settlers in America

But although emigration from Europe to America did not at first assume any considerable proportions, sporadic settlements were made by eager, enterprising, and highly educated leaders, lay and ecclesiastical, who sowed the seeds of Mediterranean culture in the New World, and, still remaining Europeans, founded that system of hemispheric division of production and distribution

which was the keystone of commercial policy for more than two centuries. The transmission of European civilisation to America, so beneficial to both hemispheres, was dependent on the relations of the colonists to the native races, who were not thickly settled although sometimes highly developed. Had the methods of the conquistadores been adopted, the red race would soon have been annihilated.

However, the influence of Church and State tended to curb the unscrupulous egoism of colonial, mining, and commercial interests. As soon as ecclesiastical and political government took the place of previous anarchy, the native races could at least be rescued from extirpation, although their civilisation was allowed to drift away to destruction because of its heathen origin. Only the more barbarous of the Indians retreated beyond the sphere of European influence, seeking refuge in the forests and deserts. Their civilised brethren did not shrink from the consequences of association with the European intruders; marriage between Europeans and Indian women also contributed towards the establishment of friendly relations. In this

What the New World Received from the Old

way a race of half-breeds, or Mestizos, arose among the pure-blooded European and Indian peoples.

The Old World was far superior to the New with regard to the possession of domestic animals. The llama, the vicuña, and a few varieties of birds were all that America had to offer to European settlers. The great wealth of the new continent in game was not taken into consideration at all by the Spanish and Portuguese colonists. Since practically all the domestic animals of the New World are of Old World origin, first having been imported from Spain or elsewhere—this applying not only to the tame but also to the wild cattle and horses—it follows that the exchange of civilisation favoured America from a zoological quite as much as it had from an anthropological point of view.

Although America was more fortunately situated in regard to flora than to fauna, nevertheless the New World received from the Old more than it gave in the shape of useful plants. Such American products as maize, tobacco, potatoes, and Spanish pepper can, indeed, be cultivated in the more temperate regions of the Old World. In like manner the pineapple, aloe, and cactus have been introduced into the

sub-tropical zones; and cocoa and vanilla, together with some medicinal plants, flourish in the tropics of the Eastern Hemisphere. Even if we add to these American dye-woods and timber, the vegetable products that have been transplanted from the New World to the Old fall a long way short both in number and in importance of the total of species that have crossed the Atlantic in the other direction; in fact, the various kinds of grain, wheat, barley, oats, and rye are of themselves sufficient to equalise the balance.

It would take too long to enumerate all the varieties of fruits and vegetables, fibrous plants and herbs used for dyeing, which have been exported across the ocean from the three older continents, and have been found to thrive well in North and South America. To these, sugar-cane and coffee must also be added. Even the two chief varieties of cotton cultivated in America are of Old World origin.

Plants and animals were at first exported across the ocean from one hemisphere to the other without much attention being paid to them. Perhaps centuries passed before their useful qualities were discovered and properly valued—the potato, for example. During the first century or century and a half after the discovery, products of the animal and vegetable kingdoms played a very small part in the traffic between Europe and America. As yet there was nothing from either to be sent back to Europe as a return cargo with which to pay for the importations of European industrial products. Even the quantity of West Indian sugar sent to Europe in addition to dye-woods and drugs from Central and South America seems not to have been large; the use of sugar itself was yet very limited. In general, none of the products which in later times received the name of “colonial wares” had yet become well known as luxuries. Not until the seventeenth century did the manner of life of Europeans alter to such a degree as to favour trade in such products.

Nevertheless, permanent settlements were soon established in America by European immigrants, who required regular importations of the products of Old World industry, for they by no means fell to the level of self-sufficing barbarism. Next in importance to the possession of an unlimited area for residence and

subsistence, the occurrence of the precious metals was the foundation of the being and prosperity of the Spanish-American colonies. Ever since the sixteenth century the gold and silver of the New World have exerted a powerful influence on the economic and political history of Europe.

Although the production of the precious metals in America can be expressed in approximate figures, scholars have vainly endeavoured to discover the quantity of gold and silver on hand in Europe previous to the year 1500, when bullion was first shipped across the Atlantic. Perhaps \$625,000,000 worth is not too high an estimate. However, there are other factors which, in addition to being firmly established, are of far more importance to the history of European possession and coinage of the precious metals. During the Middle Ages silver was the chief medium of exchange, but, owing to the untrustworthiness of silver money, ever since the middle of the thirteenth century wholesale trade had become accustomed to the use of the gold currency which had been employed for many years back in the Levant, within the Byzantine as well as the Mohammedan sphere of civilisation. The Florentine florins and the Venetian ducats, or sequins, served as models for the gold pieces of the Rhineland, France, and Hungary. The smallness of the output of gold in Europe prevented a further extension of the use of a gold coinage.

On the other hand, the use of silver greatly increased during the fifteenth century, and rose still more rapidly during the sixteenth. Over-production of silver was rendered impossible, owing to the fact that even in classic times there was a constant flow of money, especially of silver, into Eastern Asia; this explains the scarcity and high value of money, as well as the favourable ratio maintained by silver to gold. Apart from some temporary fluctuations at the end of the

The Age of Silver fifteenth century the ratio of value of gold and silver was $11\frac{1}{2} : 1$. During the course of the sixteenth century the effects of the production of the precious metals in America were distinctly felt in Europe. Owing to the continued preponderance of silver, the ratio gradually became more and more favourable to gold, standing at $15 : 1$ from about 1630-40; and this ratio was maintained with but few interruptions

until 1874, when 16 : 1 was exceeded, and a rapid fall in the price of silver began. The extraordinary increase in the supply of precious metals during the sixteenth century was by no means an unmixed blessing from an economic point of view. The joint production of precious metals in Europe and America between 1493 and 1600 amounted probably to about \$385,000,000 in gold and over \$875,000,000 in silver—a total of over \$1,250,000,000.

**America's
Silver
Production**

The New World remained behind the Old in the production of the precious metals until 1544; this was due to the richness of the mines in the Tyrol, Bohemia, and Saxony, as well as to the superior methods of mining and extraction employed in Europe. But when the silver mines of Potosi in Peru were discovered in 1545, and those of Zacatecas and Guanajuato in Mexico in 1548, when German miners were sent to America, and one of them, whose name is unknown, invented the method of extracting silver from quartz by the use of mercury, the production of America soon surpassed that of the Old World, and began to cause a fall in the value of the precious metals.

Although the exact quantity of silver and gold shipped from America to Europe is not known, one can at least form some idea of the increase from estimates of the total supply of the precious metals in Europe at different periods. Thus, if the supply in 1493 is reckoned at about \$625,000,000, and that in 1600 at \$1,625,000,000, the increase during the sixteenth century must have amounted approximately to \$1,000,000,000.

With a constant increase in the supply of the precious metals, the purchasing power of money must sink, just as increase in the supply of any commodity is apt to cause a fall in its value, once the normal demand is satisfied; it follows that a fall in the value of money

**Fall in
the Value
of Money**

is attended by a rise in prices of all other commodities. A general rise in prices must be felt by all classes of society, especially in cases where there is no increase of income to correspond with the decrease in the purchasing power of money. Experience shows that, as a rule, men who are dependent upon wages and salaries for their support are not able—certainly not immediately—to increase their incomes proportionately to the increased

cost of necessities of life. Hence, a crisis in prices is usually accompanied by economic phenomena, which are especially destructive to the welfare of the poorer classes. Workmen who received their pay in currency were better off during the fifteenth century, when wages were relatively high, than during the sixteenth, when, in addition to a fall in wages, there was a decrease in the purchasing power of money; thus, the proletariat grew in numbers in spite, rather than in consequence, of the opening of the treasures of the New World. The rise in the prices of commodities had also a depressing effect upon incomes derived from interest or rent. On the other hand, producers or dealers who were successful in bringing about an advance in prices were able to add to their wealth without the slightest exercise of labour.

As has been proved by thousands of independent statements, civilised Europe underwent an economic crisis during the sixteenth century. The effects of the fall in the value of money and the general advance in the prices of commodities were felt in all directions—earlier in the

**Economic
Crisis
in Europe**

West than in the East—and this state of affairs continued until well into the seventeenth century. Conditions did not change until about 1650, when a slight reaction set in, and not until the beginning of the eighteenth century was there another steady advance of prices.

The customary term, "revolution in prices," is certainly very inappropriate for the designation of movements that are so slow as almost to remind us of the gradual risings and fallings of continents. Only the attempts of merchants to effect a rise artificially, and the clumsy financial policy of certain politicians, have here and there given to these slowly consummating crises the character of revolutionary movements.

By turning the Cape of Good Hope, the Portuguese discovered an ocean route to India, the goal which the Spaniards under Columbus had so unsuccessfully endeavoured to attain. They set foot in a region with which Europe had been engaged in indirect trade for thousands of years, a densely populated country, abounding in its own peculiar products, possessed of its own independent civilisation, the very nucleus of the world's commerce. Nevertheless, the inhabitants

THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE DISCOVERIES

of India had no wish to dominate the world's trade, and willingly placed their commerce in the hands of foreigners, through whose activities a market was secured that extended over the broadest spheres of lands and peoples. The Arabs were the masters of the intermediate trade with the coasts of the Indian Ocean, and from their hands the Europeans of the Mediterranean region, the Venetians leading, received the luxuries of India, which then passed through a third, fourth, and perhaps twentieth hand, each exchange aiding the merchants of the Latin and, for a long time, the Byzantine sphere of civilisation to secure the commercial supremacy enjoyed by them for so many years. Eastern Asia no less than Western Europe depended upon India for a large part of its commerce, which extended even beyond Japan, losing

The Pope's Grant to Portugal

itself at an indeterminable distance among the islands of the Pacific. The Portuguese were good seamen and expert in war. Like the Spaniards, they were old enemies of the Mohammedans, whom they had already victoriously followed into North Africa, and now encountered once more in the world of the Indian Ocean. They took possession of the hemisphere that had been granted them by the Pope, nominally, rather than in reality; for a small, sparsely populated country like Portugal could think neither of colonisation nor of any serious effort to subjugate the native inhabitants.

However, the hostile attitude of the Arabs rendered it necessary for the Portuguese to occupy and fortify certain points along the coast. In fact, the possessions of Portugal both in Asia and in Africa have never been more than coast settlements. The two objects which Portugal set out to attain—both far beyond her power—were the monopoly of the spice trade in Europe, and the driving away of Asiatic

competitors, who acted as middlemen in the commerce with European nations. Together with the spice trade at first hand, the Portuguese carried on traffic in negroes, which had grown to considerable proportions since the introduction of slavery

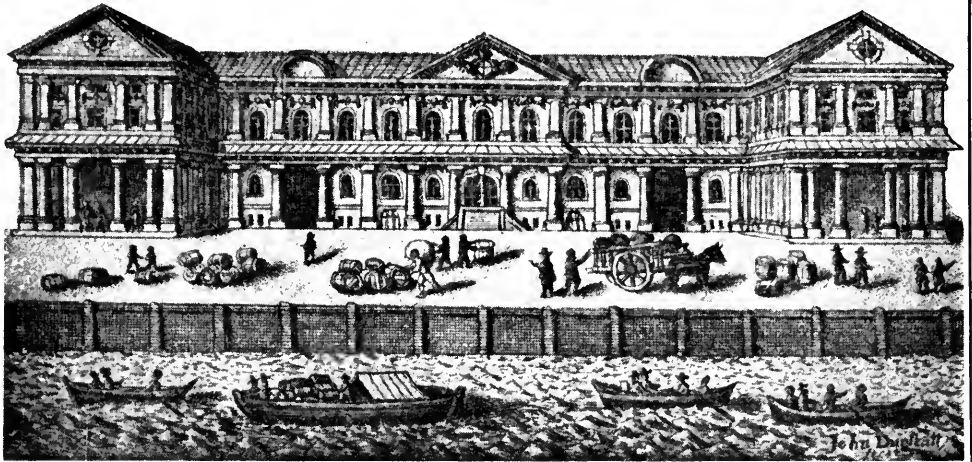
into Spanish America; the gold of West Africa was also a source of gain. Although the undertakings of the Portuguese were at first purely mercantile enterprises, in which no greater expenditure for materials of war had been entailed than in the case of the ordinary traffic in the Mediterranean in later times, the Portuguese Crown was obliged to make great military preparations, of which the expense increased from year to year. Like the Spanish, the Portuguese colonial trade was placed under strict state supervision and all financial affairs organised, nationalised, and put under crown control. A direct participation of foreigners, once permitted, was forbidden for the future.

King Manuel the Great concentrated the East Indian trade in the Casa da India at Lisbon, and finally declared it to be an exclusive right of the crown. Cargoes of spices had already been sent to England and to the Netherlands; a permanent royal *dépôt* was now established at Antwerp. Once more the commerce of Western Europe possessed two centres in Antwerp and Lisbon. It was not long before Italian, Upper German, Spanish, and French merchants took up their quarters in the latter city. When the crown

handed over the rights of monopoly in the Indian trade to farmers-general, the capitalists of Europe competed for access to this fountain of wealth. Lisbon was also an important centre of the trade in grain and in shipbuilding materials; North and South German merchants of Danzig as well as of Augsburg shared in delivering the raw products.

India the Fountain of Wealth

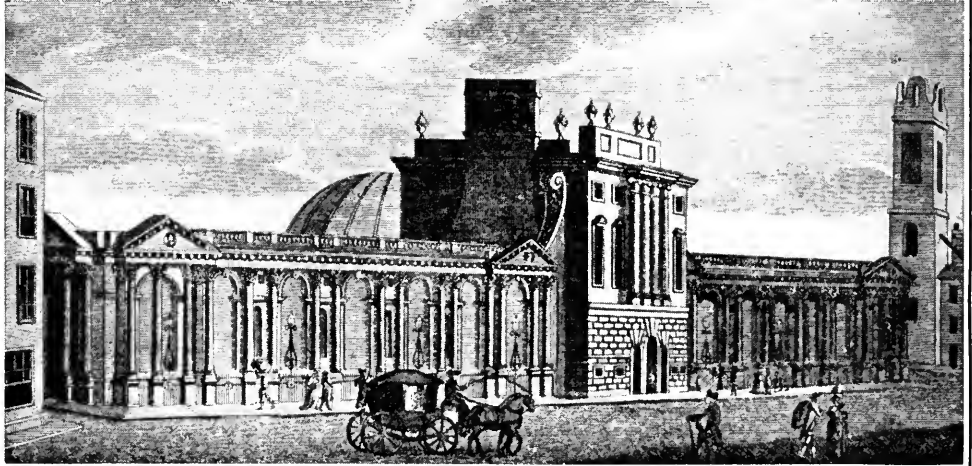




THE CUSTOMS HOUSE AS BUILT BY WREN AFTER THE GREAT FIRE OF 1666



THE CUSTOMS HOUSE IN 1753, SHOWING THE TOWER OF LONDON IN THE DISTANCE



THE BANK OF ENGLAND, THE BUILDING OF WHICH BEGAN IN 1734

NOTABLE COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS OF OLD LONDON

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
COMMERCE
OF
WESTERN EUROPE
II

INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM

MERCHANT PRINCES AND KINGS OF FINANCE

ORIGINS OF THE GREAT BANKS & EXCHANGES

ONE of the most significant features of the economic life of the sixteenth century was the introduction of Italian and Upper German capital into the sphere of Spanish and Portuguese oceanic trade. However, the finances of the sixteenth century, like those of all other times, were not limited to transactions founded on mere exchange of goods. Whether they would or not, merchants were forced beyond the bounds of commercial affairs and drawn into the currents of national policies, of which money, particularly ready money, is an indispensable factor. As yet, the machinery of European states was not well adapted to the requirements of an age already based on financial principles.

The remains of ancient feudal institutions, founded on a more primitive economic system, were everywhere to be seen. Thus a large part of the state revenues came from the natural products of crown lands; there was no system of officials as yet sufficiently developed to be able quickly to raise taxes in the form of money and to accumulate them in a central treasury. For all grants of money the Crown was dependent on the estates of the realm, which were acquainted only with their own narrow class interests. But the courts lived in an atmosphere of far-reaching national and world policy.

It cost money, however, to carry out any policy, whether of peace or of war, especially since regiments of mercenaries, and in some cases standing armies, had come into use in place of the old feudal levies. Governments not only looked about for new sources of income, but also made whatever use they could of those who already possessed money; and sovereigns of the sixteenth century, the period when royal power reached its height, were as little backward in the first respect

as in the second. Financiers and merchant princes were offered unbounded privileges in return for financial services, and one loan was apt to draw on ten or a dozen others in its train.

The modern conception of great powers, which arose at the end of the fifteenth century through the French invasions of Italy and the development of the universal monarchy of the Hapsburgs, created the modern centralised state, with its military and financial systems, out of the loosely bound confederation of more or less independent units—the state of the Middle Ages—and to this effect employed capital, so far as it was already in existence and organised, as its tool. At the same time the large capitalists were exposed to dangers they would scarcely have survived but for their private affairs being linked together with state interests.

It is difficult to conceive that the events of a whole period of the world's history could have been so intimately connected with mercantile interests, particularly the affairs of an age which religious, dynastic, and constitutional ideals seemed so to dominate; not only seemed—for Reformation and counter-Reformation, the duel between the Houses of Hapsburg and Valois, and the war for the independence of the United Netherlands, arose from no mere

imaginary motives: their sources must have reached to the very depths of the human soul, or at least have extended far below the level of self-deception. Before the most powerful of the merchant princes of the sixteenth century, the Augsburgers and Nurembergers, were compelled by the natural development of economic forces and the irresistible tendency of the times to turn from dealings in tangible commodities to speculation, to

**Dangers of
the Large
Capitalists**

**The Source
of the State
Revenues**

**Evolution of
Commercial
Pursuits**

banking and exchange, and finally to purely financial pursuits. The Italians had already passed through all these transition states, and had acquired an astonishing aptitude in all branches of commerce. Italian money-changers, Lombards and Tuscans, followed the expansion of Italian trade into all countries. They bought and

The Prosperous Days of Money-Lending

sold the precious metals, either coined or in bullion, bills of exchange, and promissory notes; they negotiated loans for merchants, attended to the financial affairs of the Roman Curia, and loaned vast sums to monarchs.

Their activities developed an international character, and they were therefore constantly obliged to struggle against the endeavours of the merchants of various states who sought to nationalise the business of money-lending. This the French temporarily succeeded in doing in the fifteenth century, at the time when the Florentine money-lenders were at the height of their prosperity.

A citizen of Bourges, Jacques Cœur, the foremost banker of his age, established connections with the Government, and delivered it from the hands of the international capitalists. But after the fall of this great financier France once more became dependent on the Italians in all matters concerning banking, exchange, and loans. The French kings of the sixteenth century favoured the Florentines, for political reasons, while, on the other hand, the Hapsburgs turned to the Genoese.

The Upper German merchants also were drawn into international finance through their business connections with the House of Hapsburg. A rapid rise, an overwhelming development of power, and a lamentable fall were the stages passed through by German wealth in less than a century. Long before the operations in banking and credit of the merchant princes of

Luther's Denunciation of Usury

Upper Germany had attained full sway the resentment of the German people had been aroused in full measure; complaints were showered upon the diet, and the official spokesmen of the nation, Martin Luther among them, thundered against all doubtful commercial dealings and against usury. The ecclesiastical law against the taking of interest on loans was still everywhere in force. The delusion of a just, and therefore unalterable, price for every sort of commodity still dominated the

economic thought of the age. When the Roman Catholic Church adopted a milder attitude towards the practice of usury the Protestants offered violent opposition, and thus both Catholics and Protestants were soon compelled to join hands with the general public in their hostility against mercantile life and affairs. The economic policy which had arisen in the small city communities of the Middle Ages—a policy of low prices, of small dealers and consumers, opposed not only to capitalism but to competition—was likewise completely in harmony with the ecclesiastical position.

It is not surprising that the masses of the populations of cities were stirred to their very depths when they beheld speculators arising in their midst, who advanced prices and carried on their financial operations to a practically unlimited extent. The most dangerous phenomenon of all appeared to be the combination of the already all-powerful single houses into syndicates and rings. In order to diminish the risks encountered in their speculations, capitalists united into limited liability companies that could be easily

Revolt of the Peasants

dissolved, and the gains divided in proportion to the original contributions as soon as their original object had been attained. Such associations were frequently able to create a local monopoly in articles of commerce—spices or metals, for example—and sometimes succeeded in influencing prices even in the world markets. However it may have come about, it is at least certain that the copper and pepper monopolies of the time shortly before the outbreak of the great social revolution—the Peasants' War—of 1525 served the popular agitators as a means for awakening the indignation of the populace—a means that was only the more efficacious the less the proletarians were able to understand such complicated matters.

Nevertheless, it is remarkable how soon the non-mercantile classes became reconciled to the new method of making money without labour, which they had at first so violently opposed. Just as during the nineteenth century the commercial crises have neither assumed great proportions nor caused vast desolation until the private capital of the middle and lower classes has been placed in the hands of stock-jobbers, so was it at the time of the pepper rings. Innumerable small capitalists, whose one idea was the possibility of gain, and who



MONEY-LENDER TO KINGS: JACOB FUGGER'S GENEROSITY TO THE EMPEROR CHARLES V.

The Fugger family, established in 1367, became famous for their business enterprise. By their loans of money to the Emperors Maximilian and Charles V, great schemes of national development were rendered possible, and the latter monarch showed his appreciation of these services by making Jacob Fugger's nephews counts of the empire. Here, the able financier is seen destroying the documentary evidence of Charles V's monetary indebtedness to him, the emperor sitting by, apparently astonished at this great generosity.

From the painting by K. H. Heintz, by permission of the Berlin Photographische Co.

not infrequently lost the whole of their little fortunes when the undertaking collapsed, became members of the associations and companies of the sixteenth century—a phenomenon which we have seen repeated in our own time in the speculations on the exchanges. Thus even peasants had a share in the dealings of the Höchstetters of

The Great House of the Fuggers

Augsburg, and when the leading firm failed, lost their scanty savings. Had it not been for supplies furnished by small sources, the great masses of capital with which commercial houses conducted their affairs could never have been heaped together.

How German capital, and, in fact, all capital that was employed in international commercial operations, came to find itself upon the plane down which it glided during the course of the sixteenth century may be learned from the history of the Fuggers, the first mercantile house of the age.

In 1367 the founder of the family, Hans Fugger, a weaver of fustian, settled in Augsburg and attained to modest prosperity. His sons soon became distinguished wholesale merchants, and his grandson, Jacob II., who died in 1526, made the house famous throughout the world. By furnishing the equipment for the retinue of Emperor Frederic III. at the time of his meeting with Charles the Bold, Jacob Fugger opened relations with the House of Hapsburg, which was just then beginning to aspire to the position of a power of the first rank. This connection led to results important to both families. Archduke Sigismund of the Tyrol granted to the Fuggers, for the repayment of a loan, the yield of the Tyrolese silver mines.

Henceforth they devoted themselves to the mining operations, to which the rapid growth of their fortune was due. The copper mines at Neusohl in Hungary were also acquired by the house, which was now able to extend its trade as far as Danzig and Antwerp, and even to control the copper market of Venice.

East Indian Expedition of the Portuguese

The Fuggers also journeyed to Lisbon, where they established a depôt for the spice

trade shortly after preparations had been completed for the first East Indian expedition of the Portuguese. They shared in the expenses of the great expedition of 1505, contributing, together with other Upper Germans, the sum total of 36,000 ducats. After the Indian-Portuguese trade was placed under the control of the Crown,

they repeatedly received large quantities of spices, mostly as payments on loans at high interest to the Portuguese Government.

But at the beginning of the sixteenth century, both in Germany and in Italy, dealings in commodities had ceased to form the chief business of the merchant princes, who now occupied themselves mainly with the affairs of the money markets, and devoted a large part of their energy to contracting loans for the various governments. By the second decade of the century of the Reformation the decision of the most important questions in the world's history lay in the hands of merchants. The appearance of Luther in the year 1517, and the election of Charles V. as Emperor of Germany in 1519, were both connected in a most extraordinary manner with the affairs of the house of Fugger.

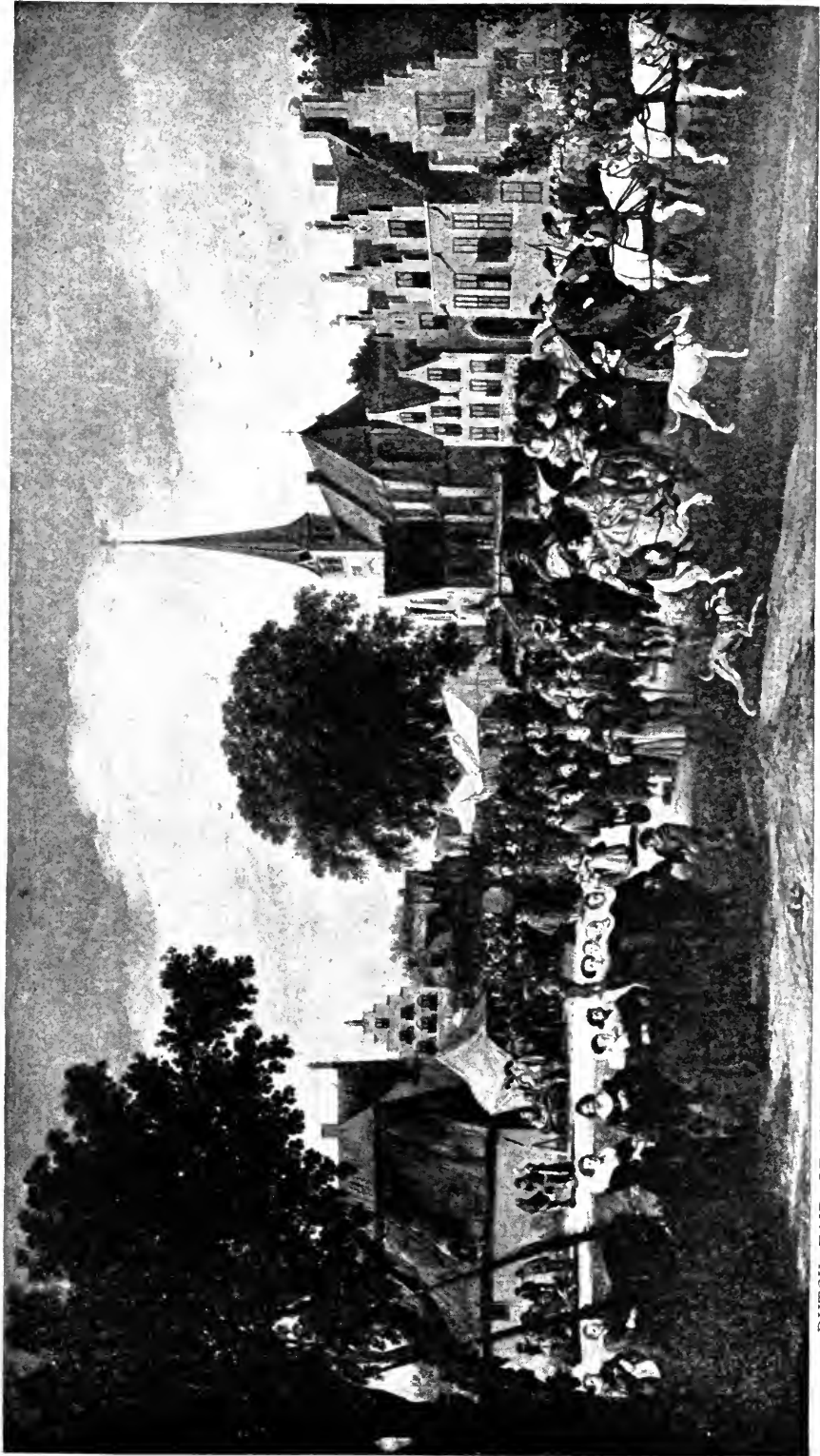
As early as 1500 the Fuggers possessed a depôt in Rome, where they executed commissions entrusted to them by the Pope and other ecclesiastical dignitaries. Albert of Brandenburg, who had been elected Archbishop of Mainz in 1517, borrowed 21,000 ducats from the house in order

The Fuggers as Princely Money-Lenders

to meet the expenses connected by the Curia with the bestowal of the pallium; he

also received, on the payment of 10,000 ducats—also loaned by the Fuggers—the position of commissary-general for Saxony of the jubilee proclaimed by Leo X. The archbishop appointed priests to collect the money from the vendors of indulgences, and to hand it over to the agents of the Fuggers, who accompanied them. One half of the amount received by the agents was forwarded to Augsburg towards payment of the archiepiscopal debt; the other half was sent to Rome. It was over this business that Luther and Tetzel were destined finally to fall out. The flow of money to Rome had been for many years a matter of great annoyance to Germany, and the recently introduced traffic in indulgences furnished a welcome opportunity for delivering a simultaneous blow to the papacy and the great commercial syndicates.

Although the Fuggers were only indirectly involved in the causes which led to the revolution in the Church, it was certainly their money that procured the victory of Charles V. over his competitor, Francis I., at the election of an emperor, following the death of Maximilian I., in 1519. All such elections were nothing



DUTCH FAIR OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY: A ROYAL PARTY VISITING THE ANNUAL MARKET AT RYSWICK

more or less than complicated acts of bribery, the decision being inevitably determined by the amounts expended. The security offered by the Fuggers for the Spanish candidate put an end to the wavering of the electoral princes, for Francis I. was unable to obtain equally reliable guarantees. Of the 850,000 golden

The Fuggers on the Side of the Hapsburgs

florins required by Charles V., the Fuggers supplied 543,000, the Welsers 143,000, and the Italians the rest.

From this time forth the merchant princes themselves belonged to their puppets, body and soul; for it was necessary to retain sovereigns on their thrones if any return from the money already advanced, but not yet repaid, was to be expected. Moreover, the Fuggers were still less able to escape from bondage, inasmuch as they were convinced partisans of the Hapsburgs and of their Roman Catholic policy.

After the election of Charles V., in 1519, Spain became the centre of gravity for the house of Fugger, the creditors of the emperor-king having been assigned shares in the national income. "The Spanish business" absorbed the entire strength of the firm, and finally ruined the greatest mercantile establishment of the age.

Among the enterprises of the Fuggers in Spain, the leasing of the quick-silver mines at Almaden, of great value ever since the discovery of the use of mercury in extracting silver and gold, may be mentioned. German miners were sent by the Fuggers to Spain, and often to America. Inasmuch as the chief creditors of the Government were constantly obliged to grant new loans to the Crown in order to secure their old claims, they were often referred to the "silver fleets" returning from the New World and in part laden with the imperial "quinto," the 20 per cent. share of the Crown. Since the exportation of the precious metals from Spain was forbidden by law, it became necessary for the Fuggers and their compatriots to obtain special licences that they might be able to place their capital wherever it was most needed. Even the Government was obliged to maintain the strictest secrecy in regard to this matter, or the Spaniards would have forcibly prevented the removal of gold from the country. In this manner the stream of precious metal from America flowed on past Spain into the treasuries of the capitalists, who had

German Miners in Spain

also succeeded in drawing to themselves an additional share of the bullion of the New World through the importation of commodities into the as yet industrially undeveloped continent. The Fuggers, however, took but little part in the latter activity; their attention was already sufficiently occupied with the sale of the mining and natural products of the Crown possessions that had been yielded to them as pledges.

The Fuggers also maintained permanent financial relations with the German line of the House of Hapsburg. As Ferdinand I. had vast domains in Naples, his chief creditors extended their sphere of activity over the southern part of Italy. The Government of the Spanish Netherlands also constantly availed itself of the assistance of Upper German and Italian capitalists.

After the death of Jacob II. the house of Fugger reached the zenith of its power and wealth under the guidance of his nephew, Anton (1526-1560). It was fortunate for the family that it had become a tradition not to divide the wealth of the various members, but to keep it altogether in one mass, governing it from a central point, in strict monarchical fashion. Although it is true that the relatives co-operated with the head of the family, the most important affairs of the house were, as a rule, under the exclusive control of a single individual, who transacted business even in the most distant countries by means of his factors and agents. Augsburg was the residence of these princes of European finance. Not until after the middle of the sixteenth century did the family ties begin to loosen. Single members then withdrew their money from the firm, and thus rendered it necessary for the house to depart from one of its most firmly established principles—that is to say, if possible, never to put any other capital, except that belonging to the family, into an undertaking. The more the use of outside capital increased towards the end of the century, the more difficult the position of the house became, especially during critical times.

The turn in the fortunes of the firm arrived during the period of its greatest prosperity, and was brought about by the Schmalcaldic War, 1546-1547. Anton Fugger, who already at that time had serious thoughts of winding up the affairs of the house, must have had an instinctive presentiment of the inevitable end;

Princes of European Finance

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however, he was no longer able to do as he wished, bound as he was by bands of iron to the Hapsburgs. To hold his own against the Protestant party in Augsburg it was necessary for him to assist the Catholics to victory. And when Charles V. fled before Maurice of Saxony to Villach the Fuggers were obliged to come to his aid with 400,000 ducats—an unheard-of sum at the time—in order not to lose for ever the entire amount owed them by both branches of the Hapsburg family.

So things went on until the outbreak of the first great financial crisis, in the year 1557; this was followed by a protracted cessation of business. The age

talented man, with a love for the fine arts, but lacking in the true spirit of commerce, who after a few years resigned his position in favour of the sons of Anton, "Marx Fugger and Brothers." The reality of the family was divided and the business in merchandise brought to a close. Thus, the Spanish affairs remained the only enterprise of the house, which rendered necessary constant communication with Antwerp, the most important exchange of Europe. However, the Spanish Government was in such a bad way financially that it suspended payment at the end of periods averaging twenty years each, and resorted to compulsory settlements with its creditors.



GENERAL VIEW OF THE BEAUTIFUL TOWN OF REGENSBURG

Photochrome

of decline had begun, not only for the Fuggers, but for all the great capitalists of Europe. The first period of international financial sovereignty was drawing to a close, soon to give place to a national, or at least territorial, economic and financial policy, which was to continue until the French Revolution and the great wars at the beginning of the nineteenth century prepared the way for the rise of new international financial powers.

Many years passed after the first signs of warning in the year 1557 before the final bankruptcy came. After the death of Anton Fugger, in 1560, the control of the house passed into the hands of Hans Jacob, his nephew, a well-educated,

Although the Fuggers were favoured more than other creditors of the state, they were, nevertheless, forced to assent to whatever conditions were imposed upon them. The most burdensome of all was the acceptance of certificates of credit. As a result they did not receive their loans back at full value, but in the shape of interest-bearing, unredeemable, "perpetual" debenture bonds that immediately sank below par value, and consequently could not be converted into specie without loss. Since the bankers in turn paid their creditors and those who had entrusted money to their keeping in debenture bonds of the same description, the result was a miserable series of law-

suits, followed by the absolute ruin, first, of the credit of Spain, and then of that of the bankers. The position of the Fuggers became unbearable after the accession of Philip IV. (1621-1665); they were now treated with disfavour by the all-powerful Prime Minister, Olivarez, notwithstanding the fact that in earlier times they had fared far better than

**Evil Times
for the
Fuggers**

the other German capitalists, on account of their undeniable services. They were forced to

provide the sum of 50,000 ducats monthly for the expenses of the court, in return for which they received worthless assignments on the taxes.

After 1630 the house was many times compelled to delay its payments, and in 1637 the Spanish affairs of the Fuggers were placed in the hands of creditors, for the most part Genoese. The deficit amounted to over half a million ducats, despite the fact that the claims on the Spanish Crown, which were as good as worthless, had been included among the assets. "The total loss," says Ehrenberg, "sustained by the Fuggers through their dealings with the Hapsburgs up to the middle of the seventeenth century could not have amounted to less than 8,000,000 gulden, Rhenish. It would not be far from the truth to say that the bulk of the earnings of the firm during its century of activity disappeared in this way alone."

Nor did the other South German mercantile houses which had ventured into the sphere of international finance fare much better than the Fuggers. The Höchstetters, Paumgartners, Welsers, Seilers, Neidharts, Manlichs, Rems, Haugs, and Herwarts, all of Augsburg, were, every one of them, obliged to suspend payment in the course of the sixteenth century, for the most part during the critical years 1550-1570. The Höchstetters, "the most hated monopolists of their age," were the first to fail—in 1529.

**Collapse
of Financial
Houses**

The Welsers succeeded for many years in maintaining a position among the Upper German firms second only to the Fuggers. They were divided into two branches, one in Nuremberg and the other in Augsburg; the former house wound up its affairs in 1560. Bartholomew Welser, the first and only German who made an attempt to secure territory in the New World, thereby for a short time arousing hopes of German colonial possessions in

America, was a member of the Augsburg branch of the family. In contrast to the Fuggers, who were so strongly inclined in favour of the Hapsburgs, the Welsers maintained a neutral position among the contending parties, and even entered into financial negotiations with the French Government, thereby suffering not only in consequence of the bankruptcy of Spain, but also on account of the failure of the national finances of France in 1557. Their credit, however, remained unimpaired, and subsequently the firm was even able to contract loans for the English Crown. The affairs of the house did not begin to deteriorate until the end of the century, but in 1614 the Welsers were bankrupt.

The Tuchers of Nuremberg, another great business house of the century, adopted the principle of never on any account permitting themselves to become entangled in the financial affairs of sovereigns or princes; hence they escaped the crises of the seventeenth century unscathed. The Imhofs, another large firm involved in national finance, were not absolutely ruined although forced to retire with considerable losses.

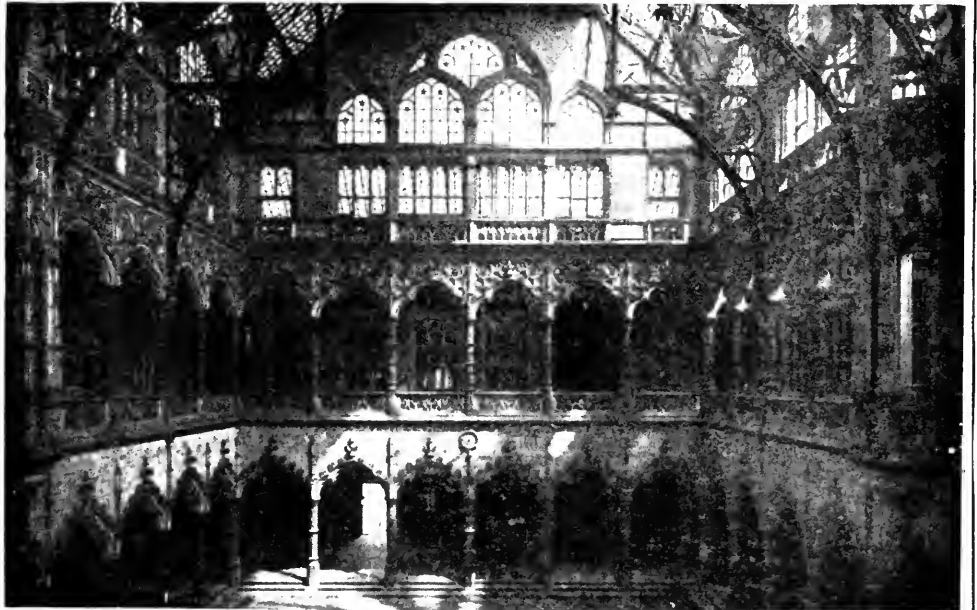
**Italian
Masters of
Business**

With the exception of Augsburg and Nuremberg, the cities of South Germany had but little share in the international operations in capital and credit. The Italians, who were not only earlier in the field but showed a greater mastery in all kinds of business, had a longer career than the High Germans, who did not desert the traffic in commodities for that in money until the end of the fifteenth century. During the sixteenth century they were represented chiefly by the Florentines and the Genoese in the international markets.

After the Genoese had lost their position as a commercial power in the eastern Mediterranean, and had found it very difficult to carry on traffic in the western basin of the same sea because of the Barbary pirates, the spirit of commerce turned the surplus capital of the Ligurian seaport into new channels, especially into affairs of exchange and credit. The Genoese had been commercially connected with the Spaniards ever since the thirteenth century; their ability as navigators and their capital had been of great assistance to Spain in her occupation of America. They also undertook to supply a certain number of slaves annually to the transatlantic colonies,



VIEW OF THE TOWN FROM THE RIVER SCHELDT, SHOWING THE CATHEDRAL



ANTWERP'S TEMPLE OF FINANCE: THE INTERIOR OF THE BOURSE



THE WATERPOORT, A GATEWAY BUILT IN 1624, AND THE OLD CASTLE
SCENES IN THE IMPORTANT SEAPORT TOWN OF ANIWERP

Photochrome

provided Seville with merchandise to be sent to America, and furnished the money necessary for the equipment of expeditions. Single Genoese firms, such as the Grimaldi, had already entered into financial transactions with the Spanish Government. A political alliance had developed from the union of economic

The Masses and the New Nobility

The desertion of Francis I. for the cause of Charles V. by the house of Doria in 1528 had a decisive

effect on the second Franco-Spanish war. The governing party, called that of the optimates, or the wealthy classes, was divided into two branches, the old and the new nobility, the former engaged chiefly in financial affairs, the latter in dealings in merchandise. The masses were in favour of the new nobility, as traffic in goods was beneficial to the handicrafts, and hence to the prosperity of the working classes.

Nevertheless, in 1549 the new nobility, under Giovanni Luigi de Fieschi, were defeated by the older party led by the Dorias, who now entered into a still closer alliance with Spain. In return, the emperor, and later his son, Philip II., granted them a position of the first rank among his financial advisers, the Fuggers being the only other family which enjoyed the same privileges. Among the Genoese creditors of the Spanish Government, the most distinguished were the firms of Grimaldi, Spinola, Pallavicino, Lomellino, Gentili, and Centurioni.

The higher they rose in the estimation of the Spanish king, the more dangerous became their position during these times of regularly recurrent financial crises, for the favour of monarchs was not to be had for nothing; in short, the Genoese, like the Upper Germans, could not get any repayment of their loans other than unredeemable debenture certificates and worthless assignments of taxes. Nevertheless, they continued to maintain their connection

Genoese Possessions in Naples

with Spain until about the middle of the seventeenth century. By that time all solvent nations had to a great

extent nationalised their economic and political affairs, and thus the age of international financial operations was over in any case. In the meanwhile the Genoese capitalists had obtained possession of vast territories in Naples through their connections with the House of Hapsburg, and consequently were able to view the

complete prostration of their native city with a certain measure of composure. At about the middle of the seventeenth century the Florentines severed their connections with France, where monetary affairs had been in their hands for over a hundred years. During the early days of Florentine finances, at the time of the Baldi and Peruzzi in the fourteenth century, France had been one of the clients of the Tuscan bankers. These relations were renewed in the fifteenth century, when the Medici became the sovereigns of the banking world. During the sixteenth century, when, with the assistance of the Hapsburgs, the Medici obtained political dominion over Tuscany, the Florentine plutocracy nevertheless took the side of the Valois. Business with France continued to flourish, although financial relations ceased with England and the Netherlands as soon as these nations began to control their economic and commercial affairs with their own capital.

The most distinguished Florentine capitalists of the sixteenth century were the Frescobaldi, Gualterotti, Strozzi, Salviati, Guadagni, and Capponi; and, in addition to the specifically Florentine houses, the Chigi of Siena, the Buonvisi of Lucca, the Ducci of Pistoia, and the Affaitadi of Cremona may be mentioned. The first crushing blow dealt to the Tuscan firms in their relations with France was the bankruptcy of Henry II. in the year 1557. The Huguenot wars broke out not long after this, and during their progress the finances of France became completely disorganised. One can only wonder at the rashness of such bankers as Girolamo Gondi, who still continued to transact business with the French Crown. At the end of the reign of Henry IV. the Florentines had disappeared from France, although the nation was obliged to make use of foreign capital until the year 1660.

The modern exchange has developed from the market of the old Frankish-German Empire. The privilege of holding fairs and markets, granted to suitable districts by emperors and kings ever since the time of the Carolingians, was the nucleus around which all the special rights grew up which later constituted the conception of municipal governments. In the midst of the old village communities the independent civilisation of the cities arose, first in the Latin countries, later

INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM

in the Germanic, isolated it is true, and not destroying the earlier form of social life adapted to the villages. From this time forth village and town, peasant and citizen, were permanently established side by side as opposite types of civilisation; each was unable to attain economic prosperity without the assistance of the other, and for that reason they entered into an organised system of traffic invented by the town dwellers as the more developed of the two types. The weekly market and the precinct, or city boundary, are the characteristic tokens of this mutual adaptation of rural and urban interests.

The weekly market assured the city of a supply of the natural products of the neighbourhood, and guaranteed the country dwellers a place for the sale of their goods where prices would not be influenced by the tricks of over and under bidding; the precinct prevented the city industries from being pursued beyond its own limits, and thus assured it of the custom of its peasant neighbours. The towns experienced greater difficulty in their relations with the heirs of the old feudal lords,

The Wars of Social Interests

the landed nobility. Robber knights were a well-known phenomenon of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The civic estates, merchants and capitalists, had become dangerously powerful and prosperous relatively to the nobility of the country. Robber knight and "peppersack"—as the merchant was called in derision—represented two distinct spheres of interest, the agrarian and the industrial-commercial; and the war of social interests embodied in the two classes ended only in the sixteenth century with the overthrow of the landed nobility.

Long before the state interfered in the struggle between the industrial and agrarian classes the municipal communities had succeeded in establishing their positions firmly, although in complete independence of one another. The city, as a whole, was looked upon as an association of consumers; requiring protection from the natural self-interest of the producers. The inhabitants of a town were all consumers to a certain degree, even the merchants and craftsmen of the city. But since in any town the special interests of the producers were opposed to the general interests of the consumers, it was necessary for the economic policy of the municipality to be one that strove

to institute a state of affairs acceptable to both parties. The city government in its endeavour to bring about harmony found itself at least partially united with the organised industries, the guilds, and the various societies of craftsmen. It was found necessary to reduce as far as possible the rivalry between tradesmen, and to

Benefits of the

Town Fairs

exclude the competition of all foreign industries. Since the city secured the home market for the productions of its own industrial classes, and at the same time helped them in their outside competition, it was, on the other hand, entitled to look out for the general interests of consumers through the introduction of tariffs on prices and wages, and laws regulating the quality of goods.

It was also to the general advantage of town populations occasionally to introduce the competition of strangers by temporarily opening the city gates to all comers. This object was served by the annual fair, which brought profit to the town by an influx of strangers, and, though it exposed domestic industries to a temporary competition, it also brought them into touch with new circles of customers. In addition to towns, churches and monasteries often obtained market privileges, for the reason that on certain religious holidays they were much visited by pilgrims and guests; in this manner a brisk traffic would arise out of nothing.

These fairs were of an international type, and are still to be seen in the Mohammedan, Brahmin, and Buddhist countries. For example, the two chief markets of Paris, the fairs of St. Denis and St. Germain, were originally opened for the custom of pilgrims. The same may be said of what was once the greatest annual fair in England, held on an open field near Stourbridge Abbey. The conceptions of market and annual fair soon became one and the same, and it was a long

How the Towns Developed

time before men grew accustomed to call the markets of international significance that were repeated several times during the year by the special name of "fairs." Cities could not, however, maintain an important position in commerce as the headquarters of fairs alone. Staple towns also developed, and sometimes one town presented both aspects. Among staple towns, with or without annual fairs, two varieties, natural and artificial, may be

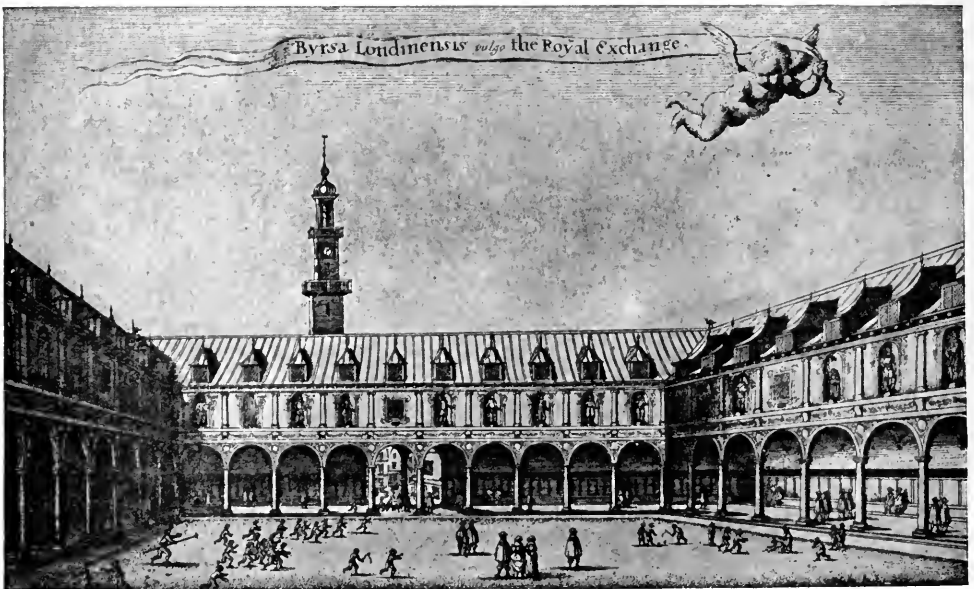
distinguished. Natural markets arose at the termini of great commercial highways, especially of sea routes. Such were Venice, Genoa, Barcelona, and Bruges, where goods sent from distant lands were unloaded, and, in so far as they were not needed for domestic consumption, were resold and distributed. Every town was not so situated, nor did all cities produce to such an extent, that commodities could be enticed to them from all sides. Towns past which the stream of commerce would have flowed without stopping sought to obtain by means of coercion the same advantages that grew up spontaneously in natural staple markets. The method of building up a market by force, such as was once to be seen at Vienna, consisted in obliging foreign merchants to offer their goods for sale in the city for a definite period, sometimes as long as six or eight weeks. They were also forbidden to make a circuit around such a market town, the only road open to them being that which led through the city itself. In all markets a foreign traffic developed

independently of definite dates, often continuing throughout the year, or, at least, during the most favourable seasons. Foreign merchants of the same city or country usually had their own staple houses at such markets, as the Germans their *Fondaco* in Venice, or the merchants of Regensburg their yard in Vienna; in case they possessed no separate establishment, they had their special quarters in houses of the townsmen, as a rule in the neighbourhood of the money-changers and brokers.



SIR THOMAS GRESHAM
 Founder of the Royal Exchange. He was elected Lord Mayor of London in 1537. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1559, and died twenty years later.

Both in the permanent marts and at the fairs, besides the older trade in commodities actually delivered and paid for in cash, there grew up other more elaborate commercial transactions, in which the Italians led the way. To these belong all the methods designed to obviate the necessity for the transportation of coined money, so dangerous and costly in those times, first and foremost among them being exchange and the whole system connected with it. At the end of the great fairs, when all transactions in actual



THE ROYAL EXCHANGE OF LONDON, FOUNDED BY SIR THOMAS GRESHAM IN 1566



SHOPKEEPER AND APPRENTICE: SHOPPING IN THE TIME OF CHARLES I.

commodities were over, the money dealers met and adjusted their various claims in such a manner that only a final balance remained to be paid in coin. If any money was left over, it was frequently loaned at advantageous rates of interest until the time came for the next fair; thus

Marke's the Meeting-places of Merchants

the money-lending system also was closely connected with the settlements of accounts that followed at the close of each temporary market. In the permanent markets, the great emporiums of European commerce, the custom developed for merchants to meet every day at an appointed place for the purpose of obtaining information from one another as to business affairs and of attending to matters concerning goods, money, and exchange. Business thus transacted was frequently rendered valid by law on the very spot by a notary, and contributed not a little to the establishment of fixed market prices for various classes of goods. Thus the Venetian merchants assembled on the Rialto, the Florentines in the arched hall, or *loggia*, of the Mercato Nuovo, and the Catalonians in the Lonja of Barcelona. In foreign countries, as in Bruges, for example, the Italians usually

met in the houses of their consuls. The word "bourse," which has been introduced into almost every European language, was first employed in Bruges for the usual assemblies of merchants who met for commercial ends. In this chief terminus of the traffic between Northern and Southern Europe there was a house owned by the Van der Burse family, in which the Venetians had held their meetings ever since the fifteenth century. The house was called "de burse" for short, and thus the name of the Flemish family finally came to signify a place where such mercantile assemblies were held. The term "bourse" was already fixed in most European languages when a great edifice with halls and columns surrounding an open square in which business was transacted was erected in Antwerp. In Eng-

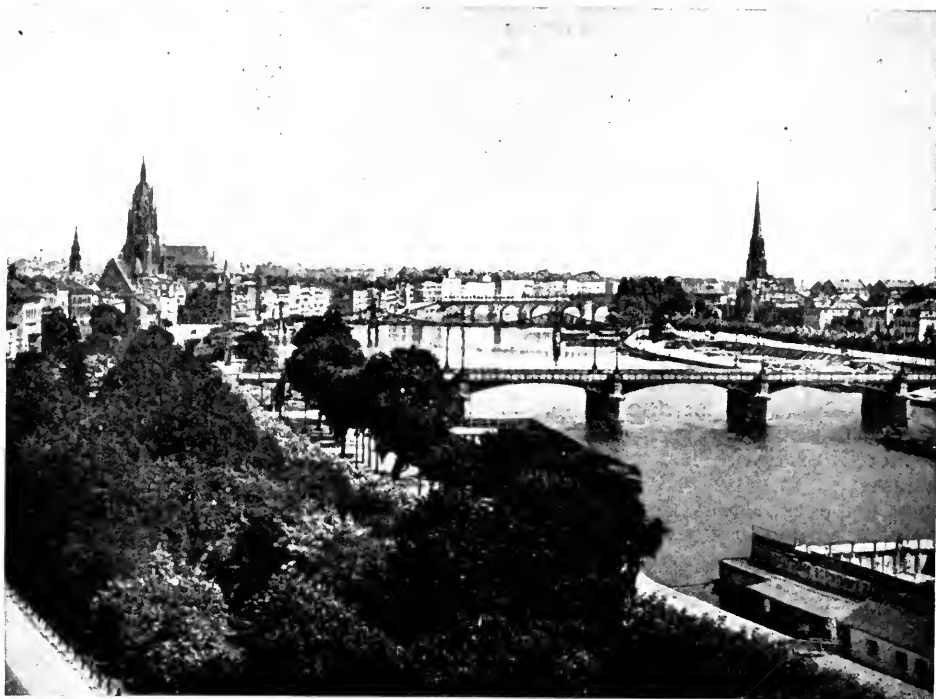
London's Royal Exchange

land only was another term employed, and the bourse constructed in 1566 at the instigation of Sir Thomas Gresham took the name of "The Royal Exchange."

From the twelfth to the fourteenth century the bulk of the business carried on between the northern and southern commercial regions of Europe was transacted at the fairs of Champagne and Brie, at



THE CITY AS SEEN FROM THE LOWER BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER MAIN



SACHSENHAUSEN QUARTER OF THE CITY CONNECTED BY BRIDGES WITH FRANKFORT

FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAIN: VIEWS OF THE FAMOUS PRUSSIAN CITY Photochrome

INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM

Troyes, Lagny, Bar-sur-Aube, and Provins. After the decline of the fairs at Champagne, Geneva became an important market for French, Italians, and Upper Germans. Louis XI. endeavoured to entice traffic back to French soil, and granted many privileges to the four fairs of Lyons, at the same time forbidding his subjects to visit Geneva. The French kings made Lyons the centre of their negotiations for loans and the recruiting-place for their armies when the policy of imperialism that arose during the sixteenth century was no longer to be satisfied by the earlier methods of conducting financial affairs.

The succession of loans to the French Crown continued its course from 1522 until the fatal year 1557, when Henry II., contemporaneously with his opponent, Philip II., suspended all payment of debts. Lyons completely lost its position during the disturbances that followed the outbreak of the Huguenot wars; nor did it rise again to importance until 1650, and then, not as a scene of international finance, but as one of the nationalised centres of French industrial and commercial life.

The Lost Position of Lyons

As the French monarchs had, from obvious motives, barred the money market of Lyons to their Hapsburg opponents, it was necessary for the Spanish Government to seek out other places in which to transact its financial business. Spain itself possessed several towns holding regular fairs, which had arisen in order to supply the needs of domestic traffic in goods; and these cities gained importance also for affairs of finance and exchange the more the Spanish court and Spanish consumers were compelled to turn to foreign lands for their requirements. The end of each fair at Medina del Campo, Villalon, and Medina de Rioseco marked the arrival of the term at which the foreign creditors of Spain put in their claims and, as far as possible, balanced their accounts.

In order to injure the fairs of Lyons, Charles V. opened an opposition market at Besançon in Burgundy, attended by Genoese and Upper Germans, who as subjects of the emperor did not possess full commercial freedom in Lyons. However, the Genoese, dealing in money alone, not in merchandise, soon discovered localities more convenient for their purposes. The so-called Genoese fairs were not held in Genoa, but at first in small towns north of the Alps, in Poligny and Chambéry,

then further to the south, in Rivoli, Ivrea, and Asti, from 1579 in Piacenza, and from 1621 in Novi. At this time the financial domination of the Genoese was beginning to totter, that of the Upper Germans having already fallen; and with the bankruptcy of the Spanish Government in 1627 the last support of the international capitalism of the sixteenth century gave way. But it was in the north that commercial activity most prevailed. The great fairs and cloth markets grew apace. Even after Antwerp had become a permanent staple town, with a bourse in which financial affairs were transacted, the old fairs still retained their importance by marking the time for the recovery of debts and the balancing of accounts. As in Bruges and Lyons, the native-born citizens were not the great merchants and capitalists.

The commercial significance of the city depended upon the foreigners, among whom Upper Germans and Italians were the most distinguished. They controlled the mercantile trade and the traffic in loans, therefore governments in need of money, the municipality of Brussels, the kings of Spain, Portugal, and England, had their permanent agents in Antwerp. About the middle of the sixteenth century business was transacted to the average amount of forty million ducats a year. When Antwerp was practically destroyed as a commercial centre by the wars and disturbances of 1568-1585, several heirs obtained shares in the heritage of the ruined city.

The bulk of the world's commerce fell to Amsterdam; but the business of Frankfort-on-Main also increased to such an extent that this city became not only the first market and exchange of Germany, but an international centre of commerce, a position that it retained until late in the seventeenth century. The rise of Antwerp marked a new period in the economic history of the world. The great capitalists

The Rise of Antwerp

of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, whose fortunes had been made during the period of Mediterranean commercial prosperity following the Crusades, turned from trade to politics and adopted the imperial policy of the period, which proved so destructive to them. As states became bankrupt the international capitalists also were ruined. Thus ended the first section of the history of international capitalism at the close of the sixteenth century.



THE NEW MARKET AND OLD WEIGH-HOUSE, BUILT AS A TOWN GATE ABOUT 1488



THE BUSY FISH MARKET, WITH THE WEIGH-HOUSE ON THE RIGHT

AMSTERDAM, THE COMMERCIAL CAPITAL OF THE NETHERLANDS Photochrome

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
COMMERCE
OF
WESTERN EUROPE
III

DUTCH COMMERCIAL SUPREMACY COMPETITION FOR THE WORLD'S COMMERCE

AT the end of the sixteenth century, a hundred years after the time of Columbus, Diaz, and Vasco da Gama, the two hemispheres, which had been granted to Spaniards and Portuguese by the Pope, were united under one sceptre. The development of the Iberian race, however, had been at a standstill for two generations. The Spaniards had reached the limit of their requirements for growth at the point where further possession of territory seemed no longer desirable and colonisation no longer profitable enough for them in the regions reckoned as being worthless—that is, worthless according to the notoriously false notion of political economy of the times, because they did not abound in gold or silver or precious stones, and possessed no large population adapted for use as slaves. Portugal, dynastically united with Spain since 1580, had reached the limit of her capacity for deve-

lopment years before—the fatal limit where profits cease and the preservation of possessions already gained devours the entire income derived from them. Further progress was impossible; moreover, it was scarcely desired, and yet the rights of monopoly in the ownership of the earth still remained uncontested. No rival had as yet seriously disturbed the Spaniards in their sole possession of the New World, or the Portuguese in their exclusive commercial proprietorship of the East Indies.

When the sixteenth century came to an end no European nation, with the exception of the Spaniards and Portuguese, owned one square foot of territory on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. There had been no lack of attempts to found settlements in regions of the New World not occupied by Spain, nor had inducements such as the fisheries, the fur trade, and the quest of a north-east passage been wanting. Nevertheless, all endeavours of the English and French to set firm foot on the continents of America had, down to the end of the sixteenth century, been miser-

able failures. Wars, want of the necessities of life, and lack of a marketable return freight for ships bound east had destroyed both colonies and colonists. It was far more enticing to turn corsair, privateer, or smuggler than to die of starvation in a

squalid settlement or to be slain by Indians or angry Spaniards, who resented the intrusion of foreigners into what they considered their exclusive possessions. During the years of the Anglo-Dutch war with Spain, from 1568 onwards, it was more profitable and more attractive to prey upon Spanish treasure-ships. From this time forth the traffic with America which set the Spanish monopoly at defiance became a principle of European commerce, which had no scruples whatever as to right and wrong, lawfulness or unlawfulness. Smuggling led to the occupation of the unappropriated Lesser Antilles by Englishmen, Hollanders, Frenchmen, and Danes, with whom the native pirates, or filibusters, readily associated themselves.

Before the attempts of non-Spaniards to settle in America were renewed, the ban that had apparently been laid upon the East Indies was already broken. Dutch ships cruised in the Indian Ocean, brought home cargoes of spices with them, and awoke in other nations the desire to emulate them.

But the growth of the Western European sphere of expansion and the increase of Transatlantic traffic were not due wholly or even chiefly to the participation of new commercial peoples or to the rise of permanent colonies. Foreign trade and the development of distant territories depended, not only in the seventeenth but in every other century, upon the necessities, demand, and consumption of the mother country or continent. The true inciting motive to increased traffic between peoples is not furnished by production alone, whether of raw materials or of manufactured articles, or of the portion of the

**Expansion
of European
Commerce**

**Spaniards
in the
New World**

**Factors in
the Growth
of Trade**

completed products that falls to commerce; it is consumption, the direct expression of human requirements and desires. The consumer is master; the producer is his servant, and the middleman his go-between. The two latter may, it is true, often entice the former to increase his purchases, but, on the other hand, they must also await his pleasure.

The Early Commerce of the World

Had it not been for the fundamental changes that came about in manners and customs during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the commerce of the world would not have overstepped its previous limits, it would never have increased its relatively small sphere of activity.

Since the very earliest times, from the days of journeys to the Ophir of the ancient Oriental peoples down to the opening of the seventeenth century, the world's commerce had been little more than traffic in a few spices and luxuries of South-eastern Asia, articles for which there is so limited a market that they are scarcely taken into account at the present day, although the quantities dealt in are, if anything, greater now than ever before.

Neither during the times of the Phœnicians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Arabians, the Venetians, and the Genoese, nor later in the days of Portuguese supremacy, did the character of the commercial relations between the Old World civilised nations of the temperate zone and the lands of the tropics alter to any appreciable extent. Even the discovery of tropical and sub-tropical America did not at first bring about any decided change in the variety of articles handled in the world's trade, for the acquisition of the precious metals thrust every other form of commercial activity into the background. The cultivators of sugar-cane, however, soon began to furnish a commodity capable of attaining a largely increased consumption, and not subject to the artificial prices of monopoly, as was the case with spices. Sugar is the oldest of the various articles of luxury to which Transatlantic trade was indebted for its development. The plantation system of cultivation, in later times adapted also to the raising of other products, and leading to negro slavery, from which in turn developed a new branch of monopoly, originated in the production of sugar-cane in Spanish America. But, as

Sugar the Oldest Article of Luxury

we have already stated, everything depended upon the demand, upon the adoption of an article by larger and larger circles of consumers.

At about the time that the sugar-cane of the East Indies found a new home in the Western Hemisphere during the sixteenth century, and sugar first became an important article of commerce through its importation into Europe from America, American tobacco, on the other hand, became diffused over the Old World, and proved itself to be a herb no less easily acclimatised than acceptable to mankind. In tobacco, an article for wholesale consumption and a commodity of the first importance to commerce was acquired, not to speak of the significance to finance attained in later days through Government monopolies of this luxury, the use of which was at first so sternly discountenanced.

Like sugar and tobacco, during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries cocoa, coffee, tea, indigo, and cotton became articles of wholesale consumption, and hence of the greatest importance to natural production and commerce. Now for the first time settlements and the acquisition of colonies became remunerative, and commerce between the Old World and the New assumed great proportions, for prior to this time no truly reciprocal traffic had been possible. Trade was completely transformed, owing to its marvellously rapid development. The reason for all this lay in the fact that consumption developed a tendency favourable to foreign products. Europeans, indeed the inhabitants of temperate regions in general, were persistent in their demands for luxuries from the tropics, and supported alien regions of production and alien merchants, however greatly it may have been to their own disadvantage from an economic point of view.

The money paid by consumers for stimulants containing alkaloids was not wasted. These so-called stimulants have in reality a quieting effect on the nerves; they support the nobler powers of intellectual life, and, owing to their influence in counteracting the brutalising tendencies of alcoholism, have contributed not a little to the civilisation of the European peoples. The age of narcotic antidotes, which is also that of enlightenment and humanity—the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries—succeeded to the period—from the fifteenth

Demand for Tropical Luxuries

the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries—succeeded to the period—from the fifteenth

DUTCH COMMERCIAL SUPREMACY

to the seventeenth—of which the chief characteristics had been drunkenness and gluttony. Gentler manners and new currents of thought found their most active upholders in precisely the circles in which coffee, tea, chocolate, and sugar had to a great extent taken the place of alcohol.

The first nation to flout the consecrated privileges of Spain and Portugal by venturing into their closed territories was the Dutch Republic. Holland had succeeded in freeing itself from the dominion of Philip II. in 1579, and had now taken upon its own shoulders the entire burden of a war with the greatest power of the age, the Southern Netherlands having returned to Spanish rule. The Dutch had already been successful in defending their interests in the carrying trade of Europe against both the German Hansa and the merchants of England. Owing to the geographical situation of their country they had become the recognised middlemen of the traffic between North and South. Moreover, even after the outbreak of the War of Independence; in 1568, neither Spain nor Portugal excluded the

Philip II.'s Blow to Free Trade Hollanders, but allowed them to make their purchases of foreign products both in Lisbon and Seville, for the King of Spain regarded the revolutionary party only, not the peaceful merchants of Holland, as his enemies. But when the seven northern provinces finally gained their independence, and allied themselves with powers hostile to Spain, then Philip II. put an end to all free trade with the Spanish as well as the Portuguese ports, which were at that time subject to his dominion.

After the fall of Antwerp, Amsterdam was, beyond doubt, the most conveniently situated spice market of Northern Europe. The question was, where was Amsterdam to obtain spices now that the ports of Spain were closed to her merchants? The provinces and towns of the new republic had become very independent of one another, owing to the absence of any strong bond of common economic interests; and thus attempts were made by other cities besides Amsterdam to procure on their own account, and directly from the regions of production, the various commodities which had been rendered unobtainable by the closing of the Spanish and Portuguese harbours. Private companies were formed in several towns for

organisation of the Dutch East India Company, together with much that was the purpose of importing merchandise direct from India; and by exchanging the spices, etc., thus obtained for the products of Northern Europe the promoters hoped to supply the deficiency in commodities indispensable to the traffic of the Continent.

Dutch Trade with the East Indies The most important of the small companies established to carry on a direct trade with the East Indies was the "Compagnie van Verre" (Company of the Distant Lands), founded in 1594; and it was in the interests of this firm that the first Dutch voyage to Java, Bawéan, and Bali was undertaken in 1595, under the command of Cornelis de Houtman.

This company, like its rivals, scarcely differed from the ordinary shipping associations, which possess a historical importance from the fact that they were the precursors of joint-stock companies. When the object for which such an association had been formed was attained, the cargoes were divided among the partners, who hoped to make a profit from the sale of the goods. Through the influence of the great statesman, Johan van Olden Barneveldt, all the separate companies were incorporated into one in 1602; and a new type of mercantile association arose, which dominated and characterised the commercial life of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The United East India Company was a joint-stock association with rights of monopoly. It obtained from the Dutch Government the sole right of commerce with the East Indies in the very widest sense. Every Hollander was forbidden even to sail beyond the Cape of Good Hope, not to speak of carrying on trade, without permission of the company; on the other hand, it was open to every Hollander to become a shareholder and partaker in all the company's rights and privileges by paying a subscription. The originally unequal shares into which the capital of 6,600,000 florins was divided could be transferred without restriction. Towards the end of the seventeenth century a nominal value of 3,000 gulden per share was established for the convenience of traffic in the bourses.

The affairs of the company, which was divided into provinces, were managed by a committee of seventeen members called directors. There were many new features

in the old and characteristic of the constitutions of the guilds. Fundamentally new, however, was the endowment of the association with political rights of sovereignty exercised in the name and under the supervision of the States-General of the Netherlands. All subsequent trading associations established after the model of

Traders with Power to Declare War

the Dutch East India Company are distinguished as political commercial associations. Such companies had the power to declare war and to enter into negotiations and treaties; legislation, administration, and the enforcement of justice were entrusted to them within their spheres of activity; and the Dutch government exercised its rights of sovereignty only in form so long as the company was able to maintain itself without assistance and remained solvent.

The Dutch East India Company formed the basis of the colonial empire of Holland in South-eastern Asia. The Portuguese were driven out of important points—Ceylon, Malacca, the Moluccas; and unclaimed regions, that is to say, territories inhabited by indigenous races only, such as Java, Sumatra, and Celebes, were occupied. A depôt in Java, which in 1619 received the name of Batavia, was the residence of the governor-general, who, when the Dutch colonies were at the zenith of their prosperity, in the middle of the seventeenth century, controlled as many as seven provinces.

The sphere of influence of the Hollanders extended as far as China and Japan, although trade was exposed to many serious difficulties in the Furthest East. One of the company's servants, Abel Jansz Tasman, circumnavigated Australia, or New Holland, and discovered Van Diemen's Land, now Tasmania, and New Zealand in 1642. But these events, however important from a geographical standpoint, had no immediate commercial result,

Australia's Undiscovered Gold Mines

for the barren coasts of Australia failed to entice settlers, and its wealth in gold remained, like that of California, undiscovered for over two hundred years.

The Hollanders carried on traffic in spices in the same manner as the Portuguese had done: their one desire was to obtain and to maintain the highest possible prices of monopoly. In spite of the fact that spices were sold at auction in the Amsterdam market, and consequently

were exposed to free competition, prices were kept constant through regulation of the amounts of production. The cultivation of clove-trees was restricted to the island of Amboina, that of nutmegs to the Banda group; superabundant harvests were reduced by the destruction of all products in excess of the quantity required for exportation, which, as a rule, equalled the average measure of consumption.

When, in 1621, the twelve years' truce with Spain, which had been so beneficial to the welfare of the Netherlanders, expired, a second joint-stock association, also furnished with rights of sovereignty, arose. This was the Dutch West India Company. Just as the Pope had once divided the earth between Spain and Portugal, so the Dutch government now apportioned it between the East and West India Companies. The Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn formed the boundaries of the hemispheres subjected to their monopolies. Although the Hollanders were unable to lay claim to international recognition of their proceedings, and although the orders given by the Dutch government to its subjects and commercial companies had

The Harsh Methods of the Dutch

nothing whatever to do with the other Christian nations of Europe, nevertheless the Dutch continued to act with the utmost unscrupulousness toward former possessors of the lands occupied as well as later intruders.

During this same period the Dutch theorists—the teachers of "natural right"—Grotius, Salsmasius, Boxborn, and Delacourt, were dogmatising on the *mare liberum*, the freedom, or rather the openness, of the sea to all men, a conception quite in accordance with the spirit of the time considering that the pretensions of the Spaniards to monopoly were now completely overthrown. However, these patriotic philosophers made no mention at all of the fact that, although the seas had become open, their countrymen were everywhere doing their utmost to close them again to all competitors. Nevertheless, the Dutch thinkers proved that theory—for the most part unconsciously—declares that which is most advantageous for one's own time or for one's own people, even for one's own party, to be the best. The theorists of the seventeenth century developed the same principles of free trade that were realised in England 150 years later. It is remarkable that, without excep-

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tion, the economically stronger nations have ever held forth to their weaker neighbours on the blessings of free trade, of unrestricted competition between states as well as individuals. Although since the end of the eighteenth century the free trade theories of the British have conquered the world, and contributed not a little to the commercial triumph of England, the assertions of the Dutch jurists of the seventeenth century in regard to the same principles were almost wholly ignored, although the economic practice of the Dutch was a cause of violent reactions as time went on.

The West India Company conducted itself even more offensively than did the East India; it was in reality a joint-stock association of pirates supported by the state, whose robberies found a counterpart only in the dealings of speculators in company shares at the Amsterdam Bourse. However, Holland has the West India Company to thank for Surinam and some of the Lesser Antilles; other regions in America occupied by the company—New Netherlands and Brazil—were lost again during the seventeenth century. In like

The Home of Modern Stock-jobbing

manner the little North Sea nation was unable to retain its West African possessions later than the end of the eighteenth century. Since the shares in the two mercantile associations were the first effects to be handled in conformity with the regulations of a modern exchange, the Amsterdam Bourse has a legitimate claim to be considered the home of modern stock-jobbing. The building was constructed in the year 1613, and from the very beginning was the scene of an unremitting struggle between "bulls" and "bears." The time transactions of modern days, the evil custom of buying on margins—that is to say, purchase and delivery of stock for which one has not paid, against which laws have been enacted without avail—the exchange tax, exchange list, etc., were all either invented, or at least brought to a high state of development, at the Amsterdam Bourse. Inasmuch as the rise and fall of dividends paid by the India Companies depended upon events impossible to foresee, owing to the fact that they were taking place in all quarters of the globe—the average dividend amounted to 22 per cent.—speculation had the character of a game of chance. The desire for gambling became a national vice, as

was shown by the notorious tulip swindle in the year 1630, a ridiculous parody of exchange transactions, carried on outside the bourse. Men speculated on the rise and fall in the prices of real and imaginary tulip bulbs, until finally the whole mad business, tulips and all, disappeared with a crash.

Until the end of the seventeenth century the Amsterdam Bourse was used for the purpose of contracting loans by the Dutch government, as well as by the executives of the provinces and the cities of the Netherlands. Naturally, the promissory notes and debenture bonds of public authorities were, in these times of war and disturbance, subject to great fluctuations. There was no longer an international loan market such as had once existed in Antwerp, now that the Italian and Upper German capitalists were bankrupts. Every state endeavoured, if possible, to make both ends meet with the aid of its own capitalists. But when Holland was forced out of the world market by the national economic policies of England and France, the capital thus set free accepted such opportunities for investment as were offered by the great industries which were just beginning to develop. In spite of all, however, capital became heaped up in the land, which not only had sufficient for all its needs, but was still gasping for more.

Wealthy men showed less and less desire to take part in laborious or dangerous undertakings, and preferred simply to put their money out at interest. Thus it happened that after the beginning of the eighteenth century impoverished sovereigns who were unable to obtain loans at home sought out Holland as a place for borrowing money. Amsterdam became the scene of international money transactions, and the Amsterdam Bourse the international stock market, whose rates of exchange were the standard followed by all the other European stock exchanges of the eighteenth century.

The Persecuted Jews

Once more, after a long period of comparative inaction, an element which has been of like importance to the history of the world and to the history of economics made its appearance; and although it was badly adapted to its more or less hostile environment, it nevertheless persevered, looking forward to a better future. Driven forth from all lands, and persecuted ever since the time of the Crusades,

the Jews, even when tolerated for the good of the treasury, had no share in either the local or the international commercial affairs of Northern and Southern Europe. From the twelfth to the seventeenth century they had managed to maintain a precarious existence as money-dealers and usurers on the very smallest scale. After

The Jews under a New Name the conquest of Granada, in 1492, they were expelled from Spain together with the Moors, although a few who had been converted to Christianity were permitted to remain in the country, receiving the name of Marannos. But like the converted Moors, or Moriscos, they had the reputation of being merely nominally Christian, and in 1609-1611 they were finally turned out of Spain and Portugal neck and crop as conspirators and rebels.

A number of them found a place of refuge in the Netherlands, the Dutch welcoming their arrival as an opportunity for a demonstration of hostility to Spain. A Jewish quarter grew up in Amsterdam, and no hindrances were placed in the way of Jews who wished to share in the commercial life of the city. In a short time daughter communities, like the one at Hamburg, developed from the main colony at Amsterdam. Dutch-Portuguese Jews emigrated to England when the kingdom, closed to them since the time of Edward I., was once more thrown open by Cromwell, in 1657. Amsterdam was the door through which the Jews again found entrance to European civilisation. Scattered as they were over all parts of the world, the Jews were the connecting link of what was to be a new development of international capitalism.

For all that the business in money and credit and the non-European commerce of Holland was so extensive, she owed her wealth chiefly to her trade in merchandise with the rest of the Continent. During the seventeenth century the Dutch

Maritime Trade Controlled by the Dutch

were the maritime carriers and middlemen of Europe; three-fourths of the mercantile marine of the world belonged to them. The power of the Hansa was gone; the Thirty Years War had effectually crippled Germany; England was experiencing the greatest crisis of her constitutional existence; France was still prevented from perceiving or attending to her economic interests owing to various political com-

plications; in short, general conditions were now as favourable to the Netherlands, though still feeble in themselves, as they had been in former days to the Hansa. Thus the Dutch were enabled to control maritime trade until finally the tendency of the world's history became unfavourable to them, and the Great Powers vindicated their natural rights of superiority.

In the meanwhile, however, Dutch merchants and shipowners dominated the commerce of the Baltic, and consequently the grain trade of Europe. "Amsterdam obtained possession of the great surplus quantities of grain grown in the Baltic countries, and thus supplied not only Holland, but also Western and Southern Europe. According to a document of the year 1603, a stock of 4,000,000 bushels—that is to say, wheat enough to supply 800,000 people for a year—was kept constantly on hand."

By closing the mouths of the Rhine and the Schelde, the Hollanders destroyed the trade of the Spanish Netherlands as well as that of Western Germany. The latter region, indeed, became economically subject to them as far south as the Black Forest, and they were already masters

Struggle for the World's Commerce

of Eastern Germany beyond Hamburg and Danzig. They had long been superior to all competitors in Scandinavia and on the northern seas, whether as merchants or as fishermen, their connections extending as far as the coasts of the White Sea. Dutch navigators even cruised about the Arctic Ocean, striving to solve the mystery of a north-east passage. Southern Europe also had fallen into the net of their all-embracing commerce; they dominated the Mediterranean, and after the conclusion of peace in 1648 appeared once more in the harbours of Portugal and Spain.

How great a burden the Dutch had been to England and France was shown by the violent reaction that arose against them in both nations during the latter half of the seventeenth century. In 1651 the English Navigation Acts were passed by the Commonwealth Parliament. A severe struggle now began for the freedom of English maritime trade and for supremacy in the world's commerce, a struggle in which the weaker nation finally submitted to the stronger, and sought by means of an alliance at a propitious moment with its former opponent to save what it could of its earlier power.

WESTERN EUROPE
FROM THE
REFORMATION
TO THE
REVOLUTION



THE
COMMERCE
OF
WESTERN EUROPE
IV

THE BRITISH MARITIME SUPREMACY EXPANSION OF THE NATION'S COMMERCE

IN the eleventh century England had fallen under the political and economic dominion of foreigners. While the permanent foreign and native elements were gradually becoming reconciled to one another, the commercial dominion of strangers, in spite of its nomadic character, became still deeper rooted in the land. Although England yielded an abundance of natural products, there were no developed industries and no maritime traffic or shipping capable of competing with other countries, not to speak of any independent foreign trade. Nevertheless, the central government, in spite of all feudal limitations, was powerful enough to maintain a firm and consistent national policy.

The kings sought to relieve the economic difficulties of their subjects, and this at a time when throughout Europe economic policy lay almost exclusively in the hands of municipal authorities, or, at the most, under the control of more or less powerful provincial rulers. The struggle of England to free itself from the economic yoke of foreigners began with the establishment of companies, such as the Staple Guild and the Association of Merchant Adventurers.

The accession of the Tudors, in 1485, was followed by a change in economic conditions that led to far-reaching results. This was the substitution of "enclosure" for the "open-field" system of agriculture. The landed proprietors of England no less than of the Continent opposed the old order of economic life, for the reason that it stood in the way of various new and profitable means of making money. When a large amount of farming land was turned into pasture for the sake of sheep-farming, the large wool producers found that their interests were injured by the small properties of peasants scattered over their estates, and that the common lands were a great hindrance to their plans for

pasturage or for the alternate use of the land as meadow and ploughed field. Hence the large landowners turned their property into pasturage, regardless of the rights of occupants, enclosing common lands, with the assistance of accommo-

**An Age of
Poverty and
Unemployment**

dating sheriffs and magistrates, who belonged to their own class. Thus numerous freeholders and tenants were deprived of their land, and of these but a small proportion were able to lease new ground suitable for farming. As a result, the country swarmed with paupers and unemployed. Even the worse than inadequate relief of distress supplied by the monasteries was ended by their abolition under Henry VIII., without any substitute being provided. It became a question of vital importance to the nation, either to promote or to create new forms of industry with a view to the relief of temporary want as well as the employment of a future increased population.

One way to this object was discovered by the economists of England in the time of Elizabeth. Among the first measures passed by the Elizabethan government was the currency reform of 1560, which had become necessary owing to the debasement of the coinage brought about during the reign of Henry VIII. The English Government was in the fortunate position of never having granted the right to coin money to subordinate powers, as had happened elsewhere in feudal Europe; while, therefore, one sovereign might cause a temporary

**The English
Government their
own Coiners**

derangement of the currency, another was able to reduce it to order, for the good of the whole country, which by this time was taking an intelligent interest in the most important economic questions. The measures passed by the Government for general economic betterment were approved by the nation, the advantage of state control in economic

matters having been exemplified in the case of the currency. It is true that the English government was unable to look to the public for co-operation in regard to foreign affairs—however much the national intelligence had developed during the early Elizabethan period—until the country was threatened by a foreign invasion. Before a

Erection of the Royal Exchange

state of complete understanding between government and people had been reached in 1588, at the time of the Spanish Armada, the Crown, anxious to avoid any extraordinary taxation, had been obliged to contract loans of very doubtful advantage. At first the Tudors borrowed money in Antwerp, where the celebrated Sir Thomas Gresham occupied the position of financial agent of the English government. But as early as 1569, after the Duke of Alva had arrived in the Netherlands, and Antwerp had begun to decline, the financial requirements of the English Crown were supplied by domestic capital. The government of England had thus freed itself from the dominion of international money-lenders, and had thereby advanced several steps in economic development.

The attainment of national independence in all things pertaining to money and credit found expression in the erection of the Royal Exchange by Sir Thomas Gresham in 1566 at his own expense. The queen had already recognised the services of this public-spirited financier by conferring knighthood upon him in 1559; indeed, it had long been the fashion for Continental governments to confer patents of nobility on the various German and Italian merchant princes who had been of especial service to them as money-lenders.

The imperialist policy of the Tudors was expensive, like that of the Hapsburgs and Valois. In all lands sovereigns were discovering that their incomes were no longer sufficient to meet their expenses, so much easier had it become to contract

Sovereigns who Lived Beyond Their Incomes

debts; and debts required settlement, or at least interest had to be paid on them. The populations of all the countries of Europe resisted the increasing demands of the governments; and as a result of undeveloped, badly managed systems of assessment and collection, so much money was lost to the national treasuries, that what finally found its way into the coffers of the state amounted to very little indeed. However,

necessity led to the invention of various expedients for raising money, which were not only independent of the concessions of parliaments and popular assemblies, but yielded far greater amounts than had any previous source of income. This is the financial aspect of the development of the theory of Royal prerogative.

The German princes had assumed long before, as heirs of the old Roman Empire, exclusive possession of all the useful prerogatives of royalty, such as the right to coin money, to dig for precious metals, to collect taxes, and to dispense justice; but as time passed these rights were gradually transferred to lesser powers, both temporal and ecclesiastical, and to towns and corporations. The income of a sovereign was limited to the yield of the crown possessions, and had he lost these also, he was powerless, as poor as the German emperors who followed the Hohenstaufen. Minor princes and cities now took upon themselves the duties of government, and in their restricted spheres exercised the same rights of administration as had once been executed by the sovereign himself over his entire domain; but with this step the feebleness of the disunited towns and lesser rulers increased, as was especially obvious when looked at from the point of view of entanglements with foreign powers.

Western Europe under Regalism

Since the incomes derived by princes from the crown lands proved insufficient, they resorted to taxation; but this resulted only in making parliaments and assemblies more and more disinclined to grant the demands of sovereigns. Consequently the latter unearthed and extended their ancient and inalienable royal prerogatives to relieve them of financial embarrassments. The acceptance of Roman law during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries greatly furthered the designs of the rulers. Especially in Western Europe regalism was soon in full sway, and was pursued without the slightest regard either to existing rights or to the welfare of subjects. Princes of the small states of Germany and Italy followed the example of the sovereigns of great kingdoms, if not with the same favourable results to their own ends, at least with the same thoroughness and rigour.

In England, the regulation of trade was by general admission included under the prerogative of the Crown, while taxation.

avowedly for revenue was not. But the Tudors found a convenient elasticity in the admitted rights of the Crown, and developed a system of granting monopolies—sometimes to favourites, but generally receiving substantial consideration for the grant—till the list of monopolies became formidable and burdensome, at one time including currants, salt, iron, gunpowder, playing-cards, cowhide, furs, sail-cloth, potash, vinegar, whale-oil, coal, steel, brandy, brushes, bottles, pots, salt-petre, lead, oil, mirrors, paper, starch, tin, sulphur, cloth, sardines, beer, cannons, horn, leather, Spanish wool, and Irish yarn. However, this system of conducting inland commerce was from the beginning so imperfect and faulty that it soon disappeared, leaving no trace behind. It was left to the Stuarts to make their vain attempt to extend the prerogative into the field of taxation.

On the other hand, a Crown monopoly of foreign trade was much easier to enforce and to maintain, owing to the fact that previous systems could be brought into connection with it. Several

Commerce in the Sixteenth Century

guild-like corporations, called “regulated companies,” and formed after the model of the Merchant Adventurers, were instituted with the assistance of the government, which was, of course, well paid for its good offices. The names of these corporations alone are sufficient to convey a vivid idea of the extent of British commerce at the end of the sixteenth century, although it is true that they were not equally prosperous. There was a Russian or Muscovite Company, founded in 1554, a Baltic Company (1579), a Turkish Company (1581), a Morocco or Barbary Company (1585), and a Guinea trade monopoly. In addition to these, the merchants of Exeter and Bristol organised themselves into guilds, having constitutions similar to that of the Mercers’ Company of London. Finally, in 1600, the East India Company, the first joint-stock association to be formed in England, was founded.

English policy during the time of Elizabeth had already overcome the German Hansa, one of the most powerful enemies of national trade. England had also succeeded in getting the upper hand of the Italians, as was shown by the suspension of the voyages of the Venetians and Genoese. Consequently there remained

but one rival in the field—Holland, the greatest of all; but so long as the Dutch were indispensable to the English as allies in the war against Spain and Portugal, the chief sea-powers of the time, a conflict was not desirable. That England was, however, already prepared to take up arms against the Netherlands

Spain's Fall from Maritime Greatness

may be seen from the events which occurred in 1564, before the uprising of the Dutch against Spain. England and Holland then fought one another with trade embargoes, and England finally removed her cloth staple from Antwerp.

During the further course of events England sought to ally herself with Holland, as happened in reality one hundred years later, at the time of William III. The result of this attempt was the war between Spain and England, which culminated in the destruction of the Invincible Armada in 1588. In that great struggle it was finally manifested that Spain was deposed from the position of supreme maritime power, though many years and much hard fighting passed before her fleets ceased to be dangerous.

Shortly after the accession of James I., who, as a Stuart, was friendly to Spain, peace was concluded with Philip II. at London in 1604. The Spaniards granted the inhabitants of the now United Kingdom freedom of trade with all their possessions, excepting the East and West Indies. However, it was not long before the English found a way of escaping the latter difficulty. The question was, should England permit the Hollanders, who had already extended their trade to the Far East, as well as to America, alone to retain possession of the field? Fortunately, the treaty of 1604 itself furnished a pretext for intrusion into Spanish and Portuguese domains, inasmuch as according to its terms, the English were permitted to seek out and, under certain conditions, take

England's Expanding Commerce

possession of any West or East Indian territory not yet occupied by Spain or Portugal. Thus international law and national interests were—at least in one case—brought into complete harmony with one another.

In spite of the expansion of England's maritime trade, and notwithstanding the wars into which the nation had been plunged in order to secure freedom from the economic dominion of strangers, the

industrial activity of the English—so far as foreign markets were concerned—was, even during the time of the Tudors, restricted to the manufacture of wool products. Not until the first migration of Flemish weavers to England during the reign of Edward III. had the manufacture of wool attained to a state of development

**Fugitives
Welcomed
in Britain**

sufficient to warrant the exportation of cloth. By the middle of the sixteenth century it became necessary to forbid the exportation of sheep and wool, in order that the domestic spinning and weaving industries might not suffer for lack of raw material. Soon afterwards the second great immigration of Flemish weavers took place. The fugitives, driven from the Netherlands by the decrees against heretics issued by Charles V. and Philip II., were cordially welcomed by the British government, to the great disgust of the domestic industrial classes. From this time forth the wool industry of the Netherlands possessed no special feature that could not easily be duplicated on the other side of the Channel.

During the reign of Elizabeth the important transformation in industrial conditions that had already taken place a century before on the Continent in several branches of manufacture began to affect the English wool trade. From its very nature the wool industry could not well be carried on as a handicraft, inasmuch as the same material passed through many hands—spinners, weavers, fullers, dyers—before the cloth was complete and ready for use.

Nor did the finished product reach the consumer until it had been exposed for sale in the shops of wholesale and retail dealers. No single establishment was able to fulfil all these conditions. Dealers who owned capital, and even the sheep farmers, found it an easy matter to obtain control of the craftsmen through advances of raw material and wages; and thus the

**The Early
Days of the
Wool Trade**

cloth industry soon took the form of a capitalised system of manufacture. Weavers, fullers, and dyers no longer laboured directly for their customers, but for a capitalist, who was the connecting link between the different classes of producers, and at the same time supplied the markets with the finished product. The wool trade did not at once become a great industry, such as is pursued in factories, but continued to be carried on in the

homes of the weavers and in small workshops, for the government protected house labour and prevented the introduction of factory industry—at least so far as the manufacture of wool was concerned—until late in the eighteenth century.

The control by the central government of commerce and industry which in other countries had gradually been won from the central governments by independent cities, companies, and territories, was undisputed in England. The passing of the Apprentices Act in 1562 had the effect of determining the organisation of English industry for centuries. This Act was a law dealing with the most important of social questions—the time of apprenticeship (seven years), and matters concerning journeymen, contracts, time, and reward of labour. The municipal authorities were entrusted with its execution in towns, and in the country, the magistrates.

The Act of Elizabeth remained in force until 1814, although it had long ceased to be observed in many particulars, since new forms of industry and new branches of commerce had sprung up to which it did not

**The Stuarts
Friendly
with Spain**

apply. Although the Tudors had many times been permitted to take the law into their own hands, and without opposition, because their policy was in harmony with the wishes of the British nation, this was not the case with the Stuarts, against whom an active resistance that passed all previously known limits developed in both people and Parliament. Their friendly relations with Spain were not popular, although it would have been advantageous for England to ally herself with this nation against Holland, her more dangerous rival; moreover, such an alliance could not have been otherwise than favourable to the importation of English products into the Pyrenean Peninsula and South America.

Thus, when the earlier Stuarts desired to collect the money necessary for carrying out their foreign policy they found neither Parliament nor people disposed to give them any assistance; and since they endeavoured to win their point by invoking the aid of absolutism and divine right, the consequence was that the opposition of the nation increased. Parliament claimed the right of distribution of monopolies in 1623, withdrawing it from the Crown, and fought the system of forced loans. When it granted the taxes on tonnage and poundage

THE BRITISH MARITIME SUPREMACY

to the king, not for life, as to his predecessors, but for a term of one year only, Charles I. endeavoured to govern without a Parliament, and to collect taxes without further authorisation than his own will. Still, the English people were not moved to action by economic motives alone; the question of religion, without doubt, predominated, and, according to popular opinion, political interests, in the stricter sense of the term, were of greater importance than economic affairs were.

the Parliament—Cromwell was not yet Protector, but was occupied with the Worcester campaign—by passing the Navigation Act, threw down a direct challenge to its commercial rival.

Already under the Tudors, and even at the time of the Plantagenets, English merchant vessels had been protected by means of discriminating taxes, coasting ships in particular having been favoured by various reservations. In the Act of 1651 all the old regulations were renewed and supple-



INVENTOR OF THE STOCKING LOOM: THE ORIGIN OF THE GREAT DISCOVERY

Many of the world's greatest discoveries have been simply born, the invention of the stocking loom being a case in point. The Rev. William Lee, to whom the discovery of this epoch-making machine was due, derived the idea of his wonderful creation from watching the movement of his wife's fingers while knitting. Constructing his machine, he removed it from Claverton, in Nottingham, to London, and Queen Elizabeth made a personal examination of its working. On the invitation of Henry IV., Lee took up his residence in France, but did not live to reap the reward of his invention.

From the picture by Alfred Elmore, R.A.

But just as the material desires of man are expressions of an invincible natural force that mocks all attempts at repression, so also in the lives of nations affairs relating to material welfare invariably press their claims whenever there is a pause in the constant struggle in the spiritual world. The war with the Netherlands for the independence of English foreign trade and for the dominion of the sea was postponed for many years; but when Holland declined overtures for an intimate union with the English Republic,

mented. From that time no importation of extra-European goods to England was allowed except under the English flag. Commodities of European origin could be sent to England in English ships only, or in vessels belonging to the nation in which their cargoes were produced. It was also determined that voyages should be direct, from port to port, without any stop being made at the Dutch intermediate stations. The coasting trade was reserved to the national flag, and, for the improvement of the home fishing industry, the importation

of salted fish was forbidden. Directions as to the manning of English merchant vessels proved that Cromwell looked upon the merchant marine as the training school for the navy.

Although, owing to the relative weakness of the English mercantile marine, it was long before the Navigation Act had the favourable economic results anticipated, its immediate political effect was a naval war with Holland (1652-1654), in which the English navy, under Robert Blake, showed itself to be in no wise inferior to the fleets of Holland manned by crews of far greater experience in battle. The great territorial expansion of the Dutch made it possible to deal more serious blows at them, and during the year 1653 the English captured over one thousand Dutch vessels in various parts of the world. According to the terms of the peace of 1654, made on party grounds by the anti-Orange oligarchy under the leadership of the brothers De Witt, Holland agreed to recognise the Navigation Act as well as the supremacy of the British flag in English waters.

But the victory of the English under Cromwell over their ancient enemies, the Spaniards, was of far greater value to the Englishman of the day than the successes won against the Dutch; not because the colonial power of Spain was a hindrance to British expansion, but for the reason that the Spaniards represented Catholicism. The result of the war was the acquisition of Jamaica and the port of Dunkirk. The latter might have been a foothold for English power on the Continent, like Calais in former days (1347-1558), but Charles II. sold the city to Louis XIV. in 1662. That the monarchy of the Restoration had no intention of adopting a commercial-political policy other than that introduced by the Commonwealth was shown by the renewal of the Navigation

Commercial Concessions to the Colonies Act in 1660 and 1664—so to speak, a second and a third enlarged and improved edition of the original Act.

In New England the long-wished-for region of distribution and consumption was acquired, a region which the English sought straightway to close to the competition of foreign merchants. Each time the Navigation Act was renewed clauses were inserted according to which the products of British colonies could be sent to

English ports alone, even when intended for another land, and European goods could be exported to the colonies only on English ships, and direct from England and Wales. It was not till the Union of 1707 that English privileges became British by their extension to Scotland. The second naval war with Holland broke out in 1664 as a result of a dispute with the Dutch West India Company. During the course of the hostilities New Amsterdam—the New York of to-day—and Cape Coast Castle in Guinea were captured by the British. The first guineas were minted, at this time, of gold brought on the vessels of an English company from the Guinea Coast.

As the war had resulted in great damage to English commerce, peace negotiations were begun at Breda, which, in spite of the sudden appearance of a Dutch fleet in the Thames in 1667, were definitely favourable to England. The Peace of Breda granted permanent possession of New Netherlands to the English, who were now masters of the entire Atlantic coast of North America from Acadia to Florida. Considerable light is thrown upon the dependence of German commerce at this time by the fact that, although contrary to the provisions of the Navigation Act, the Dutch were allowed to carry German goods to England in their own vessels.

Holland in Alliance with England

A third naval war with the Dutch followed (1672-1674), when England, in alliance with France, supported Louis XIV. in his attempt to annihilate Holland. Although England gained no new territory by the Treaty of Westminster, she nevertheless prevented Holland from carrying out her intention of forming an alliance with Spain, when the two former mistresses of the sea saw that their interests were equally prejudiced by the rapid development of English maritime power. The troubles with Holland finally ceased when the House of Orange once more stood at the head of the state in 1672, and renewed their dynastic connection with the Stuarts.

The result was an adjustment of the interests of the two nations. Holland, satiated with wealth, desired rest and peace, and after having established a permanent alliance with England, contented herself with opposing the encroachments of the French, who had now become dangerously powerful in Europe as in the colonies.

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V

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRANCE AND THE GROWTH OF NATIONAL INDUSTRIES

THE wars between England and the Netherlands were but a prelude to the tremendous struggle with France between the years 1688 and 1815. The new Hundred Years War, that lasted with but few intermissions from Louis XIV.'s third war of conquest until the Congress of Vienna, was, looked at from the point of view of to-day, the final and decisive contest for the dominion of the world's commerce. Spaniards, Portuguese, Hollanders, French, and British—all had striven for it in vain, and with insufficient powers. What was this monopoly of the world's commerce but a phantom that beckoned to each nation in turn, only to vanish into air? The unconquerable impulse for independence and action displayed by the nations of Western Europe, which had been crowded together at an early day by the migrations of peoples, would no more permit the establishment of a commercial

The Daughter Nations of the New World

than a political world monarchy; and since the very same qualities were developing in the daughter nations in the New World, their dependence on the mother countries became constantly less likely to continue. Yet the pursuit of this phantom of exclusive commercial dominion caused European civilisation to develop more rapidly and to expand over wider regions than any sober estimate of possibilities would have anticipated. Private economic and fiscal endeavours found firm support in the governments and in the colonial policy of nations, for the living representatives of all these varied interests breathed the same stirring atmosphere of imaginary gains and advantages.

Of the five powers which at one time or other entered on the rivalry for maritime supremacy—Spain, Portugal, Holland, England, and France—the last named was the last to take a part. After Philip II. had made peace with France at Vervins, shortly before his death, and the wars of the Huguenots had also come to an end in 1598, one of

those pauses in the tumult of human affairs ensued during which such peoples and states as are possessed of vitality are able quickly to recover their power, even though a short time before they may have been standing on the very brink of the grave. In

Richelieu and Economic Questions

France the monarchy took charge of the labour of civilisation, and, moreover, encountered at first little or no opposition. Henry IV., assisted by Sully, succeeded, by the aid of commercial treaties, colonising associations, the promotion of industry, and, above all, by encouraging agriculture, in guiding the French people into the same tendencies of national economic policy that had already led to such great results elsewhere. Richelieu himself, the powerful subduer of the feudal nobility, in seeking to free the Crown from their dishonouring tutelage, pursued the same course, so far as his participation in the Thirty Years War allowed him to direct his attention to economic questions.

But it soon became apparent that the French had been too late in entering the ranks of colonial nations, and that only the leavings of the Spaniards, Portuguese, Hollanders, and English remained to them. French colonists settled, it is true, on the St. Lawrence, in the Antilles, in Guiana, in West Africa, and in Madagascar, yet without any very serious attempt to make these territories their own, and their attention was constantly being taken from their new possessions by political entanglements nearer home.

A new and bitter quarrel arose with Spain during the days of Richelieu and continued long after the close of the Thirty Years War, lasting until the Peace of the Pyrenees in 1659. At the same time, in the disturbances of the Fronde, the last struggle was fought between the three independent and privileged powers, the clergy, the nobility, and the parlements, and the absolute monarchy, which threatened

them all alike. This movement was occasioned by the incredible mismanagement of the national finances, which had begun during the days of Richelieu, and had gone from bad to worse during the ministry of Mazarin, 1642-1661. Ever since the national debts of France had passed from the hands of foreign capitalists into those of domestic money-lenders, the so-called "Partisans," the abuse had been current of farming out the rates and taxes to the state creditors in order that they might be able to repay themselves from the sums collected. The result was boundless oppression of the masses, deception of the Government, and enrichment of capitalists

**The King's
Victory over
the People**

A concerted attack, under the leadership of the Parlement of Paris, was made on the unlimited monarchy; and the populace of the capital joined in it. But as the disturbances of the Fronde continued, to the great injury of the industrial classes, a reaction followed in Paris, and the king and his all-powerful Minister finally obtained the upper hand in this last struggle of feudal institutions against unlimited monarchical power.

A sequel to the events of the Fronde followed, when, after the death of Mazarin, the chief cause of the ruin, his financial tool, Nicholas Fouquet, who had outdone even the court of Louis XIV. by the magnificence of his household, was sent to prison. The same judgment was passed on the entire tribe of Partisans, although they had been a power in the state—in fact, above the state; a precarious support to lawful authority during times of disturbance, and often rather an aid to princely "condottieri" of the stamp of an Orléans or a Condé, who had become more dangerous to the King of France than Wallenstein had been to the Emperor Ferdinand.

Jean Baptiste Colbert, the new Finance Minister, whose influence had greatly contributed to the overthrow of the Partisans, retained his difficult position from 1661 until his death, in 1683. His first great work was to consolidate the state liabilities, which rested on a thousand separate titles and bore high rates of interest, into a single national debt, paying interest at 5 per cent. This relatively mild method of acknowledging the bankruptcy of a nation was even then not new

**Colbert, the
Great Minister
of Finance**

to France, and was often resorted to in later times. But Colbert was obliged to forgo the task of extinguishing the national debt, as well as any attempt to meddle with the privileges of the nobility and clergy, for upon them depended the foreign and domestic policy of Louis XIV., and the Minister of finance had no other desire than to be his faithful servant. The wars of this period caused many more loans to be raised and the public finances once more to be thrown into disorder. The nobility and clergy were subdued and transformed into court domestics, as it were, by deference to their privileges and the offer of certain personal advantages.

A significant change had taken place in the policy of the sovereigns of Europe. Previously kings had been able to keep the privileged classes in check through alliances with the third estate; but now that the kingship had attained to the zenith of its power, it transformed clergy and nobility into pillars of the Government, not in order to oppose the masses, its former ally—the latter had as yet no idea of revolting—but merely that it might be

lifted above all bickerings with the privileged classes, and realise the idea of a centralised government, impartially looking down upon the doings of men from the heights of its absolute position. The king had, in fact, become the highest expression of governmental force, to which all personal or class rights were as nothing. This form of kingship, which created the unity of the modern state out of the welter of competing independent jurisdictions, was by no means lacking in a conception of its social mission; but the latter remained in the background, certainly so long as the throne was surrounded by troops of privileged courtiers, whose chief office was to increase its splendour and stability.

To be sure, now and then a law for the improvement of economic and social affairs made its appearance; for example, Colbert decreased the land-tax (taille) for the benefit of the peasants, the most oppressed of all the social classes. However, the tendency of the unlimited monarchy was far more in the direction of a general and indiscriminate policy of national welfare than in that of protection of the feeble and oppressed. The power and, above all, the military capabilities of the state were to be augmented by an increase in the

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRANCE

prosperity of the people; and in order to heighten military efficiency, all endeavours were concentrated in the ideas of protection of the state from without, of increase of territory, and of general expansion.

The fall of the Spanish Empire was looked upon by France as an invitation to step into that nation's place, and to seize the position of supremacy in Europe, on the high seas, and in all colonial spheres. This vast political programme not only contained within it the germs of renewed struggles with the Spanish and German Hapsburgs, at whose expense France expected to acquire the "natural boundaries" previously denied her, but was a cause of renewed war with Holland and England, the sea powers of the age.

In no empire the world has yet seen have nation and kingship reached such a state of solidarity as in the France of Louis XIV. All variances that arose under his rule and under that of his successors—the downfall of the old monarchy, the great revolution, the empire—had their foundations in the defeats suffered by the French in the struggle with the English. Just as Spain, Holland, and England herself had done, so did France sacrifice hundreds of years

France in the Time of Louis XIV.

of her existence to the attainment of an illusory dominion of the world, established on a monopoly of the world's commerce.

In order that the French, who already saw certain plunder before their eyes in the fallen Spanish Empire, might drive the Dutch and English from the seas, it was necessary for them to mobilise all their military strength and at the same time to open up all their economic resources. The policy of imperialism required wealth such as was possessed by Spain in her mines and by Holland in her commerce. It was also necessary for England, France's rival—in fact, for any nation that expected to maintain itself against Louis XIV.—to invent new means for carrying on the struggle. The undirected pursuit of small economic interests with limited spheres was certainly not a means of creating such resources as were needed by powers of the first rank in their struggle for the world market.

However, the economic conditions of the smaller circles, of corporations, cities, territories and provinces, must at least have suggested thoughts for the guidance of a national policy based on a regard

for the public welfare. It was necessary to transfer that which had already been done on a small scale into a greater sphere, to develop and to perfect it.

In fact, the mercantile system, or Colbertism, as it has been called, after its classic representative, merely consisted in an extension in the use of economic-

Colbert's Mercantile System

political measures that had long been employed in restricted areas. As soon as the state drew within its paternal protection economic affairs which had previously been left to their own powers of development, like every eager beginner it went too far in the matter, without consideration for the activities of natural production. The latter are of a private, individual nature, the sources of numerous economic phenomena which gradually shade off into the very highest spheres of national and world economy. However, on the whole, mercantilism stood the test of its time; that is to say, it succeeded in Western Europe during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It gave to peoples and to states that which they had not before possessed, indeed that which they could not possibly have acquired through the action of the unregulated forces to which they had been accustomed.

Nothing short of the centralised power of a modern nation was able to perform that which neither cities, nor leagues of cities, nor the provinces of Germany and Italy, nor even the independent provinces of larger states, had been capable of effecting; all of these were obliged to waste a large amount of the forces at their disposal in the conflict of their special interests. Nations of the first rank that included many lesser circles within themselves did away with all internal friction, and produced from the sum of the forces out of which they had been evolved effects of constantly increasing magnitude. A description of the mercantile policy

How Colbert Served the State

of each single community would lead to endless repetitions; let us, therefore, take France as a representative example. The organisation of the finances, which finally resulted in an annual revenue of 100 million livres (600 million francs) without any increase in the burden of taxation, was, comparatively speaking, one of the least of Colbert's services to the state. Of far greater importance, both financially and economically, was his policy in regard

to the customs. The old provinces of the north and west, Isle de France, Champagne, Burgundy, Picardy, Normandy, Poitou, Anjou, Maine, and Touraine, were, as soon as the former lines of custom-houses had been done away with, united into one revenue district; the newer provinces (provinces étrangères),

Fostering French Industries however, retained their own special tariff rates, for various financial reasons. The mercantile principle of a protective tariff against foreign nations was adopted in the customs regulations of 1667. Through keeping the products of foreign industries out of the domestic markets by means of excessive duties, French industry was incited to greater activity, and money that would otherwise have gone out of France was retained in the country.

Industries still lacking to the nation were artificially called into life and furthered in every possible manner—for example, the manufacture of looking-glasses and laces previously made in Venice only, of stockings knitted after the English fashion, of cloth woven according to methods employed by the Dutch weavers, and of the same sort of brass and pewter ware that had in earlier days been imported from Germany.

In fact, Colbert did succeed in furthering the technical capacities of the French to an extraordinary degree. However, his legislative works, such as the book of commercial laws (*Ordonnance du Commerce*, 1673) and the *Code Noir* (slave law in the colonies) proved to be of more permanence as monuments to his fame than his industrial regulations. In order to bring money into the country, and to render secure the economic foundations of France, it was necessary that industrial activity should not be limited to the production of articles for domestic consumption, but that commodities for export should also be manufactured, and consequently that regard should be had for commercial affairs.

The Great Aims of Colbert "Colbert, who was descended from a family of merchants," says Ranke, "may perhaps have set too high a value on the actual possession of money, but he brought his mercantile endeavours into complete harmony with the chief interests of the state—the elevation of the lower classes, the unifying of the nation, and the strengthening of its position in the world." He furthered

domestic traffic by means of highways, canals, and posts. Foreign trade was promoted by encouraging the exportation of manufactured products and the importation of raw materials, through the construction of depôts, harbours, and naval arsenals. An efficient navy was built, and the merchant marine increased to such an extent that the services of Dutch vessels were no longer required.

At the same time, however, in order that the forests of France might be preserved, merchants were allowed to purchase ships built in foreign countries. Maritime commerce was protected not only by the monopoly of coast and colonial trade, but by discriminative taxes favouring domestic vessels. Colbert also hoped to ensure the prosperity of trans-oceanic commerce by means of monopolies modelled after the Dutch India Companies. However, such associations were formed with the greatest difficulty, and as a rule their lives were short; none of them attained to the importance of the Dutch and English corporations. The Levantine Company (1670–1690), whose headquarters were Marseilles

Peace between Holland and England and Smyrna, the chief trading place in the East, where competition with the Dutch did not present insuperable difficulties, was the most prosperous. The Northern Company experienced less good fortune in the Baltic; the East India Company, though firmly established in India, was ruined in its military struggles with the British; and the West India Company, active on both sides of the Atlantic, existed for ten years only, from 1664–1674.

Colbert's mercantile policy, like that of Cromwell, was directed against the supremacy of Holland; indeed, the very existence of the Dutch nation was threatened by the attack undertaken by Louis XIV. in alliance with Charles II. in 1672. However, freed from all danger on the side of England by the Peace of Westminster in 1674, and supported by the Germans, the Netherlanders managed to weather the storm, and even succeeded in negotiating a favourable commercial treaty in 1678. In order to avoid being exposed to the same difficulties again, William III. linked the fate of Holland with that of England, thus causing the rivalry between the two nations to subside. After William ascended the English throne in 1688, England and Holland were companions in the struggle with France.

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VI

THE RISE OF EUROPEAN TRADE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR THE COMMERCE OF THE WORLD

A SHORT time after Colbert's death, in 1683, the friendly relations which had hitherto existed with England turned into mutual hostility. Colbert had succeeded in restoring France to the French people—that is to say, he emancipated his country from the mercantile dominion of foreigners, and rendered it economically independent. Louis XIV., however, was not content with securing for the material existence of France the isolation considered indispensable to national development and power; he also wished to establish the same exclusiveness in respect to religion.

Since the Protestant minority stood in the way of his idea of establishing a Gallican or national Church, the king revoked the Edict of Nantes in 1685, and sought to convert such of his subjects as were members of the Reformed Church by means of coercive measures. In spite of a

The Flight of Protestants From France

law forbidding emigration, thousands of Protestants fled the country and sought refuge in Switzerland, Holland, England, and Brandenburg. France was not injured so greatly by the consequent decrease of population as by the transplanting to foreign soil of French skill and the capacity for producing articles of French industry and culture—silk, cloth, hats, gloves, glass, paper, ornaments, etc.

Just as in France, the spirit of religious exclusiveness prevailed in England too; but in England no obstacle was placed in the way of emigration. The colonies in North America, with which the mother country now possessed such a lucrative trade monopoly, had been founded by Nonconformists or Dissenters, including Roman Catholics. James II. lost his throne, and was obliged to seek refuge at the court of Louis XIV. in 1688, as soon as he ventured to interfere with the Test Act. William III. of Orange now became leader of the great league formed

for the purpose of resisting the encroachments of France and of re-establishing the European balance of power. From this time forth, as already stated, England and Holland were allies against France. The French fleet, under Tourville, was destroyed at La Hogue, on May 29th, 1692, by the united English and Dutch squadrons under the command of Admiral Russell. Although superior to any of her enemies taken singly, France was defeated in the third predatory war on the sea, and in the War of the Spanish Succession on land.

It is remarkable what far-reaching effects were exerted by the war with which the seventeenth century ended and the eighteenth century began upon the economic conditions of the two hostile nations. The Bank of England was established, and the National Debt consolidated amid the clash of arms; and during the same years the finances of France were so utterly deranged that they could not be put in order again until the drastic settlement of all accounts at the Revolution.

After the first public banks had been established in Genoa and Venice—Italian financiers had succeeded in putting into circulation notes, or paper money, in the place of specie, at the end of the sixteenth century—the development of the banking system was passed on to the Dutch. The

cheque bank of Amsterdam, founded in 1608, became a model for banks whose chief office was to attend to the debit and credit accounts of merchants, based on the principle of a guaranteed deposit. In London, the goldsmiths of Lombard Street had long been engaged in banking, an important branch of their trade being money changing, from which large profits were obtained during periods of a confused currency. They also received deposits,

which they put out at interest, and in addition negotiated loans for the Government. When Charles II. suspended payment of his debts in the year 1672—the last state bankruptcy in England—the goldsmiths of Lombard Street, to whom the king owed six and two-thirds million dollars, also became insolvent. Although

Founding of the Bank of England

the establishment of a public bank was immediately proposed, the project was not executed until the time of the third French war of conquest, during the reign of William III. It was with the greatest difficulty that money was obtained for the purposes of this war, owing to the lack of a proper financial organisation, although England had rather a superfluity than a lack of capital. The Restoration period had been a time of great occasional prosperity, and capital had already turned to seductive but unsafe schemes, like the South Sea Bubble.

After the first five million dollars of the consolidated English national debt had been subscribed for in 1692–1693, the Government contracted a new loan amounting to six million dollars at the rate of eight per cent. According to the plan introduced by William Paterson, a Scotsman, who took the bank of St. George at Genoa for his model, a corporation formed of national creditors received the right to carry on banking, to the exclusion, however, of all other mercantile affairs, and to issue notes redeemable on presentation, as in the system already in use among the goldsmiths. In a short time the Bank of England became an indispensable feature of the financial life of the nation, and to this day it remains one of the strongest pillars of international finance and credit.

The Bank of Scotland was founded soon after, in 1695. United dynastically with England in 1603, Scotland had always been treated very much like a foreign country so far as commercial matters were concerned, and had no share in the privileges due to it as part of the United Kingdom. When the Scots made an independent attempt at colonising in Darien, on the Isthmus of Panama, the English took a material part in frustrating their scheme in

1699. Not until the parliamentary union of 1707 did Scotland succeed in bringing the economic differences between the two countries to a settlement; but Ireland was still excluded from the Union, and was treated like a colony beyond seas.

The rivalry of France and Britain in the Spanish and American markets was the commercial basis of the War of the Spanish Succession. Even during the war itself France obtained, through commerce with Spain and with Central and South America, a large portion of the financial power which enabled her to carry on the struggle with England to a comparatively favourable termination in spite of constant defeats. Britain, however, was able to prevent Spanish-American commerce from becoming the exclusive possession of her rival. The Spanish Empire was torn asunder at the Peace of Utrecht, as had ever been the desire of Britain; the Spanish Netherlands, Naples, Sardinia—exchanged for Sicily in 1720—and Lombardy passed into the hands of Austria; Britain herself obtained two of the most important posts in the Mediterranean, Gibraltar and Port Mahon in Minorca, and across the Atlantic, Acadia, now Nova Scotia.



WILLIAM PATERSON
An able and far-seeing financier, he founded the Bank of England, becoming in 1694 one of its first directors. His Darien scheme of colonisation proved a failure.

The British considered the Asiento agreement, through which they, instead of the French, were granted the exclusive right of supplying Spanish America with negro slaves, to be their greatest success. The apparently insignificant favour of being allowed to accompany each fleet of slavers by two vessels of not more than six hundred tons burden, and loaded with other than living freight, was an immediate source of illegitimate gain to British merchants. Liverpool became enriched

through both the slave trade and veiled smuggling. When, after the close of the War of the Spanish Succession, the British Government farmed out the negro Asiento to the South Sea Company—by South Sea, the ocean on both sides of South America is to be understood—a period of wild speculation such as is usually terminated by a catastrophe no less destructive than purifying to the financial atmosphere followed. Shares in the South Sea Company rose

THE RISE OF EUROPEAN TRADE

when the latter received the Asiento, and were in great demand, since after the close of the war, British capital was no longer taken up by the Government; in addition the company wished to provide for the extinction of the National Debt. The price of South Sea shares, soon rising from \$500 to \$5,000, grew too high for the small speculators. All sorts of tempting but fallacious associations were established, and however unreasonable and absurd they may have been, were subscribed to with the greatest enthusiasm. Finally, the frenzied speculation, which had its

the kingdom had very much the appearance of a ball tossed to and fro by the Whigs and the Tories; and the many-headed Parliament also seemed to stand at a disadvantage when compared with the closely-knit despotism that governed France. But it was precisely the agreement between Crown and Parliament which rendered possible the accumulation of the largest funded debt that had yet been known to history. So long as the two forces had been hostile to one another, the credit of the nation had remained at a very low ebb—at such a low ebb, in



THE OLD MERCERS' HALL, WHERE THE BANK OF ENGLAND WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED counterpart in France at the same period, was ended by the bursting of the "bubble" and the remedial measures desired by Walpole (1720). The South Sea Company remained actually solvent, and managed to continue its existence until after the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748, when it lost the Asiento.

The effects of the foreign affairs in which Britain had been so successful soon became apparent in the improved domestic policy, which had been completely revolutionised since the year 1688. To be sure,

fact, that a policy of expansion like that of William III. or of Anne would have been out of the question.

The Whigs looked upon the Bank of England as their creation, and they also interested themselves in the national loans, owing to the fact that Britain's participation in the War of the Spanish Succession was to them a party issue. On the other hand, the Tories prided themselves on the advantageous terms of peace of 1713 and 1714—master-strokes of their leader, Bolingbroke. Nor did the economic

antagonism of the two parties lead to a narrow commercial policy. Although the Tories were predominant among the land-owning classes, and were the representatives of agrarian interests, they did not annul the protective tariffs and the restrictions on imports and commercial privileges with which the Whigs defended the interests of

Britain's merchants and manufacturers. **Great Foreign** On the contrary, the Tories **Commerce** obtained increased incomes from their estates by means of these very tariffs, and thus had no such cause for complaint against a national policy of mercantilism as had the agriculturists and landed proprietors of France. Consequently there grew up a peculiar national commercial policy in Britain, which has been called "protective solidarity."

British foreign trade increased threefold during the century beginning with the accession of William III. and ending with the French Revolution—from an annual value of 60,000,000 to one of 180,000,000 dollars. European trade was the most important; next followed American, then Asiatic, and finally African. Had it not been for a contemporaneous increase in domestic industry, it would scarcely have been possible for the British to have retained the balance of trade in their favour.

The older system of industry was adopted in England during the sixteenth century, and it preponderated in all the staple branches of manufacturing until the close of the eighteenth. England remained behind the rest of Europe throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, during which period a new method of conducting industries, the factory system, came into vogue on the Continent. The origin of factories cannot be traced. This much only may be said with certainty—new forms of industry were gradually introduced into spheres over which the guilds had no control, and such industries were by their very nature adapted to the methods employed by the

An Era of large manufacturer. Paper- **New** making—for which we have **Industries** evidence even in the fourteenth century—smelting, carried on in establishments attached to mines, cotton spinning and weaving, for which the raw materials were imported from the Levant, printing, brewing, and sugar-refining, partook largely of the nature of factory industries. The establishments that were called into existence by Colbert and his imitators in order

that articles which had previously been imported might be produced at home by domestic labour were organised throughout after the manner of factories. Wherever the mercantile system was introduced, looking-glass, tapestry, silk, army-cloth, porcelain, and tobacco factories were erected, partly as state, partly as private undertakings. Their prosperity depended upon the nation into which they were introduced and the skill of its inhabitants. The manual dexterity of Italians, High Germans, and French was not to be found everywhere; but owing to unfavourable circumstances both Italians and Germans were driven from competition in the world market during the seventeenth century.

Until the eighteenth century, with the exception of metal industries, which were carried on outside the cities—the strongholds of the craftsman and the guild—there was no factory organisation in England. The introduction of the use of coal in metal-founding seems to have been a result of the experiments of Dud Dudley about 1620. The most important trades, such as wool and linen weaving, tanning, and dyeing, still retained the nature of house crafts. Indeed, even the crafts that were taken into England by the

Revolution Huguenots, such as the manufacture of silk **in the Cloth** in Spitalfields, were organised according to **Industry** domestic industrial methods. Although there were cotton-weavers in England, this branch of the textile trade was of little importance, inasmuch as British manufacturers were unable to compete with the West Indians. And yet the cotton industry was destined one day to subject the whole world to the industrial supremacy of England. This became possible owing to the discovery of improved methods for carrying on all branches of weaving—a trade that had never fallen into the hands of the guilds. The replacing of hand labour in the workman's home by machine labour in factories brought about a complete transformation in the cloth industry.

A long series of inventions began with the spinning-machines of Watt, Hargreaves, Arkwright, and Crompton, and the power-looms of Kay and Cartwright. The factories of Richard Arkwright, built in 1768, at first driven by horse and later by water power, were a source of such wealth to their founder that from this time forth the employment of machinery in industry was assured. In the meanwhile, James

Watt had succeeded in inventing a steam-engine capable of practical use; and the Boulton and Watt works at Soho, near Birmingham, supplied the first machines used in spinning and weaving establishments, breweries, and mills. The making of pottery and porcelain had also assumed the proportions of a factory industry, as exemplified by Josiah Wedgwood's establishment at Etruria in Staffordshire. In a comparatively few years there was scarcely an industry to which the new sources of power had not been adapted—wool, linen, and silk followed the lead of cotton.

During the sixteenth century the British Isles still bore the yoke of foreign merchants, although the burden had been much decreased by the shaking off of the Hansa. In the seventeenth century the English had become equal to the Hollanders, and, after having contributed their share in bringing about the downfall of Spain, they began the struggle with France for the possession of the trans-oceanic colonies and various commercial advantages. The commercial struggle still hung in the balance, though the colonial struggle had been brought

**Britain Supreme
in the
Industrial World**

to a decisive conclusion, when suddenly, owing to an extraordinary growth of national intelligence, various new and improved methods of manufacturing were introduced, which, together with inventions of machines and engines, secured to Great Britain the supremacy of the industrial world.

The region of commercial conquest was situated not only on the Continent of Europe, but in other parts of the world, especially in South-eastern Asia, where the British East India Company had been at work for 150 years, without achieving any great success. It had maintained itself with difficulty against Portuguese and Dutch, and several times had been on the verge of collapse, as, for example, during the days of the Commonwealth. Later, during the reign of William III., it was threatened by an opposition company established by Whigs, until finally the two associations were united in 1701.

Prosperity came with the dissolution of the empire of the Great Mogul. To be sure, France began to compete at the same time, but the French were so badly supported and so abominably deceived by their own Government that they were unable to maintain their position. As soon as the East India Company began to

extend its influence over India, the British Government took the management into its own hands, assuming the office of superintendence on the passing of Lord North's Regulating Act in 1773 and the younger Pitt's East India Bill in 1784. India, however, did not become a market for manufacturers until freedom of trade

**Industrial
Progress of
the French**

was granted in 1814, when British machine industry was in a position successfully to compete with the hand labour of the East, despite the amazing cheapness of the latter.

In spite of the fact that, owing to the War of the Spanish Succession and to the Seven Years War, France had lost her North American possessions, and was at the same time obliged to retire from competition with Great Britain in the East Indies, nevertheless during the eighteenth century the mercantile and industrial progress of the French people was remarkable. It is true that during the declining years of Louis XIV. the finances of France were in a wretched condition, and immediately after the War of the Spanish Succession the Government instituted measures that had the effect of a bankruptcy upon the nation. The evil results, however, were chiefly felt by the successors of the old Partisans, for whom there was but little sympathy. But the misery of the lower classes sank only the deeper into the hearts of such patriots as were able to look out beyond the narrow sphere of class interests. Still, the wars had not been a cause of misfortune to all classes. As soon as peace was concluded, capital became heaped up, as in Holland and England, and hungry for profitable investments.

During the regency of the Duke of Orleans the excited impulse for speculation was furthered by the financial system introduced by John Law, a Scotsman, who founded two joint-stock companies—a bank of issue in 1716, and a colonial association, the "Compagnie d'Occident" in 1717, also

**The Craze
for Speculation
in France**

called the Mississippi Company, with which he united the remains of an East Indian-Chinese trading association under the name "Compagnie des Indes" in 1719. The bank was supported by the Government, Law himself receiving the office of superintendent of finances, and it finally pledged itself to pay the National Debt. France was soon flooded with inconvertible notes, and all the while specie was gathered into the state treasury.

Inasmuch as the redemption of the notes was impossible, they became worthless, and were called in from circulation. The shares in the Mississippi Company, of very little value in themselves, became "fancies," and were driven up from a nominal value of 500 livres each to 20,000 livres; and when, in order to moderate

A Sin of the "Ancien Régime"

the extravagance of these dealings, the Government began to lower the prices by degrees, a sudden revulsion took place in public opinion, and all men sought to get rid of their shares, which finally resulted in their being worth about twenty francs apiece. John Law had fled in the meantime, and the winding up of the affairs of his companies followed. For two generations the effects of this lesson were visible in France. The affair was not forgotten until the days of the Revolution, and even then the revolutionary leaders did not forget to include Law's performances in the catalogue of the sins of the "Ancien Régime."

Misfortunes in war and finance had never prevented the people of France from realising to the fullest extent their private economic advantages. Between the heights where the privileged castes lived free from earthly cares and sorrows, and the depths in which the oppressed masses dragged on their miserable existence, lay the great middle class of craftsmen and tradesmen, scholars, to whom it was a matter of regret that they did not possess a position in the state worthy of their material and intellectual significance.

The owners of industries had brought French arts and crafts to a high state of perfection, and the entire prosperity of the export trade rested upon their activity. In spite of domestic drawbacks, the foreign commerce of France had increased fivefold during the eighteenth century; and the traffic with the colonies had grown to ten times its former proportions, although the colonial area had diminished. But there

France's Colonial Possessions

were still valuable possessions among the colonies which France had managed to retain, above all, San Domingo—the eastern part of the Spanish Haiti, ceded to the French in 1697—Guadeloupe, and Martinique in the West Indies, and Réunion in the Indian Ocean. In 1789 the colonial commerce of the French exceeded that of the British by about 150 million livres. Once more during the eighteenth century

the possibility of regaining their lost colonies from the British was opened to the French people, when during the American War of Independence the three nations that had been forced from the sea by Britain—France, Holland, and Spain—entered into an alliance with the revolted colonies. In fact, at the Peace of Versailles, in 1783, France was awarded the Senegal region, Tobago and Pondicherry, while Spain recovered Minorca and Florida; but the trade with the United States was retained by Great Britain, although they were now accessible to merchants and ships of all nations.

During the last years of the eighteenth century men began to look upon the commerce of nations from a broader point of view. Both the English Navigation Act and the traditions of Colbert's system in France had, at least in theory, lost the greater part of their pristine lustre. When France renovated the Bourbon Family Compact in 1761, during the Seven Years War, rights of reciprocity were granted to all lands belonging to members of the House of Bourbon—that is to say, to

Struggle for the World's Commerce

France, Spain, the Two Sicilies, and Parma. In 1787, shortly before the Revolution, the new conceptions of economic freedom having become common property, Great Britain and France entered into a commercial agreement, the so-called Eden Treaty, in accordance with which the high protective duties were decreased, and prohibitions removed from many articles of import. The Revolution, however, put an end to any further development of commercial agreements, and caused the old quarrel as to the supremacy of the sea to burst forth anew.

While Holland, England, and France were competing with one another and increasing their powers in the struggle for supremacy in the world's commerce, national life was at such a low ebb in Germany that the Holy Roman Empire, which had itself once dreamed of world dominion, became little more than a prey to the dominant races of Western Europe. As early as the end of the sixteenth century signs of decay had become visible in all directions; the Hansa was gradually approaching its final dissolution, and the power of the Upper German capitalists was broken. It was during this period of enfeeblement that the Thirty Years War began, and transformed Germany

THE RISE OF EUROPEAN TRADE

from the most densely populated and best cultivated country in Europe into a desert. Since agriculture began again for the most part with the reclaiming of barren land, and absorbed into itself almost the entire working power of the people, German industry was unable to break through the limits of local demand without the assistance of foreign capital, and as a result German commerce became linked to foreign interests by ties that could not be broken. Western Germany on both sides of the Rhine fell into the hands of the Dutch, who barred the mouths of the Scheldt and the Maas so effectually that the Spanish—since 1714 the Austrian—Netherlands, or Belgium, were also cut off from traffic with foreign nations.

Since the end of the seventeenth century French articles of luxury, art, and fashion were imported into Germany from the West, for ever since the accession of Louis XIV. France had taken the place of Italy in setting the fashions. The decay of the fairs at Frankfort-on-Main, which had possessed a Continental importance during the sixteenth century,

was a token of the economic servitude of Western Germany. **Where the British Predominated** The British were predominant from Hamburg, where the Merchant Adventurers had established themselves as early as the sixteenth century, to Saxony and Silesia. Although the North Sea cities retained their character as depôts for foreign trade during the very worst years of the economic dependence of Germany, and in the eighteenth century were quite capable of taking an independent share in the world's commerce, the harbours of the Baltic were deserted; Lübeck, once the queen of the North, as well as the smaller ports. Danzig alone—under the rule of Poland—remained the great centre of the export trade which was carried on from the richly productive region of the Vistula; yet even Danzig, like Hamburg, was little more than a link in the chain of Dutch and English economic interests.

The more the principles of the mercantile system were accepted by the various German Governments, the worse became the condition of the small principalities, and especially of the industrial cities of the empire, like Nüremberg; for such towns were so shut in on all points by customs duties and prohibitions on trade that they were compelled to forgo all

competition in foreign markets. There was no unity in Germany such as is brought about by a strong central government or by the rigid application of the mercantile system. Each of the minor states to which complete independence had been granted by the Peace of Westphalia imitated the policy to which the great powers of

The Old German Empire Western Europe had come through a long course of development, but this policy had no meaning whatever in a small state. In Prussia and in Austria it was it possible for the mercantile system to be carried out to success; there, indeed, it attained to the most favourable results, creating economic unity from various dynastically joined provinces, and transforming a heterogeneous mass into an organised structure.

It is true that the old German Empire still had an emperor, and even, since the year 1663, a permanent Reichstag; but after the imperial modifications of the sixteenth century, which had left both imperial army and finances in a half-organised state, so that not even such beneficial measures as the regulations respecting the coinage of 1524, 1551, 1558 could have any practical effect, a period of complete inaction of all governmental functions followed during the seventeenth century. Even the atrocious disorder that reigned in the currency at the beginning of the Thirty Years War, due chiefly to the activities of money-clippers, was insufficient to induce the imperial government to take any steps towards establishing order; it merely renounced its rights in favour of the lesser provincial rulers.

The wars with the Turks and the French alone were of general interest sufficient to keep alive a consciousness of common life and aims in the German people. It was all the more remarkable that, after some fifty years of negotiations, the empire actually passed a law in

The German Empire Roused Into Action regard to an economic-political matter. This was the Imperial Industry Law of 1731.

"The unheard-of had occurred; the German Empire, after a pause of centuries, finally roused itself to the enactment of a uniform legislative measure, through which the chief difficulty that had previously stood in the way of corporation reform was overcome. However, it immediately became evident that uniform legislation without a uniform

executive is, in a certain sense, very much like a wooden poker." In fact, the organisation of the guilds, originating as it did during the age of mediæval city states, was an anachronism in the days of the mercantile system; it was at least necessary for it to adapt itself to the requirements of the new economic life

The New Economic Life of Nations

of nations. Long ago, during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, craftsmen and small merchants had united into independent associations in order not only to limit mutual and foreign competition, but to overcome the supremacy of the capitalists, who were members of the more or less distinguished patrician families of the towns.

The control of industrial affairs in the cities gradually became transferred from the guilds to the municipal authorities. Then followed associations of the guilds themselves, some of which extended their power over the whole country—indeed, beyond the boundaries of the empire. Inasmuch as the trades corporations represented the interests of the master craftsmen alone—and of these only the wealthier—journeymen and labourers were compelled to form their own associations, which from the end of the fifteenth until well into the eighteenth century carried on an embittered class struggle with the masters.

Such drawbacks to trade were legislated against in France in the industrial regulations of Henry III. in 1581 and of Henry IV. in 1597; here, as in England, the central government sought to control the guilds and associations of craftsmen by means of legislative and administrative measures. In Germany also the ruling princes had the same praiseworthy intention of putting an end to the nuisance of constant industrial quarrels so hurtful to the community; but, owing to the vast expansion of the various associations of master-craftsmen

The German Empire Crumbling

and journeymen, extending far beyond the boundaries of their territories, the sovereign princes were unable to accomplish their object until the imperial law of 1731 was passed, showing them a way to help themselves out of the difficulty through the introduction of uniform measures. Improvements, of course, depended on the goodwill, the intelligence, and the power of the rulers, in whose hands lay the weal and woe of the crumbling

German Empire. The minor ruling princes of Germany were able to accomplish but little compared with what was done in Prussia and Austria after these large states had once adopted the mercantile system—that is to say, at the end of the seventeenth century. Both the external and internal policies of the two nations began to develop at the same time, as did also their rivalry, when, by help of the mercantile system of Western Europe, their monarchs sought to increase the productive capacity of their countries, which were so much behind the times.

The Great Elector Frederic William (1640-1688), the founder of the military power of Prussia, who united Eastern Pomerania and Prussia with Brandenburg, was also the originator of an economic policy that extended far beyond the narrow limits of an ordinary German territorial state. In his naval and colonial plans he paid homage to the spirit of the time. Unfortunately, he endeavoured to hasten natural development too rapidly, with the result that the colonies hurriedly established on the Guinea Coast and on

Failure of Prussian Colonies

the island of Arguin were complete failures, while the Dutch and the French looked upon their new rivals with no friendly eyes. The Great Elector occupies a brilliant place in the history of commerce, inasmuch as he was the originator of the Prussian system of territorial posts and of the canals that connect the rivers of Eastern Germany. By means of the Müllrose canal he guided the traffic between the districts of the Oder and the Elbe through his rapidly developing capital of Berlin.

His grandson, Frederic William I., laid the foundations of German bureaucracy, and showed how a government could pay all claims, whether domestic or foreign, without contracting a national debt—indeed, could have a balance left over at the end of each year to go towards forming a state treasury. Seeing that since the end of the Thirty Years War no possession was more necessary to the state than inhabitants, he offered a refuge in his dominions to some 20,000 Protestant refugees who had been driven from Salsburg by their intolerant archbishop, Firmian; in fact, the Great Elector had long ago begun internal colonisation by welcoming Huguenot refugees, who transplanted various branches of French industry to Prussian soil, as well as Irish Catholics flying from

Protestant intolerance. In contrast to the Huguenots, the Salsburgers settled down as agriculturists, chiefly in East Prussia. Hussites from Bohemia and Swiss Protestants also found a second home in Prussia, while the Irish swelled the army. As an opponent of the exportation of money, and consequently of the importation of foreign manufactures—cotton goods, for example—Frederic William I. furthered the domestic cloth industry. A "Russian Company" was founded for the carrying on of traffic in cloth with the Muscovite empire, and a depôt was erected at Berlin, where small producers could offer their goods for sale after they had been subjected to inspection.

After Frederic II. had used up in the Silesian war the army and treasure left him by his father, he was obliged to look out for fresh supplies; but not until the interval of peace that followed the Seven Years War, in 1763, was he able to carry out his plans of economic improvement. And he, the greatest sovereign of the eighteenth century, clear-sighted, intelligent, and absolute in power, was likewise a mercantilist; that is to say, he was an instructor of an economically backward people in certain theories of commerce. He attained the chief object of exterior commercial policy, a balance of trade, with but little difficulty: the value of imports was from four to five million thalers less than the value of exports annually. However, the king was unable to establish successful trans-oceanic connections, and the German-Asiatic companies of Emden were failures from the very beginning.

Various domestic institutions, such as the Bank of Berlin, the Society of Maritime Commerce, and an institute of credit, formed in order to prevent the families and property of the nobility dwelling east of the Elbe from falling into the hands of usurers, were attended with far greater prosperity. If it required the power of the state to create these institutions,

the same was true of the calling of new branches of industry into being. It was only with great difficulty that Frederic II. introduced silk-worm culture and silk-weaving into his kingdom. Workmen were needed for all these things, and he enticed them into his dominions by means of awards of money and grants of land. Especially when, after the first partition of Poland, West Prussia fell to his share, agriculturists were necessary and were supplied from the over-populated districts of South-western Germany, particularly from Würtemberg. Nevertheless, in 1785, shortly before Frederic's death, Prussia possessed little over 5,500,000 inhabitants.

Such a small nation, one, moreover, that was obliged to bear the arms of a power or the first rank even in times of peace, could not preserve its status for any great length of time without suffering from various financial troubles, however much it husbanded its resources. Frederic's administration, particularly the methods of government monopoly and taxation for revenue, organised by the Frenchman, La Haye de Launay, and carried out with the assistance of French financial experts, awakened the hatred of his subjects. The coffee monopoly was characteristic of his reign; it practically suppressed a commodity whose use took large sums of money annually from the kingdom. But in spite of all his peculiarities, Frederic the Great promoted the economic prosperity of his kingdom.

When the Prussian government was once more established after the troubles of 1806-1807, the views and requirements of the people had so altered that practical mercantilism could be looked upon as a thing of the past. Prussia adopted the principles of economic liberalism earlier than did any other German state, for the reason that throughout its development attention had been paid to the preliminary steps towards liberty. The end of the Thirty Years War failed to bring peace to the hereditary

**Prussia's
Financial
Troubles**



JOSIAH WEDGWOOD
A native of Burslem, he raised English pottery to a fine art, and made a fortune out of his works at Etruria. Born in 1730, he died in 1795.

**Prosperity
of Domestic
Institutions**

dominions of the House of Austria. French, Turks, and insurgents rendered it necessary for Leopold I. and his sons, Joseph I. and Charles VI., constantly to engage in wars, which had to be borne by the already exhausted provinces of Old Austria and Bohemia. Moreover, the once prosperous trade with Italy had come to an end,

**Austria in
Financial
Difficulties**

and there was no market for the products of the fertile Austrian soil. During the reign of Leopold I. attempts were made towards building model workshops and manufactories and establishing monopolies, but there was a lack, not only of money, but of contractors and competent officials. Escape from financial difficulties was sought through foreign loans, raised in Holland, England, Genoa, and the imperial cities of Germany. By the foundation of the City Bank in Vienna in 1706 the Government secured a means of obtaining money without going abroad, and drew upon the deposits there for the loans it needed.

Until the reign of Charles VI. there was no consistent commercial policy, based upon a developed mercantile system, in Austria. The emperor desired Ostend to be a point of departure for trans-oceanic traffic, because of its favourable situation in the Spanish—since 1714 Austrian—Netherlands, but the East India Company, established for this purpose in 1722, soon fell a victim to the jealousy of Holland and England in 1731. He was far more successful in his endeavour to obtain a share in Mediterranean commerce through the Adriatic harbours of Trieste and Fiume, free ports since 1719, as Venice was no longer in a condition to offer any opposition. On the other hand, the attempt to further Eastern trade by means of a great Oriental monopoly company was a complete failure, and brought with it a disaster similar to that which had resulted from Law's companies in France. The deliberate policy of centralisation adopted during the reign of Maria

**The Reign
of Maria
Theresa**

Theresa was also directed towards unifying the financial and economic affairs of the Bohemian and German provinces; while, on the other hand, the isolated condition of the Hungarian, Italian, and Flemish portions of the empire was allowed to remain unaltered. In the first-named provinces even the inland duties were removed and the customs service regulated in 1775. In like manner the national debt was consoli-

dated, the currency set on a firm basis—according to the twenty-florin standard agreed upon with Bavaria in 1753—and the Vienna Bourse became a central point for dealings in money, exchange, and stocks.

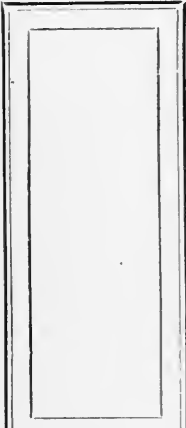
The reign of Joseph II. was also rich in improvements. Among its failures may be included the beginning of the indebtedness of the Government in 1782, that unfortunately lasted until 1889. In spite of many protests, Joseph II. adopted in 1784 the system of prohibition of various commodities for the sake of protection, which remained in force until 1850. All foreign goods that either were or could be produced at home, or seemed to be superfluous, were not permitted to be imported for sale. To be sure, men were allowed to bring with them over the frontier certain articles for their own personal use, but heavy duties were exacted. Under the protection of this prohibitory system of Joseph II. the industries of Austria began to develop greatly; a large export trade was carried on with Hungary, which, until 1850, was a separate customs district, and with the Ottoman Empire. Joseph II. also sought

**Government
of the
Small States**

to transform the Austrian Netherlands into a maritime commercial country, but in 1785 the Dutch successfully resisted all his attempts to break through their blockade of the Scheldt.

Thus, during the eighteenth century, notwithstanding that there were Prussian and Austrian regions of production of considerable extent, there was no distinctively German sphere of commerce. Small states and provinces were governed by no definite policy, although, in spite of their weakness and the amazing capacities for misgovernment of some of their sovereigns, a few of them attained to industrial and commercial significance, as, for example, the Electorate of Saxony. Most of them were content with bringing forth an excess of population, of which large numbers were sold to foreign countries during the wars of the time by unscrupulous rulers as food for cannon. For this reason a great advance in progress was shown when an excess of population was first used for colonising purposes: by Prussia in her eastern provinces, and by Austria in Hungary and Galicia. In most countries the century was a mere parenthesis, and Europe had at the beginning of the nineteenth century to start afresh.

RICHARD MAYR



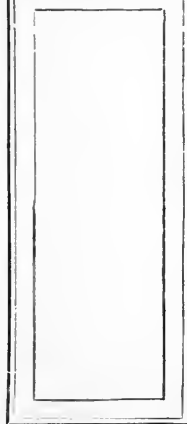
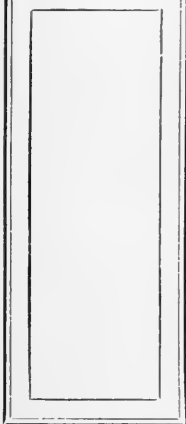
EUROPE
FIFTH DIVISION
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
AND NAPOLEONIC ERA

The French Revolution is an event—if we may legitimately apply that term to a series of occurrences extending over five years—which forms, perhaps, the most definite epoch, the moment most pregnant of change, in European history since the fall of the Western Roman Empire; unless we except the decade following Luther's challenge to Tetzels, or the voyage of Columbus.

The French Revolution changed the social order of half the continent immediately, though its work in that field is not even yet completed. And it also caused, though it did not at once effect, a fundamental change in the political order, the gradual democratisation of governments, the ultimate control of articulate Public Opinion over State policy. But besides these permanent results it evoked that unique phenomenon, the Napoleonic Empire; and by doing so it drew the Muscovite Empire more definitely than before into the main current of Western history, so that the division into East and West, which we have hitherto observed, of necessity disappears.

Throughout the whole period of the Revolution, the militant Republic, and the Empire, France, or France impersonated by Napoleon, dominates the historic stage so completely that the subdivisions of the narrative are fixed by French events; and we have only deviated from this principle so far as to devote a separate section to the affairs of Great Britain.

Thus in the succeeding pages the reader will follow the story of the fall of the French Monarchy, the Terror, the Rise of Bonaparte, the Military Dictatorship, the Empire and its downfall; to be followed hereafter by the story of the European reaction, succeeded by the Nationalist reorganisation and the social and political development of popular ascendancy.

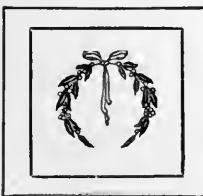


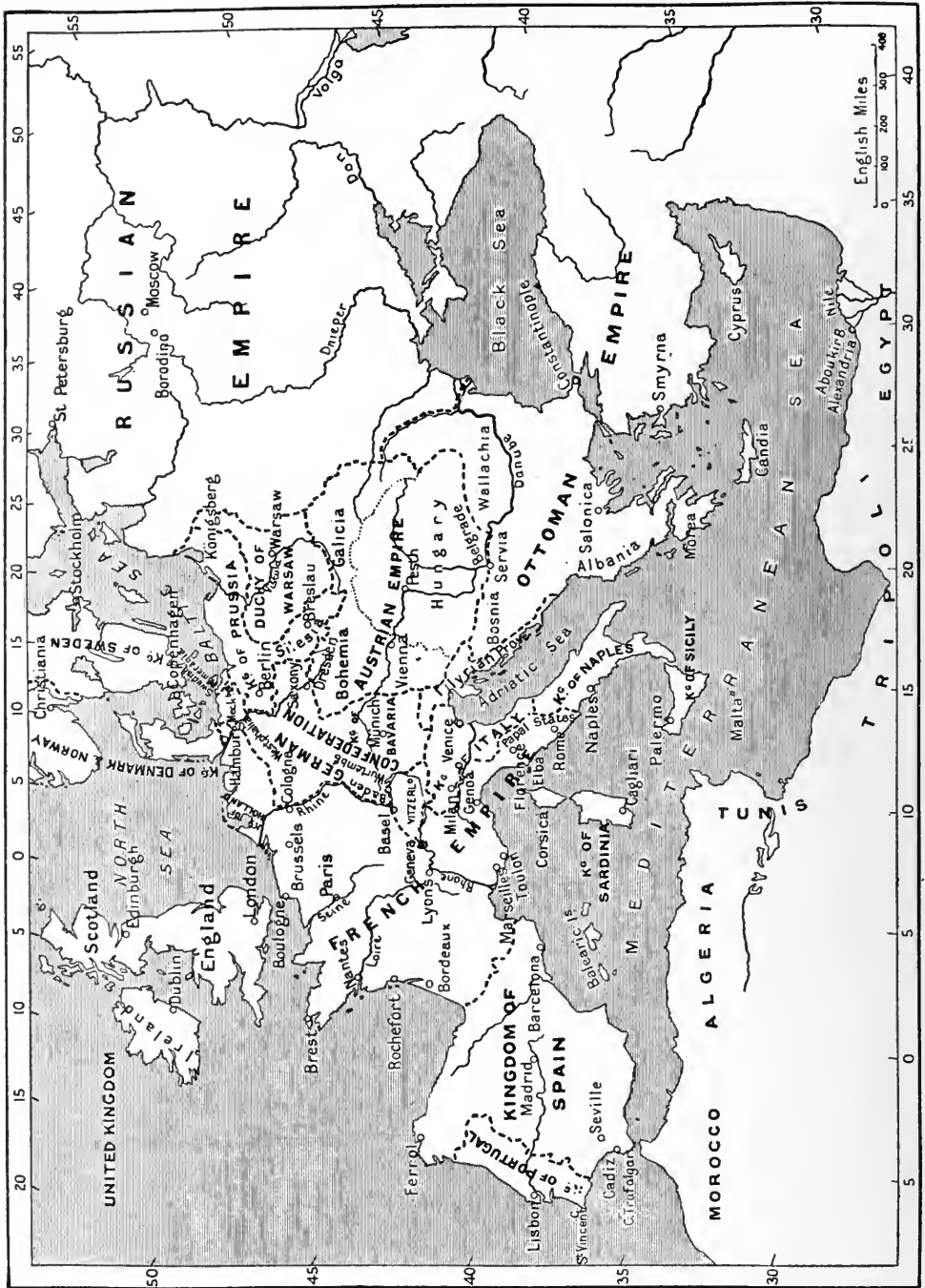
GENERAL SURVEY OF THE PERIOD
By Dr. J. Holland Rose

HISTORY: FROM THE REVOLUTION TO THE
HUNDRED DAYS
By Arthur D. Innes, M.A.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
By H. W. C. Davis, M.A.

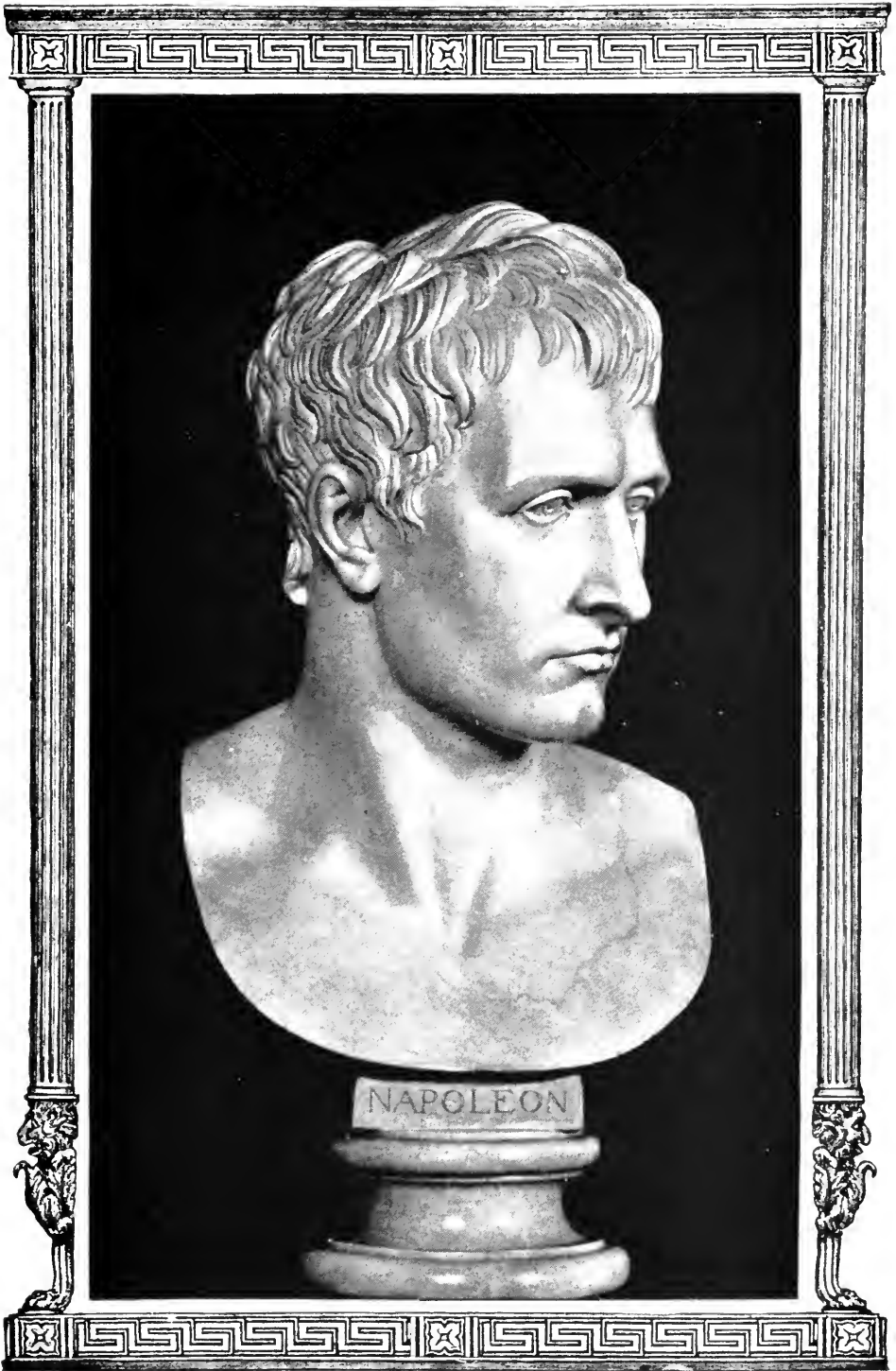
HOW TRAFALGAR CHANGED THE FACE OF
THE WORLD
By Sir John Knox Laughton





MAP TO ILLUSTRATE THE FIFTH DIVISION OF EUROPE

The fifth division of Europe differs from preceding divisions of our History in the fact that the territorial interests cease to be localised, for with the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era the whole continent comes up for general treatment. In the four divisions of Europe with which we have dealt a distinction was maintained between the eastern and western nations, but now, and to the end of the Grand Division, European history is treated as a whole; the point of view is chronological rather than geographical. The map shows the disposition of the countries of Europe during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Era, with the history of which this division of our work is concerned.



NAPOLEON THE GREAT

From the bust by Canova in the Pitti Gallery, Florence



THE FRENCH



REVOLUTION & NAPOLEONIC ERA GENERAL SURVEY OF THE PERIOD

By Dr. J. Holland Rose

IT used to be the fashion, in the generation which was dominated by the personality of Thomas Carlyle, to dwell in rhapsodic strains on the cataclysmic character of the French Revolution. Similes of the explosive order were worked very hard, the result being that the average reader, who too often confuses similes with arguments, came to regard that great event as an outcome of the workings of the *kosmos* no less inevitable and terrible than the periodic quakings and rendings of the earth's crust, to which it seemed to have some hidden relation.

But times have changed. The volcanic or earthquake similes have worked themselves out. After all, they explain nothing. They do not show why the revolution broke out in France and during the reign of Louis XVI., still less why it ran the course which it did, only to be followed by the ascendancy of Napoleon. The present age is nothing if not scientific. History is now recognised as a science, and not as one of the inferior domains of literature, to which Dr. Johnson contemptuously assigned it. Historians seek to attract not so much by glowing descriptions as by presenting illuminating explanations of the course of events, especially those which affect the progress of the species.

They strive to bring their narratives down from the misty heights of tragedy to the lower levels whereon men act, not as demi-gods, but as fallible creatures, where the action ceases to be epic in order to be human. What their story loses in picturesqueness it partly regains in philosophic interest. If the historian of to-day fails to

dazzle the imagination, he at least ought to seek to enlighten the understanding. Viewed from this standpoint, which may be termed philosophical or evolutionary, the French Revolution will be regarded, not as an appalling explosion, but as the greatest and most terrible of all the many movements of modern times which have

aimed at the emancipation of mankind from outworn usages. There were many reasons why the outbreak should have occurred first in France of all European lands. We cannot imagine a great revolution taking place in England in the year 1789, firstly, because feudalism and monarchy never had been so deeply planted and so rigidly developed there as they had been in France, and, secondly, because the champions of political freedom had won nearly all that they strove for in the political revolution of 1688.

The century that elapsed after that event was essentially conservative, and though Britons had many grievances both against George III. and the landed aristocracy, yet there was no talk of dethroning the king and expropriating the landlords even

at the close of that most disastrous War of American Independence. The apathy of the English in the years 1780-1789 was equally surprising and distressing to professed reformers like Charles James Fox.

In France everything was different. There were three forces that had long been repressing the growth of the nation. The first of these was the royal power, which, in theory at least, was as absolute under Louis XVI. as under Louis XIV., *le grand*

**History
as a
Science**

**Reasons for
the French
Revolution**

**France Under
its Absolute
Monarchy**

monarque, who said, with perfect truth : "L'Etat c'est moi." A second and far more burdensome influence was that exerted by feudal customs from which all the life had gone. Defensible as many of these had been in the Middle Ages, when the barons were expected to protect their peasants in return for the dues and services which they exacted, nothing could be urged in their defence in an age when the great lords neither defended the realm at their own charges, nor fulfilled the duties of landlords, but were occupied mainly in acting as courtiers at Versailles and Paris.

Imminence of National Bankruptcy

The third of these untoward influences resulted largely from the extravagance of the monarchs and the almost complete immunity of the nobles and titled clergy from taxation ; it was the imminence of national bankruptcy. All the great powers were in difficulties as a result of the many wars of that generation ; and Great Britain especially suffered severely from the American War of Independence ; but after its close she had the good fortune to gain a statesman, William Pitt the younger, whose careful husbanding of the nation's resources soon brought her back to prosperity.

At the same time, in France the extravagant policy of Calonne plunged that nation deeper in the mire and led to those conflicts between the king and the old juridical bodies, the Parlements, from which there seemed to be no escape save by the summoning of the States-General in May, 1789. This last step furnished a humiliating proof of the helplessness of King Louis XVI. in face of a difficult but by no means hopeless situation. In theory an absolute monarch, he had not the political foresight, the insight into men, or the needed firmness of will, to carry through by royal decree that most necessary of reforms, the subjection of the privileged orders to the national taxation.

Nowhere else in the world was there the same financial need ; and nowhere did a great state drift so helplessly as France after the American War of Independence. Her participation in that struggle was in reality a serious political blunder. While dealing a deadly blow at England, she stored up for herself a day of reckoning. Her soldiers, after helping those of Washington to found a free commonwealth, became missionaries

of democracy when, on their return to France, they found the old abuses rampant, the higher ranks of the service more than ever closed to commoners, and the pay of the rank and file falling hopelessly in arrears.

The importance of this source of discontent has probably been underrated. Writers have descanted on the revolutionary forces let loose by Voltaire and Rousseau ; and it is true that the cultured classes, which had laughed at the mordant ironies of the philosopher of Ferney and had accepted the new social gospel proclaimed by the Genevese seer, thenceforth for the most part allied themselves with the critics and assailants of the old order of things both in Church and State. But the influence of these writers and of the whole cohort of the Encyclopædists did not extend very far. The workmen of the towns and the whole mass of the peasantry were not moved by such writings, for the simple reason that they could not read.

But they were aroused by the stories told by the many thousands of French troops who now knew what liberty was,

Beginnings of the Revolution

and looked on the old grievances with eyes which had been enlightened. There indeed was an influence which worked like leaven through the whole of the army and permeated large parts of the industrial population. The hitherto unavailing efforts of the *intelligencia* to overthrow the autocracy and bureaucracy in Russia furnish an instructive commentary on the beginnings of the French Revolution.

They show that the well-educated classes alone cannot bring about a great political change. The *débacle* can begin only when the masses are set in motion, and when the soldiery refuse to act for the throne against their fellow citizens. Mazzini has finely said that a revolution is the passing of an idea into actuality ; but to this terse and suggestive statement we must add the proviso that the brain which conceives the idea must have full control over the nerves and muscles of the body. That controlling power which produced the events of 1789 emanated very largely from the troops that fought for the cause of freedom in the New World.

Now, a brief comparison of the condition of France with that of the other great powers will show them to have been free from the chief influences which made for the overthrow of the French monarchy.

FRENCH REVOLUTION: GENERAL SURVEY OF THE PERIOD

Nowhere else, except in England, had the national consciousness been so vividly aroused; in no land, except Spain, was the monarchy so all-pervading an institution. Germany and Italy were merely geographical names, devoid of any political significance; in those picturesque mosaics there was little cohesion and no life. Russia was too barbarous, and Spain too torpid to struggle for popular liberty. In Great Britain the forces of the time might have tended towards revolution but for the timely reforms of the Whigs and Pitt. Further, none of these powers suffered from that concentration of wealth at the capital which left the country districts denuded, and drew to Paris hunger-stricken throngs of peasants in the hope of picking up crumbs from the table of Dives.

The great thinker, Montesquieu, as far back as the year 1748 had seen whereto this was tending when he penned this damning indictment of the policy of Louis XIV. and Louis XV.: "Monarchy is destroyed when the prince, directing everything to himself, brings the country to the capital, the capital to his court, and the court to his own person." Add to the foregoing considerations these last: that this centralised monarchy was now in the hands of a sovereign wholly incompetent to bear the weight of responsibility; and that in France, far more than in any other land, the body politic had been infected by the virus of democracy—and the reasons of the political outbreak which occurred in France in 1789 will be intelligible.

The reader who peruses the stories of misgovernment, class favouritism, and gross stupidity in the handling of finance, will perhaps wonder why the outbreak did not come sooner—say, during the reign of Louis XV., a far worse ruler than Louis XVI. We may reply that reasons partly material and partly personal brought the doom on the head of the more innocent monarch. The financial strain of the American War led to the financial troubles which caused the convocation of the States-General; and the summer of 1788 was marked by a prolonged drought which ended in a violent hailstorm. The winter of 1788-1789 was also among the severest ever known, the result being that the elections for the States-General were held amid scenes of want and excitement.

Nevertheless matters might have gone smoothly had the king and his chief Minister, Necker, possessed foresight, initiative, and firmness. They lacked these qualities, and the result was an irritating indecision and vacillation on the burning question of the constitution of the States-General. For details the reader

must consult the general narrative. Here we may note that Louis was at one with his subjects on the financial and other practical reforms which were so urgently needed; but he resented the step taken by the Tiers État, or Commons, of declaring themselves to be the National Assembly of France. Thereafter he gave ear to his queen and to the other reactionary advisers who led him to attempt the feeble coup d'état of July 13th-14th.

Thus we may say that the final causes of the popular outbreak, by which Paris successfully defied the monarchy, are traceable to the incompetence of the king and to the spasmodic and ill-advised interference of Marie Antoinette in political affairs. That unfortunate queen had the charm and spirit of her mother, Maria Theresa, but none of her tact and sagacity. In 1774 she induced Louis XVI. to dismiss the great reforming Minister, Turgot, because his economies injured a court favourite; and her behaviour in matters political was generally the outcome of sentiment and passion.

Dumont, the friend of Mirabeau and Bentham, went so far as to ascribe the French Revolution solely to the failings of the king and queen. This is defective reasoning. To attribute a great and complex event to a single cause, and that a small one, is irrational. But we may admit that those failings gave the final tilt to events which resulted from other and weightier causes.

To attempt to divide up into periods a great movement like that of the French

Revolution, which possesses an inner unity amid all its external diversities, is a somewhat futile task. Even at the time of the first defiance of the royal power by the Tiers État in the latter half of June there was seen the stern insistence on the sovereignty of the people which rendered compromise difficult, if not impossible. The capture of the Bastille by the Parisian populace on July 14th led to scenes of violence both in the capital and the

A Weak King on the French Throne

The Queen's Evil Influence in Politics

The Bastille Captured by the Populace

provinces, which showed the weakness of the governing power and the strength of the anarchic forces now coming to a head. Nothing is more remarkable than the ease with which feudalism and the absolute monarchy were then struck down.

The abolition of agrarian abuses and feudal privileges was decided in a single sitting of the National Assembly on August 10th, 1789. The prerogatives of the old monarchy went by the board in the debates on the royal veto and the outlines of the future constitution. A few irritating occurrences at Versailles, and the secret use of the money of the Duke of Orleans to stir up sedition at Paris, sufficed to send forth the "dames des halles" and the dregs of the populace in a turbid stream westwards, which overbore the feeble defences at Versailles and brought back king, queen, and court to Paris, October 5th and 6th. The National Assembly soon followed them; and, in a limited sense, we may say that the Reign of Terror had its beginnings in the events which centred around the capture of the Bastille, the "jacquerie" of July-August, and the victory of the manads of Paris at Versailles. Thereafter the Government fell more and more under the control of a suffering and excitable populace.

Nevertheless, the final triumph of the anarchic forces came slowly, and it might possibly have been averted had the more moderate leaders, whether Royalists or Democrats, come to some understanding. But it is one of the peculiarities of the French Revolution, as that gifted woman, Mme. Roland, finely remarked, that while the movement was great, the men of the time were mediocre. From this statement we must except one truly inspiring personality; and Mirabeau, though possessing the width of vision and magnetic gifts which mark the statesman, lacked one of the essentials of a leader of men in that he never inspired confidence. The National Assembly showed a most unworthy jealousy of its ablest member by passing a decree—November 9th, 1789—which shut out him or any member of the House from the king's Ministry.

Excluded from all control of affairs, Mirabeau finally drifted into ambiguous courses, taking money secretly from the king in return for advice—which Louis very rarely followed—and yet posing

before the world as the great tribune of the people. In reality, his aims were thoroughly sound—namely, to rid the king of all reactionary tendencies, to make him figure as leader in a popular movement, and to strengthen the reformed monarchy so as to enable it to defy the Parisian demagogues. The scheme broke down mainly owing to the suspicion which his notorious vices inspired both in the king and the Democrats; but also because men in authority, like Necker—the chief Minister until September, 1790—and Lafayette, commander of the Parisian National Guards, refused to act with him. The union of these three men for the support of moderate reforms and the renovated monarchy might have stemmed the course of anarchy. As it was, power passed from the king's Ministry, even from the once popular Lafayette, to the political clubs.

For while the friends of order remained in disunion that very event which Mirabeau most feared was coming to pass—"anarchy was organising itself." The Jacobin Club, at first a reunion of men of all parties, became both more extreme in its views and more powerful throughout France. Men of clear-cut theories and incisive speech, like Robespierre, there gained a hearing which the National Assembly often denied to them. The social gospel, first set forth by Rousseau in his "Contrat Social" in 1762, and now preached by "the sea-green incorruptible," as Carlyle dubs Robespierre, proved to be an impelling force of the first magnitude. It was spread everywhere by newspapers and pamphlets which reported the debates of the Jacobin Club; and the managers of that institution, with a foresight not to be found in the royal counsels, affiliated to the mother society in Paris the many thousands of clubs which sprang up in the provinces.

The result was seen in the heightening of democratic fervour which marked the years 1790-1792. By the departmental system, which came into force early in 1790, the French people gained local self-government very nearly on the basis of manhood suffrage. The summer of that year saw titles of nobility abolished and the Church of Rome in France compelled to fit in with the new local organisation, her bishops and priests being required to submit to popular election and to take an oath of allegiance to the civil power

The Reign of Terror Begins

Preachers of the Social Gospel

Mirabeau "the Tribune of the People"

which invalidated their allegiance to the Pope. The attempt to enforce this measure—called “The Civil Constitution of the Clergy”—led to a schism in the ranks of the clergy. The pliable minority who bowed before the civil power were termed “constitutionals”; those who refused to take the oath were known as “non-jurors.” From that time we may date the beginnings of a religious reaction against the Revolution which finally aroused the Royalist and intensely Catholic west in a series of desperate revolts.

This same ill-omened measure likewise completed the disgust of the king at the course of events; and after the death of Mirabeau, on April 2nd, 1791, the king attempted to flee, not to Royalist Normandy, as Mirabeau had advised, but to the eastern frontier, where he would come into touch with the Austrians and the bands of reactionary emigrant French nobles assembling in the Rhineland. The attempt failed miserably at Varennes at midsummer of 1791, and the schism between king and nation was now seen to be complete. This date, therefore,

France the Centre of Difficulties

marks a fatal point in the course of the Revolution. It was impossible long to keep at the head of affairs a king who desired to run away to the Austrians; and thereafter a Republican party began to form.

Nevertheless, an attempt was made by all moderate men to avert anarchy by bolstering up the royal power; but it failed in face of the passions which had been aroused. The new National Assembly was more extreme than its predecessor; and when Francis II. of Austria, nephew of Marie Antoinette, seemed to imply that he had the right of interference in French affairs, the party of enthusiastic idealists, known as the Girondins, who were now uppermost in the Ministry of Louis XVI., pushed him on to declare war against Austria. Prussia, Sardinia, and the Holy Roman Empire thereafter declared against France, which found herself beset by alarming difficulties.

The outbreak of the war is perhaps the most sinister event in the whole course of the French Revolution. Imagine the fury which would have been aroused in England if before the outbreak of the Civil War French troops had invaded that country with the avowed object of rescuing Charles I. and his consort Henrietta—a

French princess—and of putting down the popular party. The instinct of nationality shows that this would immediately have ruined the royal cause, and have led to a general rising against a prince thenceforth deemed a traitor to his people. Power would at once have passed to the extreme party, which demanded his deposition and

Failure of the Royal Scheme

the adoption of the most vigorous measures against the common enemy. If, after his deposition, the ranks of the invaders had been strengthened by a Spanish army with English nobles acting as its vanguard, we can picture the rage which would have fallen on all other Royalists or their adherents. The agony of the nation would have led to deeds of violence impossible at ordinary times, and to the ascendancy of any faction, however desperate, which had vigour enough to beat off the invaders and avenge the outraged dignity of the nation. “Salus populi suprema lex.” At such a crisis desperadoes figure as heroes, and even a massacre of supposed traitors ceases to be odious.

Transfer this supposed case to France in 1792, and the overthrow of the monarchy, the September massacres, the victory of the extreme party at the polls, the proclamation of the Republic by the Convention, the astounding military efforts which beat back the Prussians and Austrians, the execution of Louis XVI. as an accomplice of the invaders—all this becomes intelligible. We pity the king, but there can be little doubt that he secretly desired, and even worked for, the declaration of war in April, 1792, in the hope that this would bring the forces of Central Europe in triumph to Paris for the rescue of himself and the confusion of his foes.

His conduct at every crisis was miserably weak. Early on the morning of August 10th, which was to see his overthrow, his bearing was so uninspiring as to unman the defenders at the

The lost Opportunity of Louis XVI.

Tuileries. A hero would have rallied round him the wavering battalions of the National Guard, and imposed on the Marseillaise and the populace. The queen then showed that she was the daughter of Maria Theresa; but she soon came to despair of success and gave her consent to that tamest of surrenders by which a Bourbon left his palace and sought refuge with the National Assembly. Heroism was shown on that day only by a few

Royalist gentlemen and by alien mercenaries, the Swiss regiment, which even in its death agonies sought to protect the shield of the fleur de lys. A little olive-cheeked lieutenant of artillery who looked on at that last struggle to uphold the honour of the old monarchy believed that if the Royalist troops at the Tuileries had been well led they would have won

of the day. Such was the judgment of the French King of Napoleon Bonaparte. It is needless to review here the events of the republican wars and of the Reign of Terror. My aim has been to point out the meaning of events and the interaction of forces that brought France to that awful year 1793, which Victor Hugo has so vividly depicted. The fanaticism of the Jacobins appeared in the energy with which they pressed back the invaders at the close of 1792, and threw down the gauntlet to England and Holland on the question of the River Scheldt. Danton's gigantic phrase, "Let us fling down to Europe the head of a king as gage of battle," came to be literally true.

On February 1st, 1793, eleven days after the execution of Louis XVI., the French Convention declared war against England and Holland, and five weeks later against Spain. This aggressive policy led up to another sharp crisis, France losing Belgium and having her north-eastern districts invaded. But again the emergency called forth all her energies. The incompetent Girondins were flung on one side; the unscrupulous Jacobins seized on power, and, discarding parliamentary forms, governed despotically through two secret committees, those of Public Safety and of General Security.

Little by little the "levée en masse," decreed by the Convention and organised by Carnot, made headway against the invaders on all the frontiers and crushed the Girondin and Royalist opposition in the south and west. At the same time Robespierre and his colleagues sought to purge France of her bad blood by systematically setting about the Reign of Terror, the prelude, as he believed, to the golden age foreshadowed in the writings of Rousseau.

The experiment was a ghastly failure. France fell back exhausted on the more feasible of the schemes of the earlier revolutionists; but the time of Robespierre's ascendancy—from July, 1793, till July, 1794

—led to one result, the importance of which, perhaps, has not been sufficiently emphasised. The disillusionment and despair which settled upon France at the end of the Reign of Terror and led to a sharp Royalist reaction a year later directly favoured the supremacy of the army. That must always happen when the political problem seems insoluble, and when the army alone wins decided successes.

To recur once more to English history, the shortcomings of civilians at the close of the Civil War and during the Commonwealth made the supremacy of the greatest soldier of the age inevitable. So, too, the French Republic in 1794-1796, though strong enough to crush the revolts of malcontents and Royalists, failed to harmonise the claims of liberty and order, failed to build up a durable constitution—that of the Directory leading to constant friction—and therefore failed to maintain that equilibrium between the civil power and the army which has ever been the crux of French politics.

Now, too, there arose a mighty genius who would perhaps in any case have

Rise of the Great Bonaparte gained the mastery which Burke in 1790 foretold would be the outcome of events in France.

The little Corsican, Napoleon Bonaparte, had done much towards saving the Republic in the great street fight of Vendémiaire, October, 1795, at Paris, and ere long men were to see the danger of cutting the Gordian knot of French politics by the sword. That same trenchant sword ended the Austrian domination in Italy, brought that fair land under the control of France, and compelled the Hapsburgs to sign the humiliating terms of the Treaty of Campo Formio in October, 1797.

The conquest of Italy was the most brilliant feat of arms of the eighteenth century. Its results were incalculably great. France, previously exhausted by civil strifes, now gained wealth enough to enter on a new cycle of war—not now for the propagation of liberty, but for aggrandisement or plunder. The Italians received an impulse towards political freedom and unity which they were never to lose. The old European system received a shock which brought about the mighty changes of the nineteenth century.

But greatest, perhaps, of all Bonaparte's conquests in 1796-1797 was his conquest of France. The mind of that people, baffled in the quest for liberty, disgusted

by the sordid strifes of parties at Paris, now turned away from political affairs and sought satisfaction in following the career of the young general, who alone of his compeers seemed able to extend the bounds of freedom.

The man who has thrilled the imagination of France has always been in reality her master. At the close of the Italian campaigns, Bonaparte felt the need of keeping his prestige unimpaired, and as he deemed the invasion of England to be impossible, he entered on the Egyptian expedition with the aim of crippling her power in the East, and also of throwing up in brilliant relief his achievements against the petty and persecuting conduct of the civilian Directors at Paris. In a material sense, the expedition was a failure; but the young general fully realised the personal aim which has just been noted. Returning to France in the autumn of 1799, he was hailed with delight as the conqueror of the East.

The real state of affairs in Egypt was not known by Frenchmen; all that they knew, or cared to know, was that the Directory had brought about further wars in Europe, those of the second coalition, had lost Italy, and had made their own countrymen miserable. Bonaparte's "Coup d'état" of Brumaire, November 9-10th, 1799, brought about the overthrow of the Directory. But it did far more; it put an end to parliamentary institutions in France. The generals and malcontents who helped him to scatter the elective councils at St. Cloud paved the way for military rule. The complicated constitution of December, 1799, proposed by Siéyès and approved by a "rump" of the councils, proved to be easily adaptable to his requirements; and in most essentials the future constitutions of the French Empire of 1806-1814 were laid down in secret conferences held at the close of 1799, in which Bonaparte was the master spirit.

It is well to remember the salient outlines of the constitutional history of the decade 1789-1799. In the spring and early summer of 1789 it seemed that parliamentary institutions had for ever prevailed over all forms of autocracy in France. The triumph was consolidated by the very democratic constitution of 1791, which left the monarchy with functions little more than nominal, and assigned the reality of power to a single

Assembly, elected on a very extended franchise. With the disappearance of monarchy a year later, democracy in an extreme form seemed to be the only possible form of government in France. But at that very time the crisis produced by the war led to the strengthening of the executive powers, and to the extension of the functions of committees which supervised various departments of state. In the terrible emergency of the spring and summer of 1793 these committees began to trench on the sphere previously reserved to the elective chamber; and during the Reign of Terror parliamentary government was largely in abeyance.

After the fall of Robespierre the Convention regained many of its functions at the expense of those of the secret executive committees. Nevertheless, in the constitution of 1795 we find the idea of a supervising committee acquiring permanence. The five Directors, who were charged with the supervision of the Ministers of State and the general control of the executive and of foreign policy, were the lineal descendants of the secret committees of the Reign of Terror. On the collapse of the Directory in Brumaire, November, 1799, their powers devolved on three consuls, among whom the First Consul alone, Bonaparte, had the reality of power. He, therefore, as First Consul, received the heritage bequeathed by the terrible committees of the Reign of Terror; and if one examines carefully the causes which brought about this triumph of the one strong man over the discordant parties around him, one finds it to be due mainly to war.

A time of severe national crisis demands a strong executive, and the general experience of mankind has been that at such seasons the strongest of all governing committees is a committee of one. The eleven members of the Robespierriest Committee of Public Safety were in 1795 ultimately replaced by five Directors, and four years later these in their turn handed over their powers to three consuls, the second and third of whom were merely ciphers multiplying the power of the First Consul. Shortly after the conclusion of a most advantageous peace with England—the Peace of Amiens, in March, 1802—Bonaparte gained so much popularity as to be able still further to depress the

**Bonaparte
the Master Spirit
of France**

**Fall of the
Great
Robespierre**

**The Growing
Popularity of
Bonaparte**

legislative bodies and extend his own authority. He now became First Consul for life, with powers which were to be virtually hereditary in his family. Thus, by success in war, diplomacy, and the handling of parties, he attained to heights of power never reached even by Louis XIV.; and the change of title to that of emperor in May, 1804, was little more than nominal.

**Bonaparte
Becomes
Emperor**

It has often been found that attempts to level down mankind to a plane of safe mediocrity have brought about a situation in which one able man avenges the slights inflicted on genius, and builds up a personal power far more imposing than that which the would-be reformers endeavoured for ever to destroy. In a very real sense the Napoleonic despotism is the Nemesis which dogged the steps of the men of 1789-94.

Never were there faculties so varied and transcendent concentrated in any one man. Coming of a race which had been toughened by clan strifes and family vendettas in Corsica, he saw, as if by instinct, the weak point of opponents either on the field of battle, in the council chamber, or the legislature. On his father's side he traced his descent to forebears who had played no small part in the party feuds of mediæval Florence; and their spirit lived on in the man who threaded with ease and safety the mazes of revolutionary politics that had led so many promising leaders to death. He was the able soldier whose advent Burke had foretold and Robespierre had feared; but he was also by far the ablest statesman France had found since the days of Richelieu, and resources much greater than those of the age of Louis XIII. were now at his disposal.

In many respects he sought to bring back revolutionary France to the customs of the old monarchy. Indeed, the general drift of his civil policy at the time of the Consulate (1799-1804) may be indicated by saying that it was

**Napoleon's
Policy of
Compromise**

a compromise between the more feasible of the measures passed in 1789-92 and the best of the laws and customs of old France. This is especially true of the Civil Code—afterwards named the Code Napoléon—which cleared away the perplexing growth of local laws in favour of a code which was clear, symmetrical, and, on the whole, very well adapted to the needs of the French people.

Though the work of redaction was due mainly to skilled jurists, yet he superintended it and in parts stamped it with his own personality and genius. Later on, the Code was extended to many parts of Italy and Germany, and it forms the most enduring tribute to his organising abilities.

The remark hazarded above is also applicable to the Concordat, or treaty with the Pope (1801-2). By it Bonaparte officially recognised the Roman Catholic system in France, ended the schism which had begun in 1790, and bound her closely to the Holy See. On the other hand, he compelled the Church to forego its claims to the tithes and lands confiscated in the early part of the Revolution. Thus, while restoring a state system of religion in France, he also became the guarantor of the agrarian settlement of the Revolution, which all the peasants and farmers sought to uphold. While spiritualising the life of France in form, he materialised it in essence. The strength gained by this astonishingly clever compromise in what had been an almost atheistical society enabled him to carry through another

**Founding of
the Legion
of Honour**

measure highly repugnant to Jacobins and progressives of all shades. This was the founding of the Legion of Honour, in which he sought to include in several grades of merit and reward all those who had distinguished themselves in military or civil affairs. The sequel was to show that this institution was but a half-way house on the road leading to the restoration of titles of nobility abolished in 1790.

Besides discrediting philosophic speculation, unbelief, and the passion of equality, which had been so characteristic of the period of Jacobin supremacy, Napoleon favoured the return of the emigrant nobles, sought to attract them to his court, and gradually made it the most sumptuous and brilliant in Europe. Now that prosperity had returned under the enchanter's wand, Paris fell back contented into the old pleasure-loving ways, and, as long as their great ruler won battles and gave *panem et circenses*, the quest of liberty seemed an idle dream.

The restless activity and love of power so characteristic of Napoleon were far from exhausted by the immense task of reorganising France after a decade of upheaval. While the institutions of modern France were rapidly taking shape under his master-hand, he was spreading

her influence far and wide. During the brief Peace of Amiens (1802-1803) schemes were on hand for the extension of the French colonial empire, both in the vast district of Louisiana recently gained from Spain, in India, and, if opportunity admitted, in the central parts of New Holland, or Australia. Undoubtedly he desired to recover Egypt, with a view to the ultimate conquest of India, always a favourite plan with him. The beginnings of his new Oriental policy undoubtedly disturbed the Addington Cabinet at Westminster; and as they went hand in hand with an almost prohibitive tariff system wherever the tricolour floated, the extension of French influence threatened to impoverish "the nation of shopkeepers," as he contemptuously termed the British.

These extensions of influence were also threatening Europe. Piedmont and Elba were annexed; first Holland, and then Switzerland became French satrapies. Finally, the Addington Cabinet sent demands—including the retention of Malta by Britain for ten years—which were designed to restore the balance of power in the Mediterranean. Bonaparte angrily refused, and declaimed against Britain as the breaker of treaties. War, therefore,

broke out in May, 1803. At first the central powers remained neutral, but in May-June, 1805, Napoleon's assumption of the title King of Italy, and his annexation of the Ligurian (Genoese) Republic, drove Austria and Russia to take up arms. Pitt had been seeking to build up a coalition of the Great Powers; but he did not fully succeed until these actions of the French Emperor convinced the statesmen of Vienna and St. Petersburg that peace was more dangerous than war. It is noteworthy that they entered upon this war of the Third Coalition, not with the purpose of dethroning Napoleon, but of restoring the balance of power upset by his acts of aggrandisement.

The ensuing campaigns, naval and military, were marked by events of surpassing interest and importance. Nelson's final triumph at Trafalgar synchronised with an equally crushing victory gained by the French Emperor over the Austrian forces at and near Ulm, on the Upper Danube. Pursuing his advantage, he shattered the Russo-Austrian armies at Austerlitz, on December 20th, 1805, compelling the Tsar to retire crestfallen to

his own dominions, while the Hapsburg Court consented to Napoleon's very exacting demands. The net result of the campaigns of 1805, then, was to make Britain mistress of the seas and Napoleon master of the Continent.

This sharp differentiation in character between the two chief opponents determined the main outlines of Napoleon's policy. Unable to strike at England directly, as he had hitherto sought to do from the cliffs of Boulogne, he now attempted to effect her overthrow indirectly—that is, through the subjection of the Continent to his political and commercial system. He framed what he called the Continental system, with a view to the financial ruin of his most persistent opponent. All his allies, all his subject states, were thenceforth rigidly to exclude British goods, and all ships which had touched at British ports. Prussia, Naples, and Holland also felt the pressure of his new policy. The House of Hohenzollern was forced to bar out British goods from the north-west of Germany, a proceeding which, with other provocations, brought about the Franco-Prussian War of 1806 and the overthrow of the chief North German power. The Bourbons of Naples were dethroned, Joseph Bonaparte taking up the reins of power in South Italy, and Louis Bonaparte becoming King of Holland.

The occupation of Berlin by French troops gave the great conqueror the opportunity of launching, in November, 1806, his Berlin Decree against England for the completion of his system, and the great victory of Friedland enabled him to throw the trammels of his commercial policy over Russia. The ensuing Treaty of Tilsit, on July 7th, 1807, saw him at the height of his power.

The Tsar, Alexander I., previously his bitterest enemy, now went over completely to his side, adopted the Continental system and promised to help in compelling the remaining independent states, Sweden, Denmark and Portugal, to close their ports to British goods. Equally significant were the secret articles whereby the two potentates arranged for the future partition of the Turkish Empire with a view to eventual action against Britain's Oriental possessions. Britain was never in greater danger than after the conclusion of this treaty;

Napoleon's Hatred of England

Britain and France at War

The Time of Britain's Danger

for her sole remaining ally, Sweden, was soon to be coerced by Napoleon. It is impossible not to feel admiration for the skilful and forceful policy by which, in two years, he utterly broke up the Third Coalition, which Pitt had done so much to form, and turned the tables on Britain. The latter was now face to face with a

**Denmark's
Fleet Seized
by Britain**

hostile world, and her industries soon felt the pressure of the great engine of war now perfected by the French Emperor. But though Pitt had succumbed to cares of state in January, 1806, his pupil and admirer, Canning, fortunately became Foreign Minister in the spring of 1807.

He struck sharply at Denmark, seized her fleet, and thus paralysed the naval schemes which Napoleon was undoubtedly maturing. A little later—namely, in October–November, 1807—the French Emperor showed his hand in his conduct towards Portugal. By virtue of a secret treaty with Spain in October, 1807, he sent a strong column under Junot, which received help from the Spaniards, to seize the Portuguese fleet at Lisbon. In this he failed. The royal family sailed away to Brazil shortly before the French entered their capital. Nevertheless, the close of the year saw him everywhere triumphant on the Continent. The Iberian Peninsula was under his control; Italy, Switzerland, and the secondary German states were his vassals; Prussia lay helpless under his heel; and the Tsar, Alexander I., abetted him in his schemes for the domination of the world.

England alone resisted the autocrat, and she showed signs of weariness and wavering. A powerful section of the Whigs had all along opposed the war and advocated a friendly understanding with Napoleon. His success seemed assured when, at the close of the year, he launched the Milan Decree against British commerce. But now this great genius was to reveal the

**The Weak
Spot in
Napoleon**

weaker side of his nature. The brilliance of his triumph and the collapse of his enemies hardened in him the conviction of his own invincibility and of their stupidity and weakness. As we have seen, his policy after Trafalgar was directed mainly to the control of the maritime states. Already he controlled all the coasts from Cronstadt to Trieste; but now, as his commercial decrees against England were not always enforced with

the rigidity that he desired, he began in all possible cases to substitute annexation for mere control. This fact explains his absorption of Tuscany and a large part of the Papal States in 1808. It also explains his virtual annexation of Spain.

The alliance of the Spanish Bourbons was far from satisfying him. He owed them a grudge for a warlike proclamation made by Godoy, their Prime Minister, at the beginning of the last war with Prussia; and, above all, resolved to have the complete disposal of the Spanish fleet and colonies. With this great accession of naval strength he trusted to be able to make the Mediterranean a French lake—the scheme of 1798 revived—to partition the Turkish Empire in a way highly favourable to France, and then—as he phrased it in a letter to the Tsar—“to crush England under the weight of events with which the atmosphere will be charged.”

There is nothing in Napoleon's letters of the spring of 1808 to show that he expected any opposition for a moment from the Spanish people. Their regular troops were largely in his power; some of their northern fortresses were held by French regiments; and the disgraceful feuds in the royal family at Madrid gave him an easy foothold, as it were, on the walls of the central citadel.

The result is well known. Successful in his dealings with a corrupt dynasty and court, he entirely left out of account the pride of the Spanish nation. Instead of gaining profitable vassals and a vast colonial empire, he turned allies into irreconcilable foes. England, far from being barred out from the Iberian Peninsula, secured the help of Portuguese and Spaniards, and access for her commerce to their vast colonies. Above all, the British army now had a field whereon they could fitly display their prowess.

The entry of Sir Arthur Wellesley, soon to become Viscount Wellington, on a scene of action pre-eminently suited to his peculiar gifts gave to the national resistance of Spaniards and Portuguese a toughness which wore out the strength of French armies and baffled the efforts of all Napoleon's marshals. In the whole career of Napoleon no miscalculation, save, perhaps, one to be noted presently, was more fraught with disaster. Struggle and scheme as he might—and he did so

FRENCH REVOLUTION: GENERAL SURVEY OF THE PERIOD

with brilliant success in the case of the Austrian campaign of 1809, with its diplomatic corollary, the Austrian marriage—he could never rid himself of the evil result of his “Spanish blunder.” The waste of men in that war told even on his gigantic resources; and when his final annexations at the close of 1810—the north-west of Germany, etc.—brought him to a rupture with the Tsar, one may safely ascribe the determination of the potentate of the east to his belief that the overgrown empire of his rival was being sapped at the other extremity.

For in and after the year 1808 a new spirit was in the air. Peoples that had previously lain torpid under French domination now began to awaken, and to take heart as they saw the power of a nation’s resistance in Spain.

The power of armies is a visible thing,
Formal, and circumscribed in time and space.
But who the limits of that power can trace
Which a brave people into light can bring?

Thus sang Wordsworth as he gazed at the events in Spain. German thinkers and patriots begun to prepare for the day of revenge. And that day came when Napoleon’s Grand Army—victims of the insane obstinacy with which he clung to Moscow up to October 19th—succumbed to the snows of the steppes. The succeeding campaign of 1813 witnessed the defection first of Prussia, and then of Austria, from his alliance. The three days’ battle around Leipzig completed his discomfiture. The South German states turned against him, and, while Wellington was invading the south of France, Italy also fell away from the Emperor’s control. Even so he struggled on, omitting to take advantage of the offers of peace which the allies made to him, first at Frankfort, in November, 1813, and next during the spring campaign of 1814 in the east of France.

It is difficult to fathom his reasons for this conduct. The evidence seems to prove that even then, when he had scarcely 50,000 men wherewith to oppose the armies of Russia, Prussia, and Austria in Champagne, and when Wellington had penetrated into Languedoc, the emperor believed that he could beat the allies and secure more advantageous terms. It was the last of his mistakes. The allies declared that never again would they have dealings with him. His own marshals refused to go on with the struggle; and he abdicated

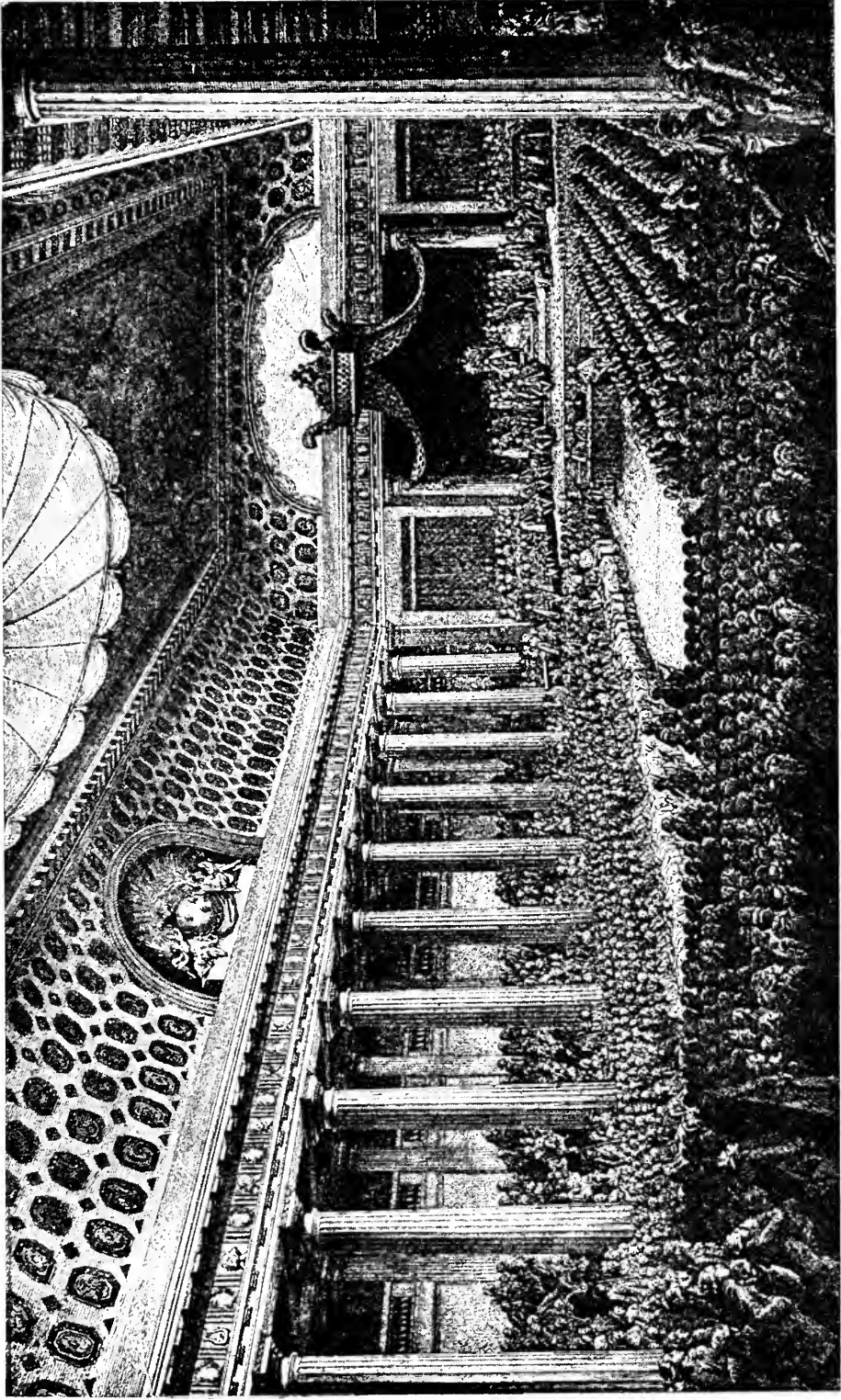
on April 11th, 1814, at Fontainebleau. His escape from Elba, his victorious march to Paris, and the details of the Waterloo campaign and of his sojourn at St. Helena, need not be recounted here. His doom was sealed in the spring of 1814 when he succeeded in arousing the undying distrust of the allied sovereigns and of their Ministers. It will be more suitable to conclude this brief survey by pointing out some of the chief results of this momentous period—1789–1815—in the life of the European peoples.

First, we may notice that the extraordinary upheavals of that time imparted an impulse to the Continent which did not wear away even in the time of exhaustion and despair brought about by nearly a quarter of a century of war. Further, while the political results of feudalism were thus almost obliterated in Central Europe, the dead hand of the past was removed from nearly all European peoples in social and agrarian affairs. Northern Italy in 1797 decreed the abolition of feudal wars and services and the emancipation of serfs. The Netherlands, the Rhineland, and Switzerland soon took the same steps, either of their own accord or at the bidding of the French Republic. Prussia and Spain, which resented Napoleon’s ascendancy, on their own initiative set free their serfs, reformed their land laws, and thus laid the basis for a healthier social life.

The reforms by which the Prussian statesman Stein, in 1807–1808, founded local self-government and unified the governing powers of the state would alone give significance to this era. The sense of national unity is another of the signs of awakening in this period. The mighty upheavals of the Napoleonic wars brought men everywhere face to face with elemental facts; and thus a strong sense of racial kinship, which had grown up in England and France during the Hundred

Years War, now spread to Germans and Italians. This awakening of the sense of nationality, largely traceable to the Spanish rising of 1808, is one of the great events of world history; for it impelled those peoples to struggle on against the irritating restrictions imposed by the Congress of Vienna, and thus to inaugurate the great movements which brought about Italian and German unity in the decade 1860–1870.

J. HOLLAND ROSE



THE PARLIAMENT OF FRANCE : THE ASSEMBLING OF THE STATES-GENERAL ON MAY 5TH, 1789

For nearly two hundred years the Parliament of France, known as the States-General, had not met, but Louis XVI. was compelled to call the assembly together. The above picture shows the opening of the States-General on May 5th, 1789. To the left of the king's throne, on a low sofa, sits the queen, while the nobles and the ladies of the court are seated on the platform in a half-circle to left and right. Below the steps are the Ministers of State, while the whole foreground is crowded with representatives of the three Estates. From the painting by E. Momet.

EUROPE:
THE FRENCH
REVOLUTION



AND
NAPOLEONIC
ERA II

THE FLIGHT OF THE KING AND THE RISING TIDE OF REVOLUTION

By Arthur D. Innes, M.A.

THE States-General met on May 5th, 1789, with the question of procedure still unsettled. The Third Estate was in the full sense representative. It had been chosen by double election—that is, in each area the mass of voters chose a body of electors, and the electors appointed their delegates, who received from them instructions, a programme known as a *cahier*. The delegates were for the most part commoners, a large proportion being lawyers; but they included a few members of the noblesse—notably Mirabeau—and of the clergy, notably the Abbé Siéyès.

Among the body of the nobles there were several who for good or bad motives favoured reform; Lafayette, the hero of the American War, and Philip “Égalité” of Orleans, the king’s cousin, who had hopes of getting Louis deposed, and of being made king by popular favour. Among the clergy, those of the higher ranks were almost all of the ancien régime; of the lower ranks, a majority were with the reformers.

After the opening ceremony, when Necker exhausted the audience by a wearisome panegyric on himself, there came a deadlock. The Third Estate, in accordance with the instructions in their cahiers, refused to recognise the separate existence of the other two Estates. Necker’s proposal, that the three Estates should be formed into two chambers on

the English analogy, the lower clergy joining the commons, was ignored. At last, on June 17th, having been joined by a few of the lower clergy, the Third Estate declared itself to be the National Assembly, and proceeded to affirm that the present taxes were authorised only during the session of the Assembly, and to take the question of food supply into consideration. Two days later the clergy formally joined the Third Estate.

Such an assumption of authority was not part of the plan as understood by the Court. The king and Necker had meant the Third Estate to be supporters not masters. Reform was good, but it was to be granted with popular approval, not enforced by the popular representatives. When the Assembly gathered on the 20th, it found the hall in the hands of workmen, in preparation for a Royal Session. The delegates went in a body to the Tennis Court, where they took a solemn oath to continue their meetings where and when they could, till the Constitution was completed. Ousted from the Tennis Court, they found a new place of meeting, where they were joined by the majority of the clergy on the 21st.

On the 23rd the Royal Session was held. The king announced the reforms which he would invite the Estates to approve; but they must act as separate Estates. If they were recalcitrant, the king would make the reforms by decree. King, clergy, and nobles retired; the Third Estate, swayed by Mirabeau, refused to obey. Next day the majority of the clergy rejoined them, and also the reformers from the nobles. The Crown’s attempt was palpably defeated; so palpably that Louis requested the rest of the clergy and nobles to join the Assembly.

But the king now was not guided by Necker, who had not lost his popularity, but by his younger brother, the Comte D’Artois—one day to become Charles X.—and the extreme reactionaries. Their intention was to turn the tables by a coup d’état. The thing needed was force—an army before which opposition should vanish. But the Garde Française was showing insubordination, an excuse for summoning more troops to the capital. They gathered, a palpable menace; excitement and

**National
Assembly
Instituted**

alarm ran high, with the less need, since the insubordination spread quickly through their ranks, except among the regiments of foreign mercenaries. The climax came when Paris heard, on July 12th, that Necker and others had been displaced and reactionary Ministers appointed. Municipal government was already at a standstill; the body of "electors" to the States-General formed themselves into a provisional municipal government, and began to enrol the Paris militia, which was soon to turn into the National Guard, with its counterparts all over the country. The populace clamoured for arms, and

law. The fall appealed to the world as signalling the ending of an ancient tale of wrong. It was as though the walls of Jericho had fallen at the trumpet blast. The event was hailed with pæans of joy by young enthusiasts; its actual circumstances were enveloped in a cloud of myths.

As a matter of fact, what it mainly signified was that the people of Paris had no master—was on the way to find out that it was itself master; and when that became patent, half the young enthusiasts were in a short time finding themselves as passionately opposed to the revolution as they had been passionately in its favour.



THE ILL-FATED RULERS OF FRANCE: MARIE ANTOINETTE AND LOUIS XVI.

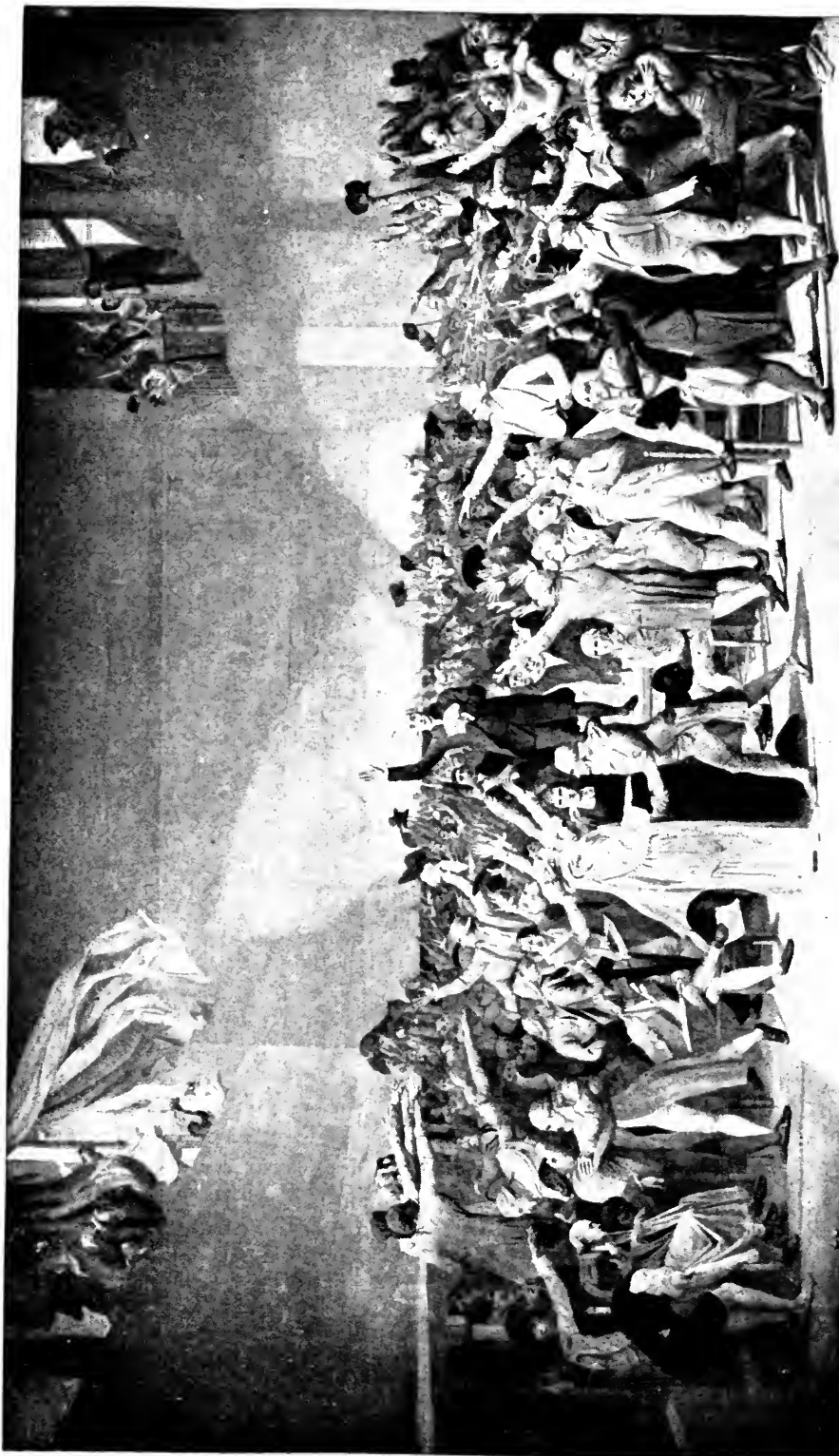
Louis XVI. was King of France when the Great Revolution broke out, and he fell a victim to the wild passions of his people. The queen, Marie Antoinette, who had supported the king in his fatal policy, also died by the guillotine.

turned itself to the manufacture of pikes. There were scenes of violence, collisions with the mercenaries; on the 14th the "Invalides" was seized, supplying muskets and ammunition. Paris turned on the Bastille; the Garde Française joined the mob; the rest of the troops could not or would not stir. When the little garrison refused to capitulate, the mob stormed the place with little difficulty. Though the garrison surrendered, the commandant and a few officers and soldiers were murdered. The Bastille had fallen.

The Bastille was the symbol of the old tyranny, of arbitrary rule, of ordered force, which could override justice and

The physical force was no longer on the side of the existing order; it had passed to the side of the revolution.

Meanwhile, the Assembly was in session at Versailles, expecting the coup d'état which was intended. The news arriving that night meant the complete rout of the Court party. The next day the king announced to them the withdrawal of the troops and the recall of Necker. A band of the popular representatives—Bailly the President, Lafayette, and others, hastened to Paris with the joyful news, and were received with acclamation. Bailly was promptly nominated Mayor of Paris, Lafayette was made General of the National



46 THE POPULAR DEMAND FOR REFORM: THE THIRD ESTATE AT THE TENNIS COURT TAKING AN OATH TO CONTINUE THEIR MEETINGS
At the meeting of the States-General on May 5th, 1789, the Third Estate refused to recognise the separate existence of the other two Estates, and on June 17th declared itself to be the National Assembly. Meeting again on the 20th, the Assembly found the hall in the hands of workmen in preparation for a Royal Session, and the delegates thereupon adjourned to the Tennis Court, where they took a solemn oath to continue the meetings where, and when they could, until the Constitution was completed. They were joined next day by the clergy.
From the painting by Jacques-Louis David

Guard. Necker's return through France—he had left the country—was a sort of triumphal progress. Louis himself, courageously enough, made a state entry into the capital, and was greeted as the restorer of French liberties. On the other hand, Artois, and others of the most prominent among the reactionary noblesse fled across the border. The emigration had begun.

It was by no means the intention of the Assembly to be simply destructive, nor

was it with destructive intent that the new Paris municipality or the National Guard had been formed—both of which found immediate imitators all over the country. But the Paris mob had tasted blood; there were more lynchings, and these found their counterpart throughout the south-eastern provinces in risings of the peasantry, burnings of châteaux, and the like. And in Paris itself, the Committee of Electors, which had taken upon itself the task of governing the city, was displaced by an elected body, at once less capable and less independent, its members ready to be swayed by the dictation of the least responsible of their constituents. There was no sign that the fall of the Bastille was to initiate an era of orderly self-government by the people.

The National Assembly, however, was honestly zealous to find genuine remedies for the prevailing evils. With a pathetic belief in the enunciation of high principles as a general curative, it was passing its time in abstract discussion of the Rights of

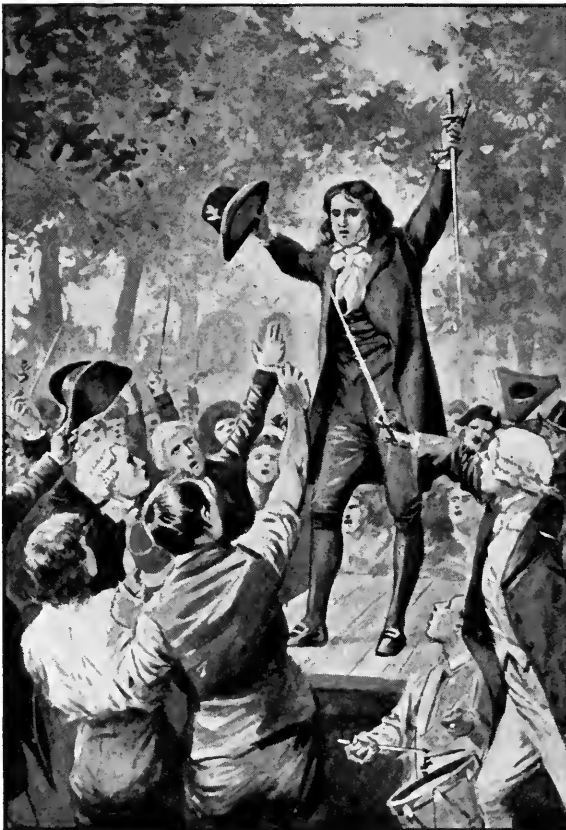
Man, when it was roused to concrete action by the reports of disorder and outrage. On August 10th it set itself to pass a series of reforms, wiping out a host of privileges, and earning for that day the title of "St. Bartholomew of Property." The feudal rights of the noblesse to personal service, such as the *corvée*, and to jurisdiction were abolished; what we should call the game laws went the same way.

These enactments were proposed not by commoners, but by members of the noblesse. In like manner, the guild restrictions on the practice of trades and crafts and the transferability of labour were done away with.

In effect, feudalism was suddenly swept away in a single night by one great wave of emotion; legal rights which, however evil, had been part and parcel of the social fabric were blotted out in a moment without compensation—very much as if slavery had been suddenly abolished without compensation to slave-owners—

incidentally, of course, with an extremely disquieting effect on the contiguous feudal provinces of the empire. Still more serious, from the European point of view, was the fact that in some frontier provinces actual treaty rights of German princes were over-ruled by these measures.

The reforms of August 4th embodied principles which were true and sound, but their sudden, instead of gradual, application to a system built up on totally different principles necessarily involved an



CAMILLE DESMOULINS AT THE PALAIS ROYAL. Desmoulin belonged to the extreme party of Revolutionists, and the above picture shows him addressing an enthusiastic gathering in the grounds of the Palais Royal. As a member of the National Convention, he voted for the death of the king, in 1793. Desmoulin was himself arrested, and died by the guillotine on April 5th, 1794.

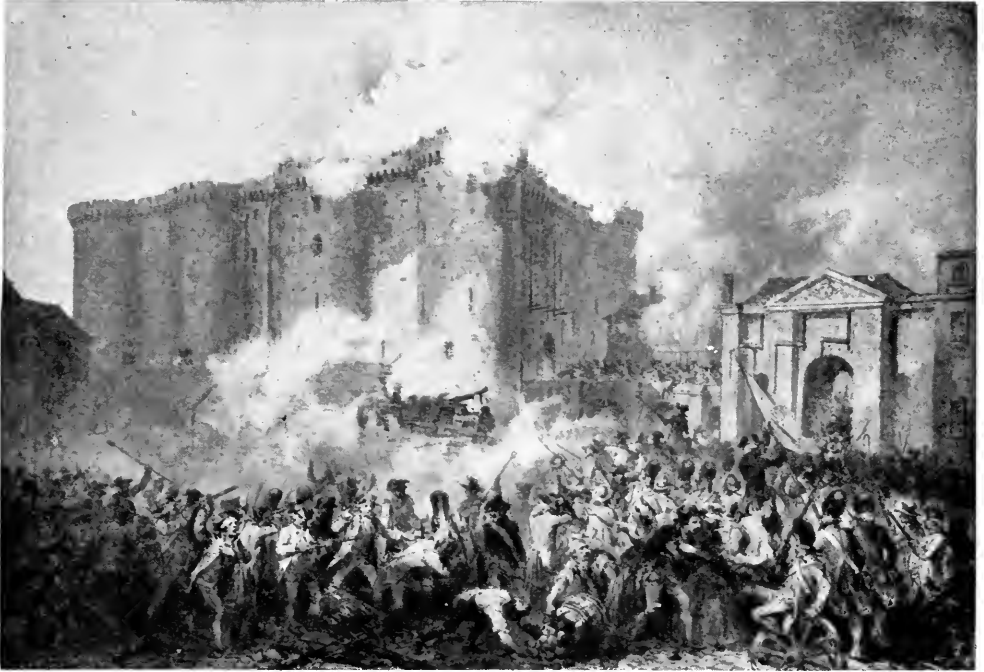
From the drawing by C. M. Sheldon

THE RISING TIDE OF REVOLUTION

immense amount of injustice, and intensified a hundredfold the instability of a social and political fabric which was already quaking. By this business of destruction the way to construction was prepared, and to this the "Constituent" Assembly now devoted itself. The process divided the body more definitely into parties—the "right" representing reaction, the centre moderation, the left radicalism, with its various types. The reactionaries were important mainly from their readiness to combine with one or another radical section in order to carry out a policy of obstruction. The

and Lafayette. The combination was virtually impossible, because the three men were incompatibles; and Mirabeau could not displace Necker, because the Court hated him, and there was no political group which either understood or trusted him, in spite of his extraordinary power of swaying both the Assembly and the populace.

The form of the new Constitution was the first question to be dealt with; a committee appointed thereto had drafted a scheme. The executive was to remain with the Crown. The legislature was to be a representative chamber, a senate, and



THE FALL OF THE BASTILLE: THE MOB STORMING THE PRISON

To the people of France the Bastille was the symbol of the old tyranny, of arbitrary rule, of ordered force, which could override justice and law, and when the nation rose in revolt the famous prison was fiercely attacked. When the little garrison refused to capitulate, the mob stormed the place, effected an entrance, and the Bastille was destroyed.

moderates included many men of ability, who aimed at a constitution after the British model, and saw with alarm that the revolutionary forces were becoming too powerful to be controlled. The radicals included academics like Siéyès, enthusiasts like Barnave, Dupont, and Lameth, fanatics like Robespierre. And outside of all the parties stood Mirabeau, the single titanic personality, the one man who might conceivably have given the revolution a different course, but whose only chance of doing so lay in his displacing Necker as Minister, or uniting with him

the Crown. The senate was not to consist of hereditary peers, as in England—which was, of course, the general model—but of Crown nominees presented by the departments. The Crown was to have the power of veto. But the senate did not suit the reactionaries, since it was not to be aristocratic; it did not suit the extreme democrats, because it was not representative. The two wings combined to kill the second chamber. Then arose the question of the royal veto. The Rights of Man could not be squared with an individual's right to veto

the demands of a nation—just as the equality of all men could not be squared with the theory of a senate. The extremists clamoured; the mob shouted. Despotism and slavery would be restored! The Assembly ended by adopting the compromise of the arch-compromiser Necker. The Crown was granted a suspensive veto. If a measure were passed twice, the veto must lapse.

But while the Assembly debated the creation of a constitution which had no basis in the national history—thus differing fundamentally from its supposed

model, the British Constitution, which was an organic historical growth—a fresh outside force had been developing: an energetic and vociferous Press, which poured out a flood of newspapers and pamphlets. The winds of doctrine, blowing from every conceivable quarter, produced wild turmoil in men's minds, though as yet in Paris, Lafayette, with his National Guard of respectable citizens, kept violence within bounds. Much of the most dangerous agitation is attributed to the

sinister designs of Orleans and his allies; and a mob for whom it was still hard enough to provide sufficient food was an instrument which responded readily to the agitator's touch.

Wild rumours as to the destruction of food supplies by the aristocrats found popular credence. A royalist banquet was given at Versailles by the officers of a newly arrived regiment; it was reported that the tricolour, the new national badge, had been trampled under foot. On October 5th an extraordinary mob, the women of Paris, poured out to

Versailles, to interview the king—without an attendant masculine mob. Reluctant Lafayette, with the National Guard, arrived at night from Paris and restored some sort of order; but in the early morning rioters broke into the palace, murdering the soldiers they found. Only by the self-devotion of a few guards was the royal family saved from probable massacre, before Lafayette appeared with the National Guard and cleared out the rioters. But the mob was clamouring without that the king and queen must go back to Paris; and the National

Guard, in spite of Lafayette's popularity, were obviously in sympathy with the mob's demands. The royal family was carried off to Paris; the Assembly transferred itself thither. Their presence in the capital was the visible sign that the promise of the day of the Bastille was being fulfilled. Paris was supreme in France, and the mob was all but supreme in Paris.

For the time, however, the effect was in favour of order, more especially as Orleans was

obliged to leave the country. The mob was not supreme yet, and some riots were firmly dealt with. But several of the moderates began to withdraw from the Assembly, the grouping of parties began to alter, and their differentiation to become more definite. The organisation of the groups took a new development through the formation of political clubs. Of these the most important was the Jacobin, named from the quondam Jacobin monastery where it met. From its original character as an association of Breton delegates it became a club which included most of the reforming leaders. Now the



MARIE ANTOINETTE
AND HER CHILDREN

THE RISING TIDE OF REVOLUTION

preponderance of extremists drove Lafayette, Siéyès, and others to secede and form a new club of their own, leaving the Jacobins to develop the extremist organisation all over the country. The reactionaries imitated the example set them, and sundry other clubs were started on similar lines. And every group held its own discussions, ran its own journals, and issued its own pamphlets.

It was in these altered and altering circumstances that the Constituent Assembly continued its work. The moderates hoped to check the swelling democratic current through the old provincial parlements, with their traditions, which were both anti-monarchical and anti-democratic. But the Assembly proceeded to suspend the parlements and reorganise provincial administration after the

ideals of symmetrical and mathematical perfection so dear to the brain of the Abbé Siéyès, ignoring, just as it did in evolving the scheme of the new Constitution, the principle on which Burke in England laid so much stress—that the new should be developed out of the old, not substituted for it; that sound reform is a process of adaptation to altered environment, not of experiments in search of abstract logical ideals. The division of the country into administrative provinces had grown out of the

old division of feudal areas, with corresponding variations in the local system of government. The provinces were abolished, and the country was cut up into "departments" on geographical lines,

approximating to a chessboard pattern. All the departments were to be administered on identical ideal lines, uniform and symmetrical. The department was divided into districts (arrondissements), and the district into cantons. There was a council

of thirty-six, with five executive officers for the department as a whole; subordinate to this were a separate council and executive for each district. The canton was a merely electoral division. The "citizens"—that is, all who paid a minimum amount in direct taxation—in the canton chose "electors"; the electors chose the councils and officers for districts and departments, and the deputies for the Assembly. A higher "taxable" qualification was required for members of the councils, and a higher still for deputies. So far the reconstruction proceeded palpably on middle-class

lines. But the canton itself was divided into self-governing units called communes, each having its own council and executive elected directly by the people; virtually a purely democratic institution, which in a

very short time was to fall completely under the control of the Jacobin clubs. The judicial system was reorganised on the same local basis, and the appointment of judges, from among the lawyers, was transferred from the Crown to the "electors."

The Church, too, had to be dealt with; her endowments were tempt-

ing to an exhausted treasury, and the distribution of Church property was sufficiently scandalous. Necker in his necessity had already obtained from the Assembly, swayed by Mirabeau, a grant of one-fourth



MIRABEAU

Belonging to the noblesse, he was the one man who might have prevented the Revolution by reconciling the monarchy with the democracy, but he died in 1791, before his task was completed, and the revolutionary tide swept on.



LAFAYETTE AND BAILLY

Lafayette had taken part in the American War of Independence, and proposed to the National Assembly a declaration of rights based on the American plan; he formed the National Guard and worked for order and humanity. Jean Sylvain Bailly was President of the National Assembly and Mayor of Paris; losing his popularity, he retired, but was seized, brought to Paris, and guillotined.

of all incomes; but even that had been swallowed up by the enormous expenses entailed in the process of reconstruction.

The theory was advanced that endowments were the property of the nation, only held in trust by the Church. The state took possession, guaranteeing a minimum income to every curé and the cost of public worship. But since the announcement that Church property belonged to the state failed to restore credit, the next step was to issue a vast paper currency (assignats) on the security of the Church lands; that is, the holder could

of the clergy retired, and became known as non-jurors. The process of fixing the limitation of powers under the new Constitution was completed by the debates and by resolutions on the question whether the Crown should have the power of making war and peace.

Mirabeau, who still hoped to create a strong government by the combination of a democratic legislature with a monarchical executive, fought hard for the rights of the Crown, and the result was a formula asserting that the right belonged to "the nation." War could be declared only



THE ARREST OF LOUIS XVI. WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE FROM FRANCE

Unable any longer to delude himself as to the impending danger to the throne, the king decided to make his escape from the distracted country. On June 20th, 1791, under the cover of darkness, Louis and Marie Antoinette secretly took flight from Paris, but before they reached the border the king was recognised. The party was stopped at Varennes and ignominiously brought back to the capital. On the king's return, his authority was suspended.

From the painting by T. F. Marshall

claim the equivalent in Church lands. The plan proved a failure financially. It was not till some months later—in the middle of 1790—that the "Civil Constitution of the Clergy" was completed. The religious houses having already been suppressed, the departments were turned into bishoprics, and the bishops and parish priests were to be chosen by the electors, papal authority being ignored. Priests and bishops were shortly afterwards required to take an oath recognising the civil supremacy, whereupon the greater part

by a decree of the Assembly introduced by the king. Finally, the unanimity and concord of the nation was celebrated by a great patriotic demonstration on the anniversary of the fall of the Bastille, when king and queen, the Assembly, delegates from all the departments, and a huge assembled crowd took the oath of loyalty to the new Constitution, amid wild excitement and enthusiasm. Nevertheless, disorder continued. A soldiery whose pay is not forthcoming is a dangerous element, and in August there was a serious mutiny at Nancy,



THE KING AND QUEEN OF FRANCE IN PRISON AFTER THEIR ATTEMPTED FLIGHT FROM THE COUNTRY
From the painting by J. M. Ward

suppressed only after fierce fighting. It was at this juncture that Necker suddenly melted out of politics and withdrew from France, almost unnoticed. If the Court would have frankly placed its confidence in Mirabeau, it is conceivable that he might have succeeded in attaining his own ideal; but the Court would not

**Mirabeau
Denounced
as a Traitor**

denounce the émigrés, and Mirabeau was now himself being hotly denounced as a traitor by the Jacobins. Before he had succeeded in converting Louis in his favour, the tremendous strain of his public energies, coupled with the excesses of his private life, broke the great tribune down, and he died in April, 1791. The one man who might have reconciled the monarchy with the democracy had gone.

In spite of July 14th demonstrations, there had never yet been an approach to mutual confidence between the Court and the Assembly. Louis was sincerely desirous of his people's good; but his whole entourage saw in the events of the still uncompleted two years which had passed since the convening of the States-General nothing but a greedy and insensate attack on privileges which they regarded as rights inherently necessary to the existence of social order.

Mirabeau had urged on the king that his presence in Paris deprived him of all independence and power of action, that the vigorous initiative essential to the recovery of confidence in the king's capacity or sincerity could be displayed only if he took up his residence at a distance from the domineering and turbid capital. But this was a very different thing from the escape out of French territory which the Court now contemplated. Knowing or fearing that any departure from Paris would be forcibly prevented, the king and queen took flight secretly by night on June 20th. But before they reached the border Louis was recognised. At Varennes

**Frustrated
Flight
of the King**

the party was stopped and ignominiously brought back to Paris. When the king's flight was discovered, the Assembly promptly took upon itself the whole of the sovereign functions; and when he was brought back to Paris the suspension of his authority was continued until the Constitution should be actually and formally completed. This caused a secession of royalists from the Assembly, while,

on the other hand, the Jacobins began to demand that the suspension should be permanent and the Constitution altered into a republic instead of a limited monarchy.

For the time, however, this in turn drove several of those who had hitherto been looked upon as the chiefs of the advanced party into alliance with the moderates, Siéyès and Lafayette. This left the thorough-going Jacobins, among whom Robespierre, Danton and Marat now exercised the principal influence, free to work on very extreme lines; and in the country, though not in the Assembly, their organisation made them far more powerful than the other sections.

The attitude of the Constituent Assembly during these last months of its career recalls that of the Long Parliament in 1649, and of the Rump afterwards. It had done a great deal of work very conscientiously; it was thoroughly satisfied with itself; and it was unaware that it had lost control, which had passed to a very much more powerful organisation—in England, the army, in France, the Jacobin club. Unconsciously it had

**The End
of Lafayette's
Influence**

already sealed its own fate and the doom of its own policy by registering a self-denying ordinance. When the Constitution was brought to completion, the Constituent Assembly was to be dissolved and a new Legislative Assembly called; and members of the old Assembly were to be barred from sitting in the new one.

This, by the way, presents not a resemblance but a very strong contrast to the Long Parliament and the Rump, which were more inclined to perpetuate their own powers. The new men were certain to be largely Jacobin candidates, and without the experience which the present delegates had acquired. This was made the more certain by a serious collision in July between Lafayette with the National Guard and a mob which had been set in motion by the Jacobins. The Guard were driven into firing on the mob; Lafayette's influence had rested mainly on his personal popularity, which was destroyed by his action on this occasion.

The Constitution was formally accepted by Louis on September 14th; on the 30th, the Constituent Assembly was dissolved. On October 1st, the Legislative Assembly opened.



THE REVOLUTION TRIUMPHANT

THE LAUNCHING OF THE FIRST REPUBLIC

BEFORE the career of the Constituent Assembly was ended affairs in France had produced in other countries an attitude ominous of war. In England, the section of Whigs headed by Charles James Fox were enthusiastic partisans of the Revolution; but Burke had broken with them, and his splendid denunciations were exercising a powerful influence. Still, however, and for some time to come, the attitude of Pitt and his Ministry was favourable rather than otherwise. Nothing in the nature of intervention was contemplated.

On the Continent, on the other hand, the Tsarina Catharine II. was anxious to embroil Austria and Prussia with France in order to free her own action in Poland, where her influence was threatened; while German states had already received provocation—as noted—by the proceedings of August 4th, 1790,

Movement in Favour of the Ancien Régime

the princes looking upon the compensation offered them for the deprivation of treaty rights as inadequate; the Austrian Emperor was the French queen's brother; and the émigrés, established at Coblenz, were actively agitating for foreign aid in restoring the ancien régime, a project which Gustavus III. of Sweden ardently advocated. In the brief period of his rule the Emperor Leopold had already acquired such prestige that it practically lay with him to decide whether Europe should or should not intervene; and he was too cool-headed to do so voluntarily.

Nevertheless, the predicament in which the French monarchy placed itself by the abortive flight to Varennes, combined with the general pressure which he had hitherto succeeded in resisting, forced Leopold's hand, and in July he invited the Powers to combine in support of the French monarchy. Until the king was once more a free agent they should refuse to recognise the authority of the existing French Government,

and should prepare to enforce that point of view in arms if necessary. At the same time, he brought Prussia into close diplomatic accord with himself. At the end of August he met Frederic William at Pilnitz, where the two monarchs emphatically

Louis XVI. Again on the Throne snubbed the Comte d'Artois and the émigrés, but issued a joint declaration in favour of inter-

vention, provided the other Powers were in agreement. It was by no means Leopold's intention to carry out the threat, for he was well aware that Pitt would stand aloof; moreover, the actual purpose of the declaration seemed to have been effected when, a fortnight later, Louis accepted the Constitution and became king again. Leopold very promptly announced that the raison d'être of the declaration had thus been removed, and the declaration itself cancelled. It was hoped that the crisis was passed.

In France, however, these proceedings had not been recognised as what may be called a manœuvre to take the wind out of the sails of the émigrés and their partisans; they appeared in the light of an insolent attempt to dictate to France as to the conduct of her internal affairs. The new Legislative Assembly met in a spirit of aggressive defiance which boded ill for the peace of Europe. The members were without political experience—that had been assured by the self-denying ordinance of the Constituent Assembly.

Among them was a mere sprinkling of Royalists, and only a small band of "Feuillants," the name given to the supporters of the Constitution which the last Assembly had been at such pains to construct. The bulk of the delegates fell into two

Divisions Among the Reformers

advanced sections, the Girondins, of whom the nucleus was a group of enthusiastic idealists, and the Jacobins, who gathered round the fanatical extremists—the section which came to be known as "the Mountain," from the elevation of the seats

which they occupied in the Assembly. The Crown might have saved itself before by placing itself in the hands of Mirabeau. It might conceivably have saved itself now by unqualified co-operation with a smaller man than Mirabeau, Lafayette, with the support of the Feuillants. But the queen hated Lafayette, as she had long hated Mirabeau; Louis could not shake off the definitely reactionary influences, and even at the best, Lafayette's popularity had waned, and a change in the organisation of the National Guard deprived him of his exclusive control. Within the Assembly, the Feuillants were not a conspicuously able group, whereas the Girondins—so named after the district from which some of their prominent members came—were intellectually brilliant as well as being for the most part intensely in earnest. With the Mountain, as with the Feuillants, the real chiefs were outside the Assembly—Robespierre and the other heads of the Jacobin club.

The king's persistence in relying on "royalist" Ministers, who were almost without supporters in the Assembly, made harmonious working practically impossible. In November, edicts were passed against the émigrés and against the non-juring clergy, the former being in arms on the frontier, while the latter were fomenting civil outbreaks. Thereupon the king applied the veto. The constitutional question was immediately raised whether the decrees were technically laws to which the veto could apply or executive measures falling within the control of the Assembly absolutely. Probably the true position was that they should have been regarded as executive measures to prevent a civil and perhaps a foreign war, which ought to

have been submitted to the Assembly by the Crown. But by his action Louis virtually challenged the Assembly, and placed a weapon in the hands of the Republicans of the Gironde and the Mountain.

Moreover, on the question of foreign relations, the Feuillants were effectively in agreement with the Girondins. Lafayette probably, and the Girondins avowedly, expected to derive increased political weight from a patriotic war, and both groups genuinely and not unjustifiably resented the pretensions of any foreign power to interfere with French domestic affairs. That the Mountain happened for its own reasons to be more pacifically inclined, and so far in accord with the Crown, was of no advantage to the Crown. The result was that the king

at the close of the year was compelled to dismiss his War Minister, and appoint a Feuillant, and to address to the Elector of Trèves and to the emperor demands for

the disbanding of the émigré forces. The émigrés refused to be disbanded, and Leopold's answer was a virtual refusal. Thereupon a large force was massed on the frontier, and an ultimatum sent to the emperor on January 25th, requiring a satisfactory answer by March 4th. On this, Leopold formed a close defensive alliance with Prussia; but the direction of affairs was snatched from his hands by death, and he was succeeded on the throne by his son, Francis II., while Louis found himself forced to reconstruct his Ministry from the ranks

of the Girondins, Dumouriez becoming Minister for War. The change did not make for peace, and resulted in Louis being compelled, on March 20th, 1791, to propose to the Assembly, in accordance with the forms of the new Constitution, the declaration of war against Austria,



ROBESPIERRE

A prominent figure in the revolutionary times, he was elected first deputy for Paris to the National Convention, and became one of the rulers of France. He was popular for a time, but fell from favour and was guillotined in 1794.



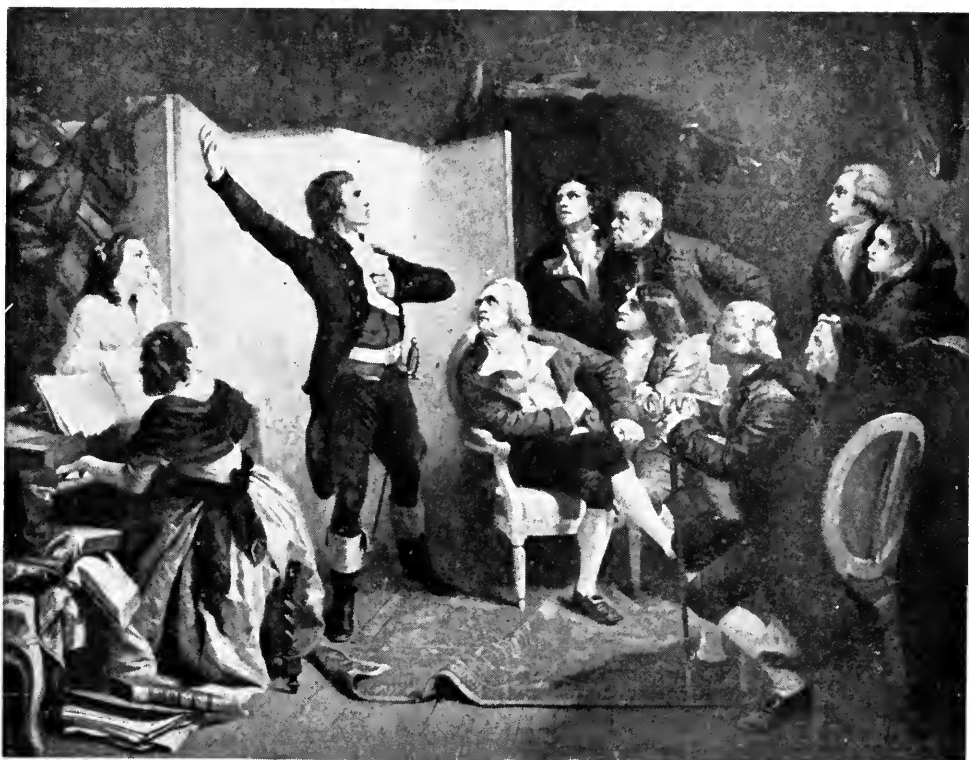
GENERAL DUMOURIEZ

Resigning the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take command in the field, he defeated the Prussians in 1792, and the Austrians in the following year. He died in England in 1823.

THE REVOLUTION TRIUMPHANT

where Francis as yet was not emperor. War with Austria would mean also war with Prussia and Sardinia. Neither Russia nor Great Britain certainly, nor Spain probably, would take any part. Gustavus III. of Sweden, who would have eagerly joined in, to restore the old French monarchy, had been assassinated a month before. Dumouriez, though associated with the Girondins, had aims analogous to those of Mirabeau, and saw in a successfully conducted war the prospect of

which constitute a "natural" barrier, strategically defensible. Such a frontier may be provided by the sea, by mountain ranges or by rivers. On three sides and on part of the fourth side France was already all but girdled by the ocean, the Pyrenees, and the Alps; it remained to make the Rhine the completion of her boundary, and to absorb Savoy on the south. The expectation that the people of the Austrian Netherlands would prefer association or incorporation with France to their existing



THE SONG OF THE REVOLUTION: ROUGET DE LISLE SINGING "THE MARSEILLAISE" "The Marseillaise," the National Anthem of France, was born amid the tumult of the Revolution, being written in a single night by an officer named Rouget de Lisle. In the picture De Lisle is seen singing the song to his friends.

establishing something like Mirabeau's ideal of dividing the exercise of the sovereign powers between a strong monarchy and a strong democracy; and his energies were concentrated on the war.

It was Dumouriez who now developed a conception which became and remained an important factor in French foreign politics—that of acquiring for France her "natural" frontier, which has its analogy in Lord Beaconsfield's "scientific frontier" for India; a frontier fixed not by considerations of homogeneity of race, language or customs, but by geographical features

subjection to the Austrian monarchy, against which they had very recently been in open rebellion, encouraged a plan of campaign which made those provinces the immediate objective. Three armies were sent to the front under Rochambeau, Lafayette, and Luchner. But the first engagement resulted in ignominious defeat, the men behaving so badly that Rochambeau resigned his command in disgust. The soldiers, on their part, believed that their officers were "aristocrats," who intended to betray them, a distrust which sufficiently accounted for their misconduct.

The suspicions of treachery were no less rife in Paris, where the sympathies of the Court were notoriously and inevitably on the side of the enemy. The news of the opening fiasco led to the immediate formation of a new armed force of "pikemen" for the capital, formed from the lower classes—not from the bourgeoisie, like the National Guard, to whose moderate tendencies the pikemen served as a counterpoise. The Assembly proceeded to decree the formation, outside Paris, of a camp of volunteers from the departments, and the expatriation of the non-juring clergy. The king vetoed both decrees, and dismissed the



DANTON

Like so many of the leading men of the time, Danton, who has been described as the greatest figure that fell in the Revolution, ended his life at the guillotine. He was an original member of the Committee of Public Safety.

were most closely connected with the Gironde. Dumouriez, conscious that he would be powerless if he severed himself from his party, resigned on Louis' refusal to withdraw the veto.

Louis fell back on an incompetent Feuillant Ministry. On June 20th, the Paris mob, probably with the connivance of the Mayor, Pétion, a Jacobin, invaded the Tuileries; but although the queen was insulted and bullied, and Louis himself was compelled to wear the "red cap" of Liberty, he refused to be intimidated. When Pétion himself appeared, the mob was induced to retire. The riot produced a certain re-action, but the opportunity was wasted.



PARIS IN REVOLT: THE MOB IN THE PALACE OF THE TUILERIES

After their unsuccessful attempt to escape from France, the king and queen returned to the Palace of the Tuileries, which was invaded by the mob on June 20th, 1792. Seeking refuge in an inner room, Marie Antoinette, with her children and her sister Elizabeth, stood for hours behind a barricade of tables and chairs, exposed to the revilings of the crowd that poured through the royal residence, heedless of the queen's appeal to their better feelings.

From the painting by A. Elmore, R.A., by permission of the Art Union.

THE REVOLUTION TRIUMPHANT

Louis hoped that foreign intervention would restore him unshackled by alliance with any party. Lafayette hastened from the front, in the hope that his presence might restore order; but he found both the court and the Assembly hostile, and even his National Guard disaffected, and could only withdraw again.

If anything was required to raise the popular excitement to the explosive point, it was provided by the Prussian declaration of war in July, followed by the manifesto of Brunswick, the Prussian commander, threatening penalties on Paris if the king or queen suffered harm. The contingents of volunteers from the departments—the veto on the formation of the

defend him. He, with the royal family, escaped to the Assembly, which promised them protection. The Swiss Guard at the Tuileries alone refused to desert their posts, and after a desperate resistance were cut to pieces; the mob massacred every man they could find in the palace.

Not the Assembly, but the new Commune was now completely master of the situation, for the Commune not only swayed the mob, but had captured the material means of government. The Assembly could only obey its orders. The monarchy was suspended; Danton was made Minister of Justice. Lafayette, with the army, proposed to march on Paris, but neither the men nor the commanders



"IN THE NAME OF LIBERTY": ENROLLING VOLUNTEERS IN THE REPUBLICAN ARMY

camp had been withdrawn—arrived; those from Marseilles brought with them the "Marseillaise," thenceforth to be the hymn of revolution. The national celebration of July 14th was virtually a Republican demonstration. Even Lafayette and a too royalist Assembly became the mark of popular clamour. On the night of August 9th a rising was organised in Paris. Arrangements were made to replace the Paris government by a provisional commune, with Danton at its head. The commander of the National Guard was put out of the way and replaced by a mob leader. With the dawn of August 10th the volunteers were brought up, and the king found that there were no troops to

would support him, Dumouriez declaring that their business was with the threatened invasion. Lafayette and his associates, denounced as traitors by the Assembly at the bidding of the Commune, retired over the frontier, and vanished political! In fact, Lafayette was captured by the enemy and held in detention as a prisoner of war for five years.

Meanwhile, the Prussians, under Brunswick, were advancing. Lafayette and his colleague, Luchner, were replaced by Dumouriez and Kellerman. Longwy capitulated; on September 2nd, Verdun fell, and the way to Paris was open. To increase the desperate condition of affairs, civil war broke out; the peasants of La

Vendée, where, as previously noted, the relations of the populace with the gentry were of a patriarchal and friendly type, rose in support of the Crown and the clergy. For desperate circumstances, Danton devised a more than desperate remedy. There must be no shadow of risk

**Terrible
Slaughter of
"Suspects"**

that the action of the executive should be in any way hampered by opposition; it must be as free from control as the most absolute despotism; to that end sheer terror must be the means. On the night of August 29th, commissioners, nominally in search of arms, conducted a house to house visitation throughout Paris, and arrested and flung into prison some four thousand "suspects." The mob was taught that the "aristocrats" were only waiting for "patriots" to depart to the front, in order to carry out a massacre. When the news arrived of the fall of Verdun, organised bodies were allowed to enter the prisons, and for three days there was a systematic slaughter. Similar atrocities were carried out in other cities; the numbers of the slain were reckoned in thousands.

But now at the front the situation changed. While Frederic William and Brunswick were discussing whether an immediate advance should be made upon Paris, Dumouriez was infusing a new spirit of patriotic confidence into the French troops, and when the Prussians attacked them at Valmy they held their ground. The Prussians retired, and from this time the enemy realised, as did the French troops themselves, that the latter had once more become formidable. Moreover, Russian action in Poland was now demanding the serious attention of Prussia, which could no longer afford to let its armies be absorbed in a monarchist crusade, and Brunswick drew off his troops towards the Rhine.

The cannonade of Valmy—it hardly claims to be called a battle—took place on September 20th. In the meantime, the Assembly had continued its session, but, under the orders of the Commune,

**France
Proclaimed a
Republic**

had fixed September 21st as the date for its own dissolution and for the assembling in its place of a new National Convention, to which the old self-denying ordinance of the Constituent Assembly did not apply, and for which the electorate and the delegates were freed from the

former property qualifications. Its first step on its opening day was to proclaim that the monarchy was at an end, and France was a republic.

The Constituent Assembly had been a reforming body, in which men like Lafayette, Mirabeau, or Siéyès had all been reckoned as of the advanced party. In the Legislative Assembly the ideas which had dominated such men were regarded as conservative and even as reactionary; the representative section of the advanced party was to be found among the idealists of the Gironde. In the Convention, the republican Girondins were the party of order, and their opponents were the revolutionaries of the Mountain. From the Second Assembly the Royalists had almost vanished; in the Third Assembly, a like fate had befallen the Constitutionals.

In the Convention, at the outset, the preponderance lay with the Girondins; the members of the Mountain were much fewer. But the very considerable body known as "the Plain," which was attached definitely neither to the Gironde nor to the Mountain, was very soon under the practical

control of the latter or of its leaders, who were in effect the dictators of the Jacobin organisation and of the Paris Commune. Theoretically, indeed, there was no great difference between the aims of the Gironde and the Mountain. But the cultured intellectuals of the Gironde shrank back with a shudder from the merciless popular tyranny expressed in the September massacres, the author of which they would willingly have punished. Their own ranks, however, were devoid of discipline, and their leaders had no conception of political tactics. They attacked Robespierre, Danton, and Marat instead of seeking the alliance of Danton, without having the evidence to carry their charges home; while the centralising system of their opponents, which concentrated all effective control in the hands of a few men who knew their own minds, gave those opponents an enormous advantage.

Nevertheless, amid the contests of the Mountain and Gironde work was done by committees of the Convention outside the realms of party warfare which has remained of permanent value—such as the introduction of the uniform "metric" system of weights and measures in place of the old chaotic variety, the preparation



THE TUILERIES IN THE HANDS OF THE MOB: THE SACKING OF THE ROYAL PALACE ON AUGUST 10TH, 1792

In this picture there is represented one of the most significant incidents of the early days of the Revolution. On the night of August 9th, 1792, a rising was organised in Paris, arrangements being made to replace the Paris government by a provisional committee, with Danton at its head. A mob leader took the place of the commander of the National Guard. On the following day, the Tuileries was attacked; the Swiss Guard were cut to pieces, after a desperate resistance; and overturning the palace, the mob murdered every man they could find there.

of Condorcet's great scheme of systematic national education, and the preliminary work on the Civil Code, which made the way ready for the Code Napoléon. A curious aberration, however, was the invention of a new Revolution Calendar, starting the year One of the New Era from September 21st, 1792. Cosmic laws unkindly forbade the perfect application of the decimal system, but logic substituted for the old haphazard designations of the months titles connected with their naturalistic associations, such as Thermidor, Fructidor, Brumaire. The new calendar was not put in force till October, 1793.

**Republican
Armies' Series
of Victories**

The armies of the Republic prospered during the autumn. The population of Savoy was quite ready for incorporation, having no affection for the Sardinian monarchy, and practically no resistance was offered. In the Rhine provinces, which the operations in the north had left undefended, Custine advanced and captured Mainz and Frankfort without difficulty. In the north, Dumouriez invaded Belgium, where he inflicted on the Austrians at Jemappes a defeat which caused them to retire; and here, too, the population welcomed the invaders.

On the same day as the victory at Jemappes the Convention took the aggressive step of declaring the commerce of the River Scheldt to be free, although the control of it had been guaranteed to Holland by treaty. These proceedings, however, had an important effect on the international situation. Hitherto the French had, in theory at least, been fighting in self-defence, with every justification for resisting the armed intervention of foreign powers in the domestic affairs of France. Now, France was assuming the aggressive, annexing territories, ejecting governments, and claiming by her own fiat to cancel treaties. Two things were still wanting. The first

was supplied when, in December, the Republic issued a decree proclaiming that in all districts occupied by French armies the existing governments and all privileges were to be abolished, popular assemblies summoned, and the country taken under the protection of the Republic. The second followed when, in Danton's phrase, the Republic "flung down to the kings the head of a king as the gage of battle." The Jacobins saw in the slaying of the king the opportunity of cutting France off from her historic past, of appealing to the passions of the Paris mob, and of denouncing as traitors all who opposed the design. The Girondins shuddered, detested, but dared to offer only a qualified resistance.

A committee reported that the king might lawfully be tried by the Convention. The discovery of some of Louis's earlier correspondence strengthened the clamour against him. The Mountain began to demand the summary execution of the king without trial, on the principle that the security of the people overrides all law. To escape that extreme, the Girondins assented to the trial; to his eternal honour, Malesherbes came forth from his sixteen years of political retirement to volunteer his services in the king's defence. An attempt was made to withdraw the decision from a court dominated by the Paris Commune and the Paris mob, and to refer it to the Departmental Assemblies.

The trial was opened in December, the galleries being crowded with an intimidating mob. Under such conditions, on January 14th, 1793, the verdict was given, a majority of eleven voting in favour of the guillotine. On the 21st Louis's head fell. Within three weeks Great Britain was added to the nations against whom the Republic had declared war—a war which was really to be ended only after two-and-twenty years, on the field of Waterloo.

**Louis XVI.
Dies by the
Guillotine**



THE FRENCH VICTORY OVER THE AUSTRIANS AT THE BATTLE OF JEMAPPES IN 1792



UNDER THE REIGN OF TERROR AND THE COMING OF THE MAN OF DESTINY

HITHERTO France had been at war with Austria, Prussia, the princes of the frontier provinces, and Sardinia or Savoy. Prussia was vacillating between sympathy for the French monarchy and distrust of Russia in Poland; between aversion from the revolution in France and an equally intense aversion from the émigrés. Austria was fighting at a distance from her base, in conjunction with an ally with whom she was by no means in close accord. The other powers were standing out of the quarrel, Pitt being, indeed, rather disposed to recognise the Republic and seek its alliance. But in the closing months of 1792 and January, 1793, some important changes had taken place.

Public opinion in England was turned angrily against France by the September massacres. The French Government, with its successes in the field, was eager to challenge the world in arms, under the conviction that in England, as well as elsewhere, the people were groaning under the tyranny of a political system which they were yearning to overthrow. The Jacobins were zealous to impose popular liberties as understood by themselves on the nations of Europe. The Girondins anticipated with alarm the results of a peace which would scatter over France 300,000 soldiers for whom the existing industrial conditions would not readily provide civil employment. On the other hand, the foreign territories now in French occupation were beginning to realise that liberation, as interpreted by the Republic, was not an unqualified blessing. In England, though not in Ireland, the demand for liberation was practically non-existent, and it was soon to be proved that Great Britain was the most implacable and also the most stable of all the Powers challenged by the regicide Republic. The war had been forced upon a Minister who, up to the last moment, had

**France Ready
to Challenge
the World**

done his best to avert it, but when once it had begun did his best to maintain and extend the European coalition with a greater zeal than that of any other of the Powers. But the strength of coalitions depends very much less on their aggregate mass than on their sustained co-operation and unity of aim. Spain, Portugal, Naples, and Holland might be, and were, all drawn into this coalition; but at the best these were only make-weights, and on land Great Britain herself was little more—as yet. The effective military powers were Prussia and Austria. But Austria and Prussia were not preparing to devote their energies completely and decisively to the repression of France.

**Unhappy
Condition
of Poland**

At this crisis Prussia became absorbed in a fresh partition of what remained of Poland with the Tsarina, on lines the reverse of satisfactory to Austria, whose interest lay in the maintenance of an independent Poland strong enough to serve as a barrier against the westward advance of Russia. Until the close of 1795 the Polish problem perpetually distracted the two German powers from the systematic prosecution of the war against the French.

Under such conditions it is not surprising that the coalition failed to strike decisive blows in spite of the pressing difficulties under which the French Government, still nominally Girondin, was labouring. It was only for a very brief moment that the enormous odds which France had raised against herself served to unite all parties in a determination to meet them effectively. Huge new levies were raised, and the outstanding cash problem was dealt with according to precedent by the issue of more assignats. But the strife between the Mountain and Gironde revived with increased bitterness. Having made themselves responsible for the death of Louis, the Girondins could forgive

**The Girondins
Suffering
from Remorse**

parties in a determination to meet them effectively. Huge new levies were raised, and the outstanding cash problem was dealt with according to precedent by the issue of more assignats. But the strife between the Mountain and Gironde revived with increased bitterness. Having made themselves responsible for the death of Louis, the Girondins could forgive

neither themselves nor the antagonists who had driven them into this false position. Dumouriez, after visiting Paris, and offering a vain opposition to the regicide policy, returned to the army in Belgium with the immediate object of subjugating

Defeated Ambitions of Dumouriez

Holland, which was not unwilling to overturn the rule of the Stadtholder, William of Orange. The advance of the Austrians into Belgium compelled him to give them battle, and to suffer a defeat at Neerwinden. Seeing only a dwindling prospect of carrying out his own policy in the character of a triumphant general—the policy of restoring the monarchy in the person of young Louis Philippe, the son of "Égalité" Orleans—he resolved to do so with foreign aid. His troops, however, were still less disposed to aid him in this project than he had been to aid Lafayette in the past; and he was obliged to take flight and follow Lafayette out of effective political life, though not into captivity.

The Girondins had refused to detach Danton from the Jacobins, to injure him by charging him with complicity in Dumouriez's Orleanist plot; but thereby they only hastened their own downfall. A secret committee of nine, known as the Committee of Public Safety, was established by the Convention to control the Girondin Ministry and the commanders at the front, with almost despotic powers. The Girondins made unsuccessful rhetorical attacks on their opponents, who organised a popular hostility in Paris, which broke out in a rising on June 2nd. The National Guard had become an instrument of the Jacobins.

The Convention was surrounded in force, and compelled to surrender most of the prominent Girondins. Some of these escaped, and proceeded to raise the provinces against Paris mob rule. La Vendée had already for months been in active insurrection, defying and destroying Government forces. Charlotte Corday

succeeded in assassinating Marat, but the practical effect was to intensify the ferocity with which the Jacobins pursued their opponents. Had the antagonism to the Paris Government been organised instead of sporadic, it would have been in the utmost peril. And had the members of the coalition been working in concert, they might have threatened Paris itself, for, in every quarter, the French were being worsted — by Spaniards, Piedmontese, Prussians, Austrians, British. The loyalists of Toulon handed over the arsenal and harbour to the protection of the British Fleet. The allies took Valenciennes and recaptured Mainz. But each of them was playing for his own hand with the object of securing this or that piece

of territory out of the dismemberment of France. In the face of these gathering perils, the Committee of Public Safety, now armed with almost unlimited powers, directed its energies with savage vigour to the organisation of an aggressive defence and a ruthless crushing of all resistance, potential as well as active, suspected as well as proved, to the "tyranny of Liberty." The genius of Carnot, the "organiser of victories," was soon triumphantly associated with the fanaticism of



MARIE ANTOINETTE IN MOURNING
After the execution of Louis XVI.

St. Just and the venom of Robespierre in directing the fate of France. Although the Convention drew up yet another Constitution, its adoption was deferred, and practically all powers executive and legislative were vested in the Committee, and their commissioners ruled absolutely in every department. Carnot raised three-quarters of a million soldiers; the revolts everywhere were crushed with merciless rigour. "Suspects,"

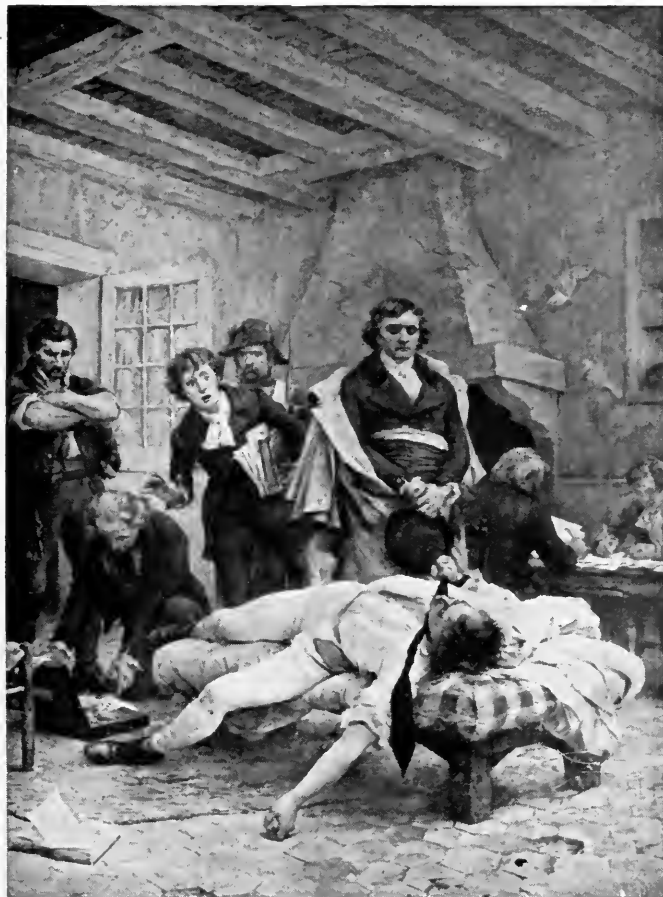
The Prisons Filled with "Suspects"

which might mean anyone who had failed to display conspicuous energy on behalf of the existing Government, were flung into prison by the thousand. The old commanders were displaced, it might be on insufficient grounds;

THE REIGN OF TERROR AND THE MAN OF DESTINY

but the new men were selected by Carnot with extraordinary insight and judgment, and they displayed a capacity which invariably justified the selection. In the north, Jourdan drove back the combined British and Austrians—the former were still in the stage when family connections constituted the sole title to important commands; in the Rhine

destroying the French warships which lay in the harbour. Yet these military triumphs had an ugly background in the Reign of Terror which was established—not only in Paris. Names noble and infamous were numbered in the death-rôle—the queen and the sister of the king, the mistress of the king's grandfather, Mme. Roland, the soul of the



THE DEATH OF GENERAL PICHEGRU

Enlisting in the army of France, Charles Pichegru became a general of division, and led his troops to victory in a series of important battles. In consequence of his associating himself with the Bourbons, the Directory superseded him by Moreau, and his Bourbon intrigues were continued after he became President of the Council of Five Hundred in 1797. He escaped from France, but returned to it in 1804, and on the morning of April 6th, was found strangled in bed.

provinces, Hoche and Pichegru drove back Austrians and Prussians. Before Toulon, the genius of a young artillery officer, Napoleon Buonaparte—the more popular form Bonaparte was adopted by him at a later date—secured over the besiegers a position so commanding that the English admiral, Hood, had to content himself with taking off a number of the loyalists and

Girondin idealism, Philip "Egalité," generals who had failed to satisfy, like Custine and Houchard, men once honoured as reformers, like Bailly and Barnave, amid an untold number of forgotten victims, while the interested psychologist observes that Paris went to the theatre as usual. Even Robespierre was disgusted at the obscene profanities of the "feast of reason" indulged in by the foul Hébert and his associates. Danton, and those who were with him, were now nicknamed the "Indulgents"; though responsible for the last year's September massacres, they had no part in these abominations. Danton struck without mercy, but with definite purpose; the "Reign of Terror" was a period of indiscriminate slaughter, almost without purpose, hideous, sickening. Robespierre, seeing the revulsion it caused, allied himself for a moment with the "Indulgents" for the destruction of the Hébertists, whose heads fell beneath the guillotine in March. Then Robespierre turned on his rival. A fortnight after, Hébert, Danton and his associates met the same doom. Robespierre's supremacy was undisputed.

Robespierre was a complete fanatic; in his own eyes, the apostle and high priest of perfect Rousseauism, whose mission it was to inaugurate Rousseau's millennium at the cost of a vast sacrificial slaughter. He was also a complete egoist,

perfectly satisfied that to secure his own power all means were moral. He was a convinced Deist; and, in contrast to the Hébertists with their nauseous "feast of reason," which was an atheistic carnival, he caused the Convention to affirm by decree the existence of the Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul; he instituted the Festival of the Supreme Being, acting himself as a sort of high priest. But the Terror went on; it was to go on till the "Reign of Virtue" was established.

The Law of Prairial, in June, abolished the last semblance of legal procedure in the case of "suspects," and his former coadjutors felt that their own turn might come any day. While the guillotine devoured its daily feast—between forty and fifty victims on the average, in Paris—enemies who had learned their business as members of the Committee of Public Safety, enemies as ruthless as himself, were plotting Robespierre's downfall. There were preliminary warnings, but Robespierre counted on his own influence. On Thermidor 9th (July 27th), not six weeks after the passing of the Law of Prairial, the Convention turned upon Robespierre and his associates, St. Just and Couthon, and decreed their arrest. The troops of the Commune were brought up to effect a liberation, but they offered no opposition when the Convention in turn brought up troops to carry out its order. The three were dispatched to the scaffold. So ended the Terror. Not because all the new chiefs were less bloodthirsty, but because they realised that the lust of blood

had been glutted and turned to nausea. The overthrow had been effected by a combination of Indulgents and Terrorists; but the victory lay with the Indulgents.

The personnel of the Committee of Public Safety was necessarily changed,



ST. JUST AND CARNOT

St. Just was a follower of Robespierre, and at the Convention in 1792 came into notice by his fierce attacks on the king. He died by the guillotine, along with Robespierre, in 1794. Carnot, a member of the Committee of Public Safety during the Revolution, earned the title of the "organiser of victory"; he raised no fewer than fourteen armies.

though Carnot remained. He cannot be acquitted of responsibility for the Terror; but his business had been with the exercise of administrative functions in another sphere, that of military organisation, and for his astonishing success in this department France owed him an enormous

debt. The new Government set about the task of restoring something like constitutional methods with vigour. The Law of Prairial was repealed, and Robespierre's instrument, the Revolutionary Tribunal, was suspended. Much of the power usurped by the Committee was restored to the Convention. The Paris Commune was abolished,



JEAN PAUL MARAT

A zealous revolutionary, he engaged in a mortal struggle with the Girondins, and at his door has been laid the blame of the most infamous of the massacres. He was the object of intense hatred, and was assassinated in 1793.

and replaced by committees nominated by the Convention. Fresh forces were organised to hold the mob in check, composed of members of the well-to-do classes. The remnant of Terrorists were forced to resign their places on the various committees. The remnant of Girondins was recalled to the Assembly, and the Jacobin club was closed by a decree of the Convention. The Terror was a lurid background to the military achievements of the Re-

publican armies. They were now led almost entirely by men of great natural talent, who had displayed conspicuous ability and courage in the ranks and in subordinate posts; and the presence at the front of commissioners of the

THE REIGN OF TERROR AND THE MAN OF DESTINY

Committee of Public Safety was a perpetual reminder that failure, or even the appearance of failure, might lead to the guillotine, as it did with Custine and Houchard. The Spaniards, who had met with some success when they first joined the coalition, were driven back, the Pyrenees were pierced, and Spain itself was invaded by the force which had recovered Toulon. The previous successes of the Piedmontese were reversed.

On the side of the Rhine and the Netherlands, the French improved upon the advantages won in 1793. Prussia, intent on subjugating her share of Poland, would continue the French war only for hard cash; Austria would provide none, but Pitt furnished the subsidies demanded, in return for which Prussia sent to the Rhine 60,000 men, whose commander, Möllendorf, remained persistently inactive. In the Netherlands, the Austrians at first co-operated with the Duke of York, and Landrecies was taken; but Pichegru advanced at the head of the French Army of the North; York was defeated at Turcoing; further south, Jourdan, after a series of minor engagements, defeated the Austrians at Fleurus, while Möllendorf refused to move to their support.

The Austrians retired beyond the Meuse, York fell back into Brabant, and Pichegru made himself master of Belgium. In fact, with Austria, as with Prussia, the French war had come to be regarded as of minor importance as compared with Poland, and Francis was hoping to be compensated for the loss of the Netherlands by the acquisition of Bavaria as the price of his assent to the partition arranged between Prussia and Russia. As the year advanced, all the provinces on the left bank of the Rhine were occupied by the French; Pichegru advanced into Holland, disregarding the difficulties of a winter campaign; the Dutch fleet in the Texel was captured, and the Stadtholder took flight to England—

Succession of French Victories

to which power, it may here be noted, he very shortly ceded the protectorate of the Dutch Colony at the Cape, which thenceforth remained a British possession, except during the brief interval of the Peace of Amiens. Holland itself was transformed into the "Batavian Republic."

"Glorious First of June"

The revolt in La Vendée, though it had extended to Brittany, had been reduced to warfare of an exclusively guerrilla character. For the coalition the record of the year 1794 was pitiful. Great Britain alone could find some consolation in Lord Howe's naval victory of the "glorious First of June" off Ushant—a battle famous, among other things, for



GENERAL HOCHE

General Hoche defended Dunkirk against the Duke of York in 1793, and it was owing to his efforts that the civil war in La Vendée was brought to an end in 1795. Two years later he inflicted several defeats on the Austrians.

the mythical heroism of the crew of the Vengeur, who, after a magnificent fight, did not refuse to strike their colours, but surrendered before the ship went down. The legend, however, was invaluable as an inspiration of dauntless defiance. The situation was not redeemed in the following year. Austria, indeed, impelled by the energy of Pitt and the promises of the Tsarina Catharine, who was exceedingly anxious to keep the emperor embroiled in the west, maintained the war, though without energy. Great Britain did little except make an abortive attempt to set the émigrés at the head of a Royalist

rising in Brittany, which was foiled partly by the miserable incapacity of the émigrés themselves, partly by the skill and energy of Hoche, to whom Carnot entrusted the command. Some seven hundred of them were shot down in cold blood by the order of Tallien—who was present as commissioner—not of Hoche, who proceeded to pacify the country with a judicious justice, which could be severe or lenient as circumstances might demand. But the coalition was broken up. Prussia, which had taken no effective part since 1793, made her own peace with the Republic in April by the Treaty of Basle, surrendering her territories on the left bank of the Rhine, and receiving a provisional



TRIAL OF MARIE ANTOINETTE BEFORE THE REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL

Marie Antoinette was brought for trial before the Revolutionary Tribunal on October 14th, 1793. The proceedings lasted for about twenty consecutive hours. The queen was perfectly calm throughout the long and terrible ordeal, and "did not give the least sign of fear, or indignation, or weakness," even when the decree that sentenced her to death was read.



THE QUEEN OF FRANCE BEING LED TO EXECUTION ON OCTOBER 16TH, 1793

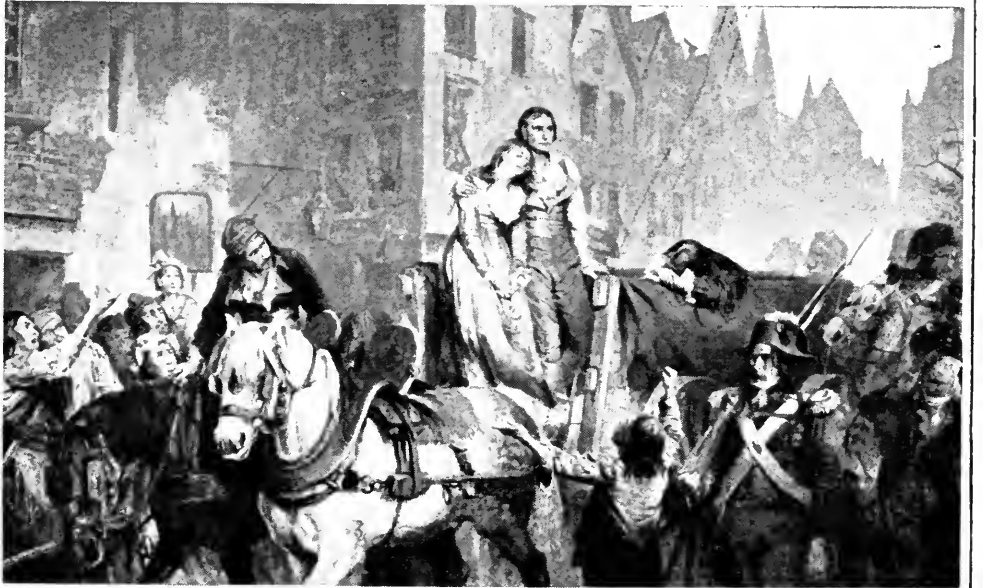
The courage and fortitude exhibited by Marie Antoinette during her long trial before the Revolutionary Tribunal did not forsake her in the closing hours of life, and she bravely met death by the guillotine on October 16th, 1793.



THE GUILLOTINE'S DAILY TOLL: GIRONDINS ON THEIR WAY TO DEATH

The Girondins, at first allied with the Jacobins, were one of the chief revolutionary parties that arose during the Revolution, but while they had a part in the overthrow of the monarchy they had no share in the infamous September massacres. When the party were defeated in June, 1793, many of their leaders and followers were led to the guillotine.

From the painting by Piloty



VICTIMS OF THE GUILLOTINE: A DAILY SCENE DURING THE REVOLUTION

Such scenes as that represented in the above picture were witnessed daily in the streets of Paris and other cities during the Reign of Terror. In rough carts, men and women, amid the jeers and insults of the brutal mob, were taken to the place of execution and beheaded by the guillotine, whose thirst for blood remained insatiable.

promise of compensation on the right bank. Spain followed suit in July, ceding her portion in San Domingo. The Bourbon monarchy was the less averse because the young Dauphin, who had not been guillotined, but kept a prisoner, succumbed in June under the severities of his confinement.

It is not surprising that some two score of pseudo-Dauphins were discovered at intervals in the years to come. The legitimist heir to the throne was now the late king's brother, the Count of Provence, who assumed in his exile the title of Louis XVIII. Once more a new Government was on

another insurrection in May, which was successfully put down by the Government. The scales had turned against mob rule.

As usual, however, the remedy for discontent was sought in the promulgation of a new Constitution. Two fundamental vices were discovered as the cause of failure in the past—the confusion of the legislative and executive functions, and the single chamber. The executive body was now to have no control over legislation; the Legislature, divided into two chambers, would have no control over the executive, save for the power of impeaching Ministers. The deputies were to be chosen



THE ASSASSINATION OF MARAT BY CHARLOTTE CORDAY

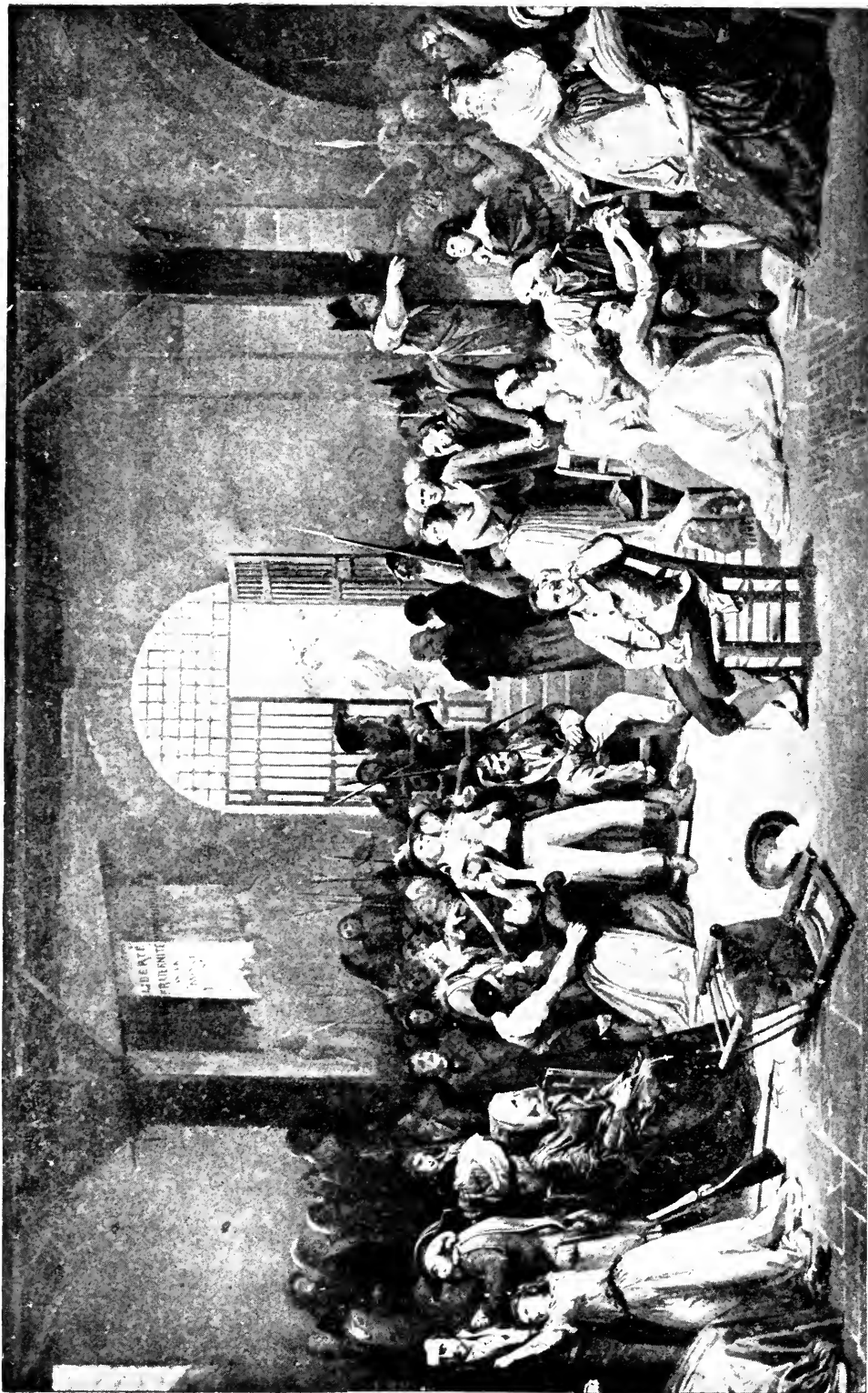
Though of noble family, Charlotte Corday welcomed the Revolution, but was horrified at the acts of the Jacobins, and resolved to destroy one of their leaders. On July 17th, 1793, she was admitted to the house of Marat on the plea that she had important news to impart, and finding him in his bath stabbed him to the heart. She was executed a few days later.

From the picture by H. Scheffer

the verge of being formed in France. The "Thermidorean" reaction was the expression of a strong national revulsion against the excesses of the last two years, and restored a considerable share of power to the bourgeois element. But the distress of the lower classes had found temporary alleviation from the employment provided by revolutionary committees, and from the "maximum" law, which had fixed a limit on the price of food and other articles; both these disappeared with the reaction. The discontent of the mob was fanned by the surviving Terrorists, and Paris saw

by double election—the citizens who paid taxes choosing electors, and the electors choosing deputies. The younger deputies, forming the larger body, were to submit legislation to the elder, or Chamber of Ancients. The two bodies were to nominate the five heads of the executive, the Directory, who would appoint Ministers. One of the Directory and one-third of each of the other bodies were to retire annually.

An obvious weakness lay in the risk of Directory and Legislature losing touch, and creating a deadlock with its attendant dangers, which in England are obviated



THE ARISTOCRATS HOUR OF DOOM: THE GAOLER READING THE NAMES OF THE PRISONERS CONDEMNED TO DIE
From the painting by Muller at Versailles.

by the system of party Cabinets. The fear, however, of reaction, whether royalist or revolutionary, taking effect at the coming elections, inspired a further modification—that in the first instance two-thirds of the deputies must be chosen from the members of the Convention itself.

There was no one in Paris to treat the Convention as Cromwell had treated the Rump under somewhat similar circumstances; but the Assembly was not so secure of its own position as the British Parliament which prolonged its own life by passing the Septennial Act. An insurrection in Paris of the discontented factions was almost a certainty. The Government appointed Barras to deal with the emergency. Barras turned to a young artillery officer who had recently been cashiered for refusing to join the army in La Vendée—the same to whom the credit for the capture of Toulon was known to be due. To him Barras entrusted the command of the troops. By the use of artillery, dexterously secured by Murat, Bonaparte completely scattered the insurgents in the streets of Paris on October 5th. The Man of Destiny had set his foot on the first rung of the ladder. Before we accompany him through his tremendous career, his rise to unexampled power and the crash of his fall, we must turn to the events in Central Europe, which have been glanced at only from time to time in our sketch of the first years of the first French Republic. The special affairs of Great Britain are reserved for separate treatment.

The first partition of Poland had reduced the area of that kingdom by transferring border provinces to Russia, Prussia and Austria respectively; while the throne itself had been secured for Stanislas Poniatowski, a creature of the Tsarina.

This subjection, however, was not to the liking of the Poles themselves; and when, at the close of the 'eighties, Russia became involved in a Turkish war the hope was revived of recovering independence and strengthening the Polish state.

Ideas of constitutional reform were developed under the influence of the



MADAME ROLAND AT THE GUILLOTINE

The wife of Jean Marie Roland, Minister of the Interior, was arrested and taken to Sainte Pelagie. On November 8th, 1793, she was brought to the guillotine. "O Liberty," she said, addressing with her last breath the statue so-called, "what crimes are committed in thy name!" Her husband afterwards stabbed himself

doctrines emanating from France in the opening "Constituent" stage of the Revolution. In May, 1790, the succession to the childless Stanislas was laid down in the Saxony line, with a view to the establishment of a hereditary instead of an electoral monarchy, and a Constitution was promulgated. The *liberum veto*, or right of any one noble to veto legislation,



THE CELEBRATION OF MASS DURING THE REIGN OF TERROR

From the painting by C. L. Muller

was abolished, the executive was placed in the hands of the Crown, and the legislature in the hands of a Senate and a representative Assembly. The plan suited Leopold of Austria, who wanted a strong buffer state to hold back Russia; it was less agreeable to Frederic William, who saw his chances of acquiring Danzig and Thorn vanishing; and it did not suit Russia at all, for obvious reasons. Leopold, however, succeeded in establishing his influence over the Prussian king,

**France
and Her
Enemies**

and the two German monarchs agreed, in July, 1790, and in February, 1791, to guarantee a "free constitution" for Poland.

Hence; Catharine's anxiety to obtain a free hand for upsetting the new arrangements by involving Austria and Prussia in hostilities with France, and to bring the Turkish war to a conclusion. With the Peace of Jassy, in January, 1792, and the intense friction between France and the Powers in those months, both Catharine's immediate objects seemed to be accomplished; and she was aided by the death of the shrewd emperor in March, and by the dissensions among the Poles themselves, the old nobility being very ill-content with the new constitution, which deprived them of their ancient and fatal "liberty" to make the central government an unworkable farce. Frederic

William, no longer guided by a wiser ruler than himself, disregarded the appeals of the constitutionalists, and the traditional jealousy and distrust between Austria and Prussia revived, while Austria herself was committed to the French war in defence of the Netherlands. Catharine sought to satisfy Prussia by meeting her demands for additional Polish territory, while Austrian acquiescence was to be secured by the old scheme of exchanging the Austrian Netherlands for Bavaria. But Austria was not so easily satisfied.

With Dumouriez overrunning Belgium at the end of 1792, the practicability of the scheme of exchange was more than doubtful; moreover, Prussia would give no active assistance in carrying it out, and refused to accede to Austria's further demands for the transfer to her of Anspach and Baireuth. Catharine, however, practically twisted Frederic William to her will; and in January, 1793, the two powers made a secret treaty, arranging a partition, and leaving out Austria—except for a joint undertaking to lend moral support to her acquisition of Bavaria. At the same time, Prussia bound herself to continue the French war. How she interpreted that obligation we have already seen. She took Pitt's subsidies, sent Möllendorf to the Rhine, and remained inactive. In Poland, however, both

Prussia and Russia proceeded to carry out their joint policy with energy. Both invaded that country—to suppress disorder—and appropriated the respective shares agreed upon, that of Russia, it may be remarked, having double the population and four times the area of the Prussian portion. The effect on Austria was to terminate the policy of co-operation with Prussia, which had proved itself utterly untrustworthy, and to bring into power the anti-Prussian Minister, Thugut. Nevertheless, the partition was confirmed in September, while Stanislas, with what was left of his kingdom, found himself a mere vassal of Russia. Again the Poles rose against the Russian dominion, in 1794, under the leadership of Kosciusko. The revolt had no practical chance of success, and it was perceived at Berlin that unless Prussia intervened the spoils would fall to Russia. A Prussian invasion in June resulted in the capture of Cracow, to which prompt action would have added Warsaw. But owing to the lack of it,

Warsaw was enabled to hold out until the Prussians found themselves obliged to withdraw in order to suppress insurrection in their own new provinces. Russia took up the task and completed it with thoroughness. The successful general,



A POLISH PATRIOT

Tadeusz Kosciusko headed the national movement in Cracow after the second partition of Poland, and was appointed dictator and commander-in-chief. He died in 1817.

Suwarow, defeated and captured Kosciusko, stormed Praga, massacred its inhabitants, and seized Warsaw. Catharine could now afford to disregard Prussia and conciliate Austria. On January 3rd, 1795, the two Powers completed the final partition by a treaty to which Prussia acceded a year later. A portion, including Warsaw, went to Prussia; a larger portion, including Cracow, to Austria; and the lion's share to Russia. Poland had vanished from the map of Europe. An additional secret treaty between Austria and Russia never took effect, and did not, in fact, come to light till half a century had passed; it is of interest as throwing light on the unscrupulous character of the designs and the diplomacy of Thugut, but exercised no practical effect whatever on history.



THE DEFEAT OF THE AUSTRIANS AT THE BATTLE OF FLEURUS IN 1794

From the painting by Mauzaisse at Versailles



THE CONQUERING GENERAL OF THE DIRECTORY

BONAPARTE IN ITALY AND EGYPT

BONAPARTE, in the affair of "Vendémiaire"—i.e., October 5th—saved the Republic from relapsing into anarchy. The new Constitution came into immediate force. The five Directors chosen—Carnot, Barras, Rewbell, Letourneur, and La Réveillère—were all members of the regicide Assembly; but their policy was one of moderation, approved by the Legislature, of which bodies, as we noted, two-thirds were members of the Convention. The government proved itself to be vigorous and alert, as well as moderate, and the sense of public security began to revive, although the solution of the financial problem seemed as remote as ever.

Domestic order, then, was restored. But Great Britain and Austria combined to reject peace overtures, and the continuation of the war led directly to the establishment of some victorious general as

The Early Genius of Bonaparte

autocrat. The destined Cæsar was the man who had made such excellent use of his chance of deserving well of the new Government. Barras had his own reasons for pushing the young man who, amid his ambitions, was consumed with passion for the fascinating widow Josephine Beauharnais. Carnot recognised a brilliant military genius in the plan for an Italian campaign which Bonaparte had sent in. He was appointed to the Italian command, married Josephine, and, after the briefest of honeymoons, started for the front in March, 1796. He was then six-and-twenty years of age. He was one of several brothers, of a leading Corsican family, French only in the sense that Choiseul annexed Corsica just before Napoleon was born.

For years past, Corsica, under the leadership of the patriot Pasquale Paoli, had been struggling for freedom from the Genoese rule; and the struggle was renewed against the French. The young Napoleon's sympathies were with the patriots to an extent which occasionally

brought him into trouble while he was pursuing his studies for a military career in France. He attached himself, however, to the revolution, and held an artillery command at the siege of Toulon, where he was on friendly terms with the Com-

**Bonaparte's
Career
In Danger** missioner of the Committee of Public Safety, Robespierre's younger brother. After Robespierre's fall, this connection

went near to destroying his career, and he had been trying to obtain an appointment as organiser of the Turkish sultan's artillery, when he was cashiered, and then reinstated in order to "save the Republic" in Vendémiaire.

According to the general plan of campaign, two French armies, under Jourdan and Moreau, were to enter Germany and force their way to Vienna; Bonaparte was to force the King of Sardinia—who had already lost Savoy and Nice, but maintained a strong army in Piedmont—to sever himself from the Austrian alliance, and was to drive the Austrians out of Italy.

The new general had as subordinates men who had already shown great abilities, such as Masséna and Lannes; he was soon to eclipse them. Advancing with some 40,000 men, he found the Austrian and Piedmontese forces under Beaulieu disposed in three divisions, prepared to dispute his passage into Piedmont, and to cut his communications if he proceeded along the coast to Genoa. Bonaparte's movements deceived Beaulieu, and he was successful in completely routing the centre

**Austrians
Defeated by
Bonaparte** division at Montenotte, and splitting the right—the Piedmontese on the west—from the left, Beaulieu on the east. The

Austrians fell back to the north-east to defend the line of the Po, the Piedmontese to the north-west, to cover Turin. But the King of Sardinia, seeing that Piedmont was now practically indefensible, came to terms, and withdrew from the coalition.



THE BOYHOOD OF NAPOLEON: HIS UNHAPPY SCHOOLDAYS AT BRIENNE

As a lad, the future Emperor of the French attended school at Brienne, and having but a scanty acquaintance with the French language, his lot was anything but happy. He even felt so miserable that he attempted to escape, and it is said that he offered himself as a sailor to the British Admiralty. The lonely youth seems to have been an object of amusement to his schoolmates, and Bonaparte's sensitive nature must have been deeply wounded by their unfeeling treatment.

From the painting by Reaier Dumas

Bonaparte was free to deal independently with the Austrians before April was ended. Beaulieu took up his position behind the Ticino; again Bonaparte, by rapid movements, completely outmanœuvred him, and effected the passage of the Po at Piacenza. Beaulieu withdrew behind the Adda. But the fury of the French assault, headed by Bonaparte and Lannes in person, on the narrow wooden bridge at Lodi, carried the passage, and the Austrians were routed. Beaulieu, however, managed to draw his scattered forces together beyond the Mincio, and retreat to the all-important fortress of Mantua.

Four days later Bonaparte entered the Lombard capital, Milan. The hypothesis that the Republican army was engaged on a mission of liberation was rendered somewhat unconvincing by the toll which the conqueror levied, not only in cash but in works of art, which the Italians looked upon as national treasures, and various local insurrections of the populace took place which were severely repressed.

Naples, the other Bourbon state which was in the coalition—Spain had withdrawn in the previous year—was terrified into neutrality, and the Neapolitan con-

tingent was withdrawn from the Austrian forces. Leghorn was seized—though the Duke of Tuscany, the brother of the emperor, had left the coalition before Prussia—and the British merchants and shipping in that neutral port paid the penalty. Bologna and Ferrara, at the north of the Papal states, were occupied; and the Pope bought respite at the price of five million dollars, the surrender of numerous works of art, and the cession of Bologna, Ferrara, and Ancona. Further, although Venice was neutral, Bonaparte found a pretext for occupying Brescia, within the territories of that republic, thereby virtually compelling Beaulieu in turn to violate the Venetian neutrality by occupying Peschiera, to cover Mantua. Beaulieu was thereupon attacked and driven north into the Tyrol, while a portion of his army remained in Mantua.

The Directory, taking alarm at the sudden and startling prestige acquired in six weeks of brilliant campaigning, proposed, but did not venture to press, that Bonaparte should leave half his army under command of Kellerman to deal with the Austrians, and should proceed with the

THE CONQUERING GENERAL OF THE DIRECTORY

other half to coerce the Pope. The proposal was negated. The general went on to begin the siege of Mantua, when news came that Beaulieu was superseded by Würmser, who was descending from the Tyrol with his main army by the valley of the Adige, in Venetian territory, while a second army was to pass on the west of Lake Garda towards Brescia. Würmser was soon to learn the un wisdom of splitting up a force which was intended to operate

broken up, and Würmser only succeeded in reaching Mantua with a force considerably smaller than the number of men he had lost in getting there.

Had the French campaigns in Germany been successful, it would now have been Bonaparte's business to leave North Italy in its practically prostrate condition and march through the mountains upon Austria. The two columns under Moreau and Jourdan advanced on separate lines

into Germany, while the Austrian commander, the Archduke Charles, had his forces depleted in order to provide the troops for Würmser's descent into Italy. Charles, however, leaving only a small force to hold Moreau in check, threw himself on Jourdan, and in a series of engagements drove him back over the Rhine. Moreau, in danger of finding himself cut off and overwhelmed, conducted a masterly retreat; but the combined plan of campaign was completely foiled. Bonaparte could carry out his own plans in Italy—unless the Austrians could prevent him. As an initial step, he had on his own responsibility ejected the Duke of Modena, and constructed the "Cispadane Republic" out of the duchy and the recently ceded estates of the papacy.

Austria, however, had not yet thrown up the cards, and in the late autumn new armies were descending from the Tyrol, considerably outnumbering Bonaparte's forces. By

three days of desperate fighting at Arcola, Alvinzi was driven back to the Tyrol in November; yet once more he renewed his advance in January, 1797, only to be crushed at Rivoli and La Favorita. These battles decided the fate of Mantua, which surrendered at the beginning of February; Bonaparte was sufficiently generous to allow Würmser and the garrison to march out with the honours of war. To complete the humiliation of



BONAPARTE IMPRISONED AS A "SUSPECT" AT NICE

On the downfall of Robespierre, Napoleon, as his brother's friend, fell under the suspicion of the authorities, and on a pretext being found for his arrest, he was placed in the prison at Nice, in August, 1794, and detained there for thirteen days.

From the painting by E. M. Ward

against Bonaparte, who at once hurled himself on the western force, put it to flight, and then, in a rapid series of engagements, broke up Würmser's main force, driving it back into the Tyrol.

Receiving reinforcements, the stout old Austrian again advanced—and again in two divisions—with the inevitable result. One was shattered at Roveredo; the victor occupied the Austrian line of communications. The second army was then

the papacy was now a simple process, which had been deferred only till more dangerous matters had been dealt with. Ten days after the surrender of Mantua the Pope was compelled to sign the Treaty of Tolentino. The terms were unexpectedly favourable; beyond a further indemnity, they amounted to little more than the confirmation of the previous cession of Ferrara, Ancona, and Bologna, which were already incorporated in the Cispadane Republic. To this were now to be added, under the name of the Cisalpine Republic, the conquered districts of Lombardy.

Southern Italy did not demand immediate attention; Northern Italy was completely in the hands of the French, though Venice was still to pay the penalty for her neutrality. But France was preparing to renew her advance upon Vienna, Hoche replacing Jourdan—and Hoche was the most dangerous of Bonaparte's rivals. The Corsican resolved to be first in the field, and to secure for himself the advantage of dictating terms to Austria. In a

rapid campaign, in which he was ably assisted by Masséna and Joubert, he forced the passage of the Alps, defeating the Archduke Charles on the Tagliamento, and reached Leoben early in April, while Moreau's advance had been delayed by deficiencies in the military supplies. At Leoben he was met by Austrian peace commissioners, and the preliminaries of a treaty were signed on April 18th. Austria was to cede Belgium and Lombardy, and, by way of compensation, was to receive

portions of the Venetian territory. In this last stipulation Bonaparte was barely anticipating events, since no excuse could be pretended for the partition of Venice. The excuse came. The exactions and the domineering of the French, deliberately provocative, aroused the fury of the population; in Venice there was a rising, and the French soldiers in the hospital were murdered, the day before the articles were signed at Leoben. The Venetian Government humbled itself in

despairing messages, while collisions continued. Bonaparte replied by dictating terms of submission, which were accepted. The Venetian oligarchy abolished itself, and was replaced by a popular constitution; the alliance with France which Venice had hitherto persistently refused, was adopted; the usual tribute in works of art was exacted.

The meaning of these things was revealed in the definitive Treaty of Campo Formio with Austria in October, when the Venetian territories east of the Adige were transferred to Austria, while France

took possession of the Ionian Islands. Venice was the price which Bonaparte was willing to pay in order to secure from Austria the promise of the Rhine provinces in addition to the cessions of territory arranged under the articles of Leoben.

Other events, however, had been taking place while Bonaparte was winning his position as the foremost of living soldiers. Spain, after retiring from the coalition in 1795, had gone over to the French alliance in 1796, and reinforced the French



JOSEPHINE, THE WIFE OF BONAPARTE

The widow of the Vicomte de Beauharnais, Josephine was married to Bonaparte in 1796. Fond of pleasure, she gathered around her the most brilliant society of France, and in this way assisted in the establishment of her husband's power. Her marriage was dissolved in 1809.

THE CONQUERING GENERAL OF THE DIRECTORY

fleets; France already had that of the Batavian Republic—that is, Holland—at its disposal. Although Admiral Jervis was in command of the Mediterranean squadron, his orders reduced him almost to impotency till he found his opportunity in February, 1797. Off Cape St. Vincent he caught a much larger Spanish fleet, on the way from Cartagena to Cadiz; but being in two divisions, he was able to crush the larger portion, partly owing to an audacious disregard of orders on the part of Commodore Nelson, which met with the admiral's full approval. The victory of Cape St. Vincent secured the mastery of the seas when it seemed to be threatened by the numerical strength of the hostile combination.

Nevertheless, that mastery was again endangered almost immediately afterwards, first by a serious mutiny in the fleet at Spithead, which was the outcome of genuine grievances on the part of the

mutiny at the Nore, in which there is no doubt that the ringleaders were inspired by Jacobin doctrines. This trouble was the more dangerous because the fleet



NAPOLEON'S GREATEST MARSHAL

Marshal Masséna distinguished himself in the many campaigns in which Napoleon was engaged, and in 1807 was created Duke of Rivoli. He cast in his lot with the Bourbons at the Restoration, and declined to follow Napoleon on his return from Elba. He died in 1817.

was in expectation of an engagement with the Dutch squadron which was being prepared in the Texel. This mutiny was sternly suppressed with the aid of the now loyal ex-mutineers of Spithead, while Admiral Duncan was deceiving the Dutch into a belief that the two or three vessels which he could command were merely the leaders of his squadron, and so kept them from issuing out of the Texel in force. It was not till some months later, almost at the moment when the Treaty of Campo Formio was being signed, that Duncan decisively vanquished the Dutch fleet in the stubborn engagement of Camperdown.

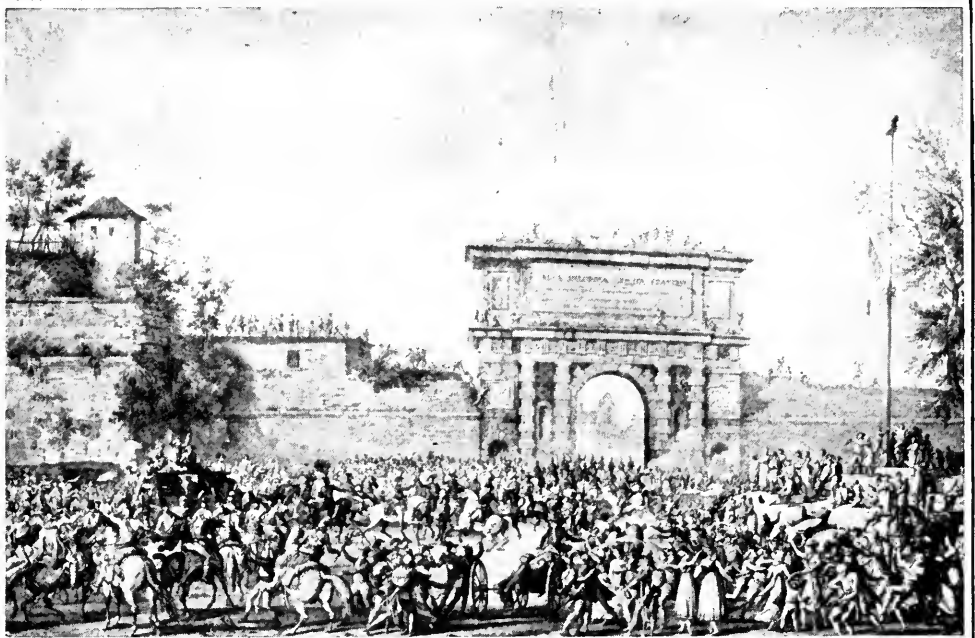
Affairs, however, had not in the meantime been going smoothly with the French Government. It had not, indeed, been shaken by Jourdan's failure in 1796, which had been more than counterbalanced by Bonaparte's Italian successes; nor



MARSHAL LANNES

Another of Napoleon's marshals, Jean Lannes, Duke of Montebello, played a leading part in the campaigns of the French; he was mortally wounded at Aspern in 1805.

men. The justice of the men's demands was so manifest that they were conceded, and the men returned to their duty. This, however, was followed by a second



THE ENTRY OF THE VICTORIOUS FRENCH INTO MILAN, MAY 15TH, 1796

After receiving the command of the army of Italy, Bonaparte started his campaign on April 12th, 1796, and about a month later—on May 15th—entered Milan in triumph as the conqueror of all Lombardy and Piedmont.



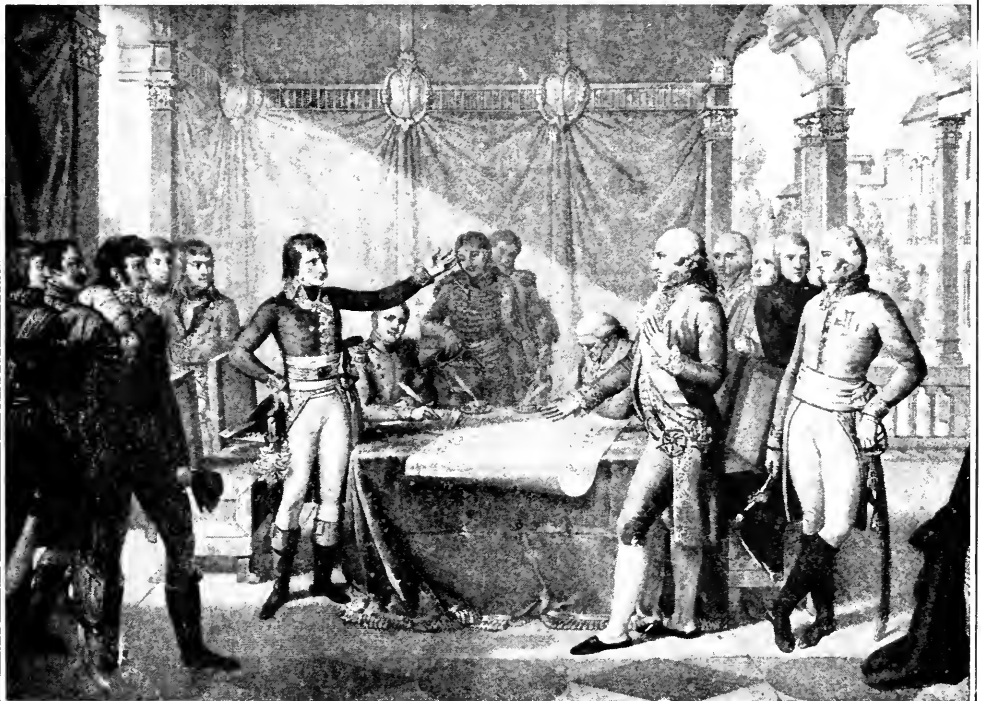
THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF TOLENTINO BY THE POPE IN 1797

Having defeated the Austrians and driven them out of Italy, Napoleon marched into the Papal states, and ten days after the surrender of Mantua, on February 19th, 1797, forced the Pope to sign the Treaty of Tolentino.



BONAPARTE IN ITALY: REVOLT OF THE PEASANTS AT PAVIA

During his Italian campaign the peasants in several quarters rose in revolt against the French. The disturbance in Pavia was not suppressed until the town was taken by storm, and given up to be plundered by the soldiers.



BONAPARTE AT THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF LOEBEN IN 1797

Forcing the passage of the Alps and defeating the Archduke Charles on the Tagliamento, Bonaparte reached Leoben early in April, 1797, where he was met by the Austrian Peace Commissioners. There, on the 18th of that month, were signed the preliminaries of peace between Austria and France embodied in the Treaty of Campo Formio.



THE FRENCH IN EGYPT: BONAPARTE'S AMBITIOUS SCHEME

During his Egyptian campaign Bonaparte, discovering the remains of an ancient canal near Suez, contemplated the formation of a waterway between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, and in the above picture his soldiers are seen at the work of excavation. The scheme, however, was abandoned, the discovery being made on survey that there was a difference of thirty feet between the levels of the Mediterranean at low water and the Red Sea at high water.

From the painting by Grenier

was its position affected by the fact that the latter general conducted affairs in that country very much as if he himself, and not the Directory, were at the head of the state. But whereas two-thirds of the delegates to the Assemblies were members of the Convention, the majority of the remaining third, the elected members, were reactionaries, many of whom desired a monarchical restoration. Among the Directors, Carnot and Letourneur both favoured the "Moderates."

The retirement of one-third, according to the Constitution, in May, 1797, greatly strengthened this party; and although Letourneur also retired, by lot, his place was taken by another moderate, Barthélemy. A leading personage in the party was Pichegru, who some time before had followed the example of Dumouriez in entering upon negotiations for a monarchical restoration with the Austrians, though the conspiracy had not been discovered. Still, Pichegru's leanings were more than suspected. The other three members of the Directory, Barras, Rewbell, and La Réveillère, with the old conventionists,

trembled for their power. On the other hand, Austria and Great Britain both saw a prospect of a French Government which would be comparatively amenable. Austria in the past had refused to make peace apart from her island ally; she had just assented to the articles of Leoben only because a victorious army was within eighty miles of her capital, and she began to hope that she might evade the ratification of those articles. The Moderates were

The Directory in Dread of Bonaparte

already showing their hand by attacking the Italian measures of Bonaparte. The Triumvirate in the Directory began to meditate a military coup d'état, to be carried through by Hoche, whose ambitions seemed to be of a less dangerous type than those of Bonaparte. But Hoche must be hoodwinked; he would not be a tool of the Triumvirate, and was not minded to play Caesar. The overtures to Hoche proved unsuccessful. But Bonaparte's wrath was aroused by the Moderate attacks on him. From his quarters at Montebello he called upon the Triumvirate to crush the hypothetical

THE CONQUERING GENERAL OF THE DIRECTORY

conspiracy—he furnished proof, from papers which had fallen into his hands, of Pichegru's designs two years before—and he sent his lieutenant Augereau to manage the military part of the business. On September 4th the coup d'état of Fructidor established the Triumvirate in power, drove Carnot from the country, and sent Pichegru and many others to prison or exile. Moreau, as a friend of Pichegru, was withdrawn from his

command on the Rhine, where he was now replaced by Hoche, and on the death of Hoche, by Augereau. With Hoche dead, and Moreau under the Government's suspicion, Bonaparte had no possible military rival, and had no hesitation in letting the Triumvirate feel that he certainly was no less independent of the new Directory than of the old.

Austria and England appreciated the change in the situation. Pitt was as stubborn as ever in his determination to refuse a peace on unsatisfactory terms, having failed to realise that the wealth

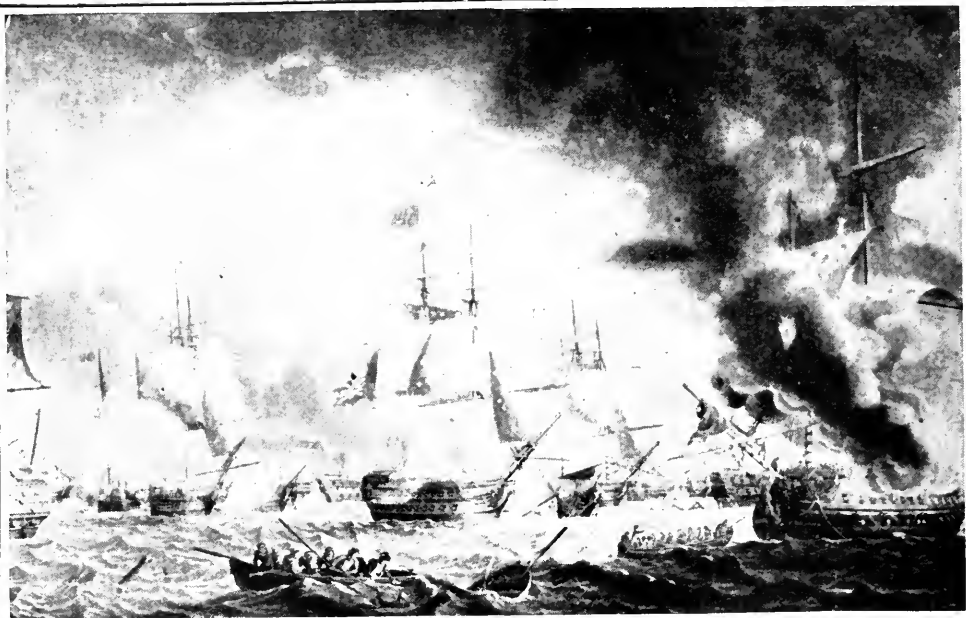
and resources of the Republic were now rapidly increasing. Austria, on the other hand, felt herself with no alternative but to make the best bargain available, in which Thugut was not likely to display scrupulousness. Hence the Treaty of Campo Formio in October left Great Britain isolated, while Austria accepted Venice as compensation for her losses elsewhere, and acceded to Bonaparte's demand for the German Rhine provinces. The Directory raged, but found itself compelled to the terms of Bonaparte.

Having settled the treaty, Bonaparte returned to North Italy to complete the organisation of the Cisalpine Republic, to which was added the Valteline, hitherto a canton subject to the Swiss Grison League, from whose domination it had just broken free. Thence, after a brief visit to the congress at Rastadt, which was engaged in settling some details of the Treaty of Campo Formio, he betook himself to Paris. The Directors received him with more fear than satisfaction; but he was not yet inclined to seize the military



THE PLAGUE AT JAFFA: AN INCIDENT IN BONAPARTE'S EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN
Plague was raging at Jaffa when Bonaparte and his army passed through Syria, and in this picture the great general of the Directory is seen visiting the pestilence-stricken quarter and laying his hands on the sores of the afflicted people. Apart from the heroism of the act, he thus showed his own belief in predestination, the sole article of his creed.

From the painting by Baron Gros



THE BRITISH VICTORY IN THE NAVAL BATTLE AT CAMPERDOWN

On October 11th, 1797, the fleets of the British and Dutch engaged in battle off Camperdown, Admiral Duncan being in command of the British forces, while the Dutch fleet was under De Winter. The sanguinary action resulted in a brilliant victory for the British who captured seven ships of the line, among them being the two flagships. In the above picture the Dutch flagship is shown in a dismantled condition and about to surrender to Admiral Duncan.

From the painting by D. Orme



THE OVERTHROW OF THE FRENCH AT THE BATTLE OF THE NILE

The Battle of the Nile, fought in Aboukir Bay on August 1st, 1798, between the British and the French fleets, was won by the former, Nelson completely overthrowing the enemy, though his fleet was numerically inferior. The picture given above represents the battle at the moment of the blowing up of the French flagship The Orient.

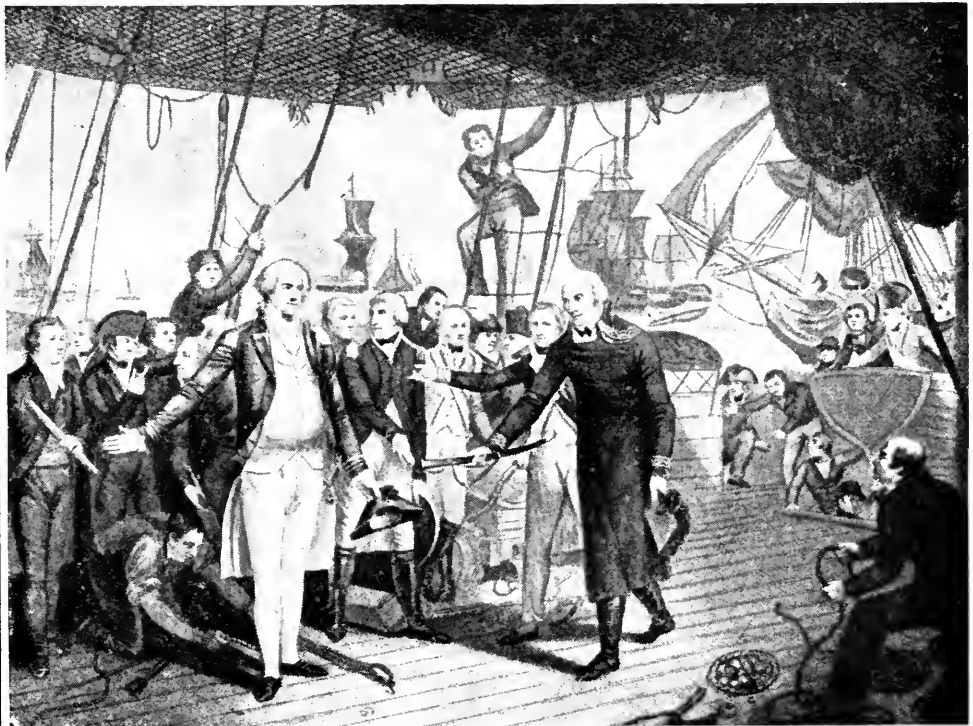
From the painting by De Louthembourg



NELSON'S CAPTURE OF SPANISH WARSHIPS AT THE BATTLE OF ST. VINCENT

On February 14th, 1797, a great naval engagement between Britain and Spain was fought off Cape St. Vincent, the British admiral, Sir John Jervis, scattering the Spanish fleet. Nelson—at that time commodore—in the rear of the line fought valiantly to prevent the reunion of the two divisions of the Spanish fleet, and when the victory was won he boarded the Spanish ship, San Nicolas, and led his men across her deck to the San Josef, of which he also took possession. In the above picture he is seen on board the latter vessel receiving the commander's sword.

From the painting by J. T. Barker



AFTER THE BATTLE OF CAMPERDOWN: THE DUTCH ADMIRAL'S SURRENDER

This picture illustrates an incident after the defeat of the Dutch fleet by the British at Camperdown, Admiral de Winter being shown yielding up his sword in acknowledgment of defeat to Lord Duncan on board the Venerable.

From the painting by D. Orme

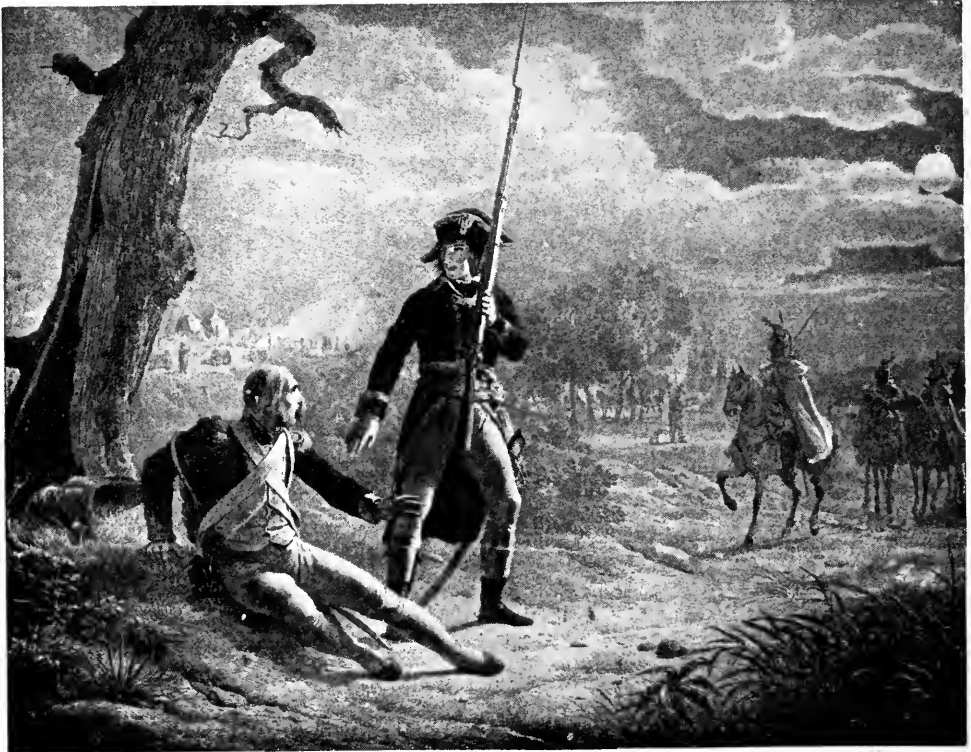
dictatorship which was within his grasp. It was not as a Paris politician that he intended to strike for the great world-empire on which his imagination was dwelling.

The fact patent to everyone was that Great Britain was the one Power which stood out in resolute hostility to the Republic; for, although Catharine of Russia had died in 1796, her successor, Paul, had not yet adopted an anti-French policy. To humble England was an obvious policy, to the adoption of which the Directory was already avowedly committed. To that end, again, a great invasion was a conspicuous means. The arsenals of France, especially Toulon, were soon busy preparing armaments; the victorious general was to be hurled against the tyrant of the seas.

The victorious general had every intention of crushing the tyrant of the seas; but not, for the present, by that particular method, to which the British fleet might prove an obstacle. But Great Britain was now an Oriental as well as a European Power. Bonaparte had conceived the idea of an Asiatic

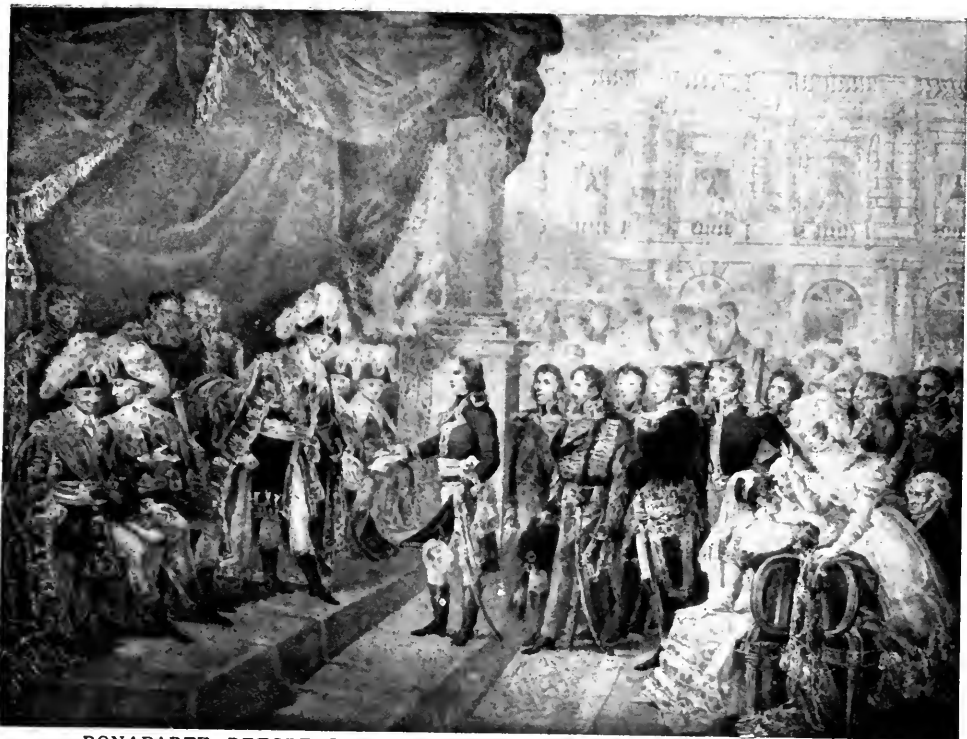
empire which would not only rob Great Britain of her Indian dominion, but would provide overwhelming resources for turning back upon the West. The high-road to Asia lay through Egypt; and Egypt, not the shores of England, was the objective of Bonaparte's designs, to which the effusive Barras had no sort of objection. The general of the Republic triumphing in London would be a portent more alarming to the Triumvirate in Paris than the general on his way to India. England watched and waited, expecting the obvious.

Nelson on the Track of the French obvious. Bonaparte's secret was kept; but Admiral Nelson, on guard in the Mediterranean, had his own intuitions. At any rate, the armament would come out of Toulon, and, whatever its destination, he would have to account for it. But weather drove him off; the fleet had just time to sail clear away before he could reappear, to find Toulon empty. Instinct bade him make for Egypt in pursuit. He reached Alexandria, but found no sign of his quarry, which he had passed in a fog



BONAPARTE'S CLEMENCY WITH THE SLEEPING SENTRY

Bonaparte, at Arcola, discovering a sentry asleep, quietly took his gun and stood guard in his place. The man on awakening was terror-stricken, for the penalty of his fault was death, but his general gave him only a few quiet words of reproof. By acts such as this Napoleon gained the love and devotion of his men, who were ever ready to follow him to death.



BONAPARTE BEFORE THE DIRECTORY ON HIS RETURN FROM EGYPT

Convinced that the time had come for him to return to France and assume decisive control, Bonaparte suddenly quitted Egypt, leaving Kleber in command of the troops. On his arrival in Paris he presented himself before the Directory.

and left behind engaged in securing Malta from the Knights of St. John. Malta was neutral; Egypt, a dependency of Turkey, was neutral.

Nelson started afresh in pursuit, but again missed his prey, which reached Alexandria on June 30th, the day after his departure. Bonaparte and his forces were landed; he was careful to proclaim that they had come as liberators—friends, indeed, of the sultan and the Mohammedan religion—to free Egypt from the yoke of the Mamelukes. Alexandria was seized without difficulty; Bonaparte led his murmuring forces across the desert, to change their murmurs into *vivats* when they shattered the splendid Mameluke cavalry in the Battle of the Pyramids.

French Triumphs and Disasters

Bonaparte entered Cairo in triumph. On the top of triumph came news of disaster.

Nelson had got on the scent, and returned to Alexandria on August 1st. He found the French battleships—thirteen in number—at anchor in Aboukir Bay, heading north-west, with shoals on their left, where he was told there was no room for ships to pass. But Nelson held that where there was room for French ships to swing there

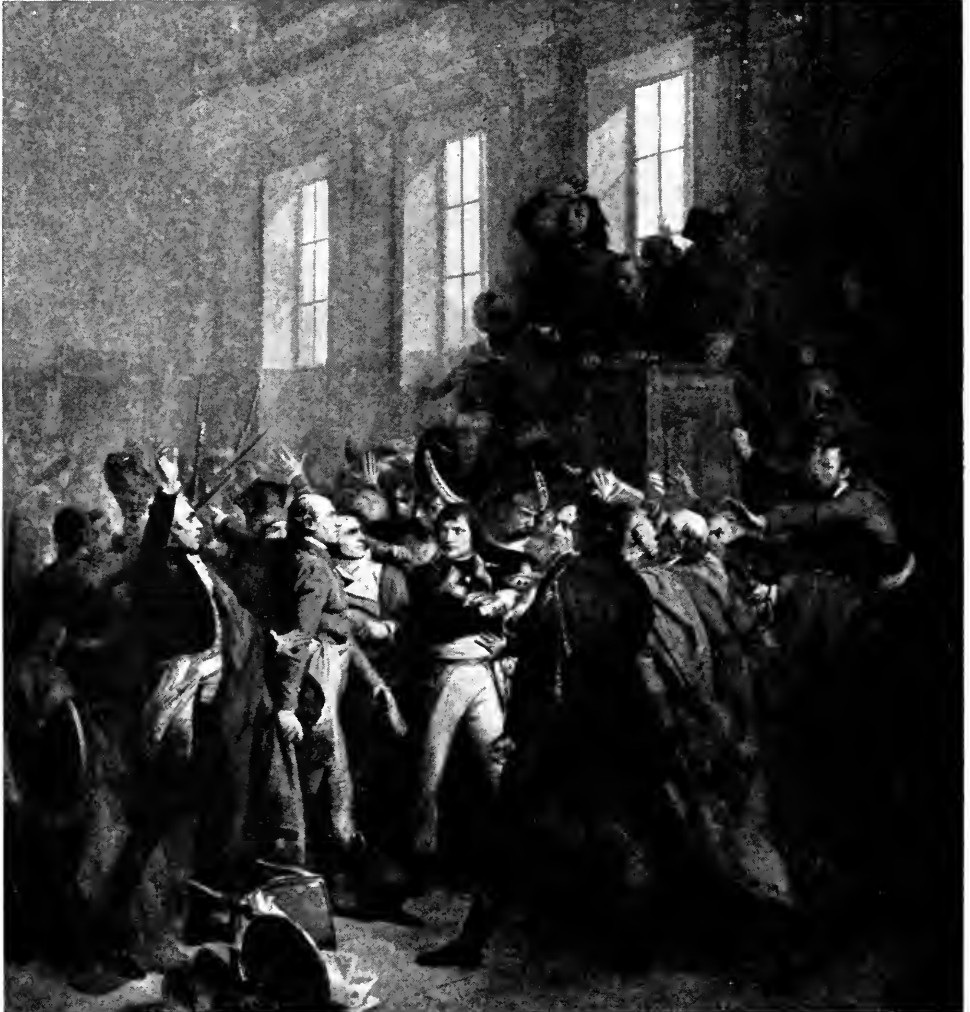
was room for English ships to sail. He bore down, late as it was, on a north-west wind, his van passing down the French left between the ships and the shoals, his rear passing down the French right. Thus he brought the French van between two fires, while the French rear to leeward could not come into action.

The battle raged far into the night; the French flagship, *The Orient*, was blown up; all but two of the battleships and a couple of frigates were destroyed or captured. "It was not a victory, but a revolution." The battle converted the Mediterranean into an English lake. Bonaparte was isolated in Egypt, with no possible chance of obtaining supplies or reinforcements, or maintaining his communications with France. The Asiatic empire had become an impossibility, though even now Bonaparte would not admit it to himself.

The attack upon Egypt forced the Porte to declare war on France; and Bonaparte, after having organised an Egyptian government, and having set the example, which found followers among his army, of professing Mohammedanism, anticipated the Turkish attack by himself attacking Syria early in 1799. His successes were checked

before Acre, where Djezzar Pasha held out stubbornly, his garrison being reinforced by Sir Sidney Smith with some British sailors and Bonaparte's siege artillery, which they had captured en route from Alexandria. All the French efforts to carry the obstinate fortress were fruitless; Acre made mere futility of the Syrian campaign. Bonaparte retreated into Egypt, where he annihilated a Turkish column; but also, in the course of communications with Sir Sidney Smith, received a packet of newspapers bearing momentous intelligence concerning events of which his

isolation had kept him in ignorance. Even before his departure from Toulon the progress of the congress at Rastadt had been ominous of trouble. The rulers of the Rhine provinces were very ill-pleased to find that Austria and Prussia—now ruled by Frederic William III.—had disposed of their territories to France. Protestant Prussia was willing to compensate them by the secularisation of the ecclesiastical states in Central Germany; orthodox Austria was not. A Franco-Prussian alliance seemed a probable outcome of the quarrel, and Thugut



BONAPARTE'S COUP D'ETAT: DISPERSING THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE

The executive government of France, known as the Directory, was in the hands of five men, and because of his youth Bonaparte was unable to join it. He resolved, however, on a bold stroke; the Directory was unpopular, and he determined to overthrow it. With the assistance of Sieyès, this was accomplished on November 9th, 1799. The two Directors who refused to dissolve were placed under guard; a tremendous scene was witnessed in the Council of Five Hundred when Bonaparte was refused a hearing, but the Chamber dispersed when the soldiery advanced upon it.

From the painting by Francois Bouchet in the Louvre



INSTALLATION OF THE THREE "CONSULS" OF FRANCE

This picture is a sequel to that on the preceding page. After the dissolution of the Directory, the Council of Ancients decreed the appointment of a provisional executive committee of three, nominating Siéyès, Ducos, and Napoleon Bonaparte.

From the painting by Louder at Versailles

began to meditate a renewal of the war. Moreover, the Tsar Paul, who, in contrast to Catharine, was already showing himself a strong reactionary in domestic affairs, took umbrage at the French seizure of the island of Malta. In Italy, the Directory deserted Bonaparte's policy of leniency to the papacy, to which it had objected from the beginning; it encouraged democratic insubordination, and in the disturbances which arose found excuse for marching upon Rome, removing the old Pope from the Eternal City, and setting up a Republic according to precedent. Similar disturbances were fostered in Switzerland, with similar results; the existing Government was abolished and replaced by the "Helvetic Republic" on the approved model. These proceedings inspired universal alarm. The Neapolitan monarchy felt itself particularly endan-

gered. The battle of the Nile greatly strengthened Pitt, and even his energies were now surpassed by those of the Tsar in the effort to form a new coalition. Nelson and his fleet from the Nile arrived at Naples and inspired fresh confidence. The monarchy prematurely declared war against the Republic, and an army marched on Rome. Temporary success was promptly followed by reverse. The advance of French troops frightened the royal family into flight to Nelson's ships. Naples was forthwith converted into the Parthenopean Republic, and the Sardinian and Tuscan territories were occupied by French troops in January, 1799.

The second coalition was already formed, and Russia was pledged to support Austria by sending an army into Italy under Suwarrow. In March, 1799, several hostilities were in full swing. Jourdan,

advancing towards Vienna, was driven back over the Rhine by the Archduke Charles. Scherer was defeated at Magnano, and replaced by Moreau. Masséna, who had begun an advance on Vienna from Switzerland, was paralysed. Suwarrow appeared in Italy, outmanœuvred Moreau, and on the Trebbia cut to pieces General Mac-

Italy
Lost to the
French

donald's smaller force from the south, which was attempting to effect a junction with Moreau, who was obliged to retreat.

Suwarrow, however, was ordered to remain in Italy, instead of pressing on to France, while the Austrians secured Lombardy.

Joubert appeared on the scene with a fresh French army, but was crushed and himself slain by the combination of Suwarrow with the Austrians at Novi. In Naples, the Republic was easily overturned and the Bourbons were restored—to avenge the recent revolution in very sanguinary fashion. The whole of Italy was lost to the French, except Genoa. In the north, a British force was landed in Holland, and captured the Dutch fleet in the Texel, though York, its commander, made no further effective progress.

This record was serious enough for France, but beyond this the central government itself was in very precarious condition. The Directory, as established at Fructidor, was aware of the uncertainty of its own tenure of power, and in 1798 aroused indignant opposition by cancelling the election of several unfavourable deputies. In the following spring they again lost ground in the elections; Siéyès took the place of Rewbell in the Directory itself, and in June that body was practically reconstituted, as concerned its personnel, though without any tendency to royalism.

Such was the sum of the news which convinced Bonaparte that the time had come for him to return to Paris at all costs and assume decisive control. Keeping his designs secret till all was ready, he

Bonaparte
Back
In France

succeeded in making sail from Egypt, in company with trusted comrades—Marmont, Lannes, Murat, and Berthier—leaving the indignant Kléber in command of the troops, and at the head of the administration. He landed in France on October 9th, to find that the month of September had seen a material improvement in the military situation. In Holland, Brune was on the point of forcing York to capitulate at Alkmaar—an event which

occurred ten days later. In Italy, Suwarrow had found that Austria was merely playing for her own hand, to secure not only Lombardy but also Sardinian territory; and he himself was ordered to join his colleague, Korsakoff, in order to crush Masséna in Switzerland. When he succeeded in crossing the Alps he found that Masséna had already fallen upon Korsakoff and crushed him. He himself had the utmost difficulty in withdrawing his force, which alone could not cope with Masséna, to a place of safety. Having effected this, he threw up his command. The breach between Russia and Austria was a most serious blow to the coalition. Bonaparte was hailed with acclamations as the conqueror of Egypt. He hastened to Paris, where he found affairs ripe for the coup d'état which he planned. The last constitution had proved unworkable, owing to the practical difficulty of maintaining harmony between the Assemblies and the Executive; the indefatigable Siéyès was ready with a brand new one, beautifully and pyramidally symmetrical, though as yet the secret of it was locked in his own bosom. Siéyès was evidently the man

Bonaparte's
Successful
Coup d'état

to ally himself with, since he represented the moderates, who were dissatisfied with the existing constitution.

Open identification with either Jacobins or royalists would not result in the necessary dictatorship. The existing constitution forbade Bonaparte to join the Directory on the score of his youth. The blow was to be struck on November 9th (Brumaire). Siéyès could command a majority in the Chamber of Ancients; Bonaparte's brother, Lucien, was president of the other Chamber. With his quartet of comrades from Egypt, Bonaparte could make sure of most of the important soldiers. On the fateful day, the two Directors who refused to dissolve were placed under guard; there was a tremendous scene in the Council of Five Hundred, which was Jacobin in its sympathies, and refused Bonaparte a hearing.

A harangue from Lucien, however, outside the Chamber, roused the soldiery to advance on the Chamber, which dispersed; and the Council of Ancients decreed the appointment of a provisional Executive Committee of three—a decree confirmed by a few members of the other Chamber, who nominated as the three "consuls" Siéyès, Ducos (an assenting member of the Directory), and Napoleon Bonaparte.

N

NAPOLEON IN PORTRAITURE

In the following pages have been brought together a number of Napoleon portraits, each of intrinsic interest, and all chosen to illustrate his appearance at different stages of his career. No other historic personage has been the subject of so much portraiture, and anything like a comprehensive selection of Napoleon portraits in a limited space is hardly possible, but here we reproduce a series that is at least representative of the best, both in point of historic and artistic interest.



THE YOUNG NAPOLEON

Above is the earliest known portrait of Napoleon Bonaparte, showing him at the age of 22.
From the painting by Greuze in the Museum of Versailles.



IN HIS EARLY DAYS BEFORE THE
CONSULATE

From the painting by Philippoteaux



IN THE UNIFORM OF A GENERAL
WHEN FIRST CONSUL

From the painting by Isabey



AN INTERESTING BUST OF THE
SAME PERIOD

From the painting by Appiani



FAVOURITE PORTRAIT AS GENERAL
AND FIRST CONSUL

From the painting by Gérard



NAPOLÉON IN EGYPT

From the painting by Edouard Detaille, K.C.V.O.



ON THE ST. BERNARD PASS

By Delaroche, in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool



CROSSING THE ALPS

From the painting by David



IN HIS CORONATION ROBES
From the picture by Gérard



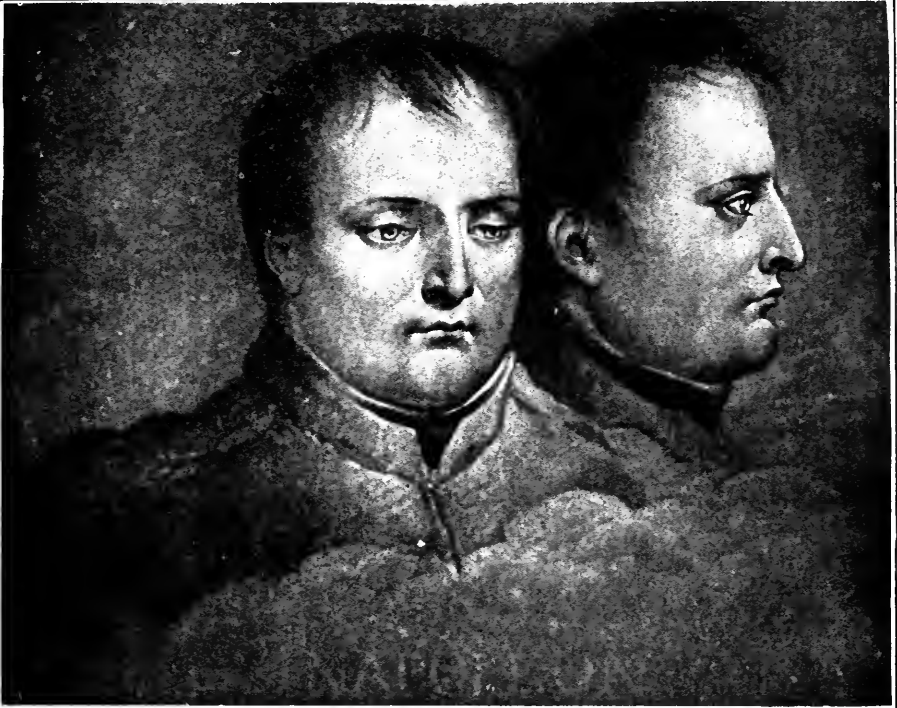
ANOTHER CORONATION PORTRAIT
From the painting by Chatillon



THE EMPEROR IN THE YEAR 1805
From a contemporary engraving



DETAIL FROM A LARGE PAINTING
From the painting by Baron Gros



A CURIOUS PORTRAIT OF NAPOLEON, SHOWING TWO ASPECTS OF HIS FACE

From the painting by Girodet-Troison, entitled "Napoleon, 8 Mars, 1812"



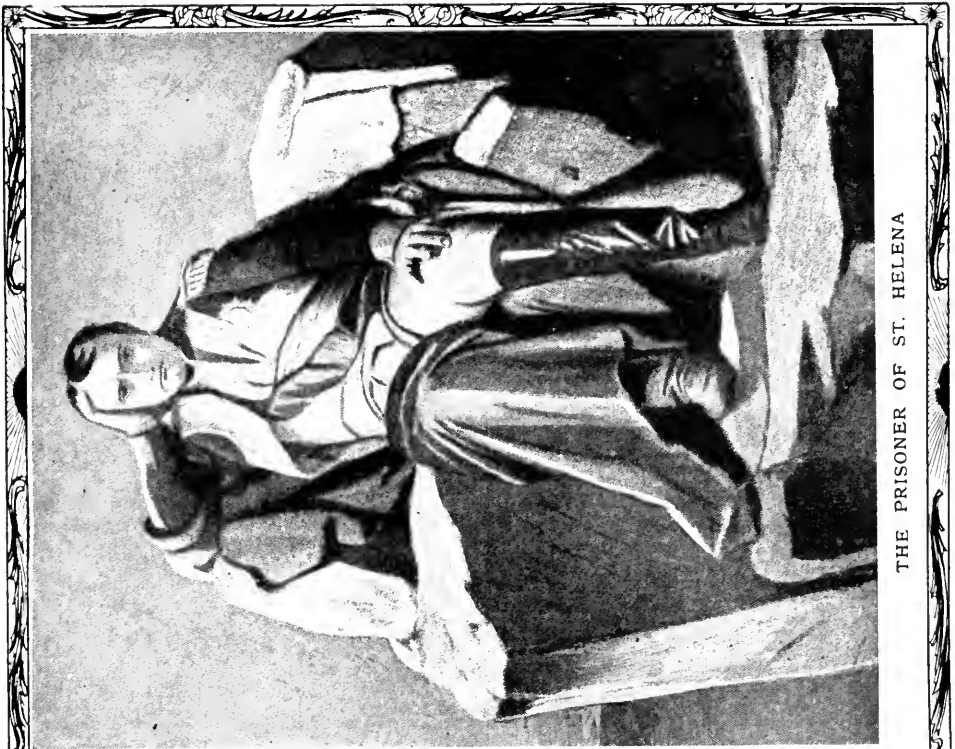
ON BOARD THE BELLEROPHON

From the painting by C. L. Eastlake R.A.



THE EMPEROR

From the painting by Horace Vernet in the National Gallery



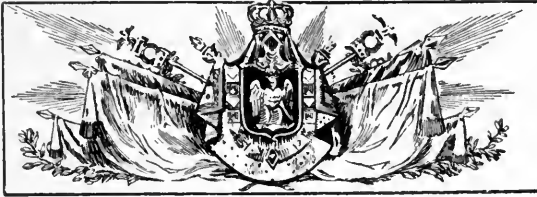
THE PRISONER OF ST. HELENA



NAPOLEON AT FONTAINEBLEAU

From the paintings by Delacroix

THE FRENCH
REVOLUTION
& NAPOLEON



VI
BY ARTHUR
D. INNES, M.A.

FRANCE UNDER THE NEW DESPOTISM NAPOLEON BONAPARTE AS FIRST CONSUL

IT had been understood among the conspirators of the coup d'état that Siéyès was to introduce his final masterpiece of constitution-making. It was very soon understood that the masterpiece was to be remoulded according to the requirements of Bonaparte. Siéyès had constructed his scheme on the metric system. Five million electors were to choose 500,000, who were to choose 50,000, who were to choose 5,000. Municipal officers were to be appointed from the half-million, departmental officers from the 50,000, government officials, the judicature, and the legislative assemblies from the 5,000. The legislative assemblies were to be three—the Council of State, to initiate legislation; the Tribunal, to discuss and amend; the *Corps Legislatif*, to accept or reject. Above these came the Senate, appointed for life, co-opting its

The Powers of the First Consul

own members, nominating the chambers, and vetoing unconstitutional legislation. Above the Senate were two consuls, wielding the executive power, and concerned respectively with war and peace: they were to hold office for ten years. At the top was a Grand Elector, nominated for five years but removable by the Senate; he was to nominate the two consuls, and be the diplomatic figurehead. Bonaparte offered trenchant criticism. Everybody was checked by somebody else; no one could do anything. The Grand Elector became the First Consul, wielding the whole executive power; the other two consuls were to be merely advisers.

The First Consul was to nominate practically all Government officials, and also the Council of State, thus virtually acquiring the power of initiating legislation; and the Senate might neither depose him nor absorb him into its own ranks. In effect, he was to be an autocrat, with all the powers which had once been wielded by the Committee of Public Safety. The First

Consul was, of course, to be Napoleon Bonaparte. A practically unanimous plebiscite confirmed the new despotism.

As far as the central authority was concerned, self-government and the Sovereignty of the People vanished with the paradoxical announcement: "Citizens, the Revolution is fixed to the principles which commenced it. It is

France under Her New Government

finished." All power was in the hands of the First Consul's nominees. It remained to apply the principle to the self-government by elective bodies in departments and communes, which had been overridden by the agents of the Committee of Public Safety. By a law promulgated in 1800, the Departments were placed under the control of a Prefect and Sub-prefects, and the Communes under a Mayor—all appointed by the central Government at Paris. The representative bodies became merely consultative. The entire system was probably the most completely and perfectly centralised on record. All the sovereign functions were exercised at the will of a single man, with no check save the power of the legislature to reject legislation. Even criticism was articulate only in the chamber of the Tribunal.

The healing of old wounds was the policy of the new Government. Amnesties for past political offences, repatriation of émigrés who were not of the irreconcilable type, permission to celebrate public worship for priests who accepted a formula of obedience to the Government, were measures which removed sources of disaffection. The next step was for the First Consul to pose as the advocate of peace, which would certainly be popular.

It is improbable that the overtures made by Bonaparte were genuine. They threw the onus of rejection upon the obstinately aggressive foes of France. The continuation of war, if forced upon

the French, would give them opportunities for supplying the exchequer by a renewal of the system of organised pillage which Bonaparte had adopted in Italy. Austria was mistress of North Italy, and Great Britain was on the point of possessing herself of Malta; neither of these Powers was disposed to resign the advantages won. The First Consul knew that his proposals would be unacceptable, and he presented them in the irregular form of letters addressed personally to the Emperor and to King George, which ensured their rejection. It was easy to rouse the righteous resentment of France against Austria and the perfidious Pitt.

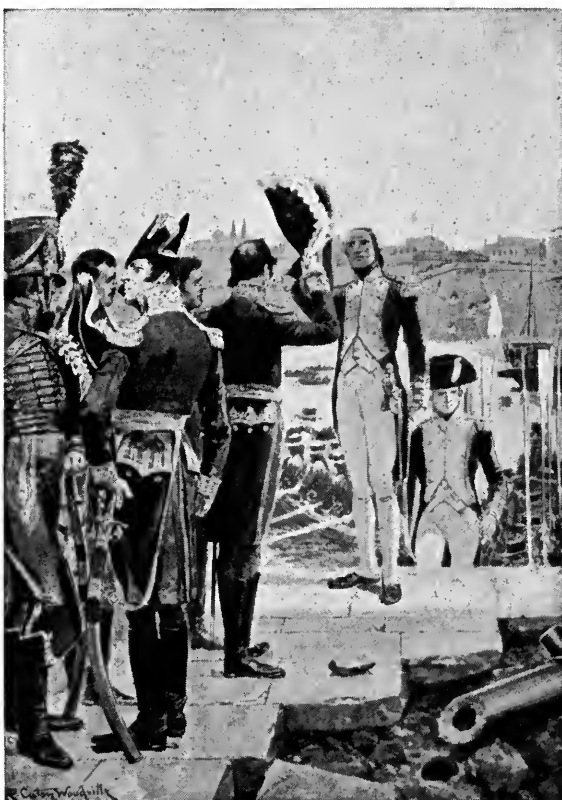
The war continued. The superior Austrian forces under Melas split the French army of Italy, driving Masséna eastward into Genoa, and the rest westward into Nice. Moreau was placed in command of the Army of the Rhine, with orders not to proceed further than Ulm. Bonaparte, with some secrecy, prepared a third army. Moreau advanced on April 25th, passed the Rhine, and by a series of victories drove the Austrian commander, Kray, back to Ulm. If he had pushed forward he would undoubtedly have forced open the road to Vienna, and have been able to dictate terms to Austria; the honours would have fallen, not to the First Consul, but to Moreau. But his orders condemned him to inaction till Bonaparte had secured the admiring attention of France. The First Consul carried his army over the Alps by the

St. Gothard pass, and swooped upon the plains of Lombardy before Melas suspected his approach at the end of May. The dogged tenacity of Masséna in Genoa had served its purpose, though he was obliged to surrender on June 4th. Strategy is not sentiment, and Genoa was allowed to fall in order that Melas might be the more completely crushed.

Bonaparte proceeded to envelop Melas at Marengo, near Alessandria; the Austrian, for his part, was determined to cut his way through. He very nearly succeeded, but a French column, detached under Desain to Novi, heard the firing and returned to the field of battle at the critical moment — when Melas imagined that the fight was already won. Desain stopped the tide: a brilliant cavalry charge, led by Kellerman, changed imminent defeat into decisive victory. Melas felt his position to be so hopeless that he agreed to the cession of all North Italy west of the Mincio, by the Convention of Alessandria. Marengo, on June 14th,

though won almost by an accident, covered the victor with glory. He returned to Paris, leaving Masséna in charge in Italy. In the fortnight following Marengo, Moreau, by threatening the Austrian communications, forced them to evacuate Ulm, defeated them at Hochstett, drove them back on Bohemia, and captured Munich; then hostilities were suspended.

Negotiations with Great Britain and Austria made no progress; Marengo had not been a fatal blow to the latter power,



MALTA'S SURRENDER TO THE BRITISH TROOPS
This island in the Mediterranean, an important port of call, was captured by Bonaparte in 1798; two years later, in September, 1800, as shown in the above illustration, it surrendered to the British.

From the drawing by R. Caton Woodville

FRANCE UNDER THE NEW DESPOTISM

which pledged itself not to make a separate peace before February, in consideration of an English subsidy. But Bonaparte now established friendly relations with the Tsar, who had quarrelled completely with Austria, and was possessed with an infatuation for the First Consul as the destroyer of the Jacobin Republic; and Bonaparte was quite ready to purchase his alliance by promising the restoration of Piedmont to Sardinia, and of Malta to the Knights of St. John. From Spain, also, the cession of Louisiana, the colony on the Mississippi, was obtained in return for a promise that Tuscany should be conferred as a kingdom on the Duke of Parma. The failure of the Austrian negotiations led to a renewal of hostilities and Moreau's crushing victory at Hohenlinden on December 3rd, which forced Austria in effect to sue for an armistice, and to adopt a new tone in the negotiations at Lunéville.

In February, 1801, the Peace of Lunéville was signed; it was on the basis of the earlier Treaty of Campo Formio. The

Adige was again the frontier in North Italy; Tuscany was handed over to Parma as promised. The Tsar saved the kingdom of Naples, which promised to close its ports to Great Britain, which power had excited Paul's indignation by refusing to give up Malta. Once again the United Kingdom—the Irish Act of Union had just been passed—stood alone, at the moment when Pitt was retiring from office on account of the king's obstinate refusal to concede the Catholic Emancipation to which the Minister was pledged.

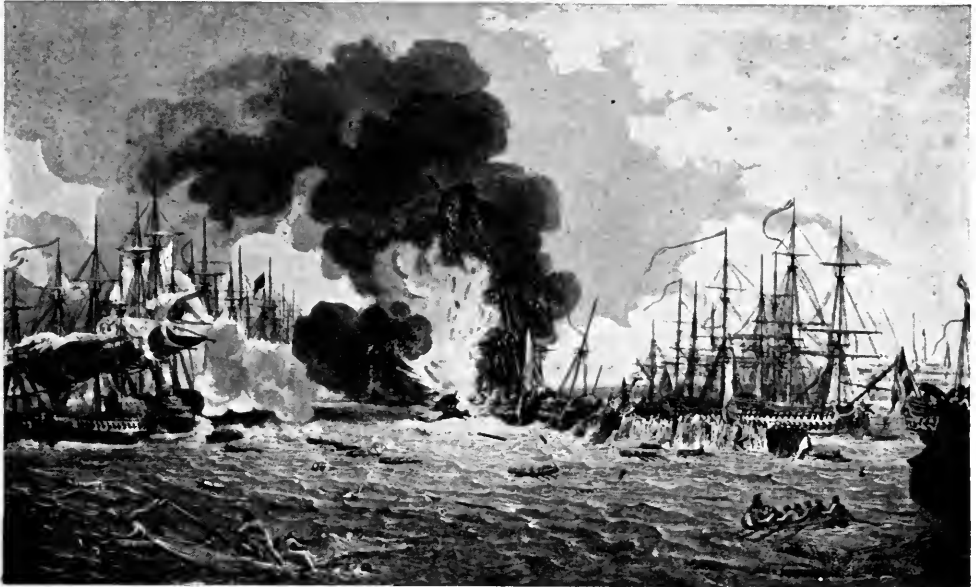
This isolation was the more serious because an anti-British combination of the maritime Powers was threatening. Jervis, Duncan, and Nelson had dealt with the fleets of Spain, Holland and

France, so that the navies actually at the service of France could not cope with England. But her claims as to the treatment of neutral vessels had been felt as vexatious for a long time, and only twenty years before had caused, or been made the pretext for, the first league between th-



GENERAL MOREAU

A general in the French army, he won many notable victories over the Austrians, culminating in the decisive battle of Hohenlinden. Napoleon exiled him to America.



BRITAIN'S VICTORY AT THE SANGUINARY NAVAL BATTLE OFF COPENHAGEN

The institution of Napoleon's commercial conspiracy against Great Britain was met by prompt action on the part of the latter, which determined to meet the Armed Neutrality. Early in 1801 a British fleet was dispatched to the Baltic, and on April 2nd struck at the Danish fleet, which lay at anchor before Copenhagen, protected by the shoals. Nelson was second in command under Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, and disregarded the signals ordering his withdrawal.

From the painting by Serres

northern maritime powers, which took the name of "the Armed Neutrality." The main result of that league had then been a declaration of war between Holland and Great Britain, to the detriment of Holland. Its unsuccessful aim had been to impose a change of practice on the British. In 1800, as in 1780, the league was revived

at the instigation of Russia, which was joined by Sweden, Denmark, and, under pressure, by Prussia. The occasion of the Russian activity in the matter was the Tsar Paul's resentment at the British capture of Malta—in September, 1800—which Bonaparte had promised to place under his protection. The renewal of the league at the present crisis was a very manifest threat.

The British practice had not, in fact, materially differed from that of any other naval power which had been strong enough to exact similar claims; but the rules of international law were even less definitely laid down for general acceptance than at the present day, and there was no common agreement as to their interpretation in the courts of different countries. It was common ground that neutral vessels might not enter a blockaded port, and that contraband of war was liable to capture on neutral vessels; but different views were put forward as to what constitutes a blockade, and what goods are covered by the term "contraband." It had been the standing practice to seize not only contraband, but also enemy's goods in general, when carried in neutral vessels.

The Armed Neutrality claimed that vessels under convoy of a neutral warship should be exempt from search; that goods carried on neutral vessels should not be treated as enemy's goods; that the British definition of contraband included goods which ought not to be reckoned as contraband; and that only an effective blockade, not merely a paper one, should be recognised. For a sea-power engaged

in a conflict with a land power, these claims were manifestly disadvantageous.

The claims were regarded in England merely as a pretext for forming a hostile naval combination in the interests of France, warranting hostilities. A British fleet sailed for the Baltic, and on April 2nd struck at the Danish fleet, which lay at anchor before Copenhagen, protected by the shoals. Nelson, who was second in

command, carried the major part of his fleet through the shoals; and after a furious engagement, in which he was subjected to the hottest fire he had ever experienced, but had disregarded the signals ordering his withdrawal, he forced on the Danes an armistice for three months, having silenced the enemy's ships.

His intention was to deal with the Swedes and Russians in detail after the same fashion. But it was unnecessary. The peculiarities and the violence of the Tsar Paul had produced a conspiracy for his deposition, which meant his assassination; though this had not been realised by his young successor, Alexander, who was privy to the plot. Ten days before the Battle of the Baltic he had been murdered, though the fact was not yet publicly known. The new Tsar was a complete contrast to his father, whose policy he was prompt to reverse. In three months the Armed Neutrality was dissolved. Great Britain made some concessions, modifying the list of contraband, acceding to the principle of effective blockades, and abolishing the right of search by privateers, though not

by the king's ships, when neutral vessels were under convoy of a neutral warship.

The Tsar withdrew his claim in respect of Malta. Further successes attended the British arms. In Egypt, Kléber, the lieutenant whom Bonaparte had left, proved eminently successful; but his assassination placed the incompetent Menon in command. At the end of March a British force under Sir Ralph Abercrombie landed at Aboukir Bay, and completely routed the French, driving them into Alexandria. Though Abercrombie himself was killed, Cairo surrendered in June, and Alexandria in August. The French occupation was at an end.

With Malta and Egypt secured, and the Armed Neutrality dissipated, Great Britain was no longer averse from peace; preliminaries were signed in October, and the definitive Treaty of Amiens in March, 1802. For the first time in ten years France was at last at peace. The Addington Ministry undertook to restore Egypt to Turkey, Malta to the Knights of St. John, and other conquests, with the exception of Ceylon and Trinidad. Even the Cape was temporarily restored to the Dutch. On the other hand, France was to retire from the Papal states and from Naples, and the Ionian Islands were to form an

independent Republican state. On all hands peace was welcomed, though its terms gave no security against an early renewal of the war; it was welcomed even though before it was concluded Bonaparte gave ominous premonitions of continued aggression by imposing upon the Batavian Republic modifications of its constitution, which brought it still more decisively under French control, ignoring the express stipulation for its independence in the Treaty of Lunéville. Similar treatment was applied to the Ligurian Republic, as Genoa had now for some time been named; while the Cisalpine became the Italian Republic, with Bonaparte for President. Piedmont, too, was presently annexed, instead of being restored to Sardinia, in accordance with the promise to the Tsar. But in truth Britain was so invulnerable at sea, and France so invulnerable on land, that neither seemed able to inflict further serious damage on the other, unless through her commerce.

Between Hohenlinden and Amiens, the First Consul had been strengthening his own position in France. In December, 1800, an attempt on his life, which was soon proved to be the work of some Brittany *Chouans*, was made an excuse for the deportation of several Jacobins who had no connection with it. He encroached upon the powers of the Corps Legislatif and the Tribunate. The collection of taxes was transferred from the innumerable local bodies to a single central one. The fundamental fact became continuously more obvious, that the French people had lost all desire of practical participation in the Government, and cared only to have secured to them the material advantages which had accrued from the Revolution. Even the appointment of arbitrary courts of justice at the First Consul's disposal met with no opposition outside the Tribunate.

Another step was to seek to establish favourable relations between the Government and the Church, whose opposition had been a constant source of disaffection in the past history of the Republic. The new policy took shape in the concordat with the papacy, ratified by an official

attendance at Mass in Notre Dame at Easter, 1802. The First Consul, though personally absolutely indifferent to creeds and forms, was thoroughly awake to the uses of a concrete religion as a preservative of order, and the inadequacy of abstractions to supply its place. He was ready to call himself a Mohammedan in Egypt, but in France he re-established the Roman

**Bonaparte
Re-establishes
Religion**

Catholicism which the Revolution had deposed. The bishops and archbishops were appointed or reappointed by the First Consul, with the confirmation of the Pope. The non-juring clergy were to be restored, and the acting clergy, regarded as renegades by the orthodox, were to be received canonically into ecclesiastical orders and subjected to normal ecclesiastical discipline. On the

other hand, the Church lands confiscated during the Revolution were not to be restored. The concordat established the Catholic Church, but only as subordinate to the State; instead of being antagonistic to the Government, the clerical organisation became its powerful supporter.

Another law of the same date gave security to all but a few of the émigrés and "suspects" who wished to return to France. The bulk of them, though no doubt they remained theoretical supporters of a Bourbon restoration, were thus converted into practical supporters of the *de facto* Government. It remained to secure the position of the First Consul himself, whose appointment, though for ten years, instead of the five originally proposed by Siéyès, was still subject to the time limit, whence new revolutionary intrigues and conspiracies might not unreasonably be anticipated.

A proposal was made in the Senate for an extension of ten years more, which was amended into appointment for life, to be ratified by a plebiscite. More than 3,500,000 votes against less than 10,000 expressed the practically unanimous approval of the French people. The other two consuls, Cambacères and Lebrun, were then confirmed in office for life; the First Consul was authorised to appoint his own successor, and he received further powers of controlling the personnel of the Senate



PAUL I. OF RUSSIA

The second son of Peter III., he succeeded his mother, the Empress Catharine, in 1796. A conspiracy for his deposition ended in his assassination by his officers in 1801.

and the Legislature. From this time, the First Consul adopted the monarchical custom of using his first name instead of his surname, and we may speak no longer of Bonaparte, but of NAPOLEON.

An additional buttress of the new Imperialism was the institution of the Legion of Honour, which created a new aristocracy and new ranks in society, whose interest necessarily lay in maintaining the régime under which they had come into being. The new honours were not hereditary; in theory they were bestowed in reward for public services. But they were a very direct negation of the abstract doctrine of universal equality.

Like his great prototype, Julius Cæsar, Napoleon was not only the mightiest of the masters in the science and art of war,

and variegated legal system derived from diverse local customs and procedures, and to revise these into a universal code based on those principles of equality which the Revolution recognised. The completion of this work was now entrusted to a committee of four jurists, with the occasional intervention of the First Consul himself. The result of their labours was the great civil code issued in 1804, which, with certain subsequent modifications, received in 1807 the name of the Code Napoléon. The extensive application of this code or of parts of it, not only to the realms which at one time or another were made subject to or dependent on the French Empire, but also in independent states such as Prussia and Spain, has profoundly modified the law throughout Western Europe. Similarly the work of

The Legion of Honour Instituted



PREPARING FOR THE INVASION OF ENGLAND: NAPOLEON'S CAMP AT BOULOGNE
It was long the ambition of Napoleon to conquer Great Britain. In this illustration his camp at Boulogne is shown, this being the point from which he intended to cross the Channel. There a huge flotilla was prepared for the purpose of embarking an army of 120,000 men for the shores of England when the opportunity should present itself.

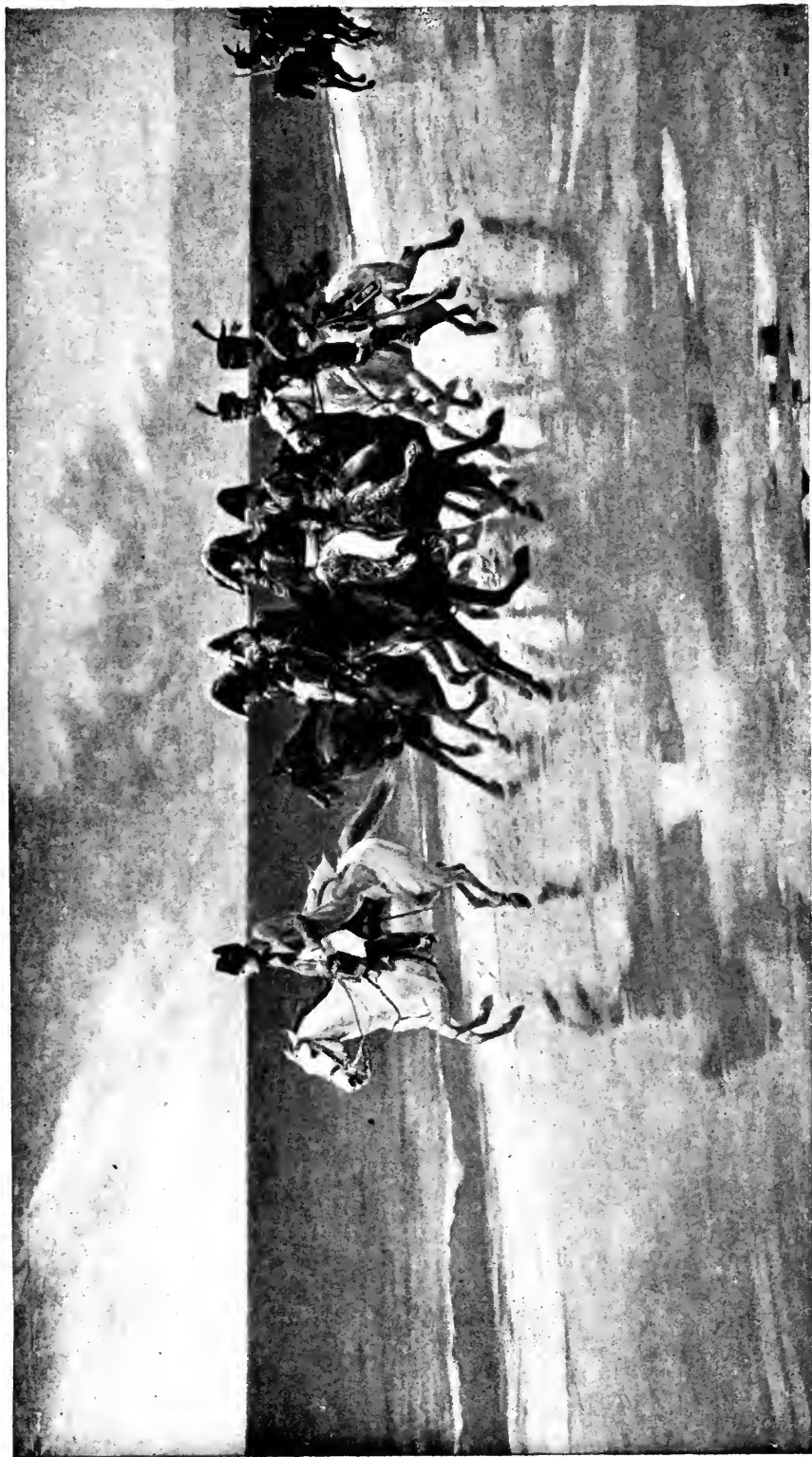
and the most triumphant organiser of an imperial system out of revolutionary elements; he displayed also an administrative genius in social reorganisation, and that acute perception of the moral and material benefits of a wisely splendid expenditure on public works which Pericles had claimed ages before as specially characteristic of the Athenian people. Roads and canals, bridges and harbours, public buildings and public institutions, the splendours of the Louvre, bear lasting witness to the vast range of his activities.

In his most monumental work, however, in the spheres of law and of education, Napoleon built upon foundations prepared by the idealists of the Revolutionary era. Years before, a committee of the Convention had been appointed to introduce uniformity in the complex

Condorcet under the Convention supplied the basis for Napoleon's scheme of universal education. The elementary, secondary, and advanced schools of Condorcet, however, had lacked the necessary fostering care. While leaving the elementary section mainly to the control of local authorities, Napoleon vigorously developed the secondary

Napoleon's Encouragement of Education

schools, especially with a view to their use as seminaries of militarism. Technical schools also were established, and in 1806 the educational edifice was crowned by the seventeen academies of the University of France. It was a matter of course, under Napoleon, that the whole educational system should be subject to the control of the head of the state, and should be conducted in accordance with his ideas on the lines which



NAPOLÉON AND HIS STAFF ON THE SANDS AT BOULOGNE WHEN HE CONTEMPLATED THE INVASION OF ENGLAND
From the painting by A. C. Gow, by permission of the Berlin Photographic Co.

would make it an instrument for strengthening the whole system of government. While this reorganisation was in progress in France, another process of reconstruction was going on at the diet of Regensburg, which was working out that problem of the German principalities which had been left for settlement after the Peace of Lunéville. Ostensibly the question was one of compensating the princes dispossessed by the French acquisitions of territory on the left bank of the Rhine. Actually it was one of redistributing German provinces in the manner most advantageous to French interests. France, inviting the mediatorial aid of Russia, conducted private negotiations with a number of the sovereigns concerned, adapted its general scheme to suit the personal predilections of Alexander, which happened to chime in with French interests, and was able to present to the diet proposals the acceptance of which was already a foregone conclusion.

The prevention of anything in the nature of German consolidation or the effective extension of Hapsburg control may be regarded as the primary end of French policy. To strengthen Prussia on the Baltic, as a counterpoise to Austria, without allowing her influence over West Germany to be extended, was a means thereto; while the main business was to make West Germany really dependent on France. The compensations for dispossessed sovereigns could be obtained only by abolishing other sovereignties. The scheme proposed the secularisation of all the ecclesiastical states, their absorption in lay principalities.

A corresponding fate was to befall nearly all the free cities. Thus, the secular princes of South and West Germany would extend or consolidate their dominions. Bavaria, Würtemberg, Baden and Hesse-Cassel in particular profited by the secularisation, and were raised to the position of imperial electorates. The suppression of the ecclesiastical states made a Protestant majority in the Diet,

and consequently weakened Austria, which only obtained some Church property in the Tyrol, while her prospects of acquisitions in Bavaria vanished. Prussian gains were somewhat more substantial.

The princes of Bavaria and Würtemberg were kinsmen of the Tsar, and French diplomacy represented the favour shown to those states as compliments to Alexander. Further, the secularisations enabled the states which profited thereby to improve their own individual organisations, and encouraged them to assert their own individuality in preference to any ideas of a German nationality, in which they would be lost, and in preference more particularly to subordination to the

Imperial House. It was not difficult for the onlooker to realise that in fact the process going on was that of preparing them to become French dependencies.

Napoleon appears at this time to have been considering schemes of expansion in the Western Hemisphere. That was presumably his primary intention in obtaining Louisiana from Spain, and in the expedition of 1802 to establish a French government in San Domingo, where the black population had set up a free republic under the negro leader Toussaint L'Ouverture, of which an account appears in an-

other volume. Toussaint was captured, but no serious effort was made to retain dominion. Similar vague dreams instigated a peaceful expedition to Australia, where the French ships were anticipated by the British. Napoleon soon dropped such schemes, and sold Louisiana to the United States, having more palpable objects to grasp at nearer home. The old dream of an Asiatic empire had been dissipated in Egypt, whereas the British hold on India was tightening under the administration of the Marquess Wellesley, afterwards Lord Mornington, who had just overthrown the Mohammedan dynasty of Mysore, and it was soon to be still more decisively confirmed by the military skill of Wellesley's younger brother Arthur.



TALLEYRAND

As Foreign Minister under the First Consul he played a prominent part in the affairs of France, being for a time the second man in the country. Later, he became the leader of the anti-Napoleonic faction, and died in 1838.



NAPOLÉON CROWNING HIMSELF EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH

In the troublous times that witnessed the struggle to reassert the power of the Bourbons an attempt was made on the First Consul's life. The principal participators in it were punished with death, and all supporters of the new régime felt that its perpetuity could be secured and the Bourbon decisively excluded only by the establishment of a dynasty. Accordingly, the First Consul, on May 18th, 1804, was proclaimed Napoleon I., Emperor of the French.

From the painting by J. L. David in the Louvre

While the First Consul was reorganising France, and his Foreign Minister, Talleyrand, was manipulating the affairs of Germany, the hollowness of the Peace of Amiens was becoming daily more apparent. The British were carrying out their evacuations of captured territory, but without undue haste; and they found ample excuse for prolonging the delay with regard to Malta in the action of France. She had not only dealt in high-handed fashion with the Batavian and Italian republics, but she continued to keep troops in their territories; and the formal annexation of Piedmont took place in September, 1802. Formal diplomatic protests were entered without effect, and in March, 1803, Napoleon found excuse in the domestic discussions of the Swiss for intervening

as mediator and reorganising the Helvetic Republic for the use of France.



THE DUC D'ENGHEN

When the Royalist movement in France was rigorously suppressed the Duc d'Enghien, a Bourbon prince, was kidnapped and shot without even being condemned.

In January was published the report of Colonel Sebastiani's "commercial mission," which concerned itself with such matters of trade as the annexation of the Ionian Islands and the reconquest of Egypt. The protests of the British Foreign Office were answered by protests against the continued occupation of Malta, angry complaints, which were justifiable enough, of scurrilous articles published in England by the royalist intransigents, and demands for their extradition, which were not. In March there was a "scene" in Paris between Napoleon and the British ambassador. In April what was in effect a British ultimatum was presented, demanding the withdrawal of French troops

from the Batavian and Helvetic republics, compensation to Sardinia for the loss of Piedmont, and the retention of Malta by England for ten years. France refused the terms, and on May 17th diplomatic relations were broken off. Napoleon at once ordered the seizure of all British property and the arrest of all British subjects in France; the latter remained in captivity till 1814. It is further to be remarked that during the peace Napoleon had continued to maintain in the ports of France and the dependent republics a practical boycott of British goods and British commerce.

The state of open war was renewed, although, as at the time when the Peace of Amiens was signed, it was difficult for either of the mighty belligerents to strike the other except through commerce. But France could and did impose upon Britain a tremendous burden by a perpetual menace of invasion. A huge flotilla was at once prepared at Boulogne, for the purpose of embarking an army of 120,000 men for the shores of England when the opportunity should present itself. Great Britain prepared to meet the peril, and vast numbers of volunteers were enrolled, drilled, and trained to answer the call to arms and face the dreaded invader. And the British Fleet held the seas, while the insuperable difficulties of effecting the embarkation and transport with sufficient swiftness to evade the fleet made themselves apparent to Napoleon.

The two Powers were like wrestlers, waiting to close, each watching for the instant's relaxation or exposure on the part of the other which should give the chance of springing in for a fatal grip. Neither could close with effect. England renewed the process of capturing French colonial possessions. France could not strike at England, but she occupied the English king's German electorate of Han-

The Evil Days of Spain


over in spite of its neutrality, counting on the immobility of Prussia. Nevertheless, the act stirred a fresh uneasiness in Austria and Russia. On the other hand, Great Britain, having learned that France was in receipt of a Spanish subsidy, brought Spain into active hostility by seizing her treasure-ships. For Spain had fallen upon evil days under the depraved rule of the infamous and incompetent Godoy, the worst type of court favourite

under a degenerate monarchy. But the shock which brought about the Third Coalition was administered by Napoleon himself. With the renewal of the war with Great Britain, the Royalists were inspired with fresh hopes. George Cadoudal, the moving spirit of the Breton insurgents, and Pichegru, the degraded general, concocted a conspiracy in conjunction with the Comte d'Artois. The plot was known and watched secretly. The conspirators were allowed to visit Paris in February, 1804, and Pichegru interviewed his old friend and comrade Moreau, the one soldier whose rivalry Napoleon feared. Moreau refused to join or to betray them.

Then the Government struck; Moreau, Pichegru, Cadoudal, and others were arrested. But this was not enough. Charles of Artois was out of reach, but there was a Bourbon prince residing at Baden, the Duc d'Enghien, the representative of the House of Condé. The duke was kidnapped and carried into French territory at Vincennes for "trial" by a military commission; but his grave awaited him, already dug, literally as well as metaphorically. The duke pleaded to be brought before the First Consul himself; the commissioners seconded the request. But Savary, Napoleon's agent, with Murat, knew the First Consul's will, and the duke was shot without having been even condemned. Europe stood aghast at the crime.

In France, the crime does not appear to have produced any corresponding shudder. It presented itself as little more than a deed which quite decisively barred any possible reconciliation between the First Consul and the Bourbons, the new system and the old; the murdered prince was regarded as an accomplice in the plot against Napoleon's life. Pichegru died in prison, probably by his own hand. Cadoudal and others were executed. Moreau could be condemned only to two years' imprisonment, for which Napoleon substituted perpetual exile, and the victor of Hohenlinden was sent to America.

But the First Consul's life had been threatened; all supporters of the new régime felt that its perpetuity could be secured and the Bourbons decisively excluded only by the establishment of a dynasty. By senatorial decree, justified by sundry petitions and addresses, the First Consul was proclaimed Napoleon I., Emperor of the French, on May 18th 1804.



NAPOLEON
ON THE BATTLE-FIELD
IN VICTORY & DEFEAT



BONAPARTE AT ARCOLA IN 1796
From the painting by Baron Gros



LEADING HIS MEN ACROSS THE BRIDGE AT THE BATTLE OF ARCOLA IN 1796
From the painting by Horace Vernet



DIRECTING THE BATTLE OF RIVOLI IN 1797
From the painting by Felix Philippoteaux



RECEIVING THE CAPITULATION OF MANTUA IN 1797

From the painting by V. Adam



GOING ASHORE DURING THE SIEGE OF MALTA IN 1798

From the painting by Guiliu



THE FRENCH CAPTURE OF ZURICH IN 1799

From the painting by F. Bouchot



DEFEATING THE TURKS AT THE BATTLE OF MOUNT TABOR IN 1799

From the drawing by Swebach



AT THE UNSUCCESSFUL SIEGE OF ST. JEAN D'ACRE IN 1799



THE RETURN OF THE FRENCH FROM SYRIA IN 1799
Bonaparte on foot while a wounded officer has the use of his horse
From the painting by Horace Vernet



" THE SUN OF AUSTERLITZ "

From the painting by W. B. Wollen by the artist's permission



WITH HIS ARMY ON THE ST. BERNARD IN 1800

From the painting by Castres



AT THE BATTLE OF JENA IN 1806
From the painting by Horace Vernet



THE BEGINNING OF THE BATTLE OF JENA
From the painting by Meissonier



WOUNDED IN THE FOOT AT THE BATTLE OF REGENSBURG IN 1809
From the painting by Gautherot



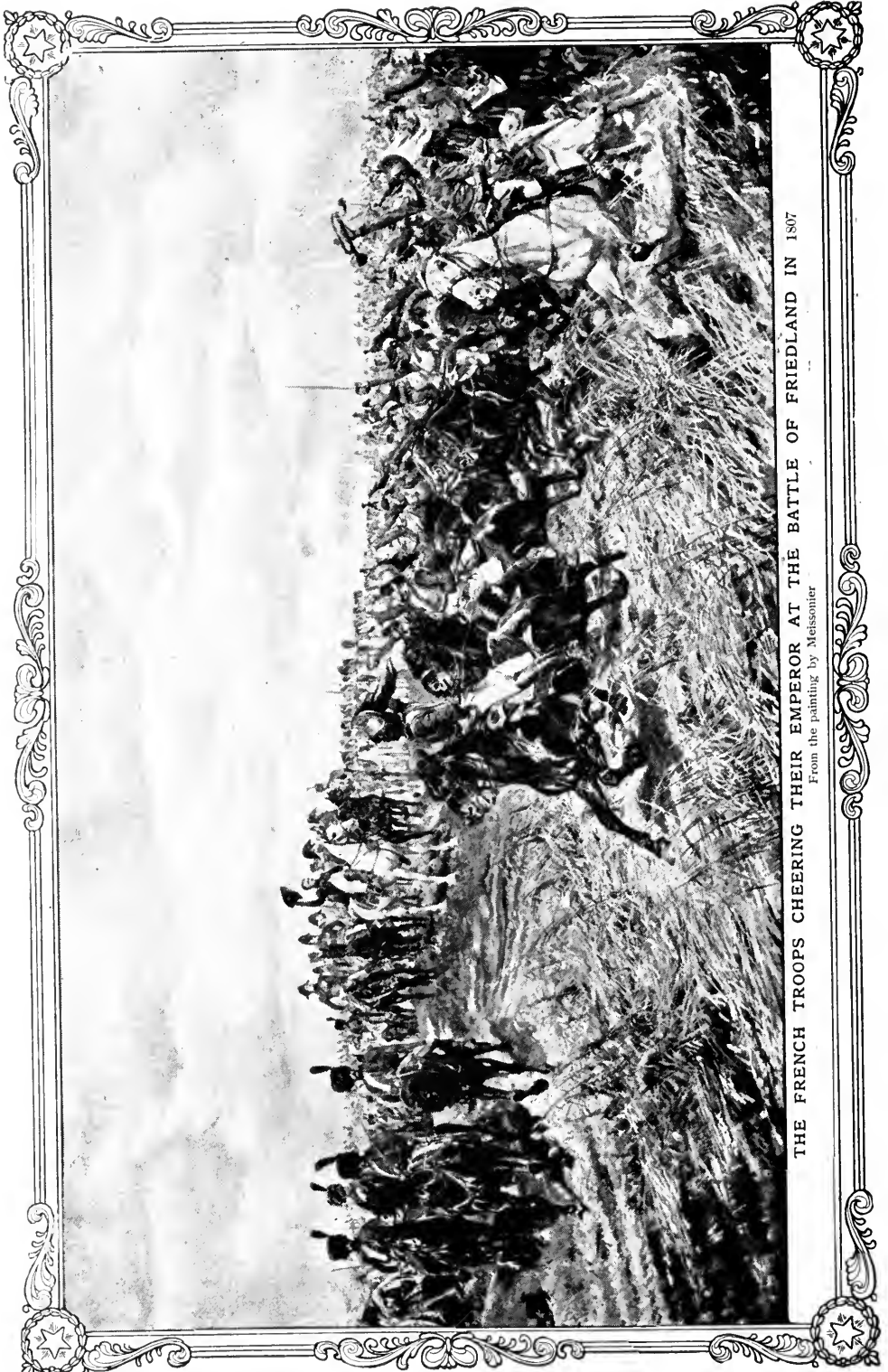
ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF EYLAU IN 1807
From the painting by Baron Gros



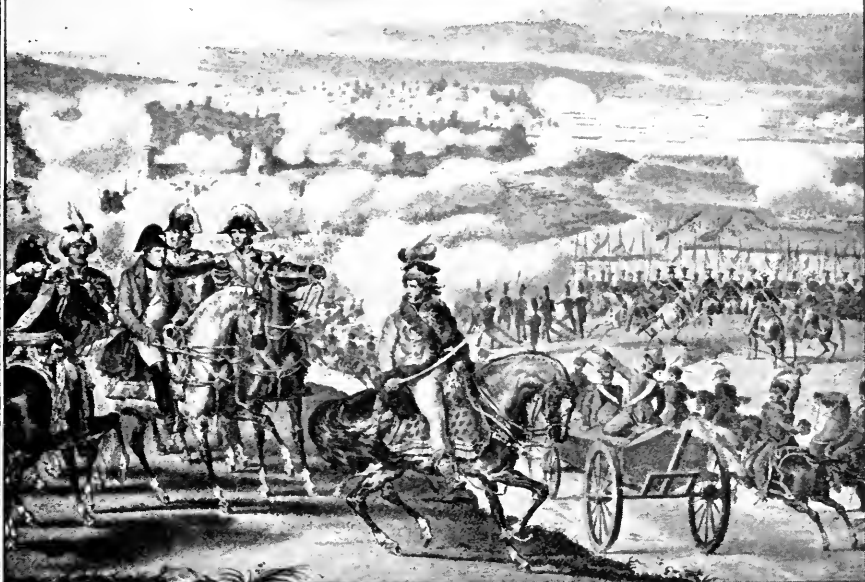
DEFEATING THE RUSSIANS AT THE BATTLE OF FRIEDLAND IN 1807
From the painting by Horace Vernet



DEFEATING THE AUSTRIANS AT THE BATTLE OF WAGRAM IN 1809
From the painting by Horace Vernet



THE FRENCH TROOPS CHEERING THEIR EMPEROR AT THE BATTLE OF FRIEDLAND IN 1807
From the painting by Meissonier



AT THE CAPTURE OF SMOLENSK. AUGUST 16th, 1812



RETIRING FROM SMOLENSK, NOVEMBER 9th 1812
From the painting by E. Odier



"ON THE GREAT ROAD"—THE RETREAT FROM MOSCOW

From the painting by Verestchagin by permission of the Berin Photographic Co.

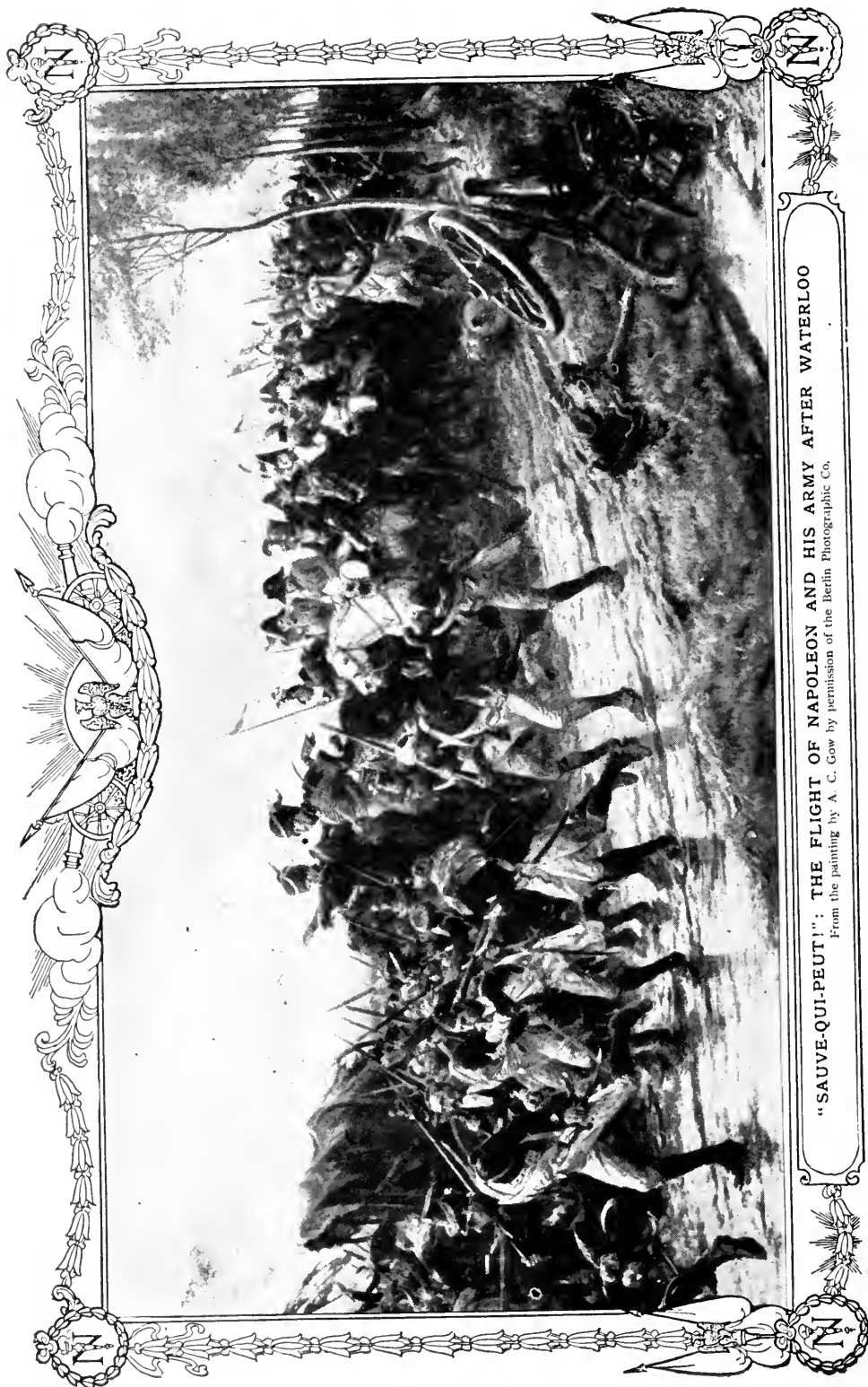


"1814." AN EPISODE IN THE CAMPAIGN

From the painting by Meissonier



"THE EVENING OF WATERLOO": NAPOLEON AFTER HIS DEFEAT PREPARING FOR FLIGHT
From the painting by Ernest Crofts, by permission of the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool



"SAUVE-QUI-PEUT!": THE FLIGHT OF NAPOLEON AND HIS ARMY AFTER WATERLOO
From the painting by A. C. Gow by permission of the Berlin Photographic Co.

THE FRENCH
REVOLUTION
& NAPOLEON



VII
BY ARTHUR
D. INNES, M.A.

NAPOLEON AS EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH HIS DOMINATION OF EUROPE AND HIS FUTILE ATTEMPTS TO CRIPPLE BRITAIN

THE month which saw the nominally republican constitution of France converted into an avowed hereditary autocracy under a Corsican dynasty saw also the return to active control of affairs in England of Napoleon's most determined antagonist, William Pitt. The murder of the Duc d'Enghien had already aroused the indignation of Alexander I., whose Court had been ordered into mourning. From this time both Great Britain and Russia were actively engaged in the endeavour to construct a new coalition.

The most enthusiastic advocate of energetic measures was also the least important—Gustavus IV., of Sweden, who had inherited his father's passion for supporting the legitimate Bourbon monarchy—whereas Great Britain was not in favour of a forcible Bourbon restoration, and Russia agreed with Great Britain. The

Idealism of the Tsar, of Russia Tsar was an idealist, whose ideals were apt to drop into a secondary position when the aggrandisement of Russia was in question; he was a zealous adherent of the principles of 1789 which the "Consulate for life" had virtually wiped out of the French Constitution. He had designs of reviving the Polish kingdom as a constitutional monarchy with Alexander I. as its constitutional king. Neither London nor Vienna cared about the principles of 1789, and Vienna did not want a revived Polish kingdom. Hints of an Austro-Russian partition of Turkish territory were equally unattractive in London, where also the Tsar's suggestions for concessions on the Armed Neutrality lines, and for the restoration of Malta to the Knights of St. John, were impossible of acceptance. Prussia was not to be drawn out of her own persistent neutrality; she suspected the existence of the Polish scheme, and while Napoleon's occupation of Hanover had alarmed her, the French Emperor

was willing to cajole her with promises that Hanover would probably be transferred to her. Hence nearly a twelvemonth passed before the Powers could come to terms. In April, 1805, the British and Russian Governments came to an agreement. Napoleon was to be required to withdraw

Britain his forces from Holland, Hanover, Switzerland, and Italy, and to restore Piedmont to Sardinia.

At the end of the war a European Congress was to settle disputed points and establish a European system. The accession of Sweden and Austria soon followed, the latter being overcome by the fear that Napoleon meant to appropriate the whole of Italy; and war actually begun in September, 1805. Throughout this period, of course, Great Britain had been at open war, ruling the seas while the menace of the Boulogne flotilla still threatened her shores.

Napoleon's proceedings in the meanwhile leave little room for doubt as to his intentions. The Holy Roman Empire had become the shadow of a great name; Napoleon meant to incarnate the reality in his own French Empire, of which France was to be merely the foundation. The recognition of his title by Prussia and Austria gave him the necessary status, while Francis weakened his own position by adopting the title of "Hereditary Emperor of Austria." Napoleon's theory that he was reviving the empire of Charle-

Napoleon Crowned Himself magne was typified in his coronation ceremony; the Pope was to perform it, but Napoleon did not permit him to place

the crown on his head; he did that with his own hands. He reorganised the Batavian Republic under an almost autocratic "Grand Pensionary." The Italian Republic turned itself into a monarchy, and invited Napoleon to be its king—an invitation which he accepted, assuming

the old crown of Lombardy with his own hands. The Ligurian Republic was annexed to France, Parma to the new kingdom of Italy, in which the recently issued Civil Code of France was established. Returning to Paris, Napoleon left his stepson, Eugène Beauharnais, as Viceroy in Italy. It was these proceedings, at the beginning of 1805, that turned the scale with Austria, and hurried her into the third coalition.

In effect, the new coalition consisted of Great Britain, Russia, Sweden, and Austria. Prussia stood aside; of Western Germany, the southern half, Bavaria, Würtemberg and Baden, were on the French side, while a considerable French force under Bernadotte was in occupation of Hanover. Napoleon's Grand Army was

concentrated at Boulogne, for the English invasion. The Austrians began operations by invading Bavaria in September, expecting to be left leisure to occupy it while the Russian armies were advancing from the rear, and the Archduke Charles was dealing with North Italy.

But the Boulogne army was not destined for the invasion of England; that point was already settled. For an invasion the temporary command of the Channel was an absolute necessity. With that end in view, Napoleon, at the close of 1804, made with Spain a treaty which placed a fleet at his disposal; but while an English squadron was keeping the Brest fleet locked up, and Nelson was watching Toulon, nothing could be done. Napoleon displayed an intention of setting



ALEXANDER I. OF RUSSIA
In 1801 he succeeded his father, and four years later joined the coalition against Napoleon. Russia was much at war during his reign, which ended with his death in 1825.



EMPEROR AND CHILDREN: NAPOLEON WITH THE FAMILY OF GENERAL MURAT

This pretty picture showing the great Emperor of the French surrounded by the children of his distinguished general, Murat, offers a striking contrast to some of the other scenes reproduced in these pages. Napoleon is enjoying a rare interval from the stress of the battlefield, the picture presenting an interesting phase of his character,

From the painting by Ducis



THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON WITH THE OFFICERS OF HIS STAFF

From the painting by Meissonier

about the recovery of the West Indies for France and Spain. In March, 1805, Villeneuve at Toulon got his chance of slipping out of port while Nelson was driven off guard by stress of weather. Villeneuve sailed for the West Indies; Nelson was soon in pursuit. But the West Indies were not the French admiral's objective; the intention was to evade Nelson, double back, drive the English blockading squadron from Brest, join the Brest fleet, and so secure command of the Channel before Nelson got back, and hold it while the army of invasion was transported. Up to a certain point the plan succeeded. Villeneuve evaded Nelson and made for European waters. But Nelson was in time to despatch a swift cruiser with a warning. Before Ville-



EUGÈNE de BEAUHARNAIS
The son of Josephine, who married Napoleon in 1796, he exhibited great military talent, and rapidly rose to a high position. He was created Prince of Venice in 1807.

neuve arrived, Admiral Calder was waiting for him with a squadron, smaller, but sufficient for its purpose. Calder and Villeneuve met off Finisterre; the engagement decided Villeneuve to join forces with the Spanish at Cadiz in August, instead of raising the blockade of Brest at once and at all costs. Nelson's return shattered the whole design.

Napoleon afterwards asserted that the Boulogne army had always been intended not for England, but for Austria; in other words, that he did not consider an invasion really practicable until the command of the Channel should be more than temporary. If so, the intention of Villeneuve's manœuvre was only to force a small portion of the British fleet

into an engagement with superior forces, crush it, and so reduce the present preponderance of the British naval power. If so, again, Villeneuve's retirement was justified, since the engagement with Calder showed that it was more than doubtful

whether the scales would be materially redressed by carrying out the programme. However that may be, Napoleon was extremely angry with Villeneuve, but he used his Boulogne army with decisive effect. Long before the Russians could arrive, it was racing to Bavaria, whither Bernadotte, ignoring the neutrality of intervening territory, was on the march to join it. Before the Austrian commander, Mack, had realised the situation, he found himself cut off from retreat, and was compelled to surrender, with the bulk of his forces, at Ulm on October 20th. The way to Vienna lay open to Napoleon. The capitulation was virtually decisive of the war on the Continent.

An engagement still more decisive of the war with Great Britain took place on the following day. Nelson had returned to England, and after a brief interval resumed the naval command. Villeneuve, stung by the Emperor's taunts, put out from Cadiz with 33 ships of the line, French and Spanish. Nelson, with 27 ships of the line, found him in the Bay of Trafalgar. Descending in double column on the

French centre, he broke it at two points, and the Franco-Spanish fleet was destroyed. Nelson fell in the hour of victory; but the spectre of a French invasion had been finally laid, the last semblance of serious resistance to the British sea-power had vanished.

That naval dominion was to cost Napoleon dear; but Trafalgar was no present check on his Continental career. When Mack capitulated at Ulm, the Archduke Charles, hastening back from Italy, found it vain to interpose between the French and Vienna, and he fell back to Hungary, while the Russian

advance guard retreated on the main body in Moravia. On November 13th the French were in occupation of Vienna. This was the moment when Prussia might have intervened with great effect. Frederic William had been roused to indignation

by Bernadotte's march across his territory, precisely when Prussia was refusing the Russians a passage; and he now went so far as to sign an alliance with Austria and Russia at Potsdam, on November 3rd. But the terms proposed to Great Britain were palpably outrageous, and their repudiation

gave Prussia an excuse for negotiating. While the negotiations went on the moment passed during which the Prussian army might have struck. Napoleon enticed the Russians into an engagement at Austerlitz on December 2nd, and won over



Villeneuve



Bernadotte

COMMANDERS OF THE FRENCH FORCES

A commander in the French navy, Villeneuve took part in various battles against the British fleet; Nelson crushed him at Trafalgar, and thus ended Napoleon's scheme for the invasion of England. The son of a lawyer, Bernadotte became a marshal of the French army in 1804. In 1818 he ascended the throne of Sweden as Charles XIV.



BROTHERS OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON

Louis Bonaparte, whose portrait is first given, was the third brother of the Emperor Napoleon. Appointed King of Holland in 1806, he resigned four years later. The eldest brother of Napoleon, Joseph Bonaparte also wore a crown, being placed on the throne of Naples in 1806. Two years later he became King of Spain, but resigned in 1813.

NAPOLEON AS EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH

them a victory, perhaps the most brilliant of all his brilliant achievements. Had Prussia joined the coalition at the outset, Ulm would have been impossible. Had she followed up the Potsdam agreement by vigorous action, Austerlitz would have been impossible, and the French army might have been overwhelmed in spite of Ulm. Had Austria maintained a strict defensive till the Russian forces could cooperate, she would not have had her main army put out of action. Now, Alexander, shocked by Austerlitz, disgusted with Prussia, and annoyed with Austria, con-

Treaty of Schönbrunn, Prussia gave up Neufchatel, Cleves, and Anspach. For these losses, the Power which was negotiating with Great Britain for a subsidy was to be given possession of Hanover, on condition of formally allying herself to France. By the Treaty of Presburg, Austria ceded to Napoleon's kingdom of Italy all her own Italian possessions. Napoleon's obsequious allies, Bavaria, Würtemberg, and Baden, were endowed with her outlying territories, though the Tyrol was presently to repudiate the Bavarian sovereignty. The



THE FRENCH AT VIENNA: NAPOLEON RECEIVING THE KEYS OF THE CITY

cluded a truce and withdrew. Francis, whose troops shared the defeat of Austerlitz with the Russians, obtained an armistice. The coalition was virtually at an end. The Prussian Minister, Haugwitz, was prompt to accept, at Schönbrunn, a treaty unexpectedly profitable superficially, but extremely dishonourable, which Frederic William did not venture to repudiate. Austria had practically no option in acceding to the terms dictated to her at Presburg on December 26th. In England the news of Austerlitz proved mortal to William Pitt, who died in January, 1809. By the

three were severed from the old Empire, and the two first became independent kingdoms. The penalising process did not stop here. The Bourbon dynasty was summarily ejected from Naples for having attached itself to the coalition, and Napoleon's brother Joseph was proclaimed King of the Two Sicilies, though the British fleet effectively secured the island against the entry of French troops. French forces occupied the Papal states. Holland and Belgium were then united under another brother, Louis. More than a dozen duchies and principalities were carved out of the ceded territories for Napoleon's

marshals. Bavaria and Würtemberg provided princesses as brides for Jerome Bonaparte and Eugène Beauharnais.

Another mark of the triumph of the new empire over the old was the formation of the German Confederation of the Rhine, a combination of a dozen of the Western states of the old empire, which were severed from it and recognised the much more effective suzerainty of the new—Würtemberg, Bavaria, and Baden at their head, with Dalberg, Archbishop of Mainz, as the prince-primate of the Confederation. For foreign policy and for military services they were at the beck and call of Napoleon. They got their profit by the mediatising of the minor baronies within their borders—that is, the several states absorbed the hitherto independent estates of the remaining tenants-in-chief of the old empire. Francis II. did little more than recognise an accomplished fact when he dropped the Holy Roman title, and called himself only the Emperor Francis I. of Austria. On August 6th, 1806, the Holy Roman Empire ceased to exist.

Meanwhile, Great Britain and Prussia had to be dealt with. Pitt's death brought into power his great rival, Charles James Fox, in the Grenville Ministry, known as "the

Ministry of all the Talents," since it was constructed without consideration of party. Fox had always been disposed to take the most generous view of the good intentions and good faith of the French Government.

In spite of the completeness of Great Britain's maritime triumph and of the relative progress of her commerce, the war entailed a heavy strain, which was felt severely by the industrial population, and the conditions were favourable for seeking an honourable peace. Napoleon negotiated on the basis of the restoration of Hanover and the retention of Malta and the Cape of Good Hope, which had been given up at the Peace of Amiens, but reoccupied soon after the renewal of the war. Fox himself, however, was not long in realising that Napoleon had no intention of relaxing his hostility; and his death, in September, removed the one powerful personality that made for amicable relations.

But the negotiations with Great Britain opened the eyes of Prussia, who was to reap the due reward of her fatuous policy. The formation of the Rhine Confederation was a death-blow to any dream of a Prussian hegemony in Germany replacing that of Austria. But by way of placating her,

**Napoleon's
Hostility
to Britain**



NAPOLEON MEETING FRANCIS II. AFTER THE FORMER'S VICTORY AT AUSTERLITZ
From the painting by Baron Gros

NAPOLEON AS EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH

Napoleon dangled before her hints of a North German Confederation, of which she should be the head, but of which the impracticability was secured. The compulsory closing of the North German ports to English ships at Napoleon's behest provoked England to reprisals which were ruinous to Prussian commerce. The discovery that Napoleon was proposing to King George the restoration of Hanover, the one reward which Prussia had been promised for the ignominious part she had played, was too much for Frederic William. The war party, which included his queen, Louise, carried the day. Great Britain and Russia were indeed both willing to combine against Napoleon, but neither was willing to sacrifice much for Prussia, and neither was ready to render her immediate practical assistance. Nevertheless, on October 9th, Prussia flung down the challenge. The bout was short. The French forces had not been withdrawn from North Germany. Napoleon was with them; they were in motion at once. Brunswick, the Prussian commander, changed his plan of taking the offensive and fell back towards Magdeburg, leaving one wing of his army under Hohenlohe to hold Napoleon in check at Jena. Hohenlohe was completely overwhelmed. The retreating Brunswick was caught on the same day at Auerstädt by a smaller French column under Davoust, and was compelled to retire. The arrival of the rout from Jena turned the retirement into a panic flight on October 14th. Prussia was prostrate. Fortress after fortress opened its gates; only Blücher made a stubborn stand at Lübeck. Napoleon's

terms rose as he advanced; Frederic William found that nothing short of abject submission would be accepted. But the limit had been passed. He would not submit to Napoleon's terms. He retreated to East Prussia, to throw himself on Russian support, and dismissed Haugwitz, the Minister whose counsels had guided his

policy. A fortnight after Jena, Napoleon was in Berlin. The remaining North German states were joined to the Rhine Confederation, including Brunswick and Hesse-Cassel, which were combined into the kingdom of Westphalia for a third brother of Napoleon, Jerome.

Russia and Great Britain still remained. Against the latter, military or naval operations were entirely useless. But it was to her hostility that Napoleon attributed every check he had received; in her

he saw the moving spirit of every combination which had been formed against him, and in her he recognised the most serious obstacle to the expansion of his empire.

To strike at her commerce was the one means of wounding her. Now, apart from Portugal, every port in Europe west of Denmark and the Adriatic was virtually under his control. On November 21st he issued from Berlin the Decree which was to bring her to her knees. Every British port was declared to be in a state of blockade. Every British ship was to be excluded from every port of the French Empire and of the dependencies and allies of the French Empire; all British subjects were to be seized, and all British goods, or goods which had come from Britain, confiscated throughout those territories.



NAPOLEON AND THE QUEEN OF PRUSSIA AT TILSIT
Crushed under the power of the mighty Napoleon, Prussia was left only a fragment of her dominions by the Treaty of Tilsit. Louisa, the brave Queen of Prussia, met Napoleon at Tilsit, and endeavoured on behalf of her country to obtain concessions from him.

From the painting by Gosse

The British Government was not long in replying. In January, 1807, all ports from which British ships were excluded were declared, by the first of a series of Orders in Council, to be in a state of blockade, the enforcing of which was infinitely more practicable than that of Napoleon's paper pronouncement. So far as the European

Britain's Drastic Reply to Napoleon

Continent shut out British ships, the Continent should be denied sea-borne commerce. The two great belligerents were treating neutrals; on the same principles each claimed forcibly to prevent neutrals from trading with the rival power. It was to be a trial of strength; but Napoleon, the challenger, had failed to realise that the arena was precisely that in which all the advantage lay with the sea-power which had no equal and no second. She could prevent the neutral trade; Napoleon could not.

It was true that neutrals were more irritated against Britain than against Napoleon, for the plain reason that it was the British and not the French who, in actual fact, came near to annihilating their trade altogether. On the other hand, it was the dependents of Napoleon who found themselves by Napoleon's orders robbed of British goods which they had stocked and precluded from replacing them—in whom, therefore, a bitter hatred of the new empire was aroused. Again, while neutral ports existed where there could not even be a paper blockade to bar the entry of British ships, British goods could find their way into, and European goods could find their way out of, the Continent.

Finally, whatever Governments might forbid, the Continent stood in absolute need of goods which could be obtained only through the British, even more than the British stood in need of Continental goods. If the traffic was made illegal, difficult, and dangerous, it also became proportionately profitable to those who took the

Failure of Napoleon's Tactics

risks of engaging in it; and an immense smuggling trade was generated which preserved a Continental market for British goods in defiance of Berlin Decrees. Perhaps we may sum up the results by remarking that Napoleon's "Continental System," while imposing fetters and manacles on the trade of the world, made a present to Britain of that predominance which the man with one wooden leg has over the man with two. In fact, it gave her a

monopoly precisely where it had been intended to exclude her altogether. Russia, on the other hand, was to be challenged with cannon and bayonet. Prussia had entered on the Jena campaign in alliance with both Russia and England, though she had courted disaster before either of her allies could render effective support.

Russian armies were now moving on the east of Prussia, whither Frederic William had fallen back. From Berlin, immediately after issuing the decree, Napoleon advanced into Poland, proclaiming that he was appearing as a liberator. The patriot Kosciusko had no confidence in Napoleon as a liberator; nevertheless, his name, audaciously attached to a proclamation, was made to serve as a call to arms for other Polish patriots. An engagement at Pultusk forced the Russians to retreat; but in spite of what even Napoleon regarded as the impracticable condition of the country in mid-winter, the newly-appointed Russian commander, Bennigsen, determined on an active campaign, and appeared in force, threatening the positions of Bernadotte and Ney in the

The New British Ministry

north. Napoleon was compelled to march against him, and in February a terrific battle took place at Eylau, in which the Emperor failed to drive Bennigsen from his position. Neither army was in condition to renew so desperate an engagement—the casualties exceeded 30,000—and both fell back.

The new British Ministry—Portland's—which was formed in March, intended to display vigour, but did not act up to its intentions. Even the energy of George Canning could inspire it with only spasmodic activity; and though it undertook in the Treaty of Bartenstein, in April, 1807, in which Sweden joined, to despatch an army to the Baltic in support of Prussia and Russia, the reinforcements delayed, while Napoleon's troops were multiplying. The campaign opened in June. Bennigsen repulsed Napoleon's attack on his camp at Heilsberg, but on June 14th he was drawn into fighting a pitched battle against superior numbers at Friedland. Austerlitz was repeated.

Again the Tsar felt that disaster had fallen upon his army through the incompetence or the wavering of those who were or should have been his allies; for Austria might now have played the part which Prussia ought to have played before

NAPOLEON AS EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH

Austerlitz. He resolved to negotiate with the French Emperor ; and the two met in a personal private conference on a raft in the River Niemen, at Tilsit, on June 25th. The result of the meeting was a complete revolution in the European situation.

Already Prussia was crushed and Austria paralysed ; soon, in Napoleon's expectation, Great Britain would find her power sapped and her life-blood drained by the Continental System. It would be preferable to remove Russian antagonism rather than to attempt the conquest of Russia. At Tilsit, Napoleon found his task unexpectedly easy. The Tsar was ready to abandon the allies whom he held guilty of playing him false. Napoleon had a settlement to propose which would place all Western Europe under his own heel, and complete the Tsar's Eastern supremacy by bestowing on him Finland and the better part of Turkey. Between them, the two would be masters of all Europe ; and the ruin of Great Britain would be assured when every port in Europe should be closed to her ships and her commerce. The Tsar found himself willing to abandon the liberation of an ungrateful Europe in favour of the aggrandisement of Russia.

The Treaty of Tilsit left to Prussia only a fragment of her dominions, and this merely as a concession of Napoleon's to the Tsar's goodwill. Her Polish domains were transformed into the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, controlled by Saxony. Danzig became a free town. Other Prussian districts were added to Murat's duchy of Berg, to Jerome Bonaparte's kingdom of Westphalia; and to Louis's kingdom of Holland. The French army was to remain in occupation until such war indemnity as France might claim should be paid. Turkey was to submit to France's mediation between her and Russia, or take the consequences. Britain was to submit to Russia's mediation, or take the consequences. As provided by secret agreement, the mediation for the one meant the cession of Wallachia and

Moldavia ; for the other the cession of all conquests since 1805, and the withdrawal of the maritime claims. Rejection was to mean in one case deprivation of all European territories except Roumelia and Constantinople, and in the other the completion of the Continental System by the inclusion of Sweden, Denmark, Portugal and Austria. Secret information, which the Government was unable to reveal, reached Canning as to the secret stipulations of the Tilsit agreement. The Danish fleet was to be annexed. The Danish fleet need have caused little alarm to the British, and the Danish Government was no party to the proposal ; but Canning felt justified in anticipating Napoleon. A British fleet appeared before

The Dutch Fleet Captured by Britain

Copenhagen, and demanded that the Danish navy should be handed over and neutralised in British ports. The Danes refused, but a three-days' bombardment forced them to submission. The fleet was carried off as prize of war, and Denmark herself was converted to bitter hostility. The action would have been in any case questionable ; since the information on which it was based could not be made public, while the Tsar and Napoleon repudiated the interpretation placed on the Tilsit Treaty by the



KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN

Charles IV. of Spain was not a king of whom his country had reason to feel proud. After a contemptible reign of fifteen years, Napoleon compelled him to abdicate the throne in 1808.

British Ministers, it assumed the appearance of a flagrant and inexcusable breach of neutrality, damaging the British credit.

Portugal now remained alone outside the Continental System. Napoleon treated the bombardment of Copenhagen as warranting the announcement that neutrality in the struggle with England should no longer be recognised. He demanded the accession of Portugal to his system ; Portugal, honourably loyal to an alliance of nearly 150 years' standing, refused. In October, Junot was marching on Portugal ; Napoleon had already agreed with Spain on the partition of her dominions. Armed resistance was out of the question, and Napoleon's purpose seemed to be consummated. Great Britain

responded by a new series of Orders in Council, imposing additional requirements on neutral traders, on pain of being treated as prize of war; while Napoleon retorted with the Milan Decrees, imposing a corresponding penalty on neutrals who yielded to the British claim. That Gustavus of Sweden still refused to own himself

**The French
Cæsar's
Monarchies**

beaten was a quite insignificant detail, since there was no prospect of his receiving any practical help. Nevertheless, defiance was coming from two quarters whence it might least of all have been expected. The French Republic had begun its career as the champion of freedom, in the sense of democracy as opposed to monarchy. It had toppled over dynasties and organised republics on every side; in theory at least it had established popular governments and abolished hereditary privileges, though it had made the new republics dependent on itself. In France itself, democracy had prepared the way, in accordance with the law laid down by philosophers of old, for the *tyrannis* perfected as Caesarism. The Cæsar had converted all save one of the dependent republics into dependent monarchies, absolute in type. He had added to his empire a congeries of minor monarchies; sometimes maintaining old dynasties, sometimes replacing them from his own family stock. For the old ancestral governments he had substituted the arbitrary and grinding yoke of a foreign domination; the peoples had not received the freedom of democracy, and they had been robbed of national freedom as well.

Hitherto Germany had all but lacked the nationalist conception; owing to the Napoleonic order, the little leaven was by degrees to pervade the whole mass. In Spain, the spirit of the people had been repressed under centuries of despotism; now, when a foreign despot was thrust upon them, it blazed out in sudden defiance. How the triumph of Napoleon acted upon Germany we shall presently examine. It was in Spain that the next phase was to be inaugurated. The Minister Godoy, his mistress, and her

husband, King Charles IV., had ruled Spain contemptibly for fifteen years—a melancholy sequel to the enlightened reign of Charles III. For most of the time they had acted as the humble vassals of France, a pawn for Napoleon to play when he thought fit.

At the end of 1807, in order to facilitate the introduction of a French army into the Peninsula, the Emperor arranged with Godoy—as noted above—for a partition of Portugal and her colonies between Spain and France; incidentally, his Italian dominion was to be consolidated by the transfer of the Etrurian kingdom to France. But Napoleon had probably already made up his mind that it was time to substitute a Bonaparte for a Bourbon on the Spanish throne, a process conveniently facilitated by differences between



FERDINAND VII. OF SPAIN
He became king on the forced abdication of his father, but Napoleon kept him prisoner during the Peninsular War. Ferdinand returned to Spain in 1814, and died in 1833.

the reigning sovereigns and the heir apparent, Ferdinand. Between the prince and Godoy there was natural hostility, which reached a point which seemed, before the end of the year, to warrant intervention—theoretically in support of the heir against the machinations of the Minister.

But the advancing troops occupied fortresses; alarm was created. A popular outbreak frightened Charles into abdication in favour of Ferdinand; and the queen was soon entreating Murat, whom Napoleon had despatched from Italy, to re-

store him. King and ex-king proceeded to meet the Emperor at Bayonne; another outbreak in Madrid against the French served as excuse for enforcing abdication on Ferdinand. Charles surrendered his own claims to Napoleon, accepting estates and a pension by way of compensation;

**Spain in
Revolt Against
Napoleon** and Napoleon nominated his own brother Joseph to the vacant throne in June, 1808. Murat, who

had hoped for the crown, had to be contented with that of Naples, from which Joseph was transferred. The pride of a proud nation was touched to the quick; and the whole Spanish people rose to arms in defiance of the Power which had overthrown the mightiest coalitions that all Europe had been able to pour against him.

HOW TRAFALGAR CHANGED THE FACE OF THE WORLD

BEING A FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY

BY SIR JOHN KNOX LAUGHTON



ON November 18th, 1805, at Znaym, an obscure little town in Moravia, Napoleon received the news of the battle of Trafalgar. There had been, he said, some fighting; also a storm, in which a few French ships had unfortunately been lost. That was all. He pushed on, and a fortnight later won the battle of Austerlitz. Here, indeed, was something like a victory. Every soldier in the French army knew it; every Austrian, every Russian was keenly conscious of defeat. The judgment of war was decisive against the coalition; and the dying Pitt, it has been said, recognised the blow as fatal to the liberties of Europe. Jena and Auerstädt in the following year seemed but to confirm the verdict, from which there was no longer any appeal.

In England, public opinion did not take any extended view. To the English, as English, it mattered little that the Austrians and Prussians were crushed by the French; but they quite understood that after Trafalgar there was no fear of a French army invading England. The intolerable threat which had seemed to hang over the country for the last two years was dissipated and could not be renewed. Nelson was dead; but his spirit remained, the tutelary deity of his country—a feeling which Canning more distinctly formulated in the celebrated apostrophe:

And when in after-times with vain desire
Her baffled foes, in restless hate, conspire
From her fair brow the unfading wreath to
tear,
Thy hand, and hands like thine have planted
there;
Thou, sacred shade! in battle hovering near
Shalt win bright Victory from her golden
sphere,
To float aloft, where England's ensign flies,
With angel wings and palms from paradise.

But whilst in England people were

content to take their own selfish view of the result, on the continent of Europe Trafalgar seemed a very small thing in comparison with Austerlitz or Jena. Napoleon himself was probably the one man who, without in the least undervaluing his own victories, could understand that Trafalgar was the destruction of his hopes and schemes. We are not to be beguiled or misled by his own statements of what he did or did not intend; we judge from his persistent conduct, from his secret letters and orders, that from the date of the renewal of the war in 1803 his all-absorbing idea was to land his army in England, when, with the help of God, he would put an end to her existence.

So he wrote repeatedly; but—as a still more illustrious Frenchman is said to have found—the first step was the most difficult. One after the other, in quick succession, he drew up different schemes for ferrying his army across the narrow sea—so narrow that men have swum it, so narrow that a boy in a dinghy might paddle himself across; but which to Napoleon was impassable, because a few ships of war—ships of the line, frigates, and smaller vessels—lay in the Downs or ranged along the coast of France, from Dunkirk to Etaples, in force to run down, sink, or destroy any boat which ventured out; because in two years of scheming he was never able to bring up any sufficient

**The Vigilance
of Britain's
Wooden Walls**

force of the French navy to drive these ships away, and secure the safe, uninterrupted passage of these boats; because, before every port in France or Spain, wherever a French or Spanish ship of war was to be found, there was a corresponding force keeping guard over it; because all his plans were rendered futile by the tenacity of

Cornwallis off Brest, and under him Pellew, Collingwood, Cochrane, and others, in the Bay of Biscay, and of Nelson in the Mediterranean, off Toulon. The main force of the French navy was at Brest, and there the watch was the strictest. If only the Brest fleet could evade the vigilance of Cornwallis, get out and run up the Channel, Keith, in the narrow sea, might be overpowered and the French army be carried across before Cornwallis or any of his colleagues to the southward knew anything about it.

The Changing Schemes of Napoleon

The detailed technical history of these two years, and the confidential correspondence during these two years of Napoleon with his Ministers, admirals, and generals, give positive proofs of the reality of his wishes and hopes. But the point to which we would call especial notice is the frequent change of plan. As soon as the failure of one became evident, the conception of another began to take form. The death of La Touche-Tréville, commanding at Toulon, in August, 1804, put an end to one plan; another had to be evolved, and gradually the Emperor conceived the one, more familiarly known, of a gathering of French and Spanish squadrons in the West Indies, whence they were to return and sweep the Channel in overpowering force. When that failed, a modification of it was to be tried. The fleet from the Mediterranean was to come off Brest; at the same time the fleet in Brest was to come out, and Cornwallis, caught between the two, was to be crushed. By no possibility could such a plan—setting at defiance all principles of navigation and naval war—have succeeded; and if Villeneuve, the admiral commanding the Mediterranean fleet, had brought it off Brest, it must

Thwarted Plans of the Emperor

have been destroyed by Cornwallis before ever the fleet from inside could get out. As it was, Villeneuve refused to throw away his fleet in that fashion, and, having come as far as Ferrol, turned in the opposite direction and went to Cadiz. His disobedience marked the failure of this plan; and, threatened by a coalition of the European Powers, Napoleon, who had been flattering himself with the idea

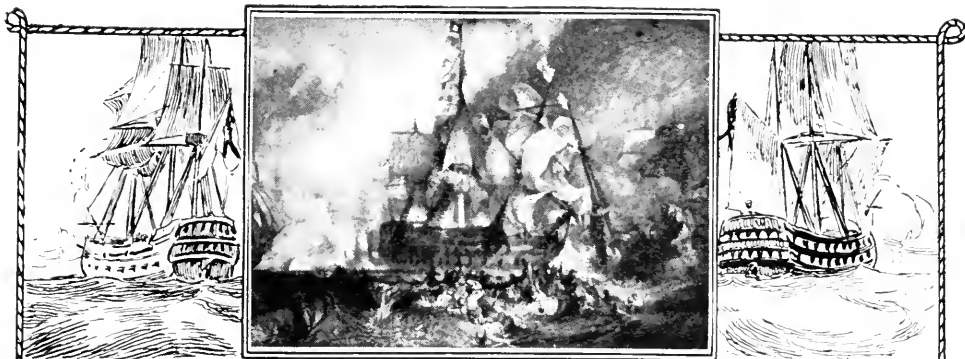
that if he could crush England the soul of the coalition would be dead, felt obliged to attend to the critical position in Germany before starting on a new plan to get his army across the Straits.

That some plan, on lines similar to those that had preceded it, and probably as absurd as any of them, would have been devised appears certain; but the fond hope was destroyed at Trafalgar. The knowledge was forced on Napoleon that there was no longer a possibility of his getting the command of the Channel for the few hours or days that he required, and that other means must be found for breaking the power of England. She could not be crushed by armed force, she should be crushed by the ruin of her commerce. Out of this determination came the Berlin and Milan Decrees, the Continental System, the land blockade, met—on the part of England—by the Orders in Council and the blockade by sea. Of the cruel suffering caused by this commercial war, this war of the sea against the land, we cannot speak in any detail. In England it

The Great Results of Trafalgar

was terrible; but the national existence was at stake, and it was endured. In France it was the ruin of bankers, merchants, and manufacturers; when the factories were still, the workmen were starving; it was the horror of desolation crowning the desolation of more than a dozen years of titanic war. But the glamour of military success and the authority of the Emperor maintained the struggle and sustained the suffering. Other nations, not so supported, refused to endure. In Spain, in Portugal, in Germany, in Russia, it was maintained past the breaking point, and the Peninsular War, the Russian campaign, and the War of Liberation followed. Leipzig and Waterloo were the consequences; the Congress of Vienna, the Holy Alliance, the map of Europe as it remained for fifty years, the kindling of German aspirations succeeded, and the unification of Germany, and—less directly—of Italy, has placed the coping-stone on the edifice whose foundation was laid in the destruction of the French sea power at Trafalgar.

JOHN KNOX LAUGHTON



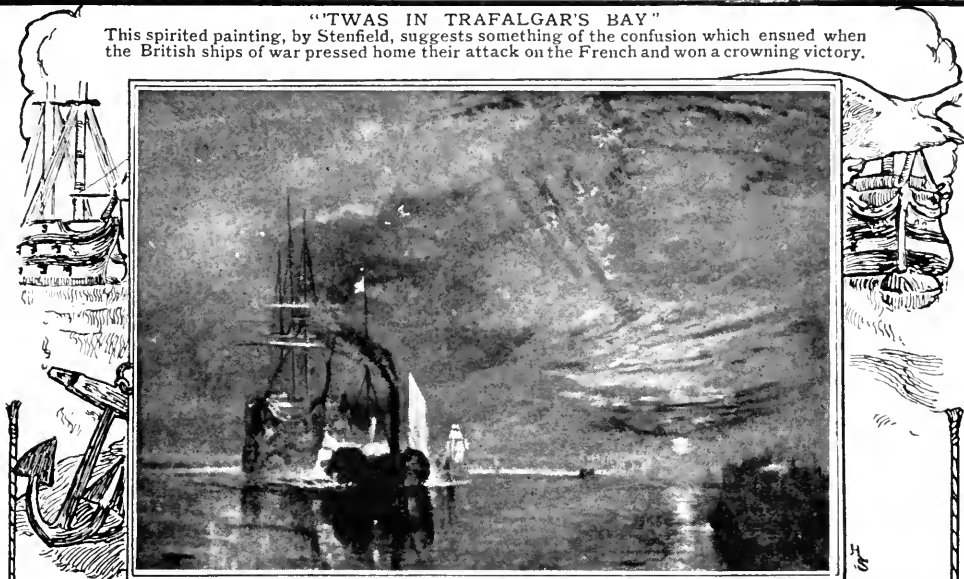
NELSON'S FAMOUS SIGNAL AT TRAFALGAR

In this picture, reproduced from the painting by Turner, Nelson's flagship, the Victory, is shown flying the memorable signal at Trafalgar, "England expects every man will do his duty."



"T'WAS IN TRAFALGAR'S BAY"

This spirited painting, by Stenfield, suggests something of the confusion which ensued when the British ships of war pressed home their attack on the French and won a crowning victory.



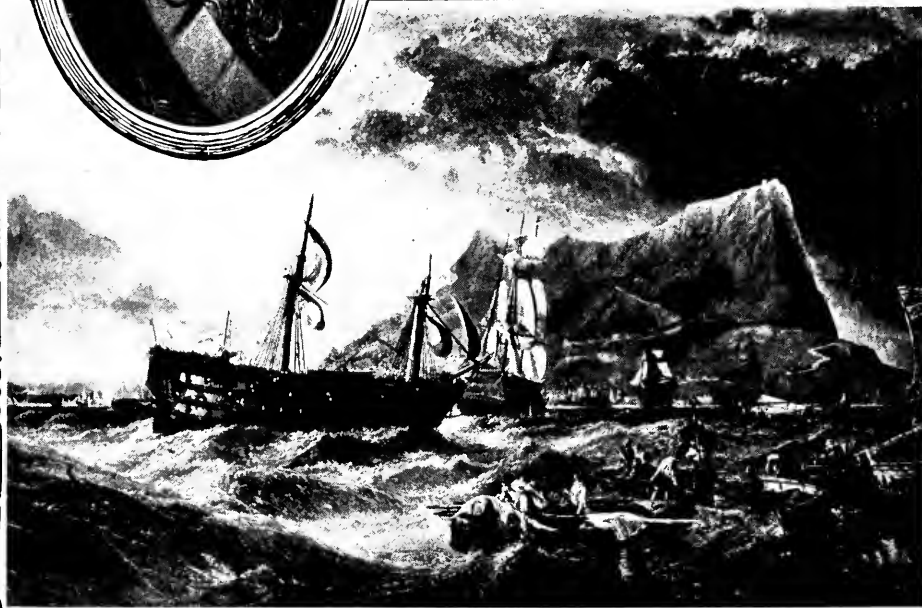
THE LAST VOYAGE OF THE FIGHTING TEMERAIRE

This famous picture was painted by Turner after seeing the old *Temeraire* towed up the Thames.



NELSON'S DEATH IN THE HOUR OF
VICTORY

From the painting by A. W. Devis



THE DAY AFTER THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

The Victory, with the body of Lord Nelson on board, being towed into the harbour at Gibraltar by H.M.S. Mars the day after the Battle of Trafalgar.

From the painting by Stenfield

H.S.



THE AWAKENING OF NATIONALISM WELLINGTON'S BRILLIANT TRIUMPHS IN THE PENINSULAR WAR

NAPOLEON had committed himself to an error vast and far-reaching in his attempt to reduce Great Britain to submission by his Continental System. He calculated that Britain had more need of the Continent than the Continent had of Britain; whereas the need for English goods was so great that no decrees could keep them out, and, while a sea-borne trade was a necessity, the British could ensure that no carriers but themselves should be available. In his Spanish policy he committed himself to a second error equally far-reaching, based on a miscalculation which would probably have been shared by almost every observer at the time. He assumed that a Government having for its sanction the force of the Empire could have nothing to fear from popular insurrection. The event was to prove that an insurgent people,

**The French
Army Held
in Check**

supported by a British army, insignificant in numbers but ably led, could keep a quarter of a million French troops locked up in the Peninsula for five years and finally drive them out of it altogether, in spite of the military genius of such generals as Soult, Masséna, and Marmont. The initial miscalculation of the ease with which Spain could be held in subjection being demonstrated, the Governments learned that popular national enthusiasm was a potent instrument at their disposal which they had not hitherto dreamed of bringing into play, and which ultimately wrought Napoleon's downfall.

Even at the time when Napoleon was intervening in Spain, and carrying out his scheme for a Bonapartist monarchy, the ground was being prepared in Prussia, and the seed was being sown which should in due time bring forth harvest. Jena and Auerstädt had awakened the existing Government of that unhappy state to a consciousness of the rottenness of its

fabric. A complete reorganisation had become an absolute necessity, while it could be brought about only by a drastic suppression of vested interests, which was anathema to the cabal which had hitherto guided the king. Statesmen were not lacking who realised the need; there was only one, Stein, who had the resolution to carry the reforms through; and after Jena, Frederic William himself still lacked the courage to entrust him with the task.

**Russia
in Need of
Reform**

Hardenberg, the statesman who took the place of Haugwitz, was of the same school as Stein; but he, too, was not bold enough to override opposition. By a curious fate, it was Napoleon himself who after Tilsit forced Stein upon the king, because Hardenberg's English sympathies were not to be tolerated, and Stein appeared to him in the light of a financier whose skill would raise the funds which he intended to extort from Prussia. Stein was appointed Minister in October, 1807, with a free hand, which he did not hesitate to use.

Prussian society was organised in three rigid castes—nobles, citizens, and peasants. Of these, none but the first had any share whatever in the management of the state, while the last were still in the condition of serfage. The nobles supplied all the officers of the army; the rank and file were drawn from the peasants. It was

**The Three
Classes
in Prussia**

neither expected nor permitted that the wealth-producers should be fighters, just as it was forbidden to the nobles to descend to the degrading occupation of trade. The land itself was correspondingly divided between the three classes and could not pass from one to the other. The Prussian peasant was still in the position legally held by the English villein in the fourteenth century, but which even then was largely modified in practice. To the citizen, in the

sense of a denizen of the cities, as well as to the serf, citizenship in the sense of political rights and responsibilities was denied. Under such conditions public spirit even of the most local kind could scarcely take root; patriotism, the public spirit which is not parochial or provincial but national, was all but an impossibility.

The first step was to make citizenship possible. A commission of Hardenberg's had made recommendations; before Stein had been a week in office he had translated the recommendations into decrees. The restrictions which bound a man to live and die in the class and in the employment to which he was born were abolished. The law permitted

every man to follow whatsoever calling he chose. The transfer of land became free; the peasant was no longer bound to the soil, he was at liberty to seek new pastures or to join in the life of the cities. A little

later, not by Stein but by Hardenberg, he was converted into the proprietor of his land; for the present he remained a tenant who had to pay the landlord dues in one form or another for his holding, while both Stein and Hardenberg left the jurisdiction of the baronial class intact. A sense of common citizenship being made possible, Stein saw the means to its development in demanding the fulfilment of the obligations of citizenship, participation



Jourdan



Soult

TWO OF NAPOLEON'S FAMOUS MARSHALS

A marshal in the army of Napoleon, Jourdan gained victories against the Austrians, but was defeated by the Duke of Wellington at Vittoria in 1813. Soult was a tower of strength to the French army, and served his country with distinction in Spain and other countries. He was defeated by Sir John Moore at the battle of Corunna.



THE DEATH OF SIR JOHN MOORE AT CORUNNA

In chief command of the British army in Spain in 1808, Sir John Moore co-operated with the Spaniards in expelling the French forces from the Peninsula. Learning of the Spanish defeats and of the fall of Madrid, he began a masterly retreat to Corunna, the huge army of France following in pursuit. In a brilliant action at Corunna, on January 16th, 1809, Moore repulsed Soult's attack, but in the hour of victory the gallant soldier was mortally wounded.



THE PARTING OF EMPEROR AND EMPRESS: NAPOLEON'S FAREWELL TO JOSEPHINE
Being without family and desirous of an heir to carry on the dynasty, the Emperor Napoleon resolved to obtain a divorce from his consort Josephine, and with her reluctant consent this was carried through at the close of 1809. The emperor's farewell to the woman who had been his wife for thirteen years is admirably depicted in the above picture.
From the painting by Laslett J. Pott

in public duties. He started at the bottom by instituting local elective bodies to manage minor local affairs—the beginnings of a representative system which was intended to culminate in a representative parliament; not, as in England, controlling administration, but able to make its voice heard and its will felt in public affairs. Stein's tenure of office, however, was too brief to enable him to carry out his programme beyond the initial stage, which was of itself sufficient to bring into being the sense of individual responsibility and duty to the public, of a common good to be wrought for in common, for which there was no room in the old system.

Besides this there was the reorganisation of the army, a work which, like the abolition of caste, was not the creation of Stein's own genius, but was one which his colleagues would hardly have been able to set on foot without the aid of his vigorous initiative. The actual organiser was Scharnhorst. As matters stood, promotion among the officers was permanently blocked by superannuated veterans, and the ranks were filled with long-service men, to whom the citizen class had not contributed.

The recent development of huge armies had made universal liability to military service a practical necessity; but the conditions laid down after Tilsit restricted the number of troops to 40,000 men. By Scharnhorst's plan a short-service period took the place of the former twenty years in the ranks. At the conclusion of the period the men were drafted into reserves, so that while the numbers of the short-service army stood at 40,000, there was soon a large reserve of trained soldiers who could be called to arms in case of necessity. In addition, a "Landwehr," or militia, was created for home defence, though it was not enrolled till five years later, and the scheme of a "Landsturm," or general arming of the population, was prepared. But the reorganiser of Prussia was intensely patriotic, intensely nationalist; his influence soon proved far more seriously antagonistic to the Napoleonic ascendancy than that of Hardenberg, while he aroused a more active hostility to himself in the nobles, who had encouraged the king in his pusillanimous courses of old, and who now found their privileges challenged.

Awakening Patriotism In Prussia

Stein was zealous to place the country once more on a fighting basis, and to ally it with Austria; in the sudden uprising of Spain he was not alone in recognising a universal call to arms, and he did not believe in the completeness of the harmony between the Tsar and Napoleon. The Emperor received information of his plans for an Austrian alliance, and the demands on Prussia immediately took a more stringent form. Defiance at the moment was impossible; Frederic William gave way. Stein soon after resigned, and the present prospect of Prussia taking arms against Napoleon disappeared. A few weeks later Stein was forced by the Emperor's wrath to flee for his life to Austrian territory. But the grain of mustard-seed, the nationalist ideal, had taken root.

The "Address to the German Nation," issued by the philosopher Fichte during this year, formed a powerful appeal which went home to the hearts of the people, and when their hour came they answered to it magnificently. All Europe was startled by the rising of Spain, some months before the fall of the great Minister in Prussia. During the last week of May, without organisation, without warning, without any common plan, every district of Spain which was not actually dominated by the presence of French forces was in arms. The officials were compelled by the populace to join; those who ventured to refuse were apt to find a short shrift. At every centre of insurrection a "junta," or governing committee, was formed in the name of King Ferdinand, as well as an army. The clergy flung themselves into the popular cause in opposition to the Antichrist who was coercing the Pope.

It did not occur to Napoleon that the resistance was serious. His generals, Bessières, Dupont, and others, were soon moving on various provinces; but a success of Bessières, which secured the route from the Pyrenees to Madrid, was followed within a week by a disaster to Dupont, who was compelled to capitulate with all his forces at Baylen, and King Joseph, at the end of July, had to flee from Madrid, which he had only just entered. Meanwhile the Government in London had resolved on a new military policy. Napoleon had seized Portugal, but that country was eager to be set free, and the mistress of the seas had no difficulty in

Spain Up in Arms

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despatching troops thither. The Spanish monarchy was at war with Great Britain, but Spain, now represented by the Central Junta at Seville, was at war with Napoleon, and, in Canning's view, was ipso facto an ally of Great Britain. On August 1st Sir Arthur Wellesley, who had particularly distinguished himself in India, landed in Portugal at the head of 18,000 British troops.

At Vimeiro he was met by Junot, who was still in command of the French forces in Portugal. Wellesley was victorious, but his success was marred by the arrival on the scene of two senior officers, Burrard and Dalrymple, who, instead of crushing Junot completely, concluded with him the Convention of Cintra, under which the French troops evacuated Portugal, but were conveyed with their arms in English ships to France. The indignation of Napoleon with Junot was equalled by British indignation with the generals who had failed to make the most of their success. All were recalled, and the command was taken up by Sir John Moore, though Wellesley, cleared of all charges, was to reappear next year. Napoleon was annoyed, not so much by the actual events in the

**Napoleon's
Tight Grip
On Prussia**

Peninsula as by the excitement they were causing in Europe. He tightened the curb upon Prussia, which shrank from Stein's proposal of open war, and caused the Minister's fall. But the matter of first importance was to overawe Europe by a fresh demonstration of the amity between the Emperor and the Tsar, since Austria, too, had been reorganising and arming.

In October, a magnificent conference was held at Erfurt, where all the vassal princes were present and the Courts of Austria and Prussia were both represented. In appearance, at least, the conference was successful. Napoleon left Erfurt with the operations against Turkey for carrying out the Tilsit agreement postponed, and with a free hand for Spain. Nevertheless, the display of harmony only veiled the fact that the Tsar's friendship for Napoleon was cooling.

The Emperor was fully aware that the suppression of Spain would demand a large force. Early in November he himself passed the Pyrenees to conduct the operations. The daring spirit of the insurgents had not provided them with a capable central government in the Seville Junta, or with capable military chiefs, and their dispositions were quite inadequate for

coping with Napoleon. Their extended line was rapidly pierced and scattered; and though Palafox was able to throw himself into Saragossa, where a prolonged and heroic defence was maintained, it appeared as though serious resistance had already been shattered. Napoleon marched in triumph to Madrid. In the meantime,

**Death of
Sir John Moore
At Corunna**

Sir John Moore, whose information from the British agent and from the Spanish Government was scandalously inadequate, had advanced under great difficulties to support the Spaniards. Learning of the Spanish defeats, and, by an accident, of the fall of Madrid, he turned to effect a diversion by advancing against Soult's division. This brought Napoleon himself in pursuit, and Moore began a masterly retreat to Corunna, where English transports should have been awaiting him but were not.

Napoleon was satisfied to leave the completion of the pursuit to Soult, while he himself retired from Spain, which he regarded as virtually conquered. Moore, in a brilliant action at Corunna, on January 16th, 1809, repulsed Soult's attack, and though his own life was lost, his troops were able to embark on the transports, which had now arrived. Six weeks later, Saragossa had fallen. Soult entered Portugal, the South of Spain was held in subjection by Marshal Victor, and, with a quarter of a million of French troops in the Peninsula, the insurgents seemed to have little enough to hope for.

But it was equally obvious that a very large force was necessary to maintain Joseph in Spain. In Austria, the war party was in the ascendant, and the active spirit of revolt was spreading in Germany. Austria resolved on war, confident that it would take but little to bring about the co-operation of Prussia and of the Rhenish confederation. The population of the Tyrol, which had been ceded to Bavaria at the

**Austria the
Champion
Of Freedom**

Treaty of Presburg, detested the new regime, which ignored traditional customs and prejudices. The Austrian army itself had been placed on a greatly improved footing by the Archduke Charles, and the Minister, Count Stadion, was of Stein's political school—*mutatis mutandis*—with a strong desire for Austria to take her place as the leader of German nationalism. It was as the champion of European freedom and German nationalism that

Austria threw down the gauntlet in April without entering into definite treaties with Great Britain or with the Spanish Nationalists, who had struck a formal alliance in January. In April, Wellesley also returned to the Portuguese command, having under him 20,000 British troops, and being appointed generalissimo of the Portuguese forces. Portugal was to be the basis for co-operation with the Spaniards. In view, however, of the Austrian declaration of war against Bavaria, the British Government resolved to concentrate its main effort on an attack on Holland, which, if promptly and effectively carried out, would have very materially affected Napoleon's campaign on the Danube.

It is by no means clear that the scheme in itself was not well advised, though it is sufficiently obvious that if the 40,000 men who were sent on the Walcheren Expedition had been dispatched to Wellesley instead, the Peninsula campaign of 1809 would have taken a very different course. As the event proved, the brilliancy of Wellesley's personal successes did not enable him to maintain ground beyond the Portuguese frontier; the Walcheren Expedition was ignominious and disastrous, and the only check on

Napoleon's operations on the Danube lay in the fact that so many of his troops were detained on the south of the Pyrenees.

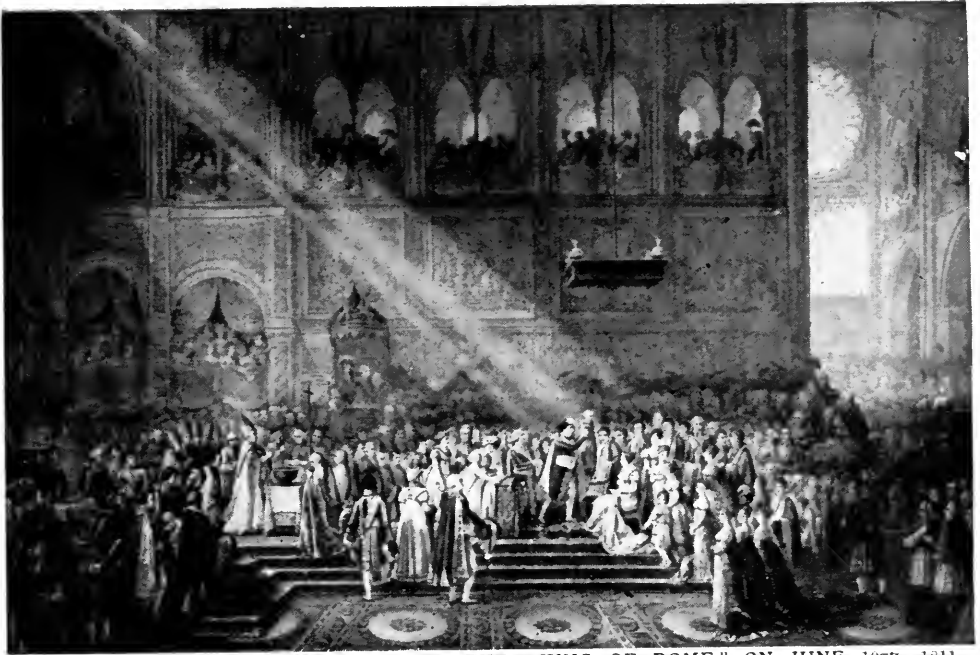
The Austrian advance to Regensburg threatened the Emperor's forces with disaster; but his arrival to conduct the operations in person changed the situation. Napoleon's presence had a paralysing effect on the Archduke Charles. In five days, by a series of heavy blows, the Emperor had driven the Austrians before him in full retreat, and the prospect of a general German revolt had already all but vanished. He advanced to Vienna; but a severe and unlooked-for check at the battle of Aspern-Essling on May 21st placed him in a very dangerous position. The archduke, however, took nerve, and failed to

take advantage of his opportunity. The moment passed; French reinforcements were allowed to strengthen the lines of communication. Six weeks later Napoleon succeeded in accomplishing the passage of the Danube by night; the Austrians had to fall back to Wagram, whence they were again forced to retreat after a stubborn battle on July 6th. To the victors themselves the defeat by no means seemed to be a crushing blow; but the Austrians

**Austrian
Overthrow
At Wagram**



THE MARRIAGE OF NAPOLEON TO MARIE LOUISE OF AUSTRIA IN 1810
From the painting by Rouget



THE BAPTISM OF NAPOLEON'S HEIR, THE "KING OF ROME," ON JUNE 10TH, 1811. To the Emperor Napoleon and Marie Louise was born an heir on March 20th, 1811, and from his birth he was styled "King of Rome." His baptism on June 10th is depicted in the above picture. His death occurred in the year 1832.

had lost heart, and sought and obtained an armistice. In the north, at the opening stage, the daring but unauthorised raid of Colonel Schill with a regiment of cavalry from Berlin had excited high hopes for the moment; but he had been unsupported, and was annihilated at Stralsund, just after Aspern.

The Duke of Brunswick, successor of the old duke who had formerly commanded the Prussian forces, raided Saxony from Bohemia, but Germany was content to admire without aiding. It was only in the Tyrol that the gallant Hofer remained unsubdued after Wagram. Under his leadership, the Tyrolese had thrown off the Bavarian yoke; and now an invading force met with such disaster that the French evacuated the region. But the Tyrol, too, was soon to find itself deserted. At the end of July the belated British

The British Expedition on the Scheldt

expedition arrived on the Scheldt. An immediate advance on Antwerp might still have dealt a heavy blow; but time was wasted at Flushing while the defences of Antwerp were being secured. In the marshes of Walcheren the troops were laid low by fevers. The bulk of them were withdrawn, and those that were left were more than decimated from the same cause

before they, too, were recalled. The whole business was a ghastly failure. In the meanwhile, Wellesley had been showing what it was possible for a brilliant commander to do, and what it was not possible to do unaided.

On his arrival at Lisbon in April he organised the defences of the capital and then threw himself northward on Soult's lines of communication, and forced the marshal to evacuate Portugal with the loss of his cannon. He was thus enabled to attempt a swift blow on Madrid, in conjunction with the Spaniards. But he could get no reinforcements from England—the troops were wanted for Walcheren—and the Spanish Government forces, the generals, and the Government itself, were incompetent. Wellesley reached Talavera, where he was attacked by King Joseph and Marshal Victor on July 28th.

The Spaniards broke and fled, yet the valour of the British troops gave them the victory. But the British troops could not take Madrid by themselves, and Soult was already threatening the line of retreat. Wellesley, who was rewarded for his victory by the title of Viscount Wellington, fell back into Portugal, recognising that the present possibilities were limited to the defence of that country.

Wellington's retirement into Portugal and the collapse of the Walcheren Expedition, capping the defeat of Wagram and the failure of Germany to rise, ended any inclination on Austria's part for the prolongation of the contest. Count Stadion was replaced by Metternich, in whom popular sympathies did not exist. The idea of Austria as the head of a German nation vanished.

The Gallant Hofer Shot as a Rebel

Austria bowed to the conqueror. By the Treaty of Vienna in October, the Tyrol, in spite of promises, was tossed back to Bavaria, its resistance was crushed, and Hofer was betrayed and shot as a rebel. The regions terminating on the Adriatic were surrendered to Napoleon, and formed into the "Illyrian Provinces." Cracow was annexed to the Grand Duchy of Warsaw. The Austrian change of front was completed and her humiliation consummated when, in the following March, Napoleon demanded and obtained the hand of the Austrian princess, Marie Louise, an alliance for the sake of which he divorced Josephine.

Before Wagram, Napoleon had already rounded off his Italian dominion. Pius VII. had never been his obedient servant; even after the Berlin Decree, the Pope refused to close the papal ports to the British. In 1808 Napoleon occupied Rome; in May, 1809, he issued a decree confiscating the Papal States, and the Pope was held a still unsubmitive prisoner at Savona. The States themselves were reorganised as departments. The annexation was another move towards stopping the leaks in the Continental System.

Sweden had been secured at last by the fall of Gustavus IV., whose stubborn refusal to submit to overwhelming force brought about his deposition, and the elevation of Charles XIII. to the throne. Charles submitted to the inevitable, and since there was no heir to the reigning house, found an excuse for nominating Marshal Bernadotte as his successor. Although Bernadotte did not actually ascend the throne till 1818, he at once assumed practical control of the state. The formation of the Illyrian provinces after the Treaty of Vienna closed what had been the Austrian ports in the Adriatic. There remained only some points on the North German coast, besides Holland, where Louis Bonaparte found the needs of his subjects more

Bernadotte in Control of Sweden

urgent than his brother's demands, and

permitted a considerable introduction of British goods, which, it must be remembered, covered practically all colonial produce, tea, cotton, and other necessities, since British ships were the only carriers.

In 1810 the Emperor's demands became so insistent that Louis abdicated, whereupon Holland was annexed to Napoleon's empire. It is noteworthy that Joseph in Spain, as well as Louis in Holland, found the brother's bonds so galling that he, too, would have abdicated if he had been permitted to do so. The annexation of Holland, in July, 1810, was followed up by the incorporation with the empire of the still nominally free Hansa towns and coastal districts, including the Duchy of Oldenburg, with the futile aim of stopping every cranny in the wall which Napoleon was seeking to build up for the total exclusion of British commerce. The seizure of Oldenburg soon proved to be at least a contributory cause of the defeat of the very object with which it had been effected.

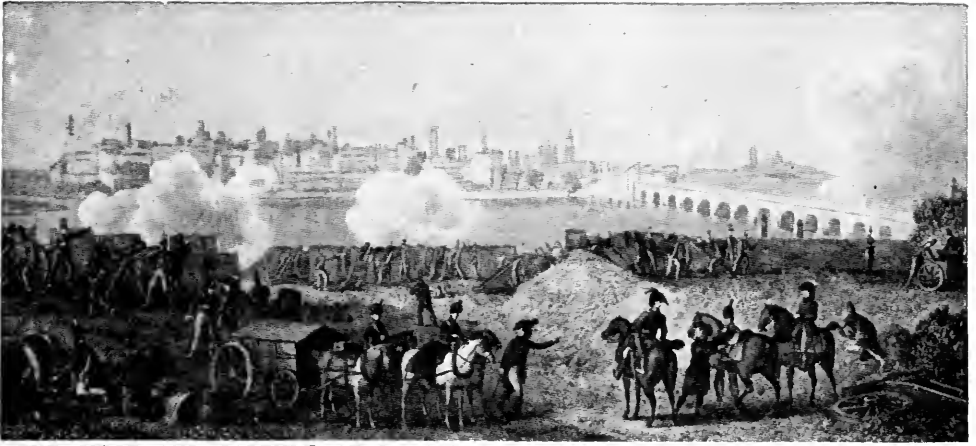
The divorce of Josephine was carried through, with her reluctant consent, at the close of 1809. For obvious reasons, Napoleon, like Henry VIII. of England,

Napoleon's Divorce and Marriage

wanted a male heir of his body to carry on the dynasty; a want which Josephine could not supply. Moreover, a matrimonial alliance with one of the two imperial houses would give the dynasty of the Corsican a status which it lacked. The first approaches on the subject had been made to Alexander at Erfurt; by him they had not been warmly received, and of the two available Russian princesses the elder had been promptly betrothed to the Duke of Oldenburg.

In December, 1809, a formal request for the hand of the second was presented to the Tsar; but already the balance was leaning towards Austria. Napoleon was disinclined to risk receiving a direct refusal from Russia which the Tsar's lukewarm attitude rendered more than probable. Negotiations were opened with Vienna, where Metternich had none of Alexander's scruples. The marriage was arranged and took place in April. The annexation of Oldenburg completed the breach with Russia, which formally withdrew from the Continental System in December, and opened its ports to British commerce.

Napoleon had in fact decided on a change of policy. Austria could no longer be considered as a rival, but she might be

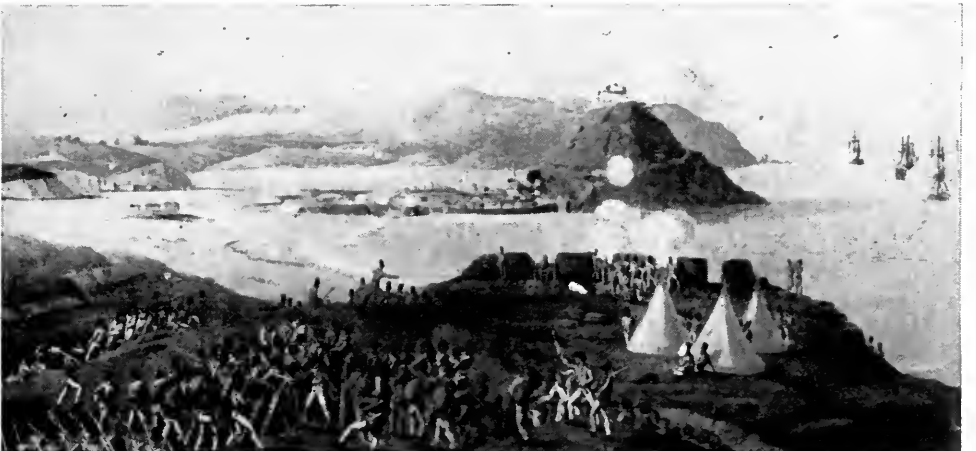


THE SIEGE AND CAPTURE OF BADAJOZ BY THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON IN 1812
 Reaching Badajoz in the middle of March, the Duke of Wellington resolved to carry it before Soult could arrive to relieve it, and the storming of the town "was perhaps the most terrific incident of the war." The defence was obstinate and ingenious, but, after appalling carnage, the walls were carried by escalade and the fortress captured.
 From a contemporary engraving

utilised as an associate in consolidating the empire of Western Europe. If Russia chose to assume the role of rival instead of coadjutor, she should in due course be humbled like all other opponents except the maritime Power. The dream which Napoleon may have dreamed after Tilsit of an advance through Asia, in conjunction with Russia, and the demolition of the British power in India, had been of but brief duration at best; though the suspicion of it had caused some commotion in the minds both of the British themselves and of native potentates who hoped to profit by their overthrow. As Napoleon and Alexander drew manifestly apart, the perturbation was speedily allayed. But in Europe the events of 1810 pointed to

the development of the rupture between France and Russia into open war before any long time should have passed.

In the Peninsula, moreover, the course of the year's campaigning did not improve the French position. It opened, indeed, not unfavourably. Wellington was making no movement into Spain, and during the first months Soult overran Andalusia, where the Spanish Government was strongest, and drove the Junta and its armies into Cadiz. In the north, Catalonia was being conquered by Suchet. Napoleon resolved to bring the war to an end, and Masséna was despatched with a mighty force to drive the British into the sea; but that rather difficult operation was made none the easier by the jealousies



STORMING THE SPANISH TOWN AND CASTLE OF ST. SEBASTIAN IN SEPTEMBER 1813
 From an engraving published in the same year



THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON INTO MADRID IN 1812. Wellington's brilliant campaigns in Spain, during which he inflicted a series of defeats upon the armies of Napoleon, put an end to the French domination in that country. Reaching Madrid in 1812, as shown in the above picture, he entered the city in triumph, the inhabitants of the place receiving him with wild enthusiasm. From the painting by Wm. Hilton, R.A.

and disagreements of the French generals. Wellington had advanced to the north of Portugal with the intention of relieving the Spanish garrison of Ciudad Rodrigo, on its frontier, which was invested and was holding out gallantly; but the approach of Masséna with a force considerably larger than the Anglo-Portuguese army under Wellington's command made retreat imperative. Ciudad Rodrigo and Almeida fell. At Busaco, however, Masséna accepted the challenge to an engagement offered by Wellington and met with a severe repulse, which gave heart to the Portuguese on the spot—for Masséna had the flower of the French veterans under his command—and to the British Ministry in England.

Wellington continued his retreat, and the pursuing Masséna suddenly found himself faced by the famous lines of Torres Vedras, behind which Wellington had secured the whole of his forces and his supplies, as well as an immense number of civilians. Those lines he had steadily and silently prepared for a year past, till they were impregnable, though the French had no suspicion of their existence. Also he had systematically stripped the whole of the neighbouring district, and Masséna

found himself before a position which he could not force, in a country denuded of supplies, with subordinates who were jealous and intractable. Torres Vedras could not be stormed; with the British in command of the sea it could not be blockaded. He fell back to Santarem; while Soult, who received orders to reinforce him, delayed in order to reduce the fortress of Badajoz on the southern frontier of Portugal—a fine piece of work in itself, but not that which happened to be demanded of him.

In March, 1811, Masséna, recognising that his purpose had been definitely foiled, began to withdraw from Santarem, with Wellington following him; while Soult, having secured Badajoz, returned to An-

The Rapid Movements of Wellington

dalusia, where an attempt on the part of the garrison at Cadiz to take the besiegers in the rear had been foiled at Barossa. Masséna, wasting the country as he went, so that the pursuing forces were often hard put to it to obtain supplies, was obliged to evacuate Portugal and retire to Salamanca—partly by the perpetual insubordination of Ney, partly by the rapidity of Wellington's movements. The security of Portugal and the possibility

THE AWAKENING OF NATIONALISM

of an aggressive movement into Spain on Wellington's part now depended on the recovery of Almeida and of Ciudad Rodrigo on the north, and of Badajoz on the south. Badajoz, defended with all the resources of engineering skill by the commandant, Philippon, was left to Beresford, and proved too hard a task for him. Wellington's own efforts were concentrated on the two northern fortresses.

The splendid conduct of the British regiments at Fuentes d'Onoro foiled Masséna's attempt to raise the siege of Almeida, and the marshal's supersession by Marmont prevented a repetition of the attempt.

Wellington in Possession of Almeida The position of the garrison was hopeless, but the commandant, Brennier, blew up his magazines before breaking his way out through the besiegers with most of his forces, and Wellington took possession. In the south Soult advanced against Beresford, and was in June repulsed in the desperate action of Albuera, where practically the whole of the fighting on the side of the allies was done by the British troops, less than 7,000 in number,

of whom more than 2,000 were killed or wounded. Marmont, however, marching from the north, effected a junction with Soult, and the preponderance of the French force was so great that the siege had to be raised. But since the country was unable to maintain so large an army, Marmont again withdrew.

While Wellington was doing all the work on the Portuguese frontier with no practical help from the Spanish army and the Spanish Government, the efforts of the French marshals who were engaged on the subjugation of Northern Spain were perpetually nullified by the activities of the Spanish guerrilla leaders, whom no defeats in the field could crush; and presently the French armies began to feel the drain due to the withdrawal of troops who were to form part of the grand army with which Napoleon was projecting the invasion of Russia. To this tremendous scheme must in the main be attributed the fact that Napoleon neglected personally to take in hand the subjugation of Spain. The marshals to whom he left the task were brilliant commanders.



AT VITTORIA: WELLINGTON LEADING THE THIRD DIVISION TO THE ATTACK

This battle, fought on June 21st, 1813, was the decisive engagement of the campaign. Vittoria was the key to the line of communication with France, and there the French were routed, sustaining an irretrievable overthrow.

From the drawing by R. Caton Woodville

but they were not, individually, a match for Wellington, and they habitually failed to act with that concert which Napoleon's own presence would have ensured. The Russian scheme so overshadowed all else that Spain lost its true importance in his eyes, and his forces there were weakened; and when he finally gave the scheme effect

its disastrous termination necessitated a withdrawal of troops, which at length turned the scale decisively in favour of the British general in the Peninsula. That consummation, however, was not yet reached; although during 1812 Wellington was able to establish his personal superiority unmistakably, it was not till the next year that he could conduct a campaign which should expel the French from the Peninsula altogether. Nevertheless, the certainty that a Russian campaign would have precedence of everything else in Napoleon's plans materially affected those of Wellington. In January, by a sudden attack, which Marmont had not anticipated, he carried Ciudad Rodrigo by storm, capturing the siege-train without which Marmont could make no effective attempt to recapture the place, which was now occupied by a Spanish garrison.

In the middle of March, Wellington was before Badajoz, the second of the two keys to Spain, determined now to carry it at all costs before Soult could arrive to relieve it. The storming of Badajoz was perhaps the most terrific incident of the war; the obstinacy and ingenuity of Philippon's defence made the struggle exceptionally desperate; and when, after appalling carnage, the walls were carried by escalade, there were two days during which the British troops, frenzied with their victory, lost all semblance of discipline, and the officers lost all control over them. Soult was not to be drawn into an engagement. It became Wellington's object to make his junction with

Marmont impossible; and this was accomplished by Hill's exploit in capturing the bridge of Almaraz. Holding both

Badajoz and Ciudad Rodrigo, Wellington could keep both Marmont and Soult uncertain as to which of them would be his next object of attack; and he had succeeded in making Soult believe that he was on the point of a move into the south when he was already on his way to measure swords with Marmont. The result was the cam-

paign of Salamanca in July. After prolonged manœuvring, neither general being willing to risk a serious defeat, Marmont endeavoured by a flanking movement with his left wing to cut off Wellington's chance of retreat and to crush him.

In doing so a gap was opened between centre and left. The opportunity thus given was seized; Wellington was able to deliver a crushing blow. Marmont was seriously wounded. The disaster to the French would have been complete but for the skill with which Clausel, who took Marmont's place, drew the defeated army from the field. Wellington was able to march on Madrid, whence King Joseph fled to Valencia, summoning Soult to raise the blockade of Cadiz, leave Andalusia, and join forces with him. At Madrid the victors were received with wild enthusiasm. Still, Wellington was not strong enough without reinforcements to carry his success further, or even to maintain a secure position in Spain, especially after an unexpected failure to capture the castle of Burgos. Once more he found himself obliged to fall back on

the Portuguese frontier. The decisive campaign was deferred till 1813. The disasters of the Moscow campaign, to be described in the next chapter, gave a new form to the Titanic struggle in Europe, and more and more of the French troops were withdrawn from the Peninsula. Wellington, on the other hand, was somewhat better supported by the British Government, with whom he had a powerful advocate in the person of his brother, the Marquess Wellesley, whose brilliant career as Governor-General of India has been narrated in an earlier volume.

Of the 200,000 French troops that remained, which still included contingents from the subject or dependent nationalities, nearly half were occupied in endeavouring to hold down the northern districts, and to repress the irrepressible guerrillas and their brilliant chief, Mina. Soult had been called away to Napoleon's aid, and the armies in Spain were commanded nominally by Joseph, actually by the veteran Jourdan, when Wellington took the offensive in the late spring of 1813, having now under his command nearly 50,000 British troops, supplemented by Portuguese. Deluding the enemy into the belief that his attack was to be directed against the centre of Spain,



THE ROUT AT VITTORIA: FLIGHT OF THE FRENCH THROUGH THE TOWN AFTER THE BATTLE

From the painting by Robert Hillingford

he was on the march into the northern districts before the enemy could concentrate. Vittoria was the key to the line of communication with France; and here the decisive battle was fought on June 21st. It ended in the utter rout of the French. Guns, ammunition, baggage, treasure, all the accumulated spoil

The French Disaster at Vittoria

of Joseph's five years in Spain were lost. The French army was in full flight to France. The disaster was irretrievable.

Soult was once more despatched to do all that could be done to hold the frontier. He applied to the task supreme skill and daring, but it was impossible of accomplishment. By the end of the year Wellington's Peninsular army was on French soil. Between him and Soult the last contest took place on April 10th, 1814, at the hard-fought battle of Toulouse, which could barely be claimed as a victory by the British commander. And the battle itself was needless; for although the fact was unknown to Soult or to Wellington, Napoleon had already abdicated; only the terms of the abdication were not fully settled until the following day.

The story of his fall will be told in our next chapter; but first we must turn from the accounts of campaigns with which we have hitherto been occupied to other aspects of the Peninsular War. We have remarked on the fact that while the Spanish guerrillas maintained a persistent and successful warfare against the French domination in the north, thereby rendering immense service to Wellington, the Spanish Government and Government troops habitually failed to co-operate with their great ally. The guerrillas were not politicians; their one object was to rid themselves of the foreign oppressor.

The termination of the regime of the Bourbons and Godoy seemed to give their opportunity to the reformers, who had been multiplied by the French Revolution.

Bourbon Régime at an End

They succeeded in obtaining the summons of the Cortes, or the nearest thing to the Cortes available, in Cadiz, when the rest

of Andalusia was in the hands of the French. As had happened in France, the moderates in this national Parliament were soon swamped by the zealots of the revolution, who were no more in sympathy with the anti-revolutionary English than with French Caesarism; and mutual distrust made anything like cordial relations abso-

lutely impossible. Instead of devoting itself to the urgent necessities of a war administration, the Cortes turned its attention to the production of a democratic constitution and democratic legislation, while its members were conspicuously deficient both in political experience and in political capacity. The moderation of Jovellanos, the one man of real ability, was translated into treason, and he was put to death in 1811.

The new constitution was modelled on the very limited French monarchy of 1791, with a single very democratic Assembly to which the executive, though nominated by the king, was to be responsible. It was to be elected every two years, and no one might sit in two consecutive Assemblies; consequently administrative experience was precluded. The legislation followed the natural anti-feudal and anti-clerical lines, though it enforced Roman Catholicism and tolerated no other religion. A theoretical loyalty to King Ferdinand was essential. In the country where, of all others, clerical ascendancy had been for centuries the most

The Peninsula Freed from the Foreign Yoke

marked characteristic, not only of the Government, but also in popular sentiment, it is obvious that party feeling between clericals and anti-clericals ran particularly high; and when the French withdrawal from Andalusia after Salamanca enabled the Cortes to make itself felt in North Spain the discussion became still more serious, and might have paralysed Wellington if the French had been in a position to reap the full advantages of it.

The overthrow, final so far as concerned Spain, of the French power at Vittoria delivered the Peninsula from a foreign yoke, but left it on the verge of a constitutional struggle. The democrats had tasted power; the king, Ferdinand, who was now to return to his kingdom, had only played the popular part as prince, in opposition to Godoy. The Napoleonic monarchy of Spain, absolute though it was except so far as it was subordinated to the behests of the Emperor, had still followed the principle of suppressing feudal privileges. Nationalism had won the day, but the seeds of domestic discord were destined to bring forth a plentiful crop. And incidentally the war had enabled the Spanish American colonies to throw off their allegiance—a resolution which the mother country was as yet by no means ready to accept.



THE RISING OF THE NATIONS AND THE FALL OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON

WHEN Masséna was sent to take up the Spanish command against Wellington the omens were already pointing to a decisive breach between Napoleon and Alexander. The French Emperor's seizure of Oldenburg was almost a personal insult to the Tsar; and when the New Year, 1811, saw Russia withdrawn from the Continental System, a declaration of war between the Eastern and Western Emperors became a mere question of time. For the humbling of Great Britain could be accomplished only by an exclusion of her commerce even more rigid than Napoleon had hitherto been able to enforce; and with the Baltic open to her, it was vain to dream that her goods could be shut out of Europe.

It is not surprising that the determination to crush Great Britain should have been the dominant passion with Napoleon; for she was the one Power which had persistently defied him and consistently fostered and upheld every effort on the part of other nations to resist him. But no such passion possessed the Tsar, and nothing short of it could make enduring the economic strain involved by the exclusion, total or even partial, of British and colonial produce. The apparent fact is that whatever subsidiary objects Napoleon may have had in view, the primary consideration which drove him to war with Russia was the determination to seal up the Baltic.

It remains among the most curious of those psychological aberrations which break across the normal forces of historical causation that an intellect so vast and so catholic as Napoleon's should have flatly rejected the economic truths which were patent to all his finance Ministers. He could not or would not realise that the Continent could not subsist without British and colonial produce; that the policy of exclusion could, on the one side, only limit without destroying the market for British goods, while, on the

other, it enhanced prices enormously. Beetroot sugar and chicory could not, for instance, satisfy the demand for sugar and coffee, and the risk of a forbidden traffic compelled the producers to sell only at extravagant prices, which the consumers had no choice but to pay; while the shortage or the high cost of raw material ruined Continental manufacturers. In other words, the Continental System could only hamper England, but it crippled and crushed the Continent. And in doing so it immensely intensified the forces antagonistic to the French Empire. Yet the perfecting of the Continental System overshadowed every other consideration in Napoleon's mind.

It is hardly less strange that his absorption in this grand object blinded him to the importance of definitely ending the Peninsular War. In view of the resources at Wellington's and at Napoleon's disposal, the most enthusiastic admirers of the Iron Duke can hardly doubt that he must have been driven into the sea if Napoleon had made up his mind to conduct in person a fight to a finish in the Peninsula before he advanced upon Russia.

Before we follow Napoleon's campaign, it will be well to grasp the territorial situation of the Powers. Draw a line from Lübeck on the Baltic to the south of Dalmatia on the Adriatic. Between that line and the Pyrenees the whole Continent was under Napoleon's sway. Murat ruled at Naples. Eugène Beauharnais in the kingdom of Italy was Napoleon's own viceroy. Denmark was now devoted to his cause. The Confederation of the Rhine owned his suzerainty. Practically the whole of the rest was actually annexed to France. East of the line, Mecklenburg and Saxony were in the Rhine Confederation, and the Grand Duchy of Warsaw was a dependency of Saxony. Norway belonged to Denmark, and Sweden was virtually under Bernadotte—the only

**Europe under
the Sway
of Napoleon**

doubtful factor. Outside of Russia, Great Britain, and the Peninsula, there remained Prussia—what was left of it—Austria, and Turkey; and an Austrian princess was now Napoleon's empress.

Before the war began, Alexander neutralised Turkey by the judicious Treaty of Bucharest. Both he and Napoleon

**Polish
Mistrust
of Russia**

endeavoured to secure Polish support, and here Napoleon was successful; Polish mistrust of Russia was too deeply rooted. Austria and Prussia could hardly avoid participation. Austria was disposed to support Napoleon, but to confine herself to a masterly inactivity in doing so. For Prussia, the problem was grave. Hardenberg, who had returned to the chancellery, was Russian in his sympathies, but saw that Prussia could not take the risk. If she declared for Russia, she would be the first victim, and Hardenberg remembered that Russia had almost completely deserted her after Friedland.

Sentiment yielded to judgment, and Prussia offered France her alliance, which meant just so much support as might be absolutely necessary to preserve Prussia from destruction. Both Prussia and Austria were careful to explain to an understanding Tsar that their hostility was entirely simulated. Finally, Bernadotte, never a warm supporter of Napoleon, resolved to identify himself with the interests of Sweden, to play the part of a Swedish patriot, and to decline the French Emperor's overtures.

The enormous resources now at Napoleon's disposal are illustrated by the vastness of the army which he was able to bring together in the spring of 1812 for the Russian campaign. Although more than 200,000 men were still locked up in the Peninsula, these forces were so great that the actual army of invasion which crossed the Niemen in June numbered 350,000 men. It was Napoleon's intention to thrust

**The Great
Russian
Campaign**

between the northern and the southern armies of Russia with his whole force, and render their junction hopeless. Progress, while the army was still in Russian Poland, met with few active obstacles. But the advance force under Davoust was unable—probably owing to the disobedience of Jerome Bonaparte—to cut off the smaller southern army under Bagration; and the rear-guard of the larger northern army was able to hold St. Cyr and Mac-

donald in check, while its chief, Barclay du Tolly, retired eastwards and effected the junction with Bagration at Smolensk.

The exhausting character of the advance and the commissariat difficulties of the Grand Army necessitated a halt, and it appears to have been Napoleon's first intention to restrict his further operations for the year to the organisation of Poland as a base for next year's campaign. But he was accustomed to annihilate his enemies by the fierce swiftness of his blows. The temptation to crush the Russian force at once was too strong; Austria and Prussia, however inert, still stood as ramparts to cover his rear. Instead of staying to organise, he hurled his forces onwards to Smolensk.

But Barclay had realised the uses of a policy of withdrawal. His rear-guard held the French army at bay while the main body retired; then fired the city, and retired itself under cover of the conflagration, en route for Moscow, luring Napoleon after it in the full hope that he would yet force an engagement and win a crushing victory. Had Barclay du Tolly remained in command, an engagement might never

**The Grand
Army in
Difficulties**

have been forced at all. The Grand Army was already dwindling, if that term may be applied to a force which still numbered 140,000 men. Every mile it marched took it further from its base and its supplies, further into the heart of a passionately hostile country in which supplies were hardly procurable. But Barclay's sagacity appeared to more fiery spirits to be pusillanimity, even treason. He was superseded by Kutusoff, a veteran of Suwarrow's training. Kutusoff gave his army and the enemy their heart's desire.

Three weeks after the action at Smolensk, Napoleon found the Russians facing him at Borodino on September 7th. After a long and desperate struggle, he drove them from their position; yet only so that a ridge in the rear could be occupied so as to cover the further retirement effectively. Borodino cost Napoleon 30,000 men, and though it was a victory for him in the technical sense that it left him master of the battlefield, he was no nearer his object of shattering the opposing force.

Kutusoff and his Russians, however, found their honour satisfied by a battle in which their courage and skill had been sufficiently vindicated. They were content now to revert to the previous policy.

In another week Napoleon was at Moscow ; the historic capital of the Russian Empire was in his hands on September 14th. But he found, not the submission he had hoped for, but emptiness. The population had gone, as well as the army, leaving little but empty houses. The country had been swept by the Russian troops, as Wellington had swept the country before Masséna on the retreat to Torres Vedras. On the night when Napoleon occupied the ancient capital, fires broke out in every quarter—deliberately planned—and a great part of the city was laid in ruin.

Nevertheless, shelter was still afforded. It was even possible to suggest that the army should winter there. But the problem of providing supplies was insoluble. A march on St. Petersburg, dogged by the Russian army, which now lay on the south at Kaluga, was impracticable. For a month Napoleon held on, in the hope that the fall of Moscow might still bring the Tsar to terms; but the Tsar made no sign. It became convincingly clear that retreat was the only course possible. On October 19th, the order was issued. Napoleon had penetrated to Moscow, less, perhaps, from the conviction that by doing so he would reach Russia's heart than from the hope of bringing the Russian army to the decisive engagement which it had eluded. At any rate, he found that if Russia had a heart—a vital spot—it was not at Moscow. Barren, indeed, were the laurels of that victorious advance; such laurels were an inadequate substitute for bread. The five hundred miles that lay between Napoleon and the frontier had been swept bare, and those five hundred miles would have to be traversed again, for Kutusoff lay between the Grand Army and a more southerly route, which had not been swept; and Kutusoff soon proved to be an insuperable obstacle.

The Terrible Tragedy of Moscow

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A fierce battle at Jaroslavitz, though again a technical victory for the French, was Pyrrhic in character. The Grand Army could not fight its way out of the country by such battles as that, and Napoleon found that there was no alternative but to retreat along the line of the previous advance. For nearly three weeks it was conducted amid great hardships and under harassing attacks which reduced the 100,000 men who started from Moscow to half that number. And then, on November 6th, winter descended. But it is well to note that before the bitter winter began Napoleon's force was already less than two-fifths of that which had found the Russians facing it at Borodino two months before. In other words, the Grand Army was already a wreck, a remnant, before that awful frost smote it. Just as in the case of the Spanish Armada, a picturesque fiction has permanently displaced the historical fact in the general belief. The Armada was an irretrievably beaten and broken fleet before the winds blew. The Grand Army was an irretrievably shattered army before the frosts came. But the broken Armada was splintered by the winds, and the shattered Grand Army was annihilated by the frosts; and the world will probably continue to give the winds and frost the whole credit.

The Fate of Napoleon's Grand Army

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Macdonald



Ney

TWO GREAT MARSHALS OF FRANCE

Born at Sedan, the son of a Scottish Jacobite schoolmaster, Macdonald rose to high rank in the French army, distinguishing himself on the battlefield, and becoming marshal and Duke of Taranto. Ney, another great leader, was in charge of the rear-guard in the disastrous retreat from Moscow; he was shot for high treason in 1815.

The frosts came, and the disastrous retreat became a hideous nightmare of misery, relieved only by the indomitable heroism of the rear-guard. It is estimated that not less than 400,000 men must have crossed the Niemen eastwards; only 20,000 made their way back into Prussia on November 14th, apart from the column, of about the same number, under Macdonald's command in the north. Ten days earlier, the Emperor had left his army in order to hasten in person to Paris to re-establish his authority, against

which, and in his absence, a futile attempt to engineer an insurrection had been made. The command was left to Murat—King of Naples—who followed his chief's example, and made for his own kingdom, leaving the army to Eugène Beauharnais, who succeeded in conveying it to safe quarters at Leipzig, in Saxony. Although Wellington's victory at Salamanca had not enabled him to secure the mastery of Spain, it had been made evident that French ascendancy could be established only by a great effort in the Peninsula. The mere fact was sufficient to stir the hopes of Napoleon's foes throughout Europe.

On the top of Wellington's successes came the terrific disaster of the Russian expedition. Yet even now the Governments were afraid or unwilling to break free. Russia, from her own point of view, might well be content with what she had achieved. Austria, guided by Metternich, saw diplomatic opportunities in prospect. The princes of the Rhine Confederation halted between two opinions. And Frederic William of Prussia, with his territories still largely occupied by French garrisons, lacked the nerve to make an irrevocable decision. But the decision was taken out of his hands.

The Prussian contingent, hitherto serving as in alliance with the French, was under the command of the veteran General Yorck. Stein, a fugitive from the wrath of Napoleon, had been called by the Tsar into his counsels, and now exercised a strong influence with him. These two men gave the lead which changed the situation. Macdonald, with his column, recalled from the siege of Riga by the disaster of the Grand Army, accomplished a successful retreat into Prussian territory, and was on the point of calling upon Yorck to co-operate when he found himself compelled by the Prussian general's defection to withdraw hastily to Königsberg. Yorck, on his own responsibility, but with the enthusiastic support of the officers and men of his army, had concluded a convention with the Russians at Tauroggen. Influenced by Stein, the Tsar was once again resolved to resume his early rôle of liberator, in spite of a strong Russian opposition which would have preferred leaving Western Europe to take care of itself. Magnanimity might not have sufficed to

bring him to this decision if he had been satisfied that Russian interests would be adequately secured otherwise; but if Napoleon should again terrorise the West into submission, it was more than probable that Russia would again find itself the object of attack. The liberation of North Germany by Russian aid could be justified as the most effective defensive policy for Russia. Yorck's convention withdrew the Prussian troops from the French alliance, and in effect handed over East Prussia to the Tsar, and the Tsar entrusted the government to Stein. Stein forthwith convoked an assembly for the purpose of calling the people of East Prussia to arms, himself acting in the name of the Tsar.

Frederic William at first repudiated Yorck's action, but very soon found that the whole nation would be with him if he took the courageous course, and would almost certainly take that course itself whatever the Government might do. Within a month of the convention he had fled from Berlin, which was dominated by the French, to Breslau, which was not; and at the end of February he concluded

the Treaty of Kalisch with the Tsar for war against Napoleon, the Tsar undertaking that the Prussian kingdom should be reinstated in its old extent, with equivalents in other quarters to compensate for particular curtailments; which meant mainly that German districts were to be substituted for Polish provinces which in effect would pass to Russia. To Prussia, it seemed that a heavy price was demanded. It was not realised that in becoming a Power wholly German, instead of largely Slavonic, she would be greatly advancing the ultimate prospects of German nationalism under Prussian hegemony; that, to this end, Prussia would be placed at an immense advantage as compared with Austria, within whose dominions both Magyars and Czechs stood entirely outside German nationalism.

Even before the Treaty of Kalisch was concluded, Russian troops were pressing forward through Prussia, and the arming of the whole population was in progress. On March 4th, Beauharnais evacuated Berlin; on the 16th the Prussian declaration of war was formally proclaimed; on the 17th, the king issued an appeal to the nation which gave the signal for an overwhelming outburst of national enthusiasm. But when the allies issued

European Terror of Napoleon

The Tsar in the Rôle of Liberator

Prussia and Russia against Napoleon

THE RISING OF THE NATIONS

another appeal to German sentiment outside Prussia, there was no similar response. Sweden was the only state which joined the coalition without hesitation, mainly, perhaps, because Bernadotte expected, as the outcome, to acquire Norway from Denmark, which was resolutely fixed in its adherence to Napoleon. But the effect on Prussia itself of Stein's influence, and of Scharnhorst's military organisation, became apparent when the short-service army was trebled by the trained reserves, and, behind these, Landwehr and Landsturm were taking up their training in yet greater numbers. A passion of patriotic ardour, of fervent

tion, though Austria, with more prudent calculation, declined to render him the military aid which he demanded.

Napoleon took the offensive, and drove back the Russians and Prussians, defeating them first at Lützen and then at Bautzen; but the defeats were not of the old crushing character—neither of them approached to a rout. Nevertheless, Barclay, restored to the Russian command, could hardly be restrained from reverting to the purely Russian policy of falling back into Poland, by the consideration that this would destroy all prospect of Austria coming into the coalition. In June, Napoleon, trusting to the moral effect of Lützen and Bautzen



MARSHAL NEY DEFENDING THE REAR-GUARD IN THE RETREAT FROM MOSCOW

In the whole history of Napoleon's campaigns there is nothing more terrible or tragic than the experiences of his army during the ill-fated Russian expedition. Retreating from Moscow the Grand Army of the Emperor was subjected to great hardships and harassing attacks, these tremendously reducing the number of the men. The frosts came, and the retreat became a hideous nightmare, relieved only by the indomitable heroism of the rear-guard under Marshal Ney.

From the painting by Adolphe Yvon

self-sacrifice, for the whole German Fatherland, swept through Prussia, strangely rational and sober despite its intensity, which makes this Prussian movement, in its kind, perhaps the most nobly inspiring which history records.

It is hardly less startling to find that the armies of France, which had lost half a million men or little less in the last six months of 1812, were able still to muster half a million, besides the 200,000 left for Wellington to deal with in Spain. So confident was Napoleon of his own invincibility despite the experience of 1812, that he rejected Austria's offer of media-

on both Prussia and Austria, offered a truce, which was readily accepted. But he had now to deal not with the vacillating King of Prussia, but with her people; with the astute Metternich, who meant to have his price from one side or other, and saw more promise from the allies; and with Alexander, who, having again set his hand to the plough was not to be persuaded or alarmed into looking back. To Metternich the truce presented precisely the opportunity he desired of modifying the plans of the coalition in the Austrian interest. He was himself satisfied that Austria's adhesion to the

coalition would assure it of the mastery ; the more so when Great Britain concluded subsidiary treaties with Russia and Prussia, and news came of Wellington's decisive triumph at Vittoria. Metternich's mediation was provisionally accepted by both parties. But Napoleon was deter-

The Allied Nations ready for War

mined not to yield an inch of territory. Metternich would not demand less than the retrocession of the Illyrian Provinces to Austria, the partition of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw between Russia, Prussia, and Austria, and the restriction of the French dominion to the west of the Rhine, with his suzerainty over the Rhenish Confederacy. Napoleon's refusal of the terms threw Austria into the coalition : on August 12th she declared war.

The truce had helped the allies, especially Prussia, to increase their levies much more than Napoleon ; and now to these were added the Austrian armies which threatened Napoleon's flank from Bohemia. The French numbers were far inferior, and were especially deficient in artillery and cavalry, the arms on which Napoleon placed most reliance. Still, they had the advantage of the central position in Saxony, and of the controlling master-mind.

The value of this was seen in the second great engagement which followed a fortnight after the renewal of the war, when, at Dresden, Napoleon won a brilliant victory over the main allied force. But its effect was neutralised by Blücher's defeat of Macdonald at Katzbach, in Silesia, on the previous day, and by the disaster, three days later, which befel Vandamme's column at Kulm. Sent to cut off the retreat of the allies, the force was unsupported, surrounded, and compelled to capitulate. And a week later Ney, who had advanced on Berlin, was decisively defeated at Dennewitz by Bülow. The allies now saw the way open to effect a junction on Napoleon's rear.

" Battle of the Nations "

Blücher from Silesia passed round the northern flank, and from that side, awaiting Bernadotte and Bülow, threatened Leipzig, whither the main army proposed to make its way from the south. Napoleon, finding it impracticable to pierce the Erz-Gebirge and attack the latter in Bohemia, left Murat, who had joined him again, to cover Leipzig, and went to destroy Blücher ; but Blücher retired, evading

battle, while the allies, under Schwarzenberg, pressed Murat back from the south. Napoleon found himself compelled to concentrate on Leipzig and accept battle.

On October 16th began the three days' Battle of Leipzig, the " Battle of the Nations." On the south, Napoleon checked Schwarzenberg ; on the north, Blücher drove in Marmont. The great fight was on the 18th. The French resistance was prolonged and desperate ; but now Bernadotte, who had hampered rather than aided the movements of the allies, was arriving, and threatened to cut off the retreat which had become inevitable. The final result was a decisive rout, in which a part of Napoleon's army escaped across the Elbe, and a part was driven into the river. The series of battles cost Napoleon 45,000 men, besides 23,000 who were left behind in hospital.

Only 70,000 men recrossed the Rhine. Yet the allies had suffered so severely—more, numerically, than the French—that they were unable to carry on a pursuit. Some weeks before Leipzig the bearing of the Austrian intervention on the future

Germany's Future in the Balance of Germany manifested itself in the Treaty of Töplitz, which ratified the alliances. The intention of the Treaty of Kalisch

had been to develop Stein's ideas of German nationalism at the expense of the princes of the Rhenish Confederation, who, from this point of view, had forfeited all claim to consideration. But to Metternich, the theories of Stein were an abomination. His scheme was not that of appealing to German sentiment and establishing free governments, but of detaching Napoleon's allies by promising them monarchical independence in place of monarchical subjection.

Little pleasing as the idea might be to the new nationalism, it was not without its appeal to the still influential body of monarchists and feudalists in Prussia ; moreover, Austria's position in the coalition was too strong to permit of her being over-ruled. The Treaty of Töplitz embodied Metternich's principle ; and its effect was seen in the early adhesion of Bavaria, which had been Napoleon's ally from the beginning, and in the marked inclination of the whole posse of princes to transfer their support to the allies. Leipzig was decisive. They came in, in haste to secure themselves the benefits of the Töplitz agreement. Those whom Napoleon had ejected were restored.

William of Orange was reinstated in Holland, no longer as stadtholder, but as king. Denmark was obliged to give up the French alliance, and to cede Norway to Sweden. And most of the fortified places held by French garrisons from the Vistula to the Rhine were soon forced to capitulate. Spain was already completely lost to Napoleon, and all that Soult could do was to offer a stubborn resistance to Wellington's entry into France through the Pyrenees.

At Frankfort the allies held council in the second week of November. Blücher, as befitted the veteran who was popularly known as "Marshal Forward," was eager for an immediate invasion of France. Not so the diplomatists. They preferred to offer the Emperor terms, restricting France to her "natural boundaries"—the Pyrenees, the Alps, and the Rhine. The monarchs were in some fear of the next development of the peoples, into whom the spirit of patriotism had breathed an alarming energy. The old dread of the Revolution was very much alive. Those terms would have satisfied all the Powers.

Invading Armies in France After Moscow, Vittoria, and Leipzig, they were generous, and they represented nothing more than the accomplished fact. But even now Napoleon would not recognise that the odds had become too overwhelming. Perhaps he believed that his dynasty would be endangered if he came to terms otherwise than as a victor in the field. Perhaps he trusted to a collapse in the unanimity of the allies. Whatever his motive, he ignored what was now the predominating sentiment in France in favour of an honourable peace, while the allies had been careful in the form of their proposals to conciliate the amour propre of the French people.

By this time Wellington was on French soil, and his admirable control over the invading troops was producing a most favourable impression in Southern France. Even the obsequious Corps Législatif presented what was practically an address in favour of such a peace as was offered. But the Emperor was obdurate in maintaining larger demands, and on December 1st the offer of the allies was withdrawn. In January the invading armies entered France.

In the south of France, the duel between Soult and Wellington continued. In the south of Italy, Murat had dropped his brother-in-law's cause; in North Italy,

the Austro-Bavarian agreement after Töplitz, by giving the Austrians free passage through the Tyrol, had made the position of Eugène Beauharnais practically untenable. On the north-east of France, the allied army of the north was entering Belgium. Their Grand Army of 250,000 men passed the Rhine at Basle and moved north-west on Champagne,

A Million Men Lost by Napoleon while the eager Blücher with 90,000 crossed it in the neighbourhood of Coblenz, passed the Moselle and the Meuse, and advanced to effect a junction with Schwarzenberg. Napoleon was vastly outnumbered, for the campaigns of the last eighteen months must have cost him a million soldiers, and that he could still put an effective force in the field is explicable only when we remember that a great proportion of the soldiery employed on those campaigns was drawn, not from France, but from the subject and dependent states of Germany, Italy, and Poland. As it was, the force on which he was now reduced to relying was made up partly of indomitable veterans, but mainly of lads who had been too young to be called to arms before, of the generation which, born in the Year of Terror, was inevitably stamped by physical inferiority.

The Seine, which takes its course through Troyes to Paris, the Aube, which joins it a little below Troyes, and the Marne, which joins it just above Paris, all take their rise on the plateau from which the Grand Army was advancing. Napoleon's force lay between the Marne and the Seine, covering Paris. A vigorous offensive from Schwarzenberg was not to be expected, but Blücher was displaying his habitual energy. He was already nearing Schwarzenberg, when Napoleon struck at him and checked him at the end of January at St. Dizier and Brienne. But Blücher, reinforced, had double the numbers of the opposing column, and inflicted a severe defeat on it at La Rothière on February

Blücher Defeats the French 1st, 1814. The victory was decisive enough to warrant his desire to march straight on Paris by the Marne and Chalons; but neither Austrians nor Russians wished the campaign to be in effect a Prussian triumph. For commissariat purposes, as it was alleged, it was resolved that the Grand Army should advance by the Seine and Blücher by the Marne—not too fast. They still wished, in fact, to give Napoleon the chance of accepting a peace. Austria was

jealous of Prussia acquiring too much prestige; so was the Tsar. Austria was afraid of the Tsar insisting, in the hour of victory, on championing a Republican restoration, for he was the one monarch who had regarded the Revolution principles with favour. Frederic William shared Austria's fear. But Napoleon remained as deter-

The Critical Position of the Emperor

mined as ever in demanding more than the most conciliatory of his foes would concede. In the second week of February, Blücher gave him his chance by endeavouring to break in between Napoleon at Troyes and Macdonald at Epernay, and to cut the latter off from Paris. The movement involved an extension of his column, which enabled the Emperor to inflict on it in detail a series of defeats which drove it back on Chalons and gave the young French conscripts a new confidence in themselves and in their mighty leader. Napoleon's temporary division encouraged Schwarzenberg to advance past Troyes, and the Emperor had to turn back and defeat him at Montereau instead of going on to complete

Blücher's discomfiture, which was much less complete than Napoleon imagined.

Again the allies proposed an armistice; again Napoleon refused; though the former were continually receiving reinforcements, and the latter was not. The overtures being rejected, the allies renewed their treaty at Chaumont on March 1st. The fact that it was to hold good for twenty years suggests that even now they were not contemplating the total destruction of Napoleon's power in the immediate future. Meanwhile, however, the south-west was passing decisively to Wellington, and on March 12th the Royalists in Bordeaux proclaimed Louis XVIII. But what mattered more was

that Blücher, by the end of February, was making a flank march on the north, with a view to effecting a junction with the Army of the North, which was now approaching, and of threatening Paris, while Schwarzenberg occupied Napoleon. The junction was effected at Soissons on March 4th. Napoleon attacked the united forces at Craonne and drove them back on Laon, where his success was reversed. The overwhelming pressure of the allies drove the Emperor to the desperate expedient of falling on Schwarzenberg's communications, thus leaving open the road to Paris for the Grand Army; and the Tsar resolved to disregard Napoleon's movement and advance on Paris itself. The covering corps under

Marmont were shattered at La Fère Champenoise by the combined forces of the Tsar and Blücher on March 26th. Throughout the 30th a fierce but unequal contest raged in the environs of Paris, till Blücher's capture of Montmartre decided Marmont to act on the licence given him by Joseph Bonaparte, who was nominally in control of the city.



NAPOLÉON ARRIVING AT ELBA IN 1814

Paris capitulated on the next day; it was evacuated by the French troops, and entered by the allied sovereigns. At last Napoleon found resistance hopeless. His marshals one and all gave him to understand that he must consider himself irretrievably beaten.

Napoleon Retires to Elba

He offered to abdicate, but still struggled to make conditions. The allies would listen to none. They, not he, must decide the future of France. For himself, he might retain the title of Emperor, a substantial but by no means imperial pension, and the sovereignty of the island of Elba. On April 11th, 1814, he yielded. On May 4th he was in Elba.

THE FRENCH
REVOLUTION
& NAPOLEON



X
BY ARTHUR
D. INNES, M.A

THE SETTLEMENT OF EUROPE NAPOLEON'S RETURN & FINAL OVERTHROW

THE Napoleonic era closes with the abdication in 1814. Fundamentally, the Emperor's return and the campaign of 1815 merely form an episode, intensely dramatic, but productive only of accidental effects, inasmuch as the return silenced the disputes between the Powers which were threatening to disturb Europe afresh, and the victory of Waterloo gave Great Britain an increased prestige in the councils of Europe. But the principles on which the Continent was settled in 1815 were no departure from the principles of 1814. We have therefore reached a convenient point for forming some estimate of what was actually accomplished by the Revolution and the Empire.

In the first place, the Revolution destroyed once for all in France the old system of aristocratic and clerical privilege. The aggressive Republic imposed the same principle on the subordinate republics which

**What the
Revolution
Accomplished**

it created; and when Cæsarism replaced the French Republic, and Bonapartist dynasties the subordinate republics, the same principles continued to be maintained, and took permanent root. In Central Europe those principles had taken sufficient hold to enable Stein and Hardenberg and Stadion to carry reforms up to a point which gave a solid basis for further development, but stopped far short of what the reformers desired. Social feudalism had gone in the west, and its foundations in Germany were sapped.

Not so with monarchism. The Revolution effected only a temporary subversion of monarchism. The republics which it created became monarchies again, and so remained; yet those monarchies lacked their old prestige, and under them enough of the machinery of popular government survived to make the way ready for constitutionalism to eject absolutism.

The Republic had extended liberty outside the borders of France, in the sense of calling peoples to active participation

in the government of the state. It had destroyed liberty in the other sense—that it had imposed alien control. The Cæsarism put an end to the new liberty, and extended the imposition of alien control. Yet where that control was most complete it brought gifts, consistency in

**The Tyranny
of French
Expansion**

the form of law and in its administration. The dependent states were better governed when they were dependencies than when they were independent. Where the Nationalist idea was non-existent, where subordination to some external authority had been habitual, as in Italy and in Belgium, the French expansion, *per se*, was beneficial. Napoleon in his conquests and annexations merely carried out on a larger scale the policy of the Republic itself; and the Republic, intensely Nationalist as concerned France itself, recognised no Nationalism beyond its own borders. It was when the French expansion came into collision with Nationalism that it became a tyranny, which stirred patriotic resistance to a passion, and brought it to life where it had hitherto been virtually non-existent.

Nationalism was a late birth of time. In England and Scotland it had been vigorous for 500 years, in France and Spain for 300, and in Holland for 200; but the system of the Holy Roman Empire was cosmopolitan in theory and practice, and the Nationalist idea remained no more than embryonic. Napoleon's conception of replacing the amorphous Holy

**Napoleon's
Ruined Scheme
of Imperialism**

Roman Empire by reviving a living empire of Charlemagne is not to be dismissed as the outcome of mere personal ambition; but it was doomed to failure in the long run precisely because it disregarded the Nationalism which, once awakened, could not be reconciled with cosmopolitan imperialism. The perfidy by which he seized Spain, the tyranny to which he subjected Prussia, raised

Nationalism into an irresistible antagonistic force which brought the whole imperial scheme to complete ruin.

The apologists for Napoleon have some warrant for claiming that the conception of such an empire, and the attempt to give it effect should be admired and applauded as being for the advantage of civilisation. The upholders of

Great Britain's Resistance to Napoleon Nationalism are entitled to take the contrary view. For Great Britain, the assumption that the forces of the Napoleonic Empire, when its construction and organisation should be completed, would be devoted to her overthrow was so overwhelming that she had no choice but to resist Napoleon with her whole force. In the endeavour to crush her resistance Napoleon imposed, or tried to impose, upon Europe the Continental System, which inflicted on the Continent itself hardships which more than counterbalanced such benefits as were conferred by his consummately organised methods of administration. Added to this, the realisation of the imperial idea could be attained only through a series of wars, with all the evils thereof in proportion to the vast scale on which they had to be waged, destroying property, ruining industry, and draining every country in Europe of its most vigorous sons, leaving it in the main to those physically inferior to impart their defects to the next generation.

The French Revolution, in spite of its own excesses and the monarchical reaction in which it ended, made the conception of civic freedom a part of the inheritance of future generations, not only in France, but throughout Europe. Napoleon, overriding but not uprooting civic freedom, set his seal on the revolutionary charter which abolished a caste system that was tightening its coils about Europe. His overthrow established the principle by which it was accomplished, that through neither Empire nor Provincialism, but through a healthy and tolerant Nationalism the progressive development of Europe must be achieved. The lesson was not learnt then; it was obstinately and repeatedly ignored in the century that followed, and each attempt to

ignore it has ended in its more decisive confirmation. Perhaps in time it may come to be recognised universally and decisively, instead of only partially and occasionally.

Among the allies at the moment of Napoleon's abdication there were not a few prominent persons who entertained illusory hopes of a Nationalist development. They were doomed to disappointment; but the first business of the victorious Powers was the settlement of France. Neither Russia nor Great Britain viewed a Bourbon restoration with enthusiasm, but both wished the choice of the French themselves to be confirmed, and the Legitimists carried the day, with the warm approval of Austria and Prussia. Talleyrand, always a monarchist at heart, made himself the real controller of the situation. Louis XVIII., recalled from

exile, entered Paris on April 29th, but the royalist victory was endangered at the outset by his reactionary tone. Under pressure from the Tsar he was induced to concede a Constitution by grace of the Crown.

On the hypothesis that the Revolution was over, and that France had returned to her legitimate Government, the legitimate Government made a treaty with the allies. The French frontier was withdrawn to its maximum pre-regicide limit, that of 1792, with some additions: Great Britain restored her conquests, except Mauritius, St. Lucia, and Tobago. The

allied armies withdrew, and no indemnity was required. Broadly speaking, the whole period of the Republic and the Empire was wiped out as covering merely an unfortunate episode. It was provided at the same time that Holland should receive an increase of territory, and that Great Britain should restore the Dutch colonies—all of which she had captured—except the Cape and Demerara.

The German princes were to have full sovereignty, but were to be federated; Italy was to be resolved into a congeries of independent states, except for a portion to be restored to Austria. The disinterested attitude of Great Britain was marked not only by her unique surrender of actual conquests, but by her insistence



JOACHIM MURAT

A general in the French army, he married a sister of Napoleon, and in 1808 was proclaimed King of the Two Sicilies. He was shot in 1815, after trial by court-martial.

Territories Restored by the Powers

THE SETTLEMENT OF EUROPE

on a clause in the treaty directed against the slave-trade. Other questions and details were to be referred to a congress which was to meet at Vienna in November. At that congress the five great Powers were represented respectively by Metternich, Hardenberg, Nesselrode, Castlereagh, and Talleyrand. Every European state, large or small, was represented, except Turkey. The four victorious Powers had agreed to reserve to themselves the decision of burning questions, but the diplomatic skill of Talleyrand not only added France herself to the four, but made him practically the most important of all the notable negotiators.

The congress had to reconstruct a Europe which had been decomposing and recomposing territorially and constitutionally at brief intervals for more than twenty years,

and it had no intention whatever of allowing its reconstruction to be affected in the one field by Nationalism, or in the other by the principles of 1789. Talleyrand successfully gave them their keynote by offering them the principle of legitimacy as the basis of harmony. It did not produce harmony, but it eliminated certain discordant possibilities. The treatment of Poland and Saxony and of German Nationalism became the crucial questions. Russia wanted Poland as a modest return for her disinterested efforts in the cause of Europe; but Prussia, if she were to lose her share of Poland, wanted Saxony by way of compensation; while the King of Saxony had forfeited all right to consideration by supporting Napoleon till his defeat at Leipzig. But in the Austrian view that would give



LOUIS XVIII OF FRANCE
The younger brother of Louis XVI., he became monarch on the fall of Napoleon in 1814. He ruled with severity, and when Napoleon returned from Elba; fled from Paris.



THE BEGINNING OF "THE HUNDRED DAYS": NAPOLEON'S RETURN FROM ELBA
Brooding in Elba, Napoleon saw the unpopularity of the Restoration régime in France, and he determined to make one more struggle with fate. Escaping from Elba, he landed near Cannes on March 1st, 1815, and appealed to the French nation's loyalty to its emperor. Though France, on the whole, acquiesced in his return, the old enthusiasm was lacking.

From the painting by Steuben

Prussia too great a preponderance in Germany; nor did it meet with the approval of England and France, both of which disliked the advance westward of the Russian frontier. Matters reached a stage at which these three Powers entered

The Divided Kingdom of Saxony

into a compact to resist the undue aggrandisement of Russia and Prussia. Talleyrand's doctrine of legitimism, however, carried the day with the Tsar. The King of Saxony was allowed to retain half his kingdom, Prussia getting the other half, and, by way of compensation, the districts on the west which she held before Tilsit, together with the old ecclesiastical districts of Trèves and Cologne; and Danzig, Thorn and Posen, conceded by Russia, on the east. Protestant Prussia was rather troubled by the acquisition of the archbishoprics; neither she nor France realised that by having her frontier brought to the Rhine she was bound to become the protagonist in any Franco-German contest over frontiers, and to gain a corresponding predominance among the German states. We need not enter into further details of the territorial rearrangements in Germany, but some points remain to be noted. The promised extension of Holland

gave her Belgium and Luxemburg; Austria thus ceased to rule over provinces contiguous with France. Victor Emanuel of Savoy recovered his provinces in North Italy, with his kingdom of Sardinia, while Austria recovered her northern provinces in that country, as well as the Tyrol from Bavaria. The rest of North Italy resumed its character as a congeries of small states, and the papal dominions were restored. Murat was permitted to retain Naples, but ruined himself by again going over to Napoleon on his return; he was deposed, and was finally captured in an attempt to recover Naples, and was executed; the Bourbons were reinstated

in the kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Norway was transferred from Denmark to Sweden, which had lost Finland to Russia after Tilsit.

The restoration of Ferdinand VII. in Spain, and of the House of Braganza in Portugal, resulted, in both countries, in the Government which presented in its extreme form the monarchical reaction against those "principles of 1789" which had been so completely predominant in the war of liberation.

The hardest disappointment was reserved for the German patriots who had revived Prussia under the inspiration of German Nationalism. They had looked for a reorganisation which would establish

German unity, or, at least, two vigorous federations, headed by Austria and Prussia respectively, if the conflicting claims of those two Powers to the hegemony could not be reconciled. Stein and his allies had looked further for the completion of the work in which Stein himself had been stayed by the intervention of Napoleon, of developing constitutional government and free institutions. All these hopes were dashed. Some two score of principalities, whose "legitimate" sovereignties were restored with sovereign rights uncurtailed, were associated in a headless confederation which



THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

By his great victory at the Battle of Waterloo, in 1815, this famous general broke for ever the power of Napoleon and rid Europe of the disturber of its peace. A grateful nation covered him with honours, and in 1827 he became Prime Minister. He died in 1852.

lacked even the semblance of unity provided by the defunct Holy Roman Empire. Not German unity but the total suppression of the "principles of 1789" was the one requirement of Austria under

France Tired of Napoleon

the sinister guidance of Metternich. While the diplomatists wrangled and colloqued, a catastrophe was preparing which came near to shattering the whole edifice they were constructing. France had regarded the fall of the Emperor with something like relief; the strain of the last eighteen months had been too exhausting, and Napoleon's obstinate refusal to accept honourable terms had



THE EPOCH-MAKING BATTLE OF WATERLOO: THE FRENCH CUIRASSIERS CHARGING THE BRITISH SQUARES

From the painting by Felix Philippoteaux in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

created a reaction against him. But the peace and the Bourbon restoration brought back to France immense numbers of veteran soldiers who had been prisoners of war, and gave the Royalists the opportunity of flaunting their determination to carry the reaction back beyond 1789, and more particularly of procuring

**Napoleon's
Last Struggle
with Fate**

the restitution of the property which had changed hands in the Revolution. In the intense and increasing unpopularity of the Restoration régime, Napoleon, brooding in Elba, saw his chance of making one more struggle with fate. Eluding the vigilance of the warder frigates, he succeeded in embarking, landing near Cannes on March 1st, and appealing to the French nation's loyalty to its emperor.

There was a critical moment when the garrison of Grenoble was marched out against him. With theatrical instinct he bade them fire upon him if any among them sought his death; they responded with enthusiastic shouts. In that hour the soldiery took him back to their hearts; loyalist marshals and generals had to flee for their lives as he progressed triumphantly towards Paris. Louis was not behindhand in dramatic fervour; he announced that he would remain steadfast and die to protect his people. Having said which, he incontinently ran away to Ghent. On March 20th the Emperor was back in Paris. Ney had gone out to destroy him, and had joined him with all his troops instead.

Napoleon declared that he had come back not to embroil Europe, but to save the Revolution. It is conceivable that this was his intention at the moment; it is not conceivable that it would have remained so for long. The Powers, at any rate, declined to take the risk. They refused to recognise him, and a week before he reached Paris declared him the public enemy of Europe. Their wrangles

**Napoleon
the Enemy
of Europe**

were brought to a sudden end in the face of common danger. In a treaty on March 25th, each of them agreed to put 150,000 men in the field, and maintain war until Napoleon should be effectively deposed and removed from all possibility of troubling the world. Whether he wished for war or not, he must either fight or go.

With the army at his back, whatever the sentiment of the rest of France might be, there was no sort of doubt that he

would fight. France, on the whole, acquiesced in his return, but without unanimity or general enthusiasm. He gave it to be understood that he intended to rule not as an autocrat, but constitutionally. It was evident that a revival of despotism would meet with active resistance, and there were many men in France, as well as outside, who felt that no confidence could be placed in assurances of good intentions. But in any case, Napoleon was once more de facto lord of France, and the attitude of the Powers required him to organise his forces and strike before the armies of Europe were gathered together against him.

In June, the Emperor had concentrated his forces, some 124,000 men, on the Belgian frontier at Valenciennes. Great Britain had thrown 36,000 troops into Holland. Combined with these were 22,000 Brunswickers, 20,000 Dutch and Belgians, 6,000 of the King's German Legion, and minor contingents. Wellington had under his command something over 90,000 men, with his headquarters at Brussels. Blücher had 120,000 men, nearly all Prussians, with their base at Namur. The rest of the allies

**Napoleon
Again on the
Battlefield**

had not yet brought up their forces. The Prussian van had advanced as far as Charleroi, and Wellington had not combined with them, when Napoleon began his advance. Space forbids us here to enter on the endless discussions as to what each of the generals may have intended to do. The primâ facie interpretation of the campaign must suffice. Napoleon struck straight at the Prussians, with the object of driving them back on Namur, and cutting them off from a junction with Wellington, at whom he could then strike, crushing him or driving him back on Brussels. The destruction first of one army and then of the other could then be completed in detail, before the appearance of the allies.

On June 15th, then, Napoleon advanced on Charleroi, while it was Wellington's expectation that his blow would be directed not to severing the British from Blücher, but to cutting the communications of that Power with the sea. From Charleroi he drove back the Prussian van.

Blücher took up a strong position at Ligny. Wellington was tardy in his movements. Ney was despatched north with a column to secure the cross-roads at Quatre-Bras on the Brussels road, blocking Wellington's advance, and from

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that point to descend south-eastwards by the Namur road on Blücher's rear, while Napoleon himself made the main attack on Blücher. Ney found Quatre-Bras weakly held by the Prince of Saxe-Weimar, who had seized it without orders.

Ney, however, on the one hand, expected the support of a corps under D'Erlon, who received contradictory instructions, and hovered all day between Quatre-Bras and Ligny without rendering help in either quarter; and, on the other hand, the Dutch were reinforced by British regiments, who retrieved the position. Meantime, Napoleon attacked Blücher, and, after a stubborn fight, compelled the Prussians at last to retreat under cover of darkness. The victory at Quatre-Bras prevented the defeat at Ligny from becoming a disaster; but Napoleon's object of severing the hostile armies seemed to have been accomplished.

Under this impression, Napoleon lost valuable hours in delaying either to press on after Blücher or to advance against Wellington. Moreover, he was misled by the intelligence he received on the 17th into believing that Blücher was retiring on the line of his communications to Namur; whereas the valiant Prussian had resolved to effect the junction with Wellington, risking his exposed communications, and was retiring upon Wavre, northwards, parallel to the road from Quatre-Bras to Brussels. Wellington called in his troops from Quatre-Bras and took up his position on the ridge at Waterloo.

Soon after midday on June 17th, Grouchy was detached with 33,000 men to find Blücher. It was not till after midnight that the pursuing force learned definitely that their quarry was not at Namur, but at Wavre. Napoleon himself advanced against Wellington. The crisis had arrived. It was *primâ facie* improbable that Wellington could inflict a defeat on his adversary, who had a slightly larger force and very much stronger artillery. Moreover, of Wellington's 67,000 men, only 24,000 were British, and those for the most part were young recruits; his Hanoverians and Brunswickers could be relied on—they were burning to avenge the death of the Duke of Brunswick at Quatre-Bras—but the rest, for the most part, were of very uncertain quality. The great questions were, for the Prussians, whether Wellington would hold on at

Waterloo or beat a retreat; for Wellington, whether the Prussians would be able to come to his help at all, and if at all, whether he could hold out till they came.

Wellington's troops were drawn up, screened by the summit of their ridge, and occupied the slopes, in front the château of Hougomont, guarding their left, and the farm of La Haye Sainte on the centre. A valley lay between them and Napoleon's army on the fronting ridge. The Emperor, not believing in the possibility of Blücher's arrival, delayed his attack till near midday on Sunday, June 18th, because the drenched state of the ground was unfavourable to the cavalry movements on which he relied.

Fierce attacks on Hougomont and La Haye Sainte, gallantly repulsed, were the features of the early stages of the Battle of Waterloo. But Grouchy had failed to interpose his force between Wellington and Blücher, and the fact that Prussians were approaching was ascertained before the fight had been going on for two hours. A dispatch was sent to Grouchy, recalling him to the main army, but it did not reach him till too late.

It became evident that if Wellington was to be routed before reinforcements arrived, his centre must be pierced. Masses of troops in dense columns were hurled against it and rolled back by the stubborn fire of the infantry and charges of British cavalry. At about 4.30, the fury of the attack began to be redoubled, and still charge after charge was hurled back by the obstinate, unyielding British squares, and shattered by the flank fire of the extended British line on the massed columns.

It was probably not till after six o'clock that La Haye Sainte, resolutely held by the King's German legion, was decisively carried. But by that hour Blücher's approach had withdrawn the reserves which should have occupied the captured ground. Still, though

The Last Attack of the Old Guard the Prussians were now threatening the French flank, they had not yet arrived in such force but that the field might yet be won if the British could be routed in a last desperate effort. That desperate effort was made. The Old Guard was hurled up the slope, only to be hurled back, broken and shattered. The Prussians were already in touch with Wellington's left. The Duke gave the order for a general

advance ; the cavalry, hitherto to a great degree withheld from action, fell upon the staggering column. The Prussians, crashing in on the French right, turned what was already becoming a rout into a wild "sauve-qui-peut," and carried far into the night a pursuit in which the exhausted British could not share. Napoleon's

**Napoleon's
Great Army
Annihilated**

army had ceased to exist. There are English critics who would have it that Wellington would have defeated Napoleon if there had been no Blücher. There are German critics who would have it that nothing but Blücher's arrival saved Wellington from utter disaster. There are Bonapartist critics who hold that Napoleon would have destroyed both Wellington and Blücher but for the incompetence of his own marshals. And there are critics from whom one would gather that the most characteristic feature of this most decisive of battles, in which the two most uniformly successful commanders since the days of Marlborough and Eugene were pitted against each other, lay in the blunders that each of them committed. The last point hardly demands discussion. As for the third, if Grouchy and Ney held commands for which Soult and Davoust were better fitted, it was by Napoleon's own choice.

For the other two, it was Wellington's business to hold his position till Blücher arrived, and to be prepared for the contingency of Blücher's not arriving. It is by no means inconceivable that if the approach of the Prussians had not drawn off Napoleon's reserves, the position would have become untenable before the end of the day. It is also conceivable that the doggedness of Wellington's troops would even in the same event have proved invincible ; also that he might in any case have been able to retire, defeated, but not routed. The obvious fact is that Wellington with the British, the Hanoverians and Brunswickers, and the German legion, held Napoleon at bay for half a day while Blücher completed the dangerous and daring movement which turned a stubborn defence into an overwhelming victory.

**Flight of
the Emperor
to Paris**

The Emperor fled to Paris, to find Carnot practically the only man still zealous that France should and could yet once more be rallied to his support. Fouché, crafty, self-seeking, indispensable, was at one with Lafayette in insisting on the Chambers

being treated as the supreme authority. Paris gave no hope, and there was none outside Paris. Napoleon abdicated in favour of the son born to him by his Austrian spouse, attempted to embark on an American frigate at Rochefort, and finding that impossible, surrendered himself on July 8th to the commander of the British warship Bellerophon, declaring that he threw himself on the generosity of England. But generosity carried too many risks for Europe to be contemplated by England or assented to by the Powers. In the mid-Atlantic, where stands the lonely rock of St. Helena, the sun of Napoleon set for ever.

The last desperate effort, crushed on the Field of Waterloo, made no difference to the settlement of Vienna save as regarded France herself. Wellington and Blücher swept on to Paris. On July 3rd the city capitulated. On the 8th, Louis XVIII. re-entered the capital, and was recognised by Wellington. The monarch was quite capable of grasping the necessity of adopting a much more constitutional attitude than at his last restoration. Talleyrand convinced the Tsar that the choice lay between Louis and Napoleon, and Napoleon was impossible.

**France's
Monarchy
Restored**

That being settled, the question of the penalty to be imposed upon France arose, and here the cool judgment of the victor of Waterloo carried the day. The natural wrath of Prussia must be restrained—the dynastic restoration would be doomed if it were accompanied by the territorial losses which that Power called for. Something was taken ; the boundaries not of 1792 but of 1790 were granted. France was to remain one of the Great Powers.

These considerations outweighed the demands of Prussia for a rectification of the frontier which would have ended the military possibility of renewed aggression by France, and would hardly have given Prussia herself an excessive compensation for all that she had endured and all that she had lost. Finally, her fortresses were to be occupied by the allied troops for five years, she was to pay a heavy war indemnity, and was to restore to their rightful owners the art treasures which Napoleon had annexed. The settlement was finally confirmed, on November, 1815, in the Treaty of Paris, which in other respects was a practical confirmation of the settlement arrived at by the Congress of Vienna.

ARTHUR D. INNES

THE FRENCH
REVOLUTION
& NAPOLEON



XI
BY H. W. C.
DAVIS, M.A.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

By H. W. C. Davis, M.A.

SELDOM has a coup d'état proved more successful than that by which George III. destroyed the power of the Whigs in 1783. His old servant North had joined with Charles James Fox, the most advanced of parliamentarians, to form a coalition Ministry, and the allies seemed to have the Crown at their mercy, since they controlled an assured majority in the House of Commons. But by their ill-advised attempt to obtain control of the Indian patronage they drew upon themselves the suspicion of meditating an unparalleled system of jobbery. The king was able to turn them out of office on the pretext of a defeat which they had sustained in the Upper House through his influence with the Lords; and the younger Pitt, a stripling of twenty-five, whom he called into power because it was impossible to obtain a more experienced lieutenant, was able

The Whigs' Fall From Power by skilful management to carry the country with him at the next general election. The nation was weary of the Whigs, and of Ministers who were mere figure-heads. It recognised in Pitt something of the great qualities which had distinguished his father. He became, accordingly, a popular dictator; and, justifying his great position by the success of his financial and foreign policy, he remained in office until 1801. It was the longest and most powerful Ministry since Walpole's time.

The relations of the king with the Prime Minister were friendly. Even if George III. had been disposed to rebel against the ascendancy of his chosen adviser, he could not have dispensed with Pitt except at the price of submission to the Whigs. But he was never forced to consider this alternative. He found in Pitt an adviser of conservative temperament, who was guiltless of any designs to curtail the royal prerogative; and after 1788, when his mind began to be clouded by intermittent insanity, the king left everything to his adviser.

Pitt had entered politics as a reformer. The early measures of his administration went far towards gratifying the expectation which he had excited by his speeches as a private member. From the first he showed himself a master of finance. He undertook with energy the thankless task of liquidating the liabilities incurred in the American war. He brought forward, though he was not able to carry, a measure for the redistribution of parliamentary seats, proposing to increase the representation of London and the largest counties by disfranchising a number of pocket boroughs. He was also prepared, upon certain conditions, to give French commerce a more favourable treatment in the present with the offer of complete equality in the future; but on this plan also he was out-voted.

The theory of party government was still immature. A Prime Minister could not in Pitt's time count upon the support of his party for every legislative proposal; nor did he conceive himself obliged to treat the defeat of his Bills as a command to retire. So long as his administrative policy was approved by Parliament, he could retain his position. Pitt might have threatened to resign if his reforms were not carried; but he preferred to relinquish them and remain in power. This has been made a charge against him. But the principles on which

The Problem of National Defence he acted were those of all Prime Ministers before him, and for some time afterwards.

He hoped, no doubt, that time would convert his minority into a majority. As a matter of fact, the course of time brought new problems much more pressing than those of internal reform; and, after 1793, every other consideration was perforce subordinated to that of national defence. The initial stages of the French Revolution were generally viewed in England

with indifference or approbation. Fox and his friends, the remnant of the Whig party, applauded the fall of the Bastille as an event which heralded the dawn of a new and brighter era in the history of mankind. Pitt considered that the Revolution was a crisis of purely national significance which need not interest other countries. He welcomed it, but solely because it offered the prospect of a lasting peace.

How Britain Regarded the Revolution

For some time, he thought, the aggressive policy which the French monarchy had so long pursued towards the rest of Europe would be out of the question. His attention was concentrated upon financial reforms which could be effected only in a prolonged period of peace. The sinking fund by which he hoped to extinguish the national debt was not expected to produce its effects in less than fifteen years.

At first it seemed as though the Revolution would fulfil Pitt's anticipations. France did not come to the help of Spain in the affair of Nootka Sound in 1790, and Dumouriez, the first Foreign Minister of talent whom the Revolution produced, was anxious to obtain an English alliance. But Dumouriez was at the same time meditating war on Austria; and all other party leaders in France were united in desiring, for one reason or another, that the Revolution should throw down the gauntlet to Europe. The Royalists thought that war would be the ruin of the Republican cause; the Republicans looked upon war as the best means of identifying their interests with those of the nation. The opening of the Scheldt in defiance of all treaties, and the propagandist decree of the Convention in November, 1792, promising assistance to any nations which would revolt against their Governments, were a direct challenge to Europe, and early in 1793 they were followed by a declaration of war upon England. The pretext was found in Pitt's protests against the measures of 1792; the real motive was the desire to find employment for the armies of Dumouriez, which were as dangerous to France as to foreign Powers.

British Clamour for Vengeance

The British nation was far from sharing Pitt's aversion to a war. The execution of Louis XVI. had produced a thrill of horror; the king and Pitt were followed through the streets by crowds clamouring for vengeance. Edmund Burke fanned the

flame. He had attacked the Revolution in his "Reflections" as long ago as 1790. He represented it as a madness which, unless roughly repressed, would spread, and sap the foundations of European society. There was, indeed, some reason to fear that Jacobin doctrines would take hold upon the industrial population of the English manufacturing towns. England was passing through a period of bad harvests and commercial depression. Wages were low; in some localities there was actual famine; and it was known that clubs professing sympathy with the Revolution had been formed in more than one centre. The war was therefore regarded as a war of self-defence, and in that spirit it was undertaken by Pitt.

Britain was at war with France from 1793 to the Treaty of Amiens in 1801, at first as member of a coalition which included more than half the Powers of Europe. But the coalition was from the beginning composed of Powers with divided aims. To Prussia and Austria the question of Poland seemed more important than that of France; and the Jacobin administration, guided by the skilful

Britain and France at War

hand of Carnot, was able not only to clear France of invaders, but even to undertake conquests. The Austrian Netherlands, Holland, and the west bank of the Rhine, fell a prey to the Republic in 1794. Holland was converted into a republic under French protection; Prussia retired from the war and was followed by a number of the lesser German states in 1795; Spain became the active ally of France. There remained in the coalition only Austria, Sardinia, and Britain; and Bonaparte's invasion of Italy in 1796 had the immediate effect of detaching Sardinia. The French victories of Lodi, Arcola, Rivoli, and La Favorita, enabled Bonaparte to impose terms of peace upon Austria in 1797. From that time till 1799 Britain stood alone.

But the formation of the second coalition—with Austria and Russia—at length enabled her to conclude a peace upon favourable terms. In the early part of the war Pitt pursued a policy which was expensive and unsuccessful. He maintained in the Netherlands an army of 10,000 men, which was incompetently commanded by the Duke of York, the king's second son; he showered subsidies upon the Continental allies, spending for this purpose upwards of \$45,000,000.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

The desirability of waging a maritime war appears to have forced itself upon Pitt's mind only by slow degrees. But the British navy had never been in a better condition. The reorganisation effected by Hawke had borne lasting fruits; Rodney and Howe proved themselves worthy pupils of this great master.

An army, on the other hand, had still to be created; and it was in the preliminary work of raising, equipping, and training troops that Abercrombie, Moore, and Wellesley, who afterwards distinguished themselves in the field against the best French leaders, were for a long time to be absorbed. But even the naval war was not really begun before 1797, when the victory of Jervis off Cape St. Vincent annihilated the Spanish fleet; and it was only the mutinies of Spithead and the Nore, in the same year, which forced the Government to abandon an ill-advised system of economy under which the crews had been insufficiently paid and fed.

After the mutinies, indeed, there followed a period of wonderful successes. Duncan defeated the Dutch at Camperdown in October, 1797; in 1798, Nelson, by the Battle of the Nile, ruined Bonaparte's schemes for the conquest of Egypt and the Levant. In the war of the second

coalition (1799-1801) Pitt pursued a sounder course than formerly. He left the reconquest of Italy, Switzerland, and the Rhine to the land Powers, and made it the business of Britain to maintain her supremacy at sea. This was brilliantly vindicated by the battle

Holland's Fleet Captured by Britain

of Copenhagen; the surrender of the Danish fleet put an end to the armed neutrality of the northern Powers, by which Bonaparte had anticipated that he would bring Britain to her knees. When peace was signed at Amiens, Britain reaped the fruits of sea power; while surrendering the bulk of her colonial conquests she retained Trinidad and Ceylon. These renunciations, made at

the expense of Spain and Holland, cost little to France, although the acquisition of Ceylon was a blow to the chimerical project, long entertained by Bonaparte, of disputing the British supremacy in India. But Trinidad and Ceylon were acquisitions of the first importance to

Pitt Driven into War

Britain, and may even be regarded as an equivalent for the vast sums lavished on the European war. The war was one into which Pitt had been driven against his will. His successor, Addington, may therefore be excused for insisting upon an indemnity; nor was it reprehensible that the indemnity should be taken from Holland and Spain,

Powers which in the latter stages of the war had been arrayed on the side of France. The great event of internal history in this period of war is the union with Ireland. The Act of Union was Pitt's solution for grievances and dangers which had been accumulating since the Revolution, and a brief retrospect is necessary to understand the circumstances under which he felt justified in bribing the Irish Parliament to commit suicide.

The Irish were, in the eighteenth century, a disunited people. There was the old feud of Catholic and Protestant, at bottom as much a feud of races as of religions. There was also the feud between the nationalists and the representatives of English rule, which went far, at the end of the century, towards obliterating religious and racial differences. Last, and more deeply rooted than either of these, there was the feud between the landlord and tenant, which could be traced back to the days of the plantation policy, and was kept alive by the absenteeism of the ordinary Irish landowner.

Of all the grievances which Ireland cherished against England, that connected with religion was the most reasonable. In 1691, the Treaty of Limerick, which concluded the "Glorious" Revolution so far as Ireland was concerned, had given an express promise of relief to Roman



WILLIAM PITT

This great parliamentary leader and Prime Minister was the second son of the Earl of Chatham. He showed himself a master of finance, and won the nation's confidence. He died in 1806, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Catholics. So far was this promise from being observed that the Test Act, never before applied to Ireland, was immediately afterwards accepted and enforced by the Whig majority of the Irish Parliament. Immediately afterwards began a period of penal legislation (1795-1815), which is happily unparalleled in the history of Great

The Persecution of Irish Roman Catholics

Britain. Under the penal acts no Catholic parent might send his children to be educated abroad, and no Catholic teacher might set up a school. The lands of a Catholic, instead of passing to the eldest son, were equally divided among the children, unless one of them happened to be a Protestant, in which case he was entitled to the whole. No Catholic might acquire land from a Protestant, or own a horse of a value greater than \$25, or keep weapons in his house for the purpose of self-defence. It was a penal offence for any Catholic ecclesiastic to enter the country from abroad. Any attempt to convert a Protestant was punished as a crime.

For these and other measures the blame must be laid, in the first instance, on the Irish Protestants, whose fanaticism was sharpened by the wildest fears and suspicions. But the English Government, which could easily have withheld the royal assent from such legislature, cannot be acquitted of responsibility. The persecution was the more inexcusable, because neither in 1715 nor in 1745 did the Irish Catholics show any inclination to throw in their lot with the House of Stuart.

It must be admitted that many of the penal acts were so atrocious as to defeat their own purpose. The law officers did their best to avoid prosecutions; juries could be induced to convict only with the greatest difficulty. But the Acts were galling. They held a sword of Damocles over the heads of the Catholics, who, being without representatives in Parliament and disqualified for the franchise, felt that at any moment an outburst of persecuting zeal might make their condition intolerable. The Protestant tyranny was the more odious because it excluded a large proportion of the Irish Protestants from all public employments. This was the result of the Test Act, which the Irish Anglicans refused to relax in favour of other Protestant sects. In fact, it was not until 1719 that liberty of public worship was accorded to the Presbyterians.

The political grievances of Ireland were in part connected with Poynings' Law (1492) and the Declaratory Act of 1721. By Poynings' Law the assent of the English Privy Council was necessary before any Bill could be introduced in the Irish Parliament. By the Declaratory Act the English Parliament claimed the right of legislating for Ireland. Even more galling, however, was the position of the viceroy. In Ireland he took the place of the sovereign and was not responsible to Parliament; but at the same time he was a member of the English Ministry, and compelled to regard interests other than Irish in his administration. Some viceroys, such as Lord Chesterfield in 1745, were disinterested and solicitous for Irish interests; but even the best of them could not resist the pressure of their English colleagues, who treated the Irish patronage and pension fund as a part of their resources for purchasing English supporters.

Signs of a national opposition to England showed themselves about the middle of the century. In Parliament it is true that the Opposition was no less unprincipled than the Castle party.

National Opposition to England

A number of the great Irish families combined to prove the market value of their services by obstructing Government measures. The only result was a further increase of parliamentary corruption. The Castle at first tried the plan of periodically buying the Opposition, and finally adopted the safer plan of building up a rival combination by means of wholesale bribery. More effective was the opposition in the country.

About 1760 the secret societies, formed by peasants to resist tithes, enclosures, and demands for the arrears of rent, became a serious difficulty. They were not at first political, but through them the agricultural classes received an apprenticeship in concerted resistance to authority. More formidable was the Catholic Committee formed in 1759, which pressed for the repeal of the disabling laws. The Government, fearing a stoppage of the supply of Irish recruits for the army, made some slight concessions in 1771 and again in 1778. But the Catholics were still unsatisfied, and they now combined with the party of Nationalists which Flood and Grattan were forming in the Irish Parliament. The difficulties of the American War enabled this coalition to press its demands with irresistible force.

The fear of a French invasion compelled the Government to sanction the enrolment of volunteer corps. These were composed of Protestants, but soon fell under the influence of the Nationalists in politics. Numbering 50,000, they had the Government at their mercy, since no regular troops could be spared for Ireland. There was no rioting and no use of overt threats. But the volunteers in every part of the country held monster meetings, and everywhere formulated the same demands. One of these was for free trade with England, and for the removal of the legislation by which the cloth manufacture and other Irish industries had been depressed in the interests of England. Free trade was conceded by Lord North in 1779, but the clamour for Home Rule became only more urgent, since North's action was rightly interpreted as a proof of weakness. The volunteers rapidly increased in numbers; new measures of Catholic relief and the passing of the Habeas Corpus Act for Ireland in 1782 failed to satisfy them. Fox and North, on coming into power, resolved that the independence of the Irish Parliament must be recognised. This was accordingly done, the English legislature repealing the Declaratory Act and passing an Act of Renunciation in 1783.

Unfortunately for Ireland and for England, the settlement which the coalition Ministry had thus effected was hasty and unworkmanlike. The future relations of the two Parliaments were left ambiguous. It was clear that Ireland was to be subordinate to England in all questions of foreign relations. But no provision had been made for an Irish

contribution to military and naval expenses. And if the Irish Parliament chose to frame a protective tariff, it was legally entitled to present such a measure for the royal assent. Pitt's generous proposals for a commercial settlement were foiled by the factious opposition of the English Whigs and the impracticable temper of the Irish Parliament. Equally unsatisfactory were the relations of the latter body with the disfranchised majority of the Irish nation. The Protestant oligarchy consented to give Catholics the franchise, but it would not admit them to Parliament; under these circumstances the Catholic franchise was a mere mockery, and the Catholic gentry felt little sympathy with the cause of national independence. It was, however, the French Revolution which gave the first shock to the settlement of 1783. The Irish received the doctrines of Rousseau and Paine with the same enthusiasm which they had shown for the preaching of the Counter-Reformation. The United Irishmen, a society controlled by Wolfe Tone, Napper Tandy, Emmett, and Fitzgerald, which had originally contented itself with demanding parliamentary reform and a full measure of Catholic emancipation, turned for help to the French Government. The leaders were Protestants or Rationalists, but they were joined by a large proportion of discontented Catholics; and in 1798, having received promises of a French invasion, they raised the standard of revolt in Ulster and Leinster. The Protestants, however, rallied to the cause of the Government. The largest force collected by the rebels was routed at Vinegar Hill, near

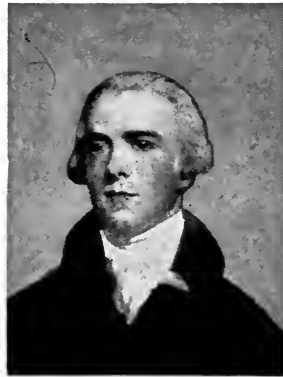


AN IRISH PATRIOT

Henry Grattan was a member of the Irish Parliament, and opposed the movement which ended in the rebellion of 1798. He afterwards sat in the Imperial Parliament.



Addington



Grenville

EMINENT POLITICIANS IN THE REIGN OF GEORGE III. Speaker of the House of Commons from 1789 till 1801, Henry Addington was invited to form a Ministry upon the resignation of Pitt. His administration came to an end in 1804, and in the following year he was created Viscount Sidmouth. Lord Grenville, another eminent Parliamentarian, formed the Government of "All the Talents."

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received promises of a French invasion, they raised the standard of revolt in Ulster and Leinster. The Protestants, however, rallied to the cause of the Government. The largest force collected by the rebels was routed at Vinegar Hill, near

Enniscorthy; the French force arrived too late, and though it landed in Connaught and gained one victory, was soon forced to surrender for lack of support.

The rebellion proved that the Protestant ascendancy had failed to conciliate the Catholics. Pitt believed, rightly or wrongly, that Catholic emancipation would never be completed by a Protestant Irish Parliament, from the fear that the Catholic ascendancy which must result would be turned to account vindictively, and he resolved to prepare the way for removing all religious disabilities by fusing the Irish legislature with that of Great Britain. No doubt the impracticable behaviour of the Irish leaders in their dealings with England made him more inclined to accept this solution. The nightmare of an independent Ireland declaring war upon England had haunted the minds of Englishmen for many years.

To an unbiassed critic it may seem that the same methods of persuasion which sufficed to procure the Act of Union might equally well have procured measures for Irish parliamentary reform and Catholic emancipation. Inevitable or not, the Act of Union was framed, and it passed the Irish Parliament in 1800, under a fire of eloquent protests from every independent member in both Houses. It gave Ireland a hundred seats in the United House of Commons and thirty-two in the House of Lords, established absolute free trade between the two countries, and fixed the Irish contribution to the revenue of the United Kingdom at two-fifteenths. It left the Irish judicature and executive untouched, but united the Irish Church and Army to those of England.

The promise of Catholic emancipation remained a dead letter till 1829. George III. refused to hear of any measure of relief, and Pitt accordingly retired from office. He did not return until 1804, when

The Question of Catholic Emancipation the country was again at war with France. He then gave up the Catholic cause on the ground that a revival of the question would be fatal to the old king's unsettled reason. The circumstances were peculiar, and historians have hesitated to accuse Pitt of bad faith. The fact remains that he missed a possible opportunity of reconciling the Irish Catholics to the Union. The Peace of Amiens was a mere armistice, which Bonaparte had no intention of

observing. He declined to withdraw his armies from Holland and Italy; he occupied Switzerland on the pretext of mediating in a civil war; he refused to offer the United Kingdom any satisfaction or compensation for these breaches of faith.

She, on her part, refused to surrender Malta, as she had promised at Amiens, until the First Consul fulfilled his part of the treaty. Malta was of vital importance in case of war with France. The Cape was in French hands; the only safe route to India lay, therefore, through the Mediterranean. The struggle with France was assuming the same character as the wars of 1740-1763; in the future little was to be heard of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, but much of sea-power, colonies, and commerce.

War was declared by the Addington Ministry in May, 1803. The challenge was answered by an embargo on British shipping, and preparations for a descent upon England. A flotilla was prepared with this object at Boulogne; the combined French and Spanish fleets were instructed to draw the British admirals off

The Crowning Victory of Trafalgar to the West Indies, and then, giving them the slip, to return and cover the invasion. Nelson fell into the trap, but Calder met the returning fleet of Villeneuve at Finisterre, and won a victory, which gave Nelson time to return from his chase and refit his ships. In October, 1805, Nelson met Villeneuve off Cape Trafalgar, and won a crowning victory. More than half the French fleet were put out of action, and Villeneuve was taken prisoner. The victory cost Nelson's life, but it removed the fear of invasion; the prodigious successes of Napoleon on land brought him no nearer to his ultimate ambition of reducing England and appropriating her empire.

Pitt died in 1806, prematurely worn out by his exertions and heart-broken at the apparent failure of his policy. His loss was inestimable, for he had been the soul of each successive coalition against France, and had maintained an unshaken hold upon the confidence of the nation. The Ministry of All the Talents (1806-1807), which succeeded him, failed to secure a peace; Fox died nine months after his great rival, and the Ministry resigned because it refused to pledge itself to silence on the question of Catholic emancipation. George III. was driven to fall back on the

support of the Tories, and it was this party which finally brought the war to a successful conclusion. They remained in power for twenty-three years. They saved Britain from Napoleon, and afterwards came near to involving her in a civil war. They provided her with a Wellington and a Canning; but they also saddled her with a Liverpool, a Castlereagh, and an Eldon. It was the greatest of Britain's misfortunes in the war that the prestige of victory fell to the share of reactionaries, who were disposed to make their services a plea for checking all reforms. The Grenville Ministry has to its credit the abolition of the slave trade. It fell in maintaining the principles that Ministers are entitled to tender their advice on whatever subjects they think fit, and that the king could act only on their advice. Such was the reaction produced in England by the French Revolution that even such recognised doctrines as these were in danger of being discredited; the Tory rule which followed was as unhappily stubborn in its fear of the Revolution as it was happily stubborn in its resistance to Napoleon. In the Portland Ministry, which followed, the two most remarkable figures are those of Canning and Castlereagh; as concerns the war, it was responsible for the bombardment of Copenhagen and the seizure of the Danish fleet, the undertaking of the Penin-



Portland



Canning

LEADERS IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT

The Duke of Portland succeeded Lord Rockingham as leader of the Whig party; he was twice Prime Minister and held office as Home Secretary under Pitt. One of the most brilliant of Foreign Ministers, George Canning had a seat in various administrations, and made a reputation as a parliamentary orator of much eloquence and wit.

sular War, the appointment of Wellesley to the command, and the Walcheren Expedition. On this last head there was such angry dissension between Canning and Castlereagh that both resigned in 1809, and the death of Portland placed

Perceval at the head of the Ministry, which was joined by the Marquess Wellesley and by young Lord Palmerston. In the following year the old king sank into permanent imbecility, and the future George IV. became the Prince Regent in 1811. A ministerial crisis in 1812 gave the personnel of the administration a still more decisively Tory cast, Wellesley retiring and Castlereagh returning—a modification which was confirmed only by the assassination of Perceval in April, and the accession of Lord Liverpool to the post of Prime Minister, which he retained till the year 1827.

The part played by the United Kingdom in the struggle with Napoleon has already been sufficiently described; but, incidentally that struggle involved her, in 1812, in another non-European war, the outcome of the Berlin Decrees and the answering Orders in Council. The United States found themselves seriously inconvenienced, at least as concerned their southern portion, by the consequent restrictions on their commerce, and the inconvenience was more immediately due to the British than to the Napoleonic regulations. Exasperation reached a climax at the moment when the Government in Britain was thrown into confusion by the assassination of the Prime Minister, Perceval, with the result that war was declared in 1812 on the eve of Wellington's victory at Salamanca. The American contest received little attention in England, preoccupied with the greater struggle, and although American attempts upon Canada failed, the British were astonished to find their



VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH
Famous as Foreign Secretary, and as a leader of the reactionary party in England. He died by his own hand in a fit of insanity in 1822.

own ships repeatedly worsted in engagements. Having awakened to the facts, they were of course able to send to American waters a naval force which could effectively control the seas. The termination of the European war at the beginning of 1814 was followed by the immediate despatch of a part of the Peninsular force to the United States.

The Capture of Washington

Washington, the capital of the States, was captured; other expeditions distributed in desultory and disconnected fashion over the American continent were for the most part failures. Negotiations which had been opened between the belligerents at Ghent resulted in a Convention, signed on December 24th, 1814, which terminated actual hostilities, though a singular bitterness of feeling survived. It was unfortunate that the news of the Convention reached America too late to prevent a bloody battle at New Orleans, where the courage of the Peninsular veterans did not save them from a complete defeat in attempting to capture the city.

The nation emerged from the Napoleonic wars oppressed by a debt of £800,000,000, and with a credit which had been strained to the utmost. It was necessary for the Bank of England to suspend cash payments as early as 1797; its banknotes could not be made convertible again until 1819. Taxation had been intolerably severe, and pauperism had assumed appalling dimensions. But from the economic point of view there had been compensations. British trade developed in spite of the Continental System; it is a well-known fact that the armies of Napoleon were largely fed and clothed with English exports. The Berlin and Milan Decrees could be

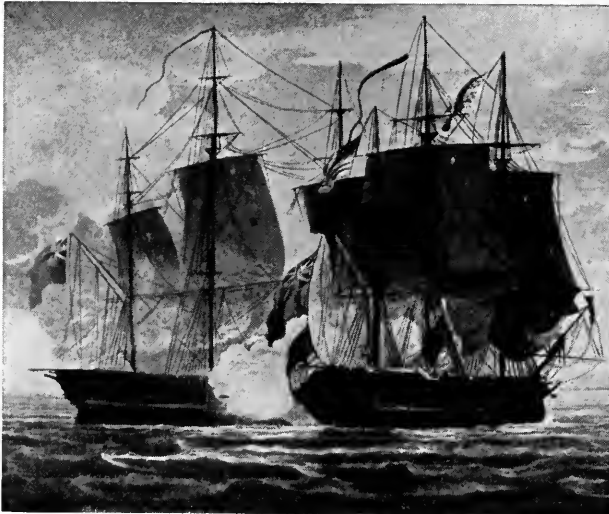
defeated only by a costly process of smuggling, but the expenses of the trade were defrayed by the Continental consumer; and the wars resulted in no inconsiderable additions to the empire. At the final settlement of 1815 England retained Malta.

She also kept Ceylon, and she acquired a legal title to the Cape of Good Hope and to Mauritius. In the western hemisphere she kept Trinidad, Dutch—henceforth British—Guiana, Tobago, and St. Lucia. The Indian acquisitions of the period, although they did not come under the notice of the Congresses of Paris and Vienna, may be regarded as in a sense the fruits of the revolutionary and Napoleonic wars. The Mysore war of 1799, which established the British supremacy over the southern extremity of the peninsula, and the Mahratta war (1803–1804), which led to a great augmentation of territory and influence in the centre and north-west, were both the outcome of French intrigues. In 1815 there could be no doubt that it was the destiny of Great Britain to predominate in India.

Such, then, were the gains of the Napoleonic period. But years were to elapse before their value was adequately realised.

The Peace of 1815 was followed by a period of commercial depression and bad harvests, by agitation against the restraints which the Tory Government had thought fit to impose, with parliamentary sanction, upon individual liberty; and by the perplexities arising from political and social evils which were deeply rooted in the past, but had assumed a more serious aspect during twenty years of strain and stress.

H. W. C. DAVIS



THE CAPTURE OF THE "CHESAPEAKE"

On June 1st, 1813, a fight took place in Massachusetts Bay between the American frigate Chesapeake and the British frigate Shannon. The battle lasted but a few minutes, the Chesapeake falling as a prize to the British.



EUROPE SIXTH DIVISION THE RE-MAKING OF EUROPE

We enter now upon the last phase of completed European history—the century which has already run its course since the decisive overthrow of Napoleon's ambitions at Waterloo. Although during this period the United Kingdom and the Eastern Powers, Russia and the whole Eastern peninsula, pursue their course in comparative independence of the complications which involve the rest of Europe, the latter being no longer in isolation sufficient to warrant us in maintaining the earlier complete separation of East and West.

Following immediately after Waterloo, we have a period of strong reaction against the political ideas of the French Revolution, a period in which the claims to power and to territory of "legitimate" dynasties are looked upon as paramount, while the control of the Sovereign People and demands for the recognition of nationalities are held in check, though Greece attains her liberation from Turkey. The second period opens and closes with two revolutions in France—the expulsion of the Bourbons and the coup d'état of Napoleon III.

During this period the demands of Constitutionalism and of Nationalism are fermenting, Germany in particular making futile efforts in the latter direction. The third period coincides with that of the Second Empire in France, and is marked by the unification of Italy and the triumph of German nationalism in the new German Empire, consummated by the Franco-German war, and attended by the establishment of the Third French Republic.

Finally we follow the fortunes of the now reconstructed Europe—the whole narrative having interludes associated with the modern Eastern Question—until we reach our own day.

GENERAL SURVEY OF THE PERIOD
By Oscar Browning, M.A.

THE CONTINENT
By Dr. H. Zimmerer, Dr. Heinrich Schurtz,
Dr. Georg Adler, Dr. G. Egeihaaf,
Dr. H. Friedjung, and other writers

THE BRITISH ISLES
By A. D. Innes, M.A., and H. W. C. Davis, M.A.





THE REMAKING



OF EUROPE

GENERAL SURVEY OF THE PERIOD

By Oscar Browning, M.A.

EUROPE SINCE THE YEAR 1815

BEFORE the French Revolution Europe was in a condition of unstable equilibrium. Anyone who studies the condition of the map of Europe in the last years of the eighteenth century will perceive this to be the case. France, Spain, and Great Britain were in a fairly homogeneous situation, but the position of the rest of Europe was intolerable. The German Empire, the mere phantom of its glorious past, was honeycombed by the territories of ecclesiastical princes, while its neighbours, Hungary and Poland, better consolidated than itself, were a menace to its permanence. Russia was in the throes of expansion to the east, west, and south.

The Turkish Empire, when it crossed the Bosphorus, found itself ruling dominions which it could not hope to maintain, and which were now slipping from its grasp. Greece and Bosnia, Moldavia and Wallachia, Servia and Bulgaria were moving from a position of subjection to vassalage, from vassalage to independence. Berlin was divided from Königsberg by a long stretch of territory which could not in any sense be called Prussian.

Italy was cut up into a number of impotent and warring states, which denied it a voice in European affairs. Naples and Sicily were parts of Spain. Norway was a part of Denmark. There was no solidarity, no unity in the component parts; railways, had they existed, would have been impossible, commerce was impeded by every kind of artificial barrier. A traveller who changed a sovereign when

he crossed the Channel found it reduced to nothing before his return by the charges of perpetual discount. The awakening was rude. Sluggish Europe shook herself to resist the dangers of the Revolution. She threatened to march to Paris to punish the regicide miscreants who bore

The Rude Awakening of Europe swayed in the capital, and to restore the Bourbon to his throne. But regenerated France laughed gaily at this unwieldy

Titan. She threw off with ease the attacks directed against the missionaries of a new political gospel, and carried war into the territories of those who had assailed her. Her generals were everywhere victorious; but from among them arose Napoleon, the greatest of all generals of modern times.

It is too common to represent this commanding genius as a man of blood—insatiable with slaughter, uncontrolled in ambition, and regardless of the sacrifices with which it might be gratified. The empire of Napoleon was, at least in part, a carrying out of the programme of the Directory, and the consummation of the efforts which France had originally begun to resist intrusion. When that empire had reached its height, it was, either in direct government or in powerful influence, nearly coterminous with civilised Europe, with the exception of Russia and England, who remained unsubdued. Spain and Portugal were under France, Belgium and Holland were a part of her dominions, the kingdom of Italy reached to the frontier of Naples, and Naples was French.

Switzerland was devoted to the man who had given her a good government, the Confederation of the Rhine included the kingdom of Westphalia as well as the tributary states of Saxony, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and Baden; Scandinavia listened to the advice of the Tuileries; Prussia was reduced to insignificance.

The Unstable Empire of Napoleon

The Grand Duchy of Warsaw, a French creation, lay as a buffer state between Prussia and Austria; and Austria, having given an empress to the French throne, was in a position in which her best hope of influence and power lay in her alliance with Napoleon, a position which she had not the wisdom to realise.

But Napoleon's empire was itself in a condition of instability. What form it would have taken if he had continued to reign, we do not know. The claims of nationality had begun to assert themselves before his fall—indeed, they had been to a large extent the cause of his ruin; and if he desired to rear a lasting edifice he must have found a way of reconciling them with his scheme of a European Empire. He wished for a second son, and if such a one had been born and grown to manhood, or at least to adolescence, the formation of a united Italy might have been anticipated by many years. But his empire, constituted as it was, was certain to perish at his fall, and his fall came sooner than was expected.

We do not yet completely know the causes of the great Russian war, and we cannot properly apportion the blame of it between the emperor and the tsar. He believed that this would have been his last enterprise, his last war. Russia once brought to his feet, Europe would be at peace. But he miscalculated the difficulty of the task, and the stolid stubbornness of Russian resistance. Fortune turned against him, his star paled, and his empire was no more. It is a mistake to suppose that he could have made

The Fatal Error of the Hapsburgs

peace at Frankfort or at Châtillon; the terms offered him were delusive, and were intended to be so by Metternich. Had Austria obeyed the voice of honour and of interest the empire might have been preserved, but by deserting these fundamental principles, the empire of the Hapsburgs, which has made so many mistakes, committed a last fatal error, which it has since most bitterly expiated.

The Congress of Vienna endeavoured to repair the shattered fabric, but the unprejudiced observer will not credit the diplomatists of that assembly with much wisdom or with much prescience.

Ignorant of, or ignoring, the principle of nationality, which has since governed the world with a dominating force, they were led by Talleyrand to adopt the principle of legitimacy, which they had not the courage to follow out when it became a question of punishing Napoleon's friends or rewarding his enemies. Consequently, many arrangements of Vienna have been upset. Belgium has been divorced from Holland, Norway from Sweden, Prussia has united its severed territories and secured the headship of Germany. Italy has consolidated herself at the expense of the provinces and the prestige of Austria; and Turkey has lost, one after another, the dominions which it was a disgrace to civilisation that she should have held at all.

The change from the Restoration which succeeded the fall of Napoleon to the conditions of the present day is divided into certain well-defined epochs marked by periods of disturbance, wars, or revolutions. The period between 1820 and 1830 is one of disheartening reaction, controlled by a desire to suppress everything which could remind the world of the principles of 1789, and to undo everything which the administrative ability of the great emperor had accomplished. This led to the Revolution of July, accompanied by other disturbances in Europe, and indirectly to the emancipation of the Catholics in England and the Reform Bill of 1832. It is characteristic of Great Britain that the only revolution which it has experienced since the close of the seventeenth century has been an alteration in the electoral system, a change quite as important as, and more permanent than, any which has taken place in any other country.

After 1830 the democratic strivings of the nations of the Continent were either suppressed or appeased, but the fire broke out with greater intensity in 1848, when a series of revolutions either shook or shattered every throne in Europe but England's. Then followed a series of wars—the Crimean war of 1854, the Italian war of 1859, the Danish war of 1863, the Austrian war of 1866, and the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. From

THE RE-MAKING OF EUROPE: GENERAL SURVEY

1870 until 1914 Europe was at peace, and the severance of Norway from Sweden and the final consolidation of Italy were brought about without an actual conflict. Belgium was no longer the cockpit of Europe—that was to be sought further afield. Rivalries which had a European side to them were fought out in Asia and in Africa, and we hoped the time was far distant when the horrors of war would be brought within our own experience.

Yet progress, in which international jealousies must have a part, still went on, and war, if averted, was often threatened. The world knows of many mortal struggles which have never taken place, but which have been regarded as inevitable by well-informed and responsible statesmen. At one time Great Britain expected a war with Russia, at another time with France, at another time with America, and a final war with Germany was looked upon by so many as the doom of fate that they thought it useless to discuss its probability or even to take means to avert it. If the possibility of these catastrophes was known

French Revolution of 1830

to the public at large, how many were in the cognisance of Ministers who were acquainted with the secrets of foreign affairs? The present is quite sufficient to occupy the historian.

Let us consider separately the effect of each of these crises on the course of European politics. The Revolution of July in Paris had broken out as a quarrel between the people and the king; it ended by establishing the authority of the people. The royal title was changed from King of France to King of the French. The Charter was a Bill of Rights on the English model, dear to the heart of Guizot. It fixed the limits within which the people were willing to accept the government of a king. It was a decided advance towards democracy. The new constitution which followed the Revolution in Belgium was framed on similar lines, and in the spirit of the English Revolution of 1688.

It laid down the principle that all power emanated from the people, and that the king possessed no authority beyond that given him by the constitution. He could do no executive act except through the Ministers, and they were responsible to the Chambers. If the Ministers failed to command a majority in Parliament, it was their duty to retire. The English

colour of these arrangements seems to have suited the character of the Belgian people and the temper of the king.

The Revolution of July produced a powerful effect upon Switzerland, and inaugurated what is called the Period of Regeneration. It began with a movement to reform the constitutions of some of the cantons, in order to give a share in the government to classes who did not possess it. The Forest Cantons, the ancient heart of Switzerland, remained passive, but the population of the others bombarded their Governments with petitions for reform, and reform was speedily accorded. Zürich was the leader of the movement. The programme of the radical party was sovereignty of the people, universal suffrage, direct election, freedom of the Press, of petition, of religious belief, and of industry.

The movement was essentially democratic, and the struggle became so severe that the Federal Government had to intervene. The Canton of Basle was separated into two half cantons, Basle Town and Basle Country. Seven cantons formed a separate confederation, and a counter league was organised to oppose it. The conflict, embittered by the presence of refugees from other disturbed countries, lasted till the convulsions of 1848.

In Spain and Portugal the struggle between the Constitutionals and the Absolutists was complicated by a disputed succession. In the first country, Isabella was the watchword of the Liberals, Don Carlos of the reactionaries, their place being taken in Portugal by Maria da Gloria and Don Miguel. In Italy the agitation was more serious. It seized upon the states which had not been affected by the previous movements of 1820. At Rome the death of Pius VIII. gave the signal. Louis Napoleon took part in the plot to make his uncle, Jerome, King of Italy. In the Romagna and the Marches provisional governments and national guards were the order of the day. Govern-

Italy in a State of Unrest

ments of this kind, with a dictator at their head, were formed in Parma and in Modena. But the movement came to nothing. Louis Philippe would not help, and Metternich was at hand with his Austrian army. With their assistance he brought back the Duke of Modena, and pacified the States of the Church. But

the "Young Italy" of Mazzini was born in the conflict, a secret society devoted to the realisation of the unity of Italy under the form of a republic. Eventually the first object was attained, but the second was not.

A similar impulse animated the Liberals of Germany, who had long been discontented with the policy of the Holy Alliance.

Poland's bold Stand for Independence The War of Liberation had only subjected them to a worse despotism than that of Napoleon. Brunswick, Hesse-Cassel, Saxony, and Hanover obtained constitutions; in Bavaria and Baden men of enlightened minds were allowed to express themselves more freely. A stronger movement took place in Poland, then divided between two parties, the Whites and the Reds. The Whites were composed of the large proprietors, the higher officials, and the clergy. Provided that Poland was suffered to retain a nominal independence, they were content to wait for constitutional reforms. The Reds were patriots and democrats, but they were violent and impatient.

In the last month of 1830, when the emperor had mobilised the Polish army in order to suppress the revolution in France and Belgium, the national troops turned against their oppressors. The students of the Military College seized the palace at Warsaw, and the Grand Duke Constantine fled for his life. The Romanoff dynasty was deposed, and the union of Poland with Lithuania was proclaimed. Britain and France were sympathetic, but refused to give active assistance; the Polish army was crushed by superior numbers, and a military dictator was set up. The end of Poland had arrived. In 1835 the Emperor Nicholas told the Poles plainly that unless they gave up the dream of a separate independent nationality the guns of the newly built citadel should lay Warsaw in ruins. We see, therefore, that the Revolution of July had made a great breach in the system established by the Congress of Vienna. The Bourbons, who based their title on the principles of legitimacy, were succeeded by a king of the barricades, professing the doctrines of 1789, and waving its flag. The British Constitution remained unshaken, but the Reform Bill of 1832 brought about a revolution in the balance of political power not less momentous than the others, because it was pacific, and destined to produce results not less important although slow in coming.

Political Changes in Britain

Eighteen years later the Revolution broke out with greater violence, and spread with the rapidity of a plague. It began in Switzerland in 1847, showed itself in Sicily in January, 1848, and overthrew the throne of Louis Philippe in France in February of the same year. The fall of monarchy in France gave the signal for disturbances throughout Europe. England, the Iberian Peninsula, Sweden, Norway and Russia alone escaped. In Holland, Belgium and Denmark it ran a comparatively mild course. The symptoms were more severe in Austria, Prussia, Germany, and Central Italy; it led to bloodshed in Northern Italy, Schleswig-Holstein, and Hungary.

The outbreak in Switzerland was the result of a conflict which had been smouldering for many years. It was caused by two movements, one civil, the other religious; one an effort to democratise the constitution, the other a desire to restrain the influence of the Roman Catholic Church. The Liberal party was divided into Moderates and Radicals, but the Moderates gradually lost their influence. The Radicals were strengthened

Revolution in Switzerland

and stimulated by the refugees of other nationalities, who had found an asylum in Switzerland when driven out of their own countries. The Poles organised raids against Neuchatel and Savoy; Mazzini used Switzerland as a place of arms. Austria and Bavaria demanded the extradition of German "patriots," and when this was refused, broke off diplomatic relations. France insisted upon the expulsion of the supposed authors of the conspiracy of Fieschi, and sealed their frontiers against the passage of the stubborn Switzers.

A few years later they asked for the surrender of Louis Napoleon, who had his home at Arenenberg. The Catholics based their hopes on the peasants, and posed as the supporters of democracy. In Schytz the two parties of "Horns" and "Hoofs" came to blows over the use of the public pastures; in Canton Ticino, the Radicals won by force of arms; in the Valley of the Rhone the Upper and Lower districts were in hopeless disorder. The Puritans of Zürich drove Strauss, the author of the "Life of Jesus," from his professorial chair. The Jesuits succeeded in founding Catholic Colleges at Schytz, Freiburg, and Lucerne. Argau answered this challenge by suppressing eight convents, and demanding the expulsion of the Order. The

THE RE-MAKING OF EUROPE: GENERAL SURVEY

result of this prolonged tension was a civil war. In 1845 the seven Catholic cantons formed a "sonderbund," a separate league, which the government determined to suppress by force, and in three weeks General Dufour effected this object. The Radicals were victorious, the Jesuits were expelled, and civil war was averted. The result of this struggle was the formation of a new constitution, by which Switzerland, from being a *statenbund*—a confederation of states—became a federal state—a *bundesstat*. A new nation came to life in Europe.

The French Revolution of 1848 was equally a surprise for the victors and the vanquished. It raged for two days, the first of which witnessed a revolt of the reformers against Guizot, the second a revolution of the Republicans against the monarchy. At 10 a.m. on February 24th, the Palais Royal was captured; at 4.30 p.m. the throne was destroyed in the Tuileries, and shortly afterwards the Republic was proclaimed at the Hotel de Ville. The result of this was a democratic movement throughout Europe. In Holland

**Italy in
Revolt against
Austria**

the personal government of the king was changed into a constitutional monarchy; in Belgium the Liberals were confirmed in power; in Denmark the accession of a new king presented an opportunity for substituting a constitution for absolutism and for setting the Press free.

Italy was shaken from Monte Rosa to Cape Passaro. The movement began in Sicily, where for a fortnight in January the insurgents fought against the Royal troops, demanding the constitution of 1812. At Naples, Ferdinand accorded a constitution based upon the French Charte, and appointed a Carbonaro as Prime Minister. At Turin, Charles Albert promulgated a constitution, which, in all the storm of conflict, has never been abrogated, and the Grand Duke of Tuscany did the same.

At Rome, Pio Nono nominated three lay Ministers, but the supreme power remained with the College of Cardinals. The passionate desire of the Italians was to shake off the hated domination of Austria. They shouted, in the words of the "Garibaldi hymn": "Va fuori d'Italia, va fuori o Stranier!" [From Italy from sea to snow, let the hated stranger go!] For this the revolution in Vienna gave an opportunity. Here the storm broke in

March, the direct consequence of the French Revolution of February. The desires of the people were voiced by booksellers, students, and Liberal clubs; they demanded liberty of religion, of teaching, of speech, and of writing, and a budget controlled by a representative government. Their cry was: "Down with

**Republic
of St. Mark
in Venice**

Metternich! Down with the soldiery!" and Metternich was dismissed. The emperor fled to the Tyrol, and the Archduke John, the darling of the people, took his place. A Constituent Assembly met at Vienna in July. In Hungary, a country better suited for self-government, the change took a more solid shape. The seat of Parliament was transferred from Pressburg to Budapest. It issued a coinage, and formed an army under the Hungarian tricolour. Austria was compelled to weaken her garrisons in Italy in order to subdue her revolted provinces north of the Alps.

In March, Milan rose, and Radetsky retired within the Quadrilateral. Modena and Parma were left to themselves, and obtained constitutions. Cavour called the Piedmontese to arms; Tuscany, Rome and Naples sent their troops to join their brethren of the North. In Venice, Daniele Manin, like-named but not like-minded with the last Doge, awakened to life a Republic of St. Mark. A revolution was organised, at once Liberal, monarchical, and national, under the three colours of the Italian flag, the emblems of passion, purity, and hope.

The dream of liberty was short lived. It vanished before the approach of foreign armies. The Austrians defeated the Sardinians at Custoza, and reconquered the whole of Lombardy. A still more fatal blow fell at Novara, where Charles Albert was routed in March, 1849, and abdicated in consequence. The crown came to his son, Victor Emmanuel, who afterwards became the first monarch of a united

**The Siege
and Fall
of Venice**

Italy. Venice fell, after a long siege, in August of the same year. Modena and Parma, who had joined themselves to Piedmont, were occupied by Austria, and their ducal governments were restored. Tuscany suffered the same fate, and the Grand Duke was compelled by the Austrian army of occupation to abrogate the constitution of 1848, so that his country became less free than it was before the revolution. Four Catholic Powers—

France, Spain, Austria, and Naples—offered their assistance to the Pope, but the main burden of recovering the Holy City fell upon France. Rome, defended by Mazzini and Garibaldi, was captured in June, 1849; the Cardinals came into power with Antonelli at their head. The tricolour was surrendered. Italy was

Italy Split into Fragments

again split into fragments, dependent upon foreign force. Sardinia alone remained a germ of liberty and hope. In Austria, the champion of reaction, the war of nationalities, which has always been to her a danger, now proved her salvation.

A Panslavic Congress had been summoned at Prague, which was attended not only by Bohemians, Moravians, and Silesians, but by Russians, Poles, and Servians. But the Croats turned against the Magyars, and the South Slavs against their brethren of the North. Prague was bombarded and Bohemia conquered; the Croats marched upon Budapest. The emperor, who had fled from his capital and sought refuge in Moravia, made a common war against the German democrats and the Hungarian rebels, who had chosen Kossuth as their leader. Croats attacked Vienna from the east, Bohemians from the north. After a short struggle they were victorious; the Hungarians, who had come to the assistance of the friends of liberty, were repulsed and an absolute government was restored. Hungary held out a little longer.

A Hungarian Republic was established, with Kossuth as President. But the Russians declared themselves the enemies of revolution, and Nicholas came to the aid of his brother emperor. An army 80,000 strong entered the country from the Carpathians. The Magyars capitulated at Vilagos, preferring to fall into the hands of the Russians rather than into those of their ancient tyrants. Kossuth, after burying the Hungarian crown, sought refuge in

The Brief Republic of Hungary

Turkey. Metternich was again master, and the last state of the rebellious provinces was worse than the first. Prussia also had her "days of March," but here the middle-classes stood aloof, and the Liberals were left to fight out their battle against the army.

The chief object of their attack was the Prince of Prussia, brother of the king, who was destined at a later period to be the first Emperor of Germany. The king at

first tried to temporise. He promised a constitution, withdrew his troops, and sent the Prince of Prussia to England. He adopted the German tricolour, threw himself upon the affection of his Prussians, and invoked the confidence of Germany. He granted a written constitution and a National Assembly elected by universal suffrage. But he soon discovered his mistake, and was obliged to follow the example of Austria. The army re-entered the capital, took possession of the Parliament buildings, dissolved the National Guard, and soon afterwards dispersed the Assembly. Absolute government was restored, veiled under the forms of a constitution.

The Provisional Government in France, which succeeded the Orleans monarchy, was formed by a coalition, and therefore contained within itself the seeds of dissolution. One party aimed at the establishment of a democratic republic based on universal suffrage, the other desired a democratic and social republic, the chief object of which should be the elevation of the working classes. The tricolour of 1789 was opposed by the red

Civil War in the Streets of Paris

flag of Louis Blanc. The battle raged round the organisation of labour and the establishment of national workshops. However, the Socialists had opposed to them the whole of France and half the capital, and they were unable to hold their own. A civil war broke out in the streets of Paris, and three days' fighting was required for the capture of the suburb of St. Antoine by General Cavaignac. The Socialist prisoners were shot or transported and their newspapers were suppressed. Eventually a constitution was agreed upon, which established a single chamber, a president holding office for four years, and a Council of State.

The president was to be chosen by universal suffrage, and the election took place on December 10th, 1848. Ledru Rollin was the candidate of the Socialists, Cavaignac of the Democrats, but both had to give way to Louis Napoleon, the inheritor of a mighty name, who was chosen by an overwhelming majority. This election could have no other result than the establishment of a monarchy. The coup d'état of December 2nd, 1851, dissolved the Assembly, and arrested the leaders of the Republican party. Following the example of his uncle, Louis Napoleon was first made president for

ten years, and shortly afterwards Emperor. The plebiscite accepting him as Emperor of the French was taken four years, to a day, after he had been elected president.

By the events we have described absolute government was established over the whole of Europe, excepting Switzerland and the countries which had not been affected by the revolutions of 1848. However, France preserved her principle of universal suffrage, Prussia and Sardinia their constitutions, with the fixed resolve of achieving the unity of Germany and of Italy, founded on the principle of nationality, which had been ignored by the Congress of Vienna. We now pass from the epoch of revolutions to the epoch of war.

The Crimean War of 1854 belongs to those events of history of which we do not precisely know the cause. There are probably few Englishmen who feel satisfied with their country's share in it, or who support it as an act of political wisdom. There are few, also, who would deny that England was led into it by the Emperor of the French. Louis Napoleon came to the throne of France pledged by conviction

**The
Crimean
War**

and by honour to effect the liberation of Italy from the Austrian yoke. This could not be done without war, and although France was strong enough to meet Austria in the field, she could not contend against Austria and Russia united. It therefore became necessary to weaken Russia before such a war could be undertaken, and the question of the Holy Places was seized upon with great adroitness as a colourable pretext for a war with Russia.

Britain was easily, too easily, stirred to defend Turkey against aggression and dismemberment, and thus a conflict was begun of which there is little reason to be proud. Russia was prepared to meet an attack in the Baltic, in Poland, or on the Danube, but the Crimea was only feebly garrisoned. Still, Sebastopol held out, and the resources of the allies were strained to the utmost. A winter campaign became necessary in a desert country, subject to intense cold. The British lost half their troops, and no assistance came from Austria or Prussia.

In the spring of 1855 the Emperor Nicholas died, and the war no longer had a motive. However, it continued under his successor, and Sebastopol did not fall until six months afterwards. Napoleon was ready to make peace, although Palmerston

wished to go on fighting, and a treaty was eventually concluded at the Congress of Paris. Turkey lost the Danubian provinces, but the integrity of her empire was guaranteed, while she promised reforms of administration which were never carried into effect. The navigation of the Danube was declared free, and the Black Sea

**Consequences
of the
Crimean War** neutral. Cavour had been clever enough to join the alliance, although Sardinia had no interest, direct or indirect, in the questions in dispute. This gave him a right to take part in the congress, and the liberation of Italy entered for the first time into the domain of practical politics. The war undoubtedly raised the prestige of the French Emperor, and gave him a commanding position in European affairs. It called Roumania into existence, and it recognised the claims of nationality in Italy. It was another blow to the principles of the Congress of Vienna, and it weakened the influence of Austria.

It will be seen from this narrative that the Crimean War led directly to the Italian War of 1859. By adroit diplomacy Austria was induced to invade Sardinian territory, and the armies of France crossed the Alps to defend her. The two allied armies were able to concentrate at Alessandria before they could be attacked in detail. The Battle of Magenta, having been lost in the morning, was won in the afternoon, MacMahon playing the part of Desaix at Marengo.

The Austrians evacuated Lombardy and retired into the Quadrilateral to defend Venetia. After a hard struggle the Austrians were again defeated at Solferino, but the bloodshed had so unnerved the emperor, and the quarrels between his marshals had so disgusted him, that he broke his promise of setting Italy free to the Adriatic, and made a peace which secured only Lombardy to Sardinia. He

**The Damaged
Prestige of
Louis Napoleon** received in exchange Savoy and Nice, but this second war was as fatal to his prestige as the first had been favourable.

Italy alone profited by the result. Parma, Modena, and Tuscany drove out their dukes; Romagna set herself free from the Pope; provisional governments were established in these provinces, ready for incorporation with the kingdom of the House of Savoy. Cavour, who had resigned after the Peace of Villafranca,

again became Prime Minister. The spell of Austrian domination was broken, and the establishment of an Italian kingdom, so long the dream of poets and patriots, became only a question of time.

The scene of our drama shifts to another quarter. What Cavour had done for Italy Bismarck was to do for Germany. The

Metternich's rivalry between Austria and
Fatal Prussia for the leading position
Blunder in Germany, and for the inheritance of the Holy Roman Empire had been active ever since the Congress of Vienna. The policy of Napoleon would have annihilated Prussia and strengthened Austria, but Metternich committed the fatal blunder of joining the coalition of which the profits were to come to his rival instead of himself.

There was a time when Hanover might have disputed with Prussia the first place in a Teutonic Empire, but it was impossible that such a position could be held by a King of England, and the sovereignty of the British Isles was regarded as more valuable than the chances of a Continental crown. The share which Prussia had taken in the Waterloo campaign rendered her reward certain, and the world was disposed to favour Protestant progress at that time.

Still, it is doubtful if Prussia would have gained the position which was the object of her desires unless Bismarck had been in her service, who, with a mixture of statesmanship and craft, of courage and audacity, half untied and half cut the Gordian knot of the situation. The Danish War of 1864 would probably never have taken place unless Bismarck had conveyed to the Danes the false assurance, based probably upon an intercepted dispatch, that she was certain to receive the support of Britain. The defeat of Denmark was speedy and inevitable, and the arrangements made by the Peace of Vienna ceded the duchies of Schleswig

Cessions of and Holstein to Austria and
the Peace Prussia under conditions which
of Vienna made a future quarrel inevitable. The Schleswig-Holstein difficulty rose in great measure from the fact that whereas Holstein was almost entirely German—and, indeed, claimed to be a part of the old German Empire—Schleswig was more than half Danish, and yet the two duchies were united by a permanent bond which national feeling declared was never to be broken. "Schleswig-Holstein sea

surrounded" was the text of their patriotic hymn. The arrangements for the joint occupation of the provinces by the two conflicting rivals provided that the German province should be occupied by Austria; the semi-Danish by Prussia. This made a quarrel certain. The Prussian governor of Schleswig persecuted the partisans of independence; the Austrian governor of Holstein encouraged them. The rupture was delayed for a time by the Convention of Gastein, but it came at last.

In order to attack Austria with success it was necessary that Prussia should have Italy on her side. But Italy could not act without the consent of France, and this implied the approval of the Emperor Napoleon. At the interview of Biarritz, in October, 1865, Napoleon agreed to support Prussia against Austria, and declared himself in favour of the unity of Italy, if some compensation were given to his own country by an increase of territory. He desired to tear up the settlement of Vienna, so hostile to Napoleonic ideals. Bismarck adroitly encouraged these aspirations, but took care not to commit himself. It was

Italian found difficult to overcome the
Distrust of distrust which the Italians felt
Bismarck for Bismarck. They hoped to obtain Venetia without a war, possibly by ceding the newly-created Roumania to Austria. Even King William was averse from force, and Bismarck stood alone, supported by his clear insight and his iron will. At last, in April, 1866, an offensive alliance with Italy was concluded for three months. Italy was to support Prussia in obtaining the hegemony of Germany, and was to receive Venetia in return. She asked for Trieste, but it was refused to her. Napoleon promised to remain neutral.

In June, Prussia declared the federative tie which bound her to Austria dissolved. But she found herself alone. Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Saxony, and Hanover, together with Hesse-Nassau, and Baden, supported Austria. Prussia had to rely upon her well-drilled army and her admirable arrangements for mobilisation. Napoleon hoped that between combatants so equally matched the war would be of some duration, and that, when both were exhausted, he could come forward as a mediator, and make his own terms. But these hopes were shattered by the rapidity of the Prussian movements. Before the end of June the army of Hanover had

capitulated, Saxony was occupied, Bohemia invaded, and on July 3rd the Battle of Königgrätz, won largely by the genius of the Crown Prince Frederic, ended the struggle, and the way lay open to Vienna.

At the same time the Italians were defeated at Custozza by a force inferior in numbers, but this did not prevent the Austrians having to surrender Venetia to Napoleon, who gave it to the Italians. The southern states of Germany were incapable of effective action. They were beaten in detail; Frankfurt was occupied, Austria was compelled to abandon her allies, who had no alternative but to make peace; Prussia became the undisputed head of the German confederation. Europe was dazed and bewildered by the rapidity and completeness of her success.

Napoleon found himself deceived, and every step which he took to recover his position led to new disasters. His attempt to gain possession of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg proved a failure. He looked about in vain for allies. A triple alliance was proposed with Austria and Italy, but Austria was exhausted and dreaded

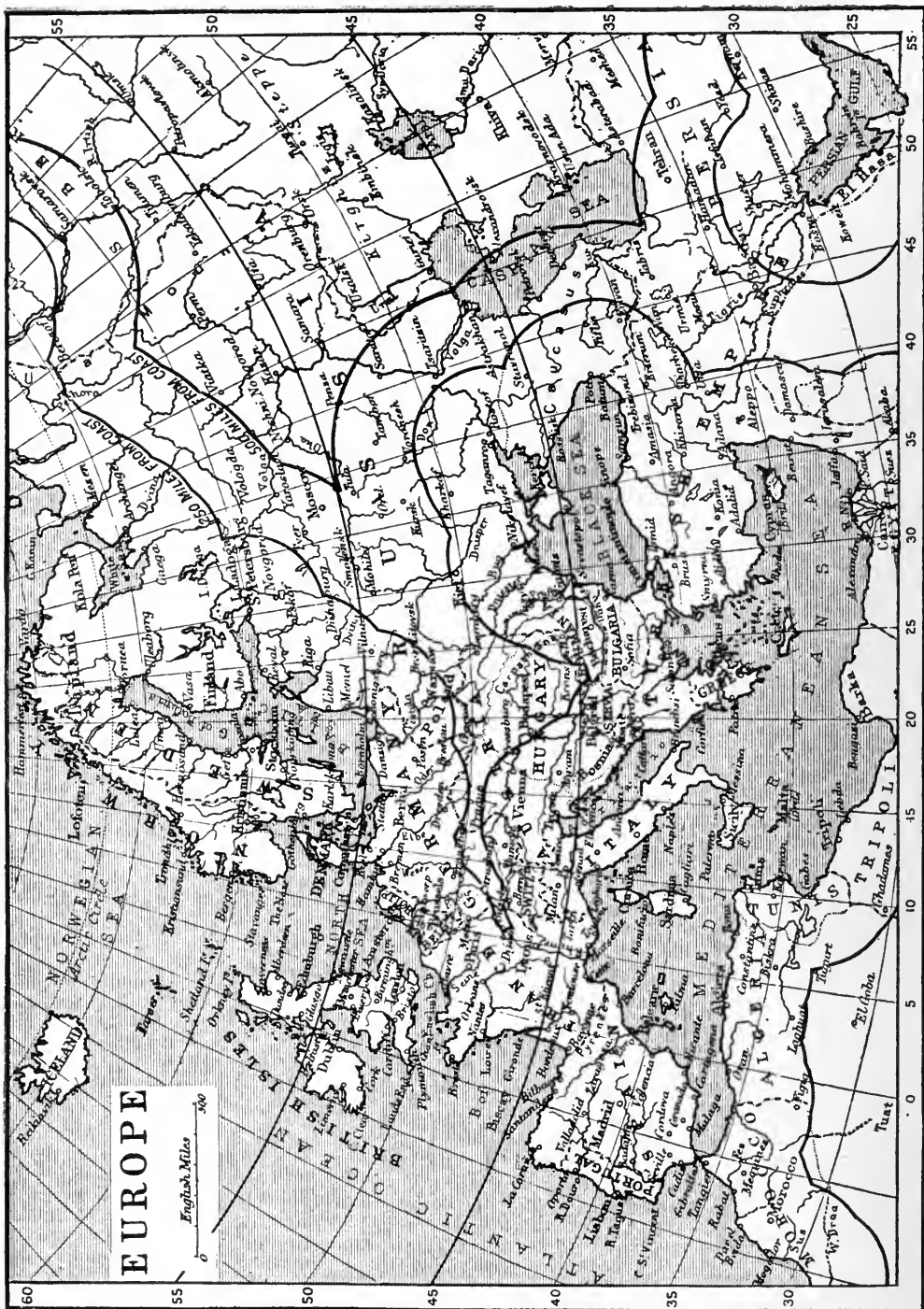
**The
Greatest
War of the
Nineteenth
Century**

another war, while Italy demanded the withdrawal of the French from Rome. Nothing could be obtained beyond general declarations of sympathy and friendship. A proposition made in the beginning of 1870 for a mutual disarmament came to nothing. At last, at a moment when peace seemed to be assured, war broke out with the suddenness of an earthquake. The clumsiness of a French Minister who, not satisfied with a material victory, demanded a humiliating declaration from the Prussian king, the genius of Bismarck, who seized an unequalled opportunity for precipitating a conflict which he regarded as inevitable, so as to have the nation and the sovereign on his side, caused the greatest war of the nineteenth century, by the results of which Europe was dominated until 1914.

War was declared on July 19th, and the emperor left for the front. But he had no illusion as to the result. The empress who, stung to the heart by the taunts of Germany, had stimulated the conflict, was unable to inspire him with hope. He left St. Cloud, accompanied by his son, as a victim led to the slaughter, and the final catastrophe was not long delayed. The war of 1870 was more than a local conflict. It was reckoned at the time among the vital struggles which have convulsed Europe since the fall of the Roman Empire; a scene, but as we know now only a scene, in the secular rivalry between the Roman and the Teuton.

It was said at the time that Sedan avenged Tagliacozzo, that the French emperor expiated on that field the murder of the Hohenstauffen Conradin by the brother of St. Louis. Regarded from a more prosaic point of view, it upset the politics of Europe. It created a German Empire, with Prussia at its head, and gave that country a preponderance in Europe. It achieved the unity of Italy, and destroyed the temporal power of the Pope. It opened the question of the East by putting an end to the neutrality of the Black Sea. It established in France a republican government which seems to be durable, and it transferred that neutral territory between Neustria and Austrasia—which appears to have come into existence from the accident of Louis the Pious having three sons instead of two—from the French to the German side of his dominions. Whether this arrangement will be permanent or not, none can say. It produced by force a settlement of Europe very different to those which were established at Münster, at Utrecht, or at Vienna, and until 1914 we lived under the conditions which it created.

Forty-four years elapsed after the war of 1870, almost as long a period as intervened between the Battle of Waterloo and the Crimean war, before the great European War.



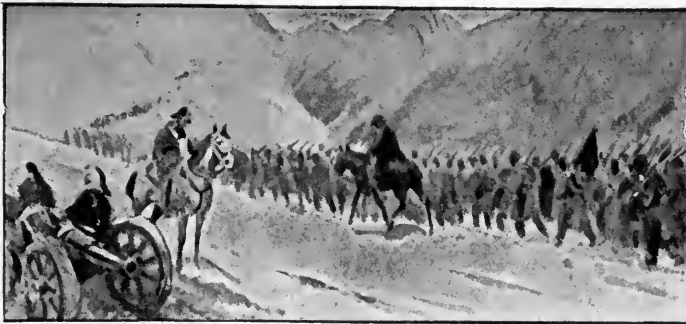
MAP TO ILLUSTRATE THE SIXTH DIVISION OF EUROPE

The above map shows Europe as it was in the year 1900, with the boundaries of the various states as we know them to-day. The period thus illustrated is not the whole of the time covered by "The Re-making of Europe," but rather the eventual settlement of the Continent, as a result of the movements which were initiated on the downfall of Napoleon, and involved such international conflicts as the Crimean War, the Italian revolt against Austria, the Franco-Prussian, the Russo-Turkish, and the Greco-Turkish wars. The areas within 250 and 500 miles of the coast are also indicated.



REORGANISING THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF EUROPE: THE EPOCH-MAKING CONGRESS OF VIENNA

After the first fall of Napoleon, a congress of the European Powers assembled at Vienna, on November 1st, 1814, with the view of repairing the shattered fabric and reorganising the political system of Europe, which had been disturbed by the conquests of the French. The restoration of Napoleon put a sudden end to the deliberations of the congress, but its agreements were signed by the eight Powers interested on June 9th, 1815. The Powers represented were Austria, Prussia, Russia, Britain, France, Sweden, Spain, and Portugal.



EUROPE AFTER WATERLOO

THE GREAT POWERS IN CONCORD AND THE FAILURE OF THE HOLY ALLIANCE

AT the Congress of Vienna nations were but rarely, and national rights and desires never, a subject of discussion. The Cabinets—that is to say, the princes of Europe, their officials, and in particular the diplomatists—arranged the mutual relations of states almost exclusively with reference to dynastic interests and differences in national power; though in the case of France it was necessary to consult national susceptibilities, and in England the economic demands of the upper classes of society came into question. The term “state” implied a ruling court, a government, and nothing beyond, not only to Prince Metternich, but also to the majority of his coadjutors. These institutions were the sole surviving representatives of that feudal organism which for more than a thousand years had undertaken the larger proportion of the task of the state.

Principalities of this kind were not founded upon the institutions of civic life, which had developed under feudal society; the rule of the aristocracy had fallen into decay, had grown antiquated or had been abolished, and as the monarchy increased in power at the expense of the classes, it had invariably employed instruments of government more

European Governments in Evolution

scientifically constructed in detail. Bureaucracies had arisen. Governments had intervened between princes and peoples and had become ends in themselves. The theory of “subordination,” which in feudal society had denoted an economic relation, now assumed a political character; it was regarded as a necessary extension of the idea of sovereignty, which had become the sole and ultimate basis of

public authority in the course of the seventeenth century. The impulse of the sovereigns to extend the range of their authority, and a conception more or less definite of the connection between this authority and certain ideal objects, resulted in the theory that the guidance of

The French Idea of “The Rights of Man”

society was a governmental task, and consequently laid an ever-increasing number of claims and demands upon the government for the time being. To this conception of the rights of princes and their delegates, as a result of historic growth, the French Revolution had opposed the idea of “the rights of man.” To the National Assembly no task seemed more necessary or more imperative than the extirpation of erroneous theories from the general thought of the time; such theories had arisen from the exaggerated importance attached to monarchical power, had secured recognition, and had come into operation, simply because they had never been confuted.

Henceforward sovereignty was to be based upon the consent of the community as a whole. Thus supported by the sovereign will of the people, France had entered upon war with the monarchical states of Europe where the exercise of supreme power had been the ruler's exclusive right. It was as an exponent of the sovereign rights of the people that the empire of Napoleon Bonaparte had attempted to make France the paramount Power in Europe; it was in virtue of the power entrusted to him by six millions of Frenchmen that the Emperor had led his armies far beyond the limits of French domination and had imposed his personal

will upon the princes of Europe by means of a magnificent series of battles. Within a period of scarce two decades the balance of power had swung to the opposite extreme, and had passed back from the sovereign people to the absolute despot. Monarchs and nations shared alike in the task of overpowering this tyranny which

The Growing Power of the People had aimed at abolishing entirely the rights of nations as such; but from victory the princes alone derived advantage. With brazen effrontery literary time-servers scribbled their histories to prove that only the sovereigns and their armies deserved the credit of the overthrow of Napoleon, and that the private citizen had done no more service than does the ordinary fireman at a conflagration.

However, their view of the situation was generally discredited. It could by no means be forgotten that the Prussians had forced their king to undertake a war of liberation, and the services rendered by Spain and the Tyrol could not be wholly explained by reference to the commands of legally constituted authorities; in either case it was the people who by force of arms had cast off the yoke imposed upon them. The will of the people had made itself plainly understood; it had declined the alien rule even though that rule had appeared under the names of freedom, reform, and prosperity.

Once again the princely families recovered their power and position; they had not entertained the least idea of dividing among themselves the spoils accumulated by the Revolution which had been taken from their kin, their relations, and their allies; at the same time they were by no means inclined to divide the task of administering the newly created states with the peoples inhabiting them. They tacitly united in support of the conviction, which became an article of faith with all legitimists, that their position

The Subject's Duty to the State and prosperity were no less important than the maintenance of social order and morality. It was explained as the duty of the subject to recognise both the former and the latter; and by increasing his personal prosperity, the subject was to provide a sure basis on which to increase the powers of the government. However, "the limited intelligence of the subjects" strove against this interpretation of the facts; they could not forget the enormous

sacrifices which had been made to help those states threatened by the continuance of the Napoleonic supremacy, and in many cases already doomed to destruction. The value of their services aroused them to question also the value of what they had attained, and by this process of thought they arrived at critical theories and practical demands which "legitimist" teaching was unable to confute.

The supreme right of princes to wage war and conclude peace rested upon satisfactory historic foundation, and was therefore indisputable. In the age of feudal society it was the lords, the free landowners, who had waged war, and not the governments; and their authority had been limited only by their means. Neither the lives nor the property of the commonalty had ever come in question except in cases where their sympathies had been enlisted by devastation, fire, and slaughter; to actual co-operation in the undertakings of the overlord the man of the people had never been bound, and such help had been voluntarily given. After the conception of sovereignty had been modified by the

Evil Results of the Revolution idea of "government" the situation had been changed. Military powers and duties were now dissociated from the feudal classes; the sinews of war were no longer demanded from the warriors themselves, and the provision of means became a government duty. However, no new rights had arisen to correspond with these numerous additional duties. The vassal, now far more heavily burdened, demanded his rights; the people followed his example. That which was to be supported by the general efforts of the whole of the members of any body politic must surely be a matter of general concern. The state also has duties incumbent upon it, the definition of which is the task of those who support the state. Such demands were fully and absolutely justified; a certain transformation of the state and of society was necessary and inevitable.

Few princes, and still fewer officials, recognised the overwhelming force of these considerations; in the majority of cases expression of the popular will was another name for revolution. The Revolution had caused the overthrow of social order. It had engendered the very worst of human passions, destroyed professions and property, sacrificed a countless number of human lives, and disseminated infidelity

THE GREAT POWERS IN CONCORD

and immorality; revolution therefore must be checked, must be nipped in the bud in the name of God, of civilisation and social order. This opinion was founded upon the fundamental mistake of refusing to recognise the fact that all rights implied corresponding duties; while disregarding every historical tradition and assenting to the dissolution of every feudal idea, it did nothing to introduce new relations or to secure a compromise between the prince and his subjects.

This point of view was known as Conservatism; its supporters availed themselves of the unnatural limitations laid upon the subject unduly to aggrandise and systematically to increase the privileges of the ruling class; and this process received the name of statecraft. This conservative statecraft, of which Prince Metternich was proud to call himself a master, proceeded from a dull and spiritless conception of the progress of the world; founded upon a complete lack of historical knowledge, it equally failed to recognise any distinct purpose as obligatory on the state. Of political science Metternich had none; he made good the deficiency by the general admiration which his intellect and character inspired. His diaries and many of his letters are devoted to the glorification of these merits. A knowledge of his intellectual position and of that of the majority of his diplomatic colleagues is an indispensable preliminary to the understanding of the aberrations into which the statesmen of the so-called Restoration period fell.

The Restored Government of the Bourbons

The restored Government of the Bourbons in France was indeed provided with a constitution. It was thus that Tsar Alexander I. had attempted to display his liberal tendencies and his good-will to the French nation; but he

had been forced to leave the Germans and Italians to their fate, and had satisfied his conscience by the insertion of a few expressions in the final protocol of the Vienna Congress. Subsequently he suffered a cruel disappointment in the case

The Tsar's Lost Faith in Liberalism of Poland, which proceeded to misuse the freedom that had been granted to it by the concoction of conspiracies and by continual manifestations of dissatisfaction. He began to lose faith in Liberalism as such, and became a convert to Metternich's policy of forcibly suppressing every popular movement for freedom. Untouched



PRINCE METTERNICH

After the fall of Napoleon, in 1815, Metternich stepped into the place vacated by the emperor as the first personality in Europe, and, as the avowed champion of Conservatism, opposed forces that were destined to ultimate triumph. He was overthrown in 1848, and died in 1859.

by the enthusiasm of the German youth, which for the most part had displayed after the war of liberation the noblest sense of patriotism, and could provide for the work of restoration and reorganisation coadjutors highly desirable to a far-seeing administration; incapable of understanding the Italian yearnings for union and activity, and for the foundation of a federal state free from foreign influences, the great Powers of Austria, Russia, and Prussia employed threats and force in every form, with the object of imposing constitutions of their own choice upon the people, whose desires for reform they wholly disregarded. Austria had for the moment obtained a magnificent position in the German Confederacy. This, however, the so-called statecraft of Conservatism declined to use for the consolidation of the federation, which Austria at the same time desired to exploit for her own advantage. Conservatism never, indeed, gave the smallest attention to the task of uniting the interests of the allied states by institutions making for prosperity, or by the union of their several artistic and scientific powers; it seemed more necessary and more salutary to limit as far as possible the influence of the

popular representatives in the administration of the allied states, and to prevent the introduction of constitutions which gave the people rights of real and tangible value. The conservative statesmen did not observe that even governments could derive but very scanty advantage by ensuring the persistence of conditions

**Austria's
Surrender
to Russia**

which were the product of no national or economic course of development; they did not see that the power of the governments was decreasing, and that they possessed neither the money nor the troops upon which such a system must ultimately depend. In the East, under the unfortunate guidance of Metternich, Austria adopted a position in no way corresponding to her past or to her religious aspirations; in order not to alienate the help of Russia, which might be useful in the suppression of revolutions, Austria surrendered that right, which she had acquired by the military sacrifices of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, of appearing as the liberator of the Balkan Christians from Turkish oppression.

Political history provides many examples of constitutions purely despotic, of the entirely selfish aspirations of persons, families, or parties, of the exploitation of majorities by minorities, of constitutions which profess to give freedom to all, while securing the dominance of individuals; but illusions of this kind are invariably connected with some definite object, and in every case we can observe aspirations for tangible progress or increase of power.

But the Conservatism of the Restoration period rests upon a false conception of the working of political forces, and is therefore from its very outset a policy of mere bungling, as little able to create as to maintain. Of construction, of purification, or of improvement, it was utterly incapable; for in fact the object of the

**Defects of
Restoration
Period**

conservative statesmen and their highest ambition were nothing more than to capture the admiration of that court society in which they figured in their uniforms and decorations. For many princely families it was a grave misfortune that they failed to recognise the untenable character of those "principles" by which their Ministers, their masters of ceremonies, and their officers professed themselves able to uphold their rights and their possessions; many, indeed, have disappeared for ever

from the scene of history, while others have passed through times of bitter trial and deadly struggle.

From their armed alliance against Napoleon a certain feeling of federative union seized the European Cabinets. The astounding events, the fall of the Cæsar from his dizzy height, had, after all the free thinking of the Revolutionary period and the superficial enlightenment, once more strengthened the belief in the dispositions of a Higher Power. The effect on the tsar, Alexander I., was the most peculiar.

His temperament, naturally idealistic, moved him to an extreme religiosity, intensified and marked by strong mystical leanings, to many minds suggestive of the presence of something like mania. He was not without friends who encouraged him to regard himself as a special "instrument" with a religious mission, who was to raise Europe to a new level of Christianity through his power as a ruler; in contradistinction to Napoleon, whom he probably, in common with a good many other mystics, had come to regard as Antichrist. Alexander did not pose

**The Tsar
Inaugurates the
Holy Alliance**

as the champion of a Church, but he wanted to assume the rôle of the ideal Christian monarch, and to lead his brother monarchs along the same path. Unfortunately, the conception of the divine mission developed the idea of divine monarchical authority; so that from his early notions of Liberty he passed to the stage of identifying the cause of Absolutism and of Legitimism with the cause of Christianity. Thus, he was moved to materialise his ideals in the form of a Christian union of nations, a Holy Alliance. This scheme he laid before his brother rulers.

Frederic William III., also a pietist in his way, immediately agreed; so did Francis I., after some deliberation. On September 26th the three monarchs concluded this alliance in Paris. They wished to take as the standard of their conduct, both in the internal affairs of their countries and in external matters, merely the precepts of Christianity, justice, love, and peaceableness; regarding each other as brothers, they wished to help each other on every occasion. As plenipotentiaries of Divine Providence they promised to be the fathers of their subjects and to lead them in the spirit of brotherhood, in order to protect religion, peace, and justice; and they recommended their

THE GREAT POWERS IN CONCORD

own peoples to exercise themselves daily in Christian principles and the fulfilment of Christian duties. Every Power which would acknowledge such principles might join the alliance. Almost all the states of Europe gradually joined the Holy Alliance. The sultan was obviously excluded, while the Pope declared that he had always possessed the Christian verity and required no new exposition of it. Great Britain refused, from regard to her constitution and to parliament; Europe was spared the presentation of the Prince Regent as a devotee of the higher morality.

There was no international basis to the Holy Alliance, which only had the value of a personal declaration, with merely a moral obligation for the monarchs connected with it. In its beginnings the Alliance aimed at an ideal; and its founders were sincere in their purpose. But it soon became, and rightly, the object of universal detestation; for Metternich was master of Alexander, and from the promise of the potentates to help each other on every opportunity he deduced the right to interfere in the internal affairs of foreign

states. The Congresses of Carlsbad, Troppau, Laibach and Verona were the offshoots of this unholy conception.

In addition to the Holy Alliance, the Treaty of Chaumont was renewed. On November 20th, 1815, at Paris, Russia, Great Britain, Austria, and Prussia pledged themselves that their sovereigns would meet periodically to deliberate on the peace, security, and welfare of Europe, or would send their responsible Ministers for the purpose. France, which had so long disturbed the peace of Europe, was to be placed under international police supervision, even after the army of occupation had left its soil.

The first of these congresses met at Aix-la-Chapelle, and showed Europe that an aristocratic league of Powers stood at its head. Alexander, Francis, and Frederic William appeared in person, accompanied by numerous diplomatists, among them Metternich, Gentz, Hardenberg, Humboldt, Nesselrode, Pozzo di Borgo, and Capodistrias; France was represented by Richelieu; Great Britain by Wellington, Castlereagh, and Canning. The chief question to be decided by the conferences, which began on September 30th, 1818, was the evacuation of France. The Duke of Richelieu obtained on October

21st an agreement according to which France should be evacuated by the allied troops before November 30th, 1818, instead of the year 1820, and the costs of the war and the indemnities still to be paid were considerably lowered. On the other hand, he did not succeed in forming a quintuple alliance by securing the admission of France as a member

into the quadruple alliance. It is true that France was received on November 15th into the federation of the Great Powers, and that it joined the Holy Alliance; but the reciprocal guarantee of the five Great Powers, advocated by Alexander and Ancillon, did not come to pass; the four Powers renewed in secret on November 15th the Alliance of Chaumont, and agreed upon military measures to be adopted in the event of a war with France. We have already spoken of the settlement of the dispute between Bavaria and Baden; the congress occupied itself also with other European questions without achieving any successes, and increased the severity of the treatment of the exile on St. Helena.

Alexander I. of Russia, who was now making overtures to Liberalism throughout Europe and supported the constitutional principle in Poland, soon returned from that path; he grew colder in his friendship for the unsatisfied Poles, and became a loyal pupil of Metternich, led by the rough "sergeant of Gatschina," Count Araktcheieff. Although art, literature, and science flourished in his reign, although the fame of Alexander Pushkin was at its zenith, the fear of revolution, assassination, and disbelief cast a lengthening shadow over the policy of Alexander, and he governed in a mystic reactionary spirit.

When it became apparent that Alexander had broken with the Liberal party, Metternich and Castlereagh rubbed their hands in joy at his conversion, and the pamphlet of the prophet of disaster, Alexander Stourdza, "On the Present Condition of Germany," which was directed against the freedom of study in the universities and the freedom of the Press, when put before the tsar at Aix-la-Chapelle, intensified his suspicious aversion to all that savoured of liberty. The conference of ambassadors at Paris was declared closed. The greatest concord seemed to reign between the five Great Powers when the congress ended on November 21st.

League of European Powers

France in the Holy Alliance

The Tsar's Break with the Liberals



PORTRAITS OF QUEEN VICTORIA IN THE EARLIER YEARS OF HER LIFE AND REIGN

THE
RE-MAKING
OF
EUROPE



EUROPE
AFTER
WATERLOO
II

THE BRITISH ERA OF REFORM THE LAST OF THE GEORGES, WILLIAM IV., AND BEGINNING OF THE VICTORIAN AGE

IN the nature of things, the British nation at all times stands to a certain extent outside the general course of Continental politics. The political organism developed far in advance of other nations; the English polity, assimilating Scotland and Ireland, had achieved long before the French Revolution a liberty elsewhere unknown. Political power had become the property not indeed of people at large, but, in effect, of the whole landowning class, a body altogether different from the rigid aristocratic castes of Europe; and absolutism or the prospect of absolutism had long vanished. In the latter half of the eighteenth century there had been indications of a democratic movement, to which the beginnings of the French Revolution gave a considerable impulse. But its later excesses gave a violent check to that impulse throughout the classes which held political power, causing a strong anti-democratic reaction; although a precisely contrary effect was produced in the classes from whom political power was withheld.

That is to say, Europe in general and the United Kingdom, like Europe, showed the common phenomenon of a proletariat roused by the French Revolution to a desire for political power, and rulers who were convinced that the granting of such power would entail anarchy and ruin; while material force was on the side of the rulers. But the distinction between the composition of the ruling class in the United Kingdom and in the Continental states remained as it was before the Revolution; though the existing Ministry in Great Britain

**Britain's
Reactionary
Ministry**

was reactionary to an exceptional degree, the sympathies of the ruling class were with constitutionalism, not with absolutism. Moreover, Great Britain was free from any idea that she had a divine mission to impose her own political theories on her neighbours, and had a conviction, on the whole wholesome,

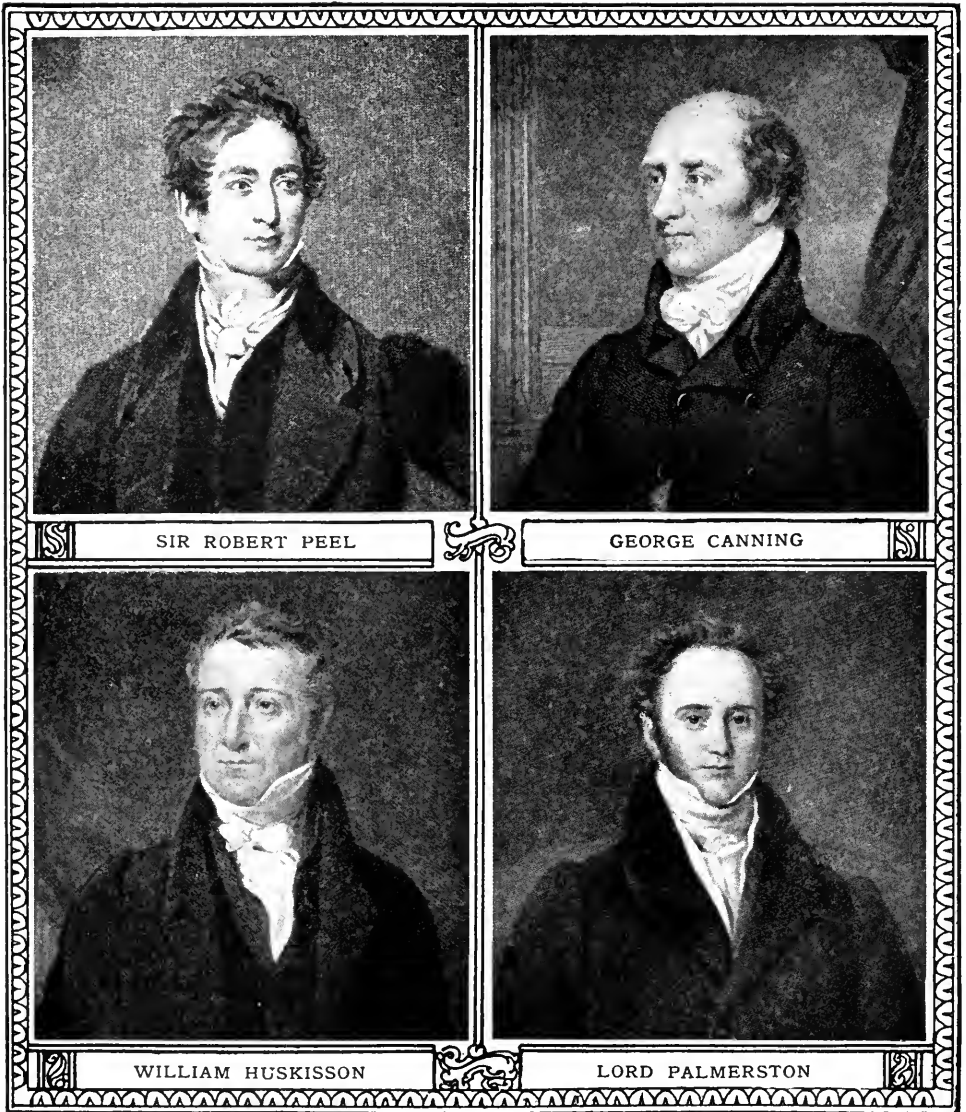
that her intervention in foreign affairs should be restricted as far as possible to the exercise of a restraining influence in the interests of peace.

Thus we find Great Britain in the nineteenth century for the most part pursuing her own way; taking her own course of

**Great Britain
a Pattern to
Other Lands** political development, influenced only in a very secondary degree by affairs on the Continent, on which

she in turn exercised usually only a very minor influence, save as providing a pattern for reformers in other lands. Her part in world-history, as distinct from domestic history, was played outside of Europe altogether, in the development of the extra-European Empire, as already related in the histories of India, Africa, and Australasia, and to be related in the American volume. In European history, interest centred not in Great Britain, but in the readjustments which issued in the reorganisation of Germany as a great and homogeneous Central European power, in the German Empire as it had developed; in the reorganisation of France as the Republic which we know to-day; and in the liberation and unification of Italy, and of minor nationalities.

Great Britain had played her full part—a conspicuously unselfish one—in the Congress of Vienna and the settlements of Europe after the final overthrow of Napoleon. In the period immediately ensuing she made her influence felt, not by her intervention, but by her refusal of pressing invitations to intervene, and presently by her refusals to countenance the unwarranted intervention of other Powers. Thus the British representatives declined to join the Holy Alliance of the great Powers which was formed at Vienna in 1815 for the repression of liberal principles, and the foreign policy of the Tories was marked by a strong sympathy for the



DISTINGUISHED STATESMEN OF THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

The four statesmen whose portraits are given above—Peel, Canning, Huskisson and Palmerston—exercised a powerful influence upon the Cabinet which they joined in 1822, moderating the foreign policy of the Tories and informing it with a strong sympathy for the principles of liberty. Three of them—Peel, Palmerston, and Canning—became Prime Ministers.

principles of liberty and nationality. But this was due to the influence of the Moderates—Peel, Canning, Huskisson, and Palmerston—who joined the Cabinet in 1822. The extreme Tories sympathised with the aims of the Holy Alliance, and had resolved under no circumstances to impede its efforts. The refusal of Great Britain to assist in bolstering up the Spanish dynasty; her consent to recognise the independence of the

Spanish colonies and Brazil; her defence of Portugal against the forces of Dom Miguel, the absolutist pretender, and Ferdinand VII. of Spain; her intervention to save Greece from the Sultan and Mehemet Ali—all these generous actions were the work of Canning, and would never have been sanctioned by Castlereagh, his predecessor at the Foreign Office. In domestic policy the spirit of reaction reigned supreme. During the

THE BRITISH ERA OF REFORM

years 1815 to 1822 class interests and the morbid fear of revolution were responsible for a series of repressive enactments which were so unreasonably severe that they increased the popular sympathy for the principles against which they were directed. After 1822 came the period in which the extreme Tories gave way tardily and with the worst of graces.

The peace was inaugurated with a new corn law, framed in the interests of the landowning classes, from which both Houses of Parliament were chiefly recruited. This prohibited the importation of foreign corn until the price of 80s. a quarter should be reached; that is, until the poorer classes should be reduced to a state of famine. The statutory price before this date had been merely 48s. The change was naturally followed in many places by bread riots and incendiarism. The Government replied by calling out the soldiery and framing coercive measures. In 1819 a mass meeting which had assembled in St. Peter's Field, at Manchester, was broken up with considerable bloodshed; Parliament, which had already

suspended the Habeas Corpus, proceeded to pass the Six Acts giving the executive exceptional powers to break up seditious meetings and to punish the authors of seditious libels. The powers thus obtained were stretched to their utmost limits, on the pretext that such hare-brained schemes as the Cato Street Conspiracy, 1820, constituted a serious menace to public order.

It was not until 1823 that the Cabinet consented to attack the root of social disorders by making some reductions in the tariff. It began by concessions to the mercantile classes, whose prospects were seriously affected by the heavy duties upon raw materials, and to the consumers of various manufactured commodities, such as linen, silk, and cotton stuffs, upon which prohibitive duties had been imposed in the interests of British industry. But in the all-important question of the corn laws, affecting the poor rather than the middle classes, the Tories would only concede a compromise, the sliding-scale duty of 1829. The demand of the chief commercial centres for the repeal of the Navigation Laws was met by an Act



MASS MEETING AT MANCHESTER: THE YEOMANRY CHARGING THE MOB IN 1819
Suffering hardship in consequence of the high price of bread, the people in many places resorted to violence. The Government's reply was to call out the soldiery and frame coercive measures. A mass meeting which had assembled in St. Peter's Field, at Manchester, in 1819, was broken up, as shown in the above picture, with considerable bloodshed.

providing that the ships of any foreign Power should be allowed free access to British ports if that Power would grant a reciprocity; the Combination Acts, framed to make trades unions illegal, were repealed; considerable amendments were introduced into the criminal law. But to several reforms of paramount necessity the Ministers showed themselves obstinately averse. They would not repeal the disabling laws which still remained in force against the Catholics, although three-fourths of the Irish nation were calling for this act of justice. They would do nothing to reform the House of Commons. They would not deprive the landowning classes of the profits which the corn duties afforded.

It was now that the nation discovered the use which could be made of two rights which it had long possessed. Freedom of speech on political matters was guaranteed by Fox's Libel Act of 1792, which left to the jury the full power of deciding what constituted legitimate criticism of the administration. Freedom of association and public meeting existed, independently of special enactments, under the protection of the common law. These weapons were used with extraordinary skill by O'Connell, the leader of the Irish Catholics. The Catholic Association, formed in 1823, learned from him the art of intimidating without illegality by means of monster meetings. Proclaimed as an illegal body in 1825, the association contrived to continue its existence in the

guise of a philanthropic society. At the Clare election in 1828 O'Connell, although a Catholic, and therefore disqualified, was returned by an overwhelming majority.



THE SCENE OF THE CATO STREET CONSPIRACY In Cato Street, London, shown in this picture, was conceived a plot to assassinate Castlereagh and other Ministers at a Cabinet dinner in 1820. The plot being discovered, the revolutionaries were captured, five of them being hanged and five transported for life.

a voluptuary, who had systematically sacrificed honour and decency to his pleasures and had broken his father's heart by his want of shame and filial piety, he now declared that nothing could induce him to accept a measure which that father had rejected. After long expostulations he broke this vow, as he had broken every other, and Catholic emancipation was finally recorded on the Statute Book.

George IV. died in 1830. He was succeeded by his brother, the Duke of Clarence, under the title of William IV., a more respectable character than "the first gentleman in Europe," but a politician of poor abilities, great tactlessness and greater obstinacy. In their resistance to the next popular agitation the Tories found him a valuable ally. The

triumph of the Irish Catholics was followed by a revival, in England, of the cry for parliamentary reform, and to this purpose the tactics of O'Connell were steadily applied by the Liberals



DANIEL O'CONNELL

The leader of the Irish Catholics, O'Connell was foremost in the agitation for the rights of his countrymen, and patriotically surrendered personal interests for the advancement of the national cause. He died in 1847.

THE BRITISH ERA OF REFORM

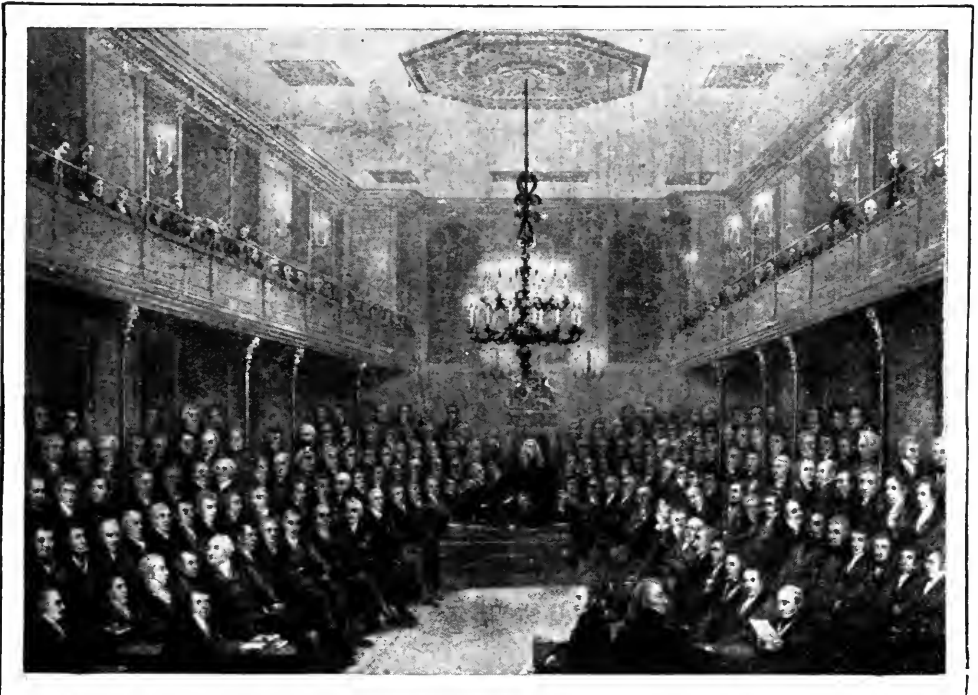
of the great manufacturing centres. The energy with which the Whigs pushed their attack is explained by their conviction that the defects of the representative system constituted the main obstacles to social, political, and fiscal reforms of the utmost weight and urgency. The House of Commons no longer expressed the opinions of the country. The most enlightened, industrious, and prosperous portion of the community were either unrepresented or ludicrously under-represented. Since the time of Charles II. no new constituencies had been created, and of the boroughs which



KING GEORGE IV.

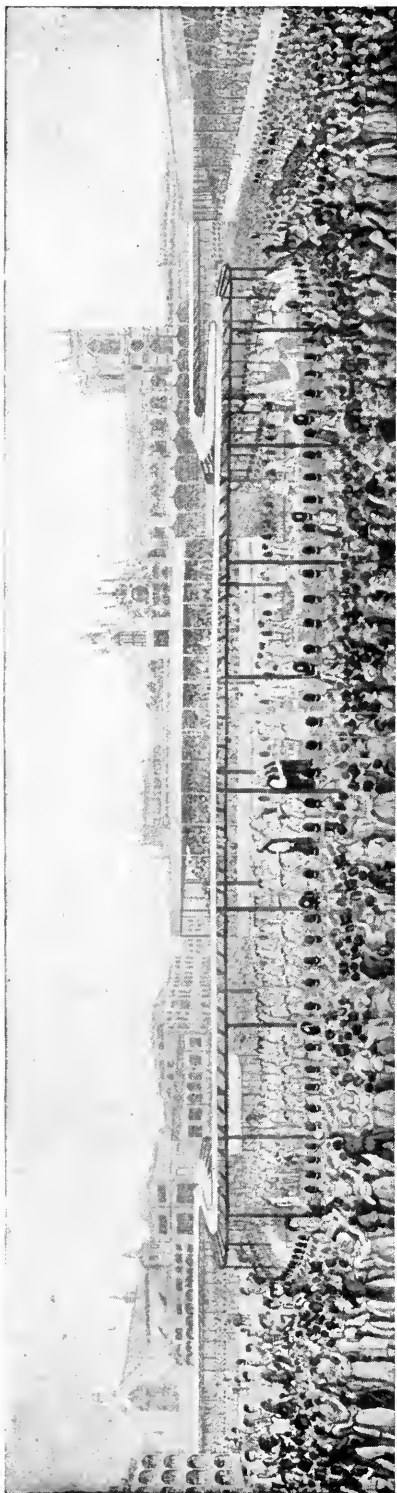
He became Prince Regent in 1810 owing to the mental derangement of his father, George III., and succeeded to the throne ten years later. Without any qualities that endeared him to his people, he possessed failings and vices that were conspicuously displayed, and there were few to regret his death, which occurred in 1830.

had received representation under the Tudors and the Stuarts, the greater part owed their privilege to the Crown's expectation that their elections could always be controlled. Many boroughs which formerly deserved to be represented had fallen, through the decay of their fortunes or through an excessive limitation of the franchise, under the control of the great territorial families. Close boroughs were so completely an article of commerce that the younger Pitt, when he proposed a measure of parliamentary reform, felt himself bound to offer the patrons a pecuniary



A SITTING OF THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS IN THE YEARS 1821 - 23

From the engraving by J. Scott. Photo by Walker



THE GORGEOUS AND IMPOSING CORONATION PROCESSION OF KING GEORGE IV. ON JULY 19TH, 1821

It has been said of George IV., who loved the pomp of royalty, that he could not feel himself "every inch a king" until "his head had been surmounted by the crown." The coronation ceremony was marked by great extravagance and magnificence. The procession, as shown in the picture, passed under a covered way from Westminster Hall to the Abbey.

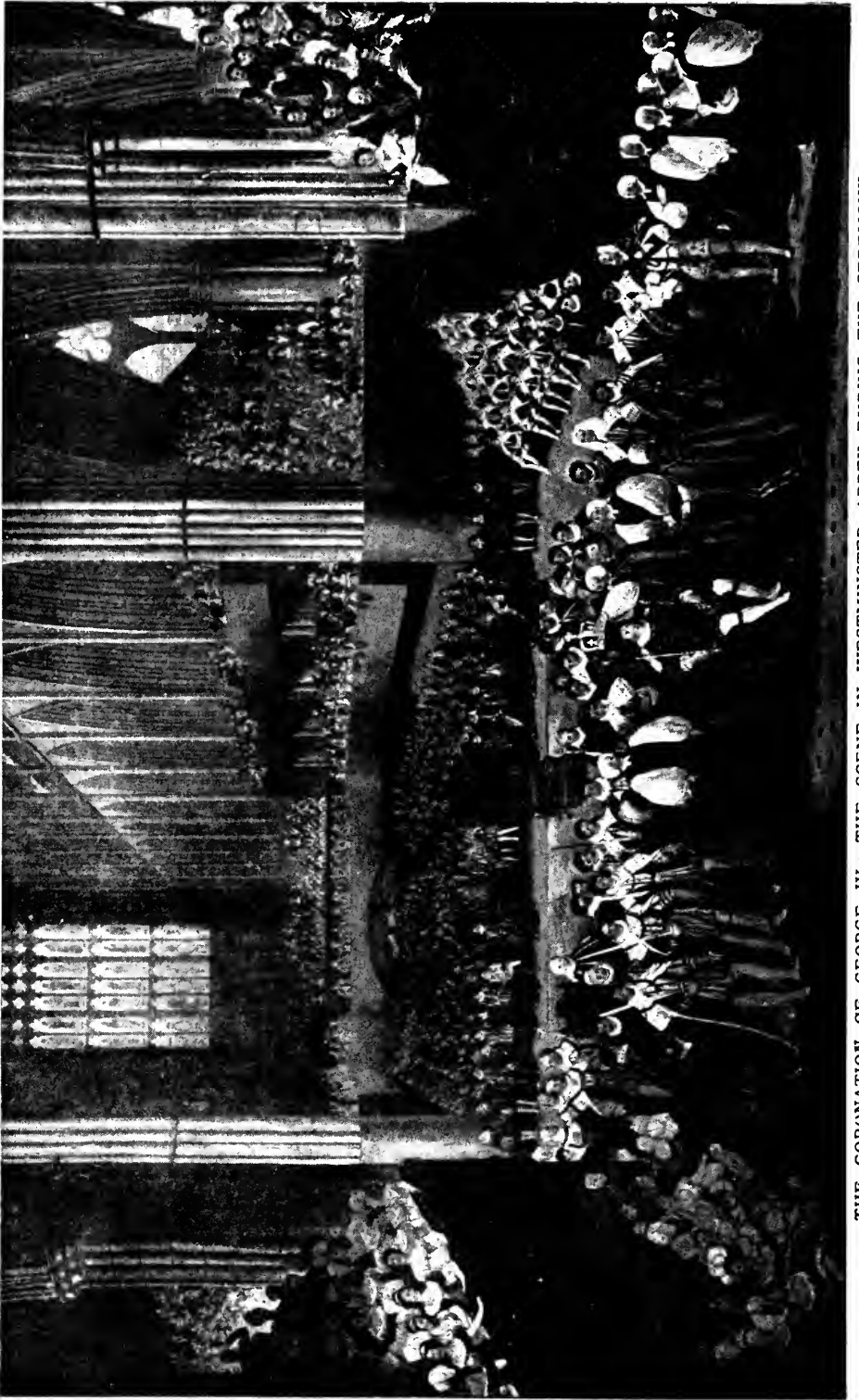
compensation. It was by means of "pocket" boroughs that the Whigs had held the first two Hanoverians in bondage, and that George III. had maintained his personal ascendancy for twenty years. In 1793 it was computed that 307 members of Parliament were returned by private patrons. Matters had improved in the last forty years; but still on the eve of the reform legislation 276 seats were private property. Three-fourths of these belonged to members of the Tory aristocracy. The state of the county representation was somewhat better. But the smallest shires returned as many members as the largest, with the solitary exception that Yorkshire, since 1821, returned four members in place of the usual two. The county franchise was limited, by a law of 1430, to freeholders, and the owners of large estates had established their right to plural or "faggot" votes.

The faults of this system, its logical absurdities, are glaringly manifest. With the votes of about half the House of Commons controlled by a few families, with great cities unrepresented, with small and large counties treated as of equal weight, with franchises varying in different localities, it might rather be said that there was no system at all. But it is a peculiarly British characteristic to regard anomalies as desirable in themselves, as it was characteristic of the theorists of the Revolution to discover the universal panacea in symmetrical uniformity.

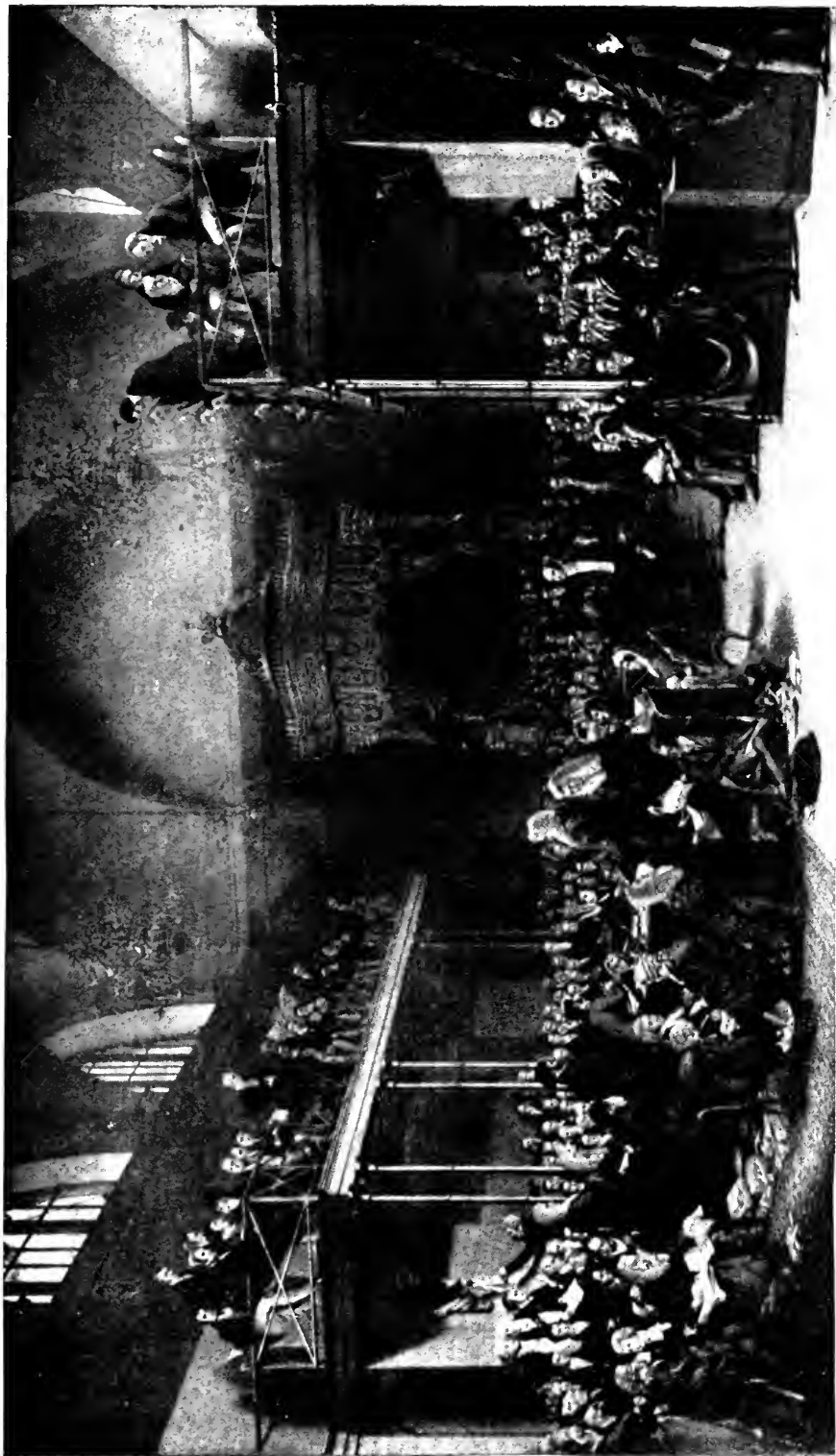
Entirely apart from personal interests, the large proportion of the ruling class had a firm conviction that the constitution was incapable of improvement, that it provided the best possible type of legislator and administrator. The unenfranchised masses saw in these Olympians a group who neither understood nor cared for anything but the interests of their own class; they acquired a rooted conviction that, when they themselves obtained political power, the millennium would arrive. But among the enfranchised, the minority, who had always refused to be terrified by the Reign of Terror, now grew into a majority who believed that political intelligence existed in other sections of the community, who might be enfranchised without danger, and that flagrant anomalies might be removed without undermining the constitution. When France once more overturned the Bourbon monarchy and established the citizen-king,



GEORGE IV., KING OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN HIS ROYAL ROBES
From the painting by Sir Thomas Lawrence, P.R.A.



THE CORONATION OF GEORGE IV.: THE SCENE IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY DURING THE CEREMONY



THE UNFORTUNATE QUEEN CAROLINE: HER TRIAL IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

When George IV. ascended the throne in 1820, an annuity of £50,000 was offered to Caroline, whom he had married in 1795, if she would renounce the title of queen and live abroad, allegations having been made against her character. She refused to accept this offer, and the Government instituted proceedings against her for divorce. Public feeling was largely on the side of the queen, and after the Divorce Bill had passed the House of Lords it was abandoned by the Ministry. Desiring to be crowned along with the king, Caroline presented herself at the entrance to Westminster Abbey on the day of her husband's coronation, but was refused admittance and cruelly turned away from the door.

From the painting by Sir George Hayter

Louis Philippe, on the throne with a constitution in which the political power of the bourgeoisie was the prominent feature, effecting the change without any excesses, the phantom of the ancient Reign of Terror dwindled, and the Reform party was materially strengthened.

The king and the Duke of Wellington refused at first to believe that any change was either desirable or necessary. But they were compelled in 1830 to admit that it was necessary; and Lord Grey was permitted to construct a reform Cabinet of Whigs and moderate Tories. Their Bills passed the House of Commons without difficulty, receiving the votes of many members whose seats were known to be doomed by its provisions. The House of Lords, encouraged by the king, endeavoured to obstruct the measure which they dared not openly oppose. But a new agitation, threatening the very existence of the Upper House, at once arose. The duke, with greater wisdom than his royal master, realised that further resistance was out of the question, and induced the Lords to give way in June, 1832.

The Reform Bill of 1832 fell far short of the democratic ideal which the English admirers of the French Revolution had kept in view. Jeremy Bentham, 1748-1832, the greatest of those writers and thinkers who prepared the minds of men for practical reform, was of opinion that the doctrine of natural equality ought to be the first principle of every constitution; but the followers of Lord Grey contented themselves with giving political power to the middle classes.

This work has since been supplemented by the legislation of 1867, 1884, and 1885; yet even at the present day the doctrine of manhood suffrage is unknown in English law. Still less were the first reformers inclined to map out the country in new electoral

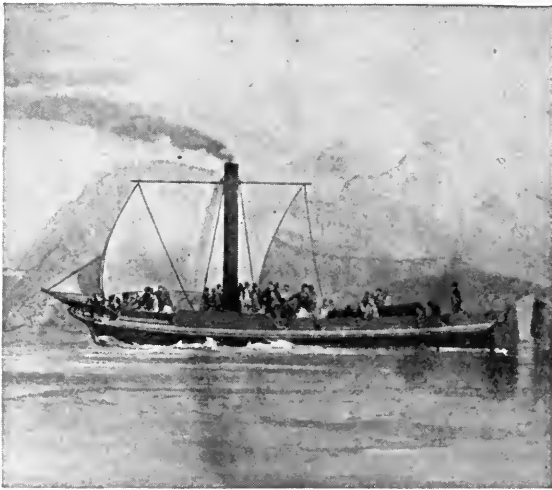
districts of equal size. They enlarged the representation of some counties. They suppressed or partially disfranchised eighty-six decayed boroughs. They gave representatives to forty-two of the new boroughs. But they kept intact the old distinction between county and borough, and sedulously avoided the subdivision or amalgamation of constituencies which possessed organic unity and historical traditions. In this and other respects the later Reform Bills have been more drastic.

Changes in the Constitution of Parliament That of 1867 abandoned the principle, which had been steadily maintained in 1832, that the franchise should be limited to those who paid direct taxes in one form or another. That of 1885 endeavoured to equalise constituencies in respect of population; in order to attain this end, counties and boroughs were broken up into divisions, without respect for past traditions. Such legislation is necessarily of a temporary character, since no measure of redistribution can be expected to satisfy the principle of equality for more than a few years. And this is not the least important consequence of the legislative change which the nineteenth century

effected in the constitution of Parliament. The Lower House in becoming democratic has ceased to represent a fixed number of communities with fixed interests and characteristics.

The reformed Parliament was not long in justifying the hopes which had been formed of it. Those, indeed, who had expected that the members returned under the new system

would all be Whigs or democrats soon found reason to revise their judgment. This is not the only occasion in English history on which it has been proved that aversion to ill-considered change is a fundamental trait in the national



THE FIRST STEAMBOAT ON THE CLYDE

The early part of the nineteenth century witnessed progress along many lines, the introduction of steamboats being a noteworthy advance. The Comet, shown in the above illustration, was built by Henry Bell, and began sailing on the Clyde in the year 1812.



THE CORONATION PROCESSION OF WILLIAM IV. AND QUEEN ADELAIDE AT THE ABBEY

The third son of George III., William IV., the "Sailor King," succeeded to the throne of Great Britain and Ireland on the death of his eldest brother, George IV., in 1830, and along with his consort, Adelaide, the eldest daughter of the Duke of Saxe-Meiningen, whom he married in 1818, he was crowned on September 8th, 1831.

From the drawing by George Cattermole

character. The Tories, although for a moment under a cloud, soon recovered their spirits and a certain measure of influence in the country. Under the leadership of Peel, they adopted the new name of Conservatives, and shook off the instinct of dogged and unreasoning obstruction. Peel was unable to procure a majority in the House of Commons when first invited by the king to form a Ministry, and accordingly left Melbourne and the Whigs in 1835 to carry on the government. But political opinion

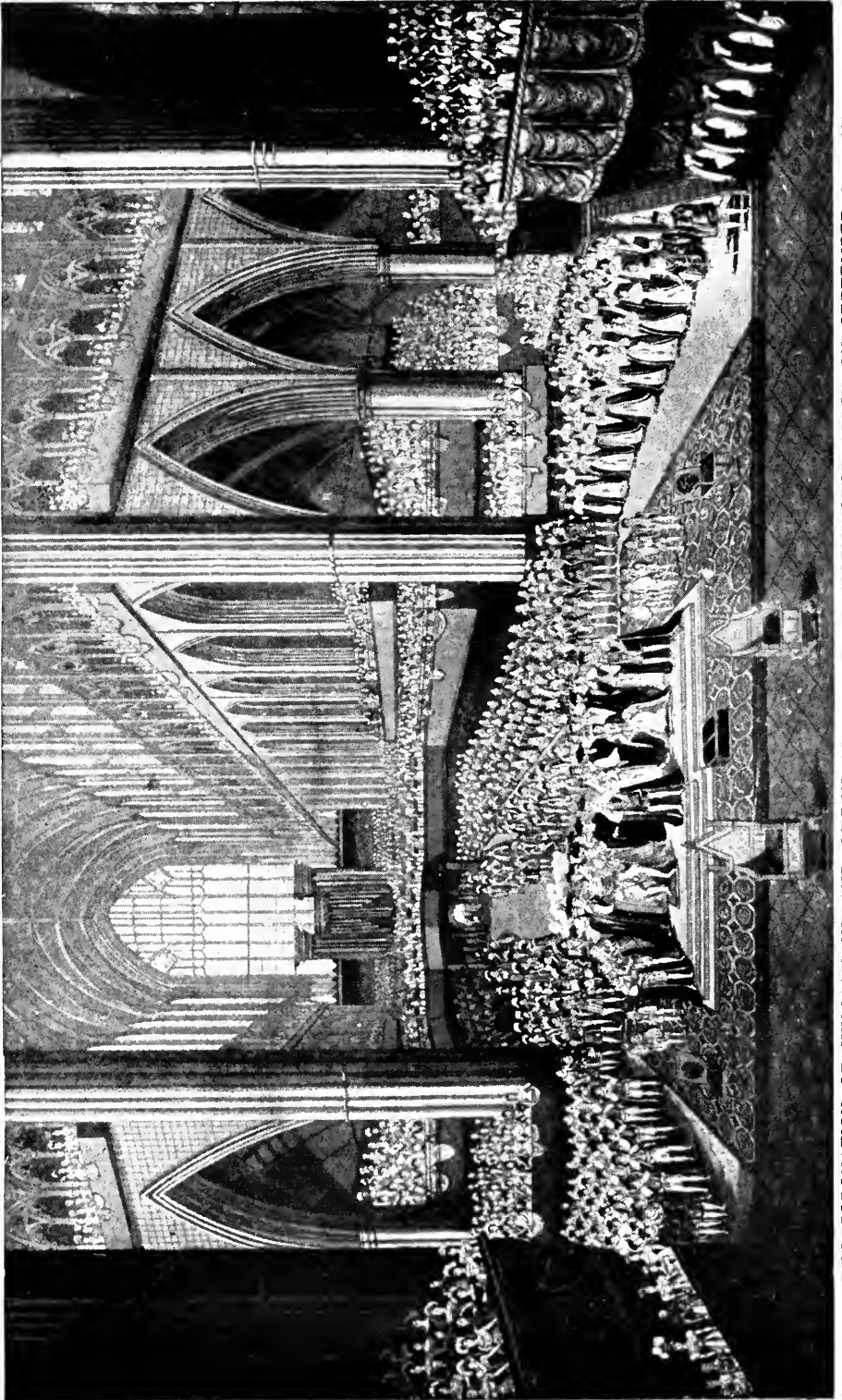
The Busy Days of Legislation

was swinging round to his side; he obtained a majority in 1841. So far the unforeseen had happened. On the other hand,

the work of remedial legislation proceeded with vigour whether the Whigs were in or out of office. In fact both parties had become possessed by the idea that their main business was to devise and carry sweeping measures. Legislation was regarded as the worthiest function of a sovereign assembly; it seemed as though there could never be too much of legislation. Experience has brought a decline of faith in the panacea. But it must be admitted that for twenty years the new

Parliament had necessary work to perform in the way of legislation, and performed it with admirable skill. A few of the more important measures may be mentioned.

The Emancipation Act of 1833 completed a work of philanthropy which had been commenced in 1807. The Ministry of All the Talents had abolished the slave trade. The new Act emancipated all the slaves who were still to be found in British colonies, and awarded the owners the sum of twenty millions as a compensation. Costly as the measure was for the mother country, it was still more costly for the colonies. The sugar industry of the West Indies had been built up with the help of slave labour. The planters lost heavily through being compelled to emancipate the slave for a sum which was much less than his market value, and the black population showed a strong disinclination to become labourers for hire. This was particularly the case in the larger islands, where land was abundant and a squatter could obtain a sustenance with little or no labour. The prosperity of Jamaica was destroyed, and the West Indies as a whole have never been prosperous since 1834.



THE CORONATION OF WILLIAM IV. AND QUEEN ADELAIDE AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY ON SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1831

THE BRITISH ERA OF REFORM

Free trade completed their ruin, since they had only maintained the sugar trade with the help of the preferential treatment which they received from England. The basis of their former wealth was wholly artificial, and it is unlikely that slavery and protection will ever be restored for their benefit; but it may be regretted that the necessary and salutary reforms of which they have been the victims could not have been more gradually applied in their case.

For the new Poor Law of 1834 there can be nothing but praise. It ended a system which for more than a generation had been a national curse, demoralising the labourer, encouraging improvidence and immorality, taxing all classes for the benefit of the small farmer and employer whom the misplaced philanthropy of the legislature had enabled to cut down wages below the margin of subsistence. Up

to the year 1795 the English Poor Law had been, save for one serious defect, sound in principle. The defect was the Law of Settlement, first laid down by an Act of 1662, which enabled the local authorities to prevent the migration of labour from one parish to another, unless security could be given that the immigrant would not become a charge upon the poor rate.

The result of this law had been to stereotype local inequalities in the rate of wages and to take from the labourer the chief means of bettering his position. It was mitigated in 1795 to the extent that the labourer could be no longer sent back until he actually became a charge upon the rates. But about the same time the justices of the peace began the practice of giving

poor-relief in aid of wages, and of making relief proportionate to the size of the applicant's family. This practice was confirmed by the Speenham-land Act of

1796. The legislature acted thus in part from motives of philanthropy, in part under the belief that the increase of population was in every way to be encouraged. The Act was at once followed by a drop in the rate of agricultural wages and a portentous increase of poor-rates. In 1783 poor-relief cost the country about £2,000,000; by 1817 this sum had been quadrupled. The evils of the new system were augmented by the absence of any central authority possessing power to enforce uniform principles and methods of relief. The proposal to introduce such an authority, and in

other respects to revive the leading ideas of the Elizabethan Poor Law, was made by a Royal Commission after the most careful

investigations. The new Poor Law, 1834, embodied the principal suggestions of the commissioners. It provided that the workhouse test should be once more rigidly applied to all able-bodied paupers; that parishes should be grouped in poor-law unions; that each parish should contribute to the expenditure of the union in proportion to the numbers of its paupers; and that a central board should be appointed to control the system. The new Poor Law is still in force, so far as its main principles of administration are concerned. But there have been changes in the constitution of the central authority, by Acts of 1847, 1871, and 1894. The Poor-law Board has been merged in the Local Government Board; and the



LORD GREY

A distinguished statesman, he succeeded his father in 1807 as the second Earl Grey; in the first reformed Parliament he was at the head of a powerful party, and passed the Act abolishing slavery in the colonies. He died in 1845.



LORD MELBOURNE

Twice Premier, he was in office at the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837. He was an "indolent opportunist," and "kept his place in the early years of Queen Victoria chiefly through the favour of the young queen." He died in 1848.

stitution of the central authority, by Acts of 1847, 1871, and 1894. The Poor-law Board has been merged in the Local Government Board; and the

Boards of Guardians, which control the local distribution of relief, are now democratic bodies, whereas, under the original Act the justices of the peace held office as ex-officio members.

The Poor Law Act was followed by others for the reform of municipal government in 1835, of the Irish tithe system in 1838, and for the introduction of the penny post in 1839. The new Poor Law and the new municipal system were also applied to Ireland by special legislation. But larger questions slumbered until the formation of great political societies forced them upon the unwilling attention of Ministers and both Houses of Parliament.

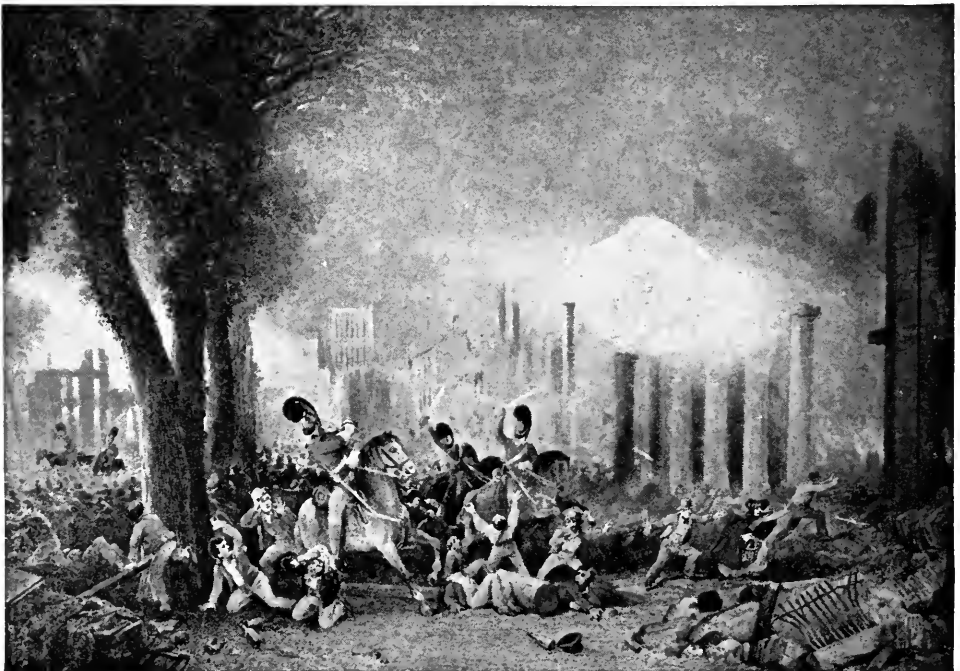
The period of 1840-1850 was peculiarly favourable to the democratic agitator. The Reform Whigs had maintained themselves in power till the death of William IV. But their majority was small, and their chief leader, Melbourne, an indolent opportunist. He kept his place in the early years of Queen Victoria chiefly through the favour

of the young queen. The Conservatives, impatient for a return to power, were disposed to bid against the Whigs for popular favour. Neither party desired extreme reform. Lord John Russell expressed the general sentiment when he stated his conviction that the Reform Bill had been the final step in the direction of democracy. But neither party was strong enough to resist external pressure. The rise of the Chartist organisation in 1838 seemed likely, therefore, to produce sweeping changes. It was recruited from the labouring classes and animated by hostility to capital. It proposed the establishment of radical democracy as a panacea for the wrongs of workmen. The five points of the people's



JEREMY BENTHAM
A great writer and thinker, many social and political reforms which characterised the early Victorian era were suggested by him.

charter were manhood suffrage, voting by ballot, annual parliaments, payment of members, and the abolition of the property qualification for membership. These demands were supported in the House of Commons by the philosophic Radicals, among whom Grote, the historian, was



THE REFORM RIOTS AT BRISTOL IN OCTOBER, 1831
From the drawing by L. Haghe



DESTRUCTION OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ON OCTOBER 16TH, 1834

This graphic scene depicts the destruction by fire, on October 16th, 1834, of the Houses of Parliament, the picture being made by the artist from a sketch taken by him by the light of the flames at the end of Abingdon Street.

From the drawing by William Heath

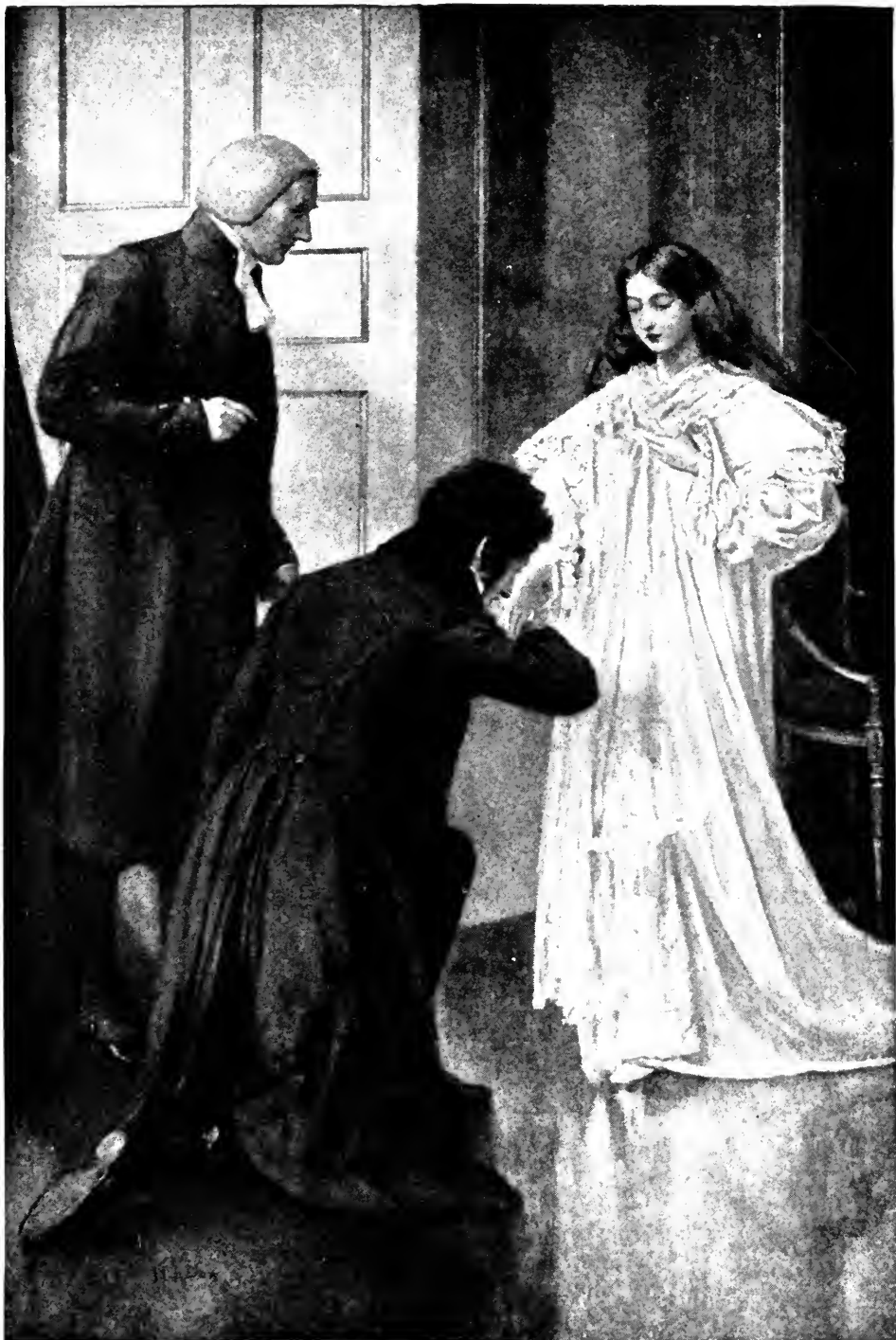
the most conspicuous, while in Feargus O'Connor the Chartists possessed a popular orator of no mean order. The House of Commons refused to consider the first petition of the Chartists in 1839. The refusal was, however, followed by riots in various localities; and a second attempt was made to move Parliament in 1842, when the Conservatives, under Peel, had wrested power from the Whigs. But the new Ministers were no more pliable than the old; and a series of prosecutions against prominent Chartists forced the movement to assume a subterranean character. Its



KING WILLIAM IV.

Though a Whig before his accession to the throne of Great Britain and Ireland in 1830, he became a Tory after his coronation, and used his influence to obstruct the passing of the first Reform Act in 1832. He died in 1837.

influence was felt not only in England but in Wales, where it contributed to produce the Rebecca Riots, 1843. But the next occasion on which Chartism invaded the capital was in 1848, the year of revolutions. It was announced that half a million of Chartists would assemble at a given place on April 10th, and march in procession to lay their demands before the House of Commons. The danger seemed great; extensive military preparations were made under the old Duke of Wellington, and the authorities announced on the appointed day that they would use force,



"YOUR MAJESTY!": ANNOUNCING TO PRINCESS VICTORIA THE FACT OF HER ACCESSION

On the death of King William IV, at Windsor Castle in 1837, his niece, Princess Victoria, succeeded to the throne. Riding through the night from Windsor to Kensington Palace, Dr. Howley, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Marquess of Conyngham, Lord Chamberlain, awakened the young girl about five o'clock in the morning to tell her that she was Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. This dramatic incident is admirably represented in the above picture.

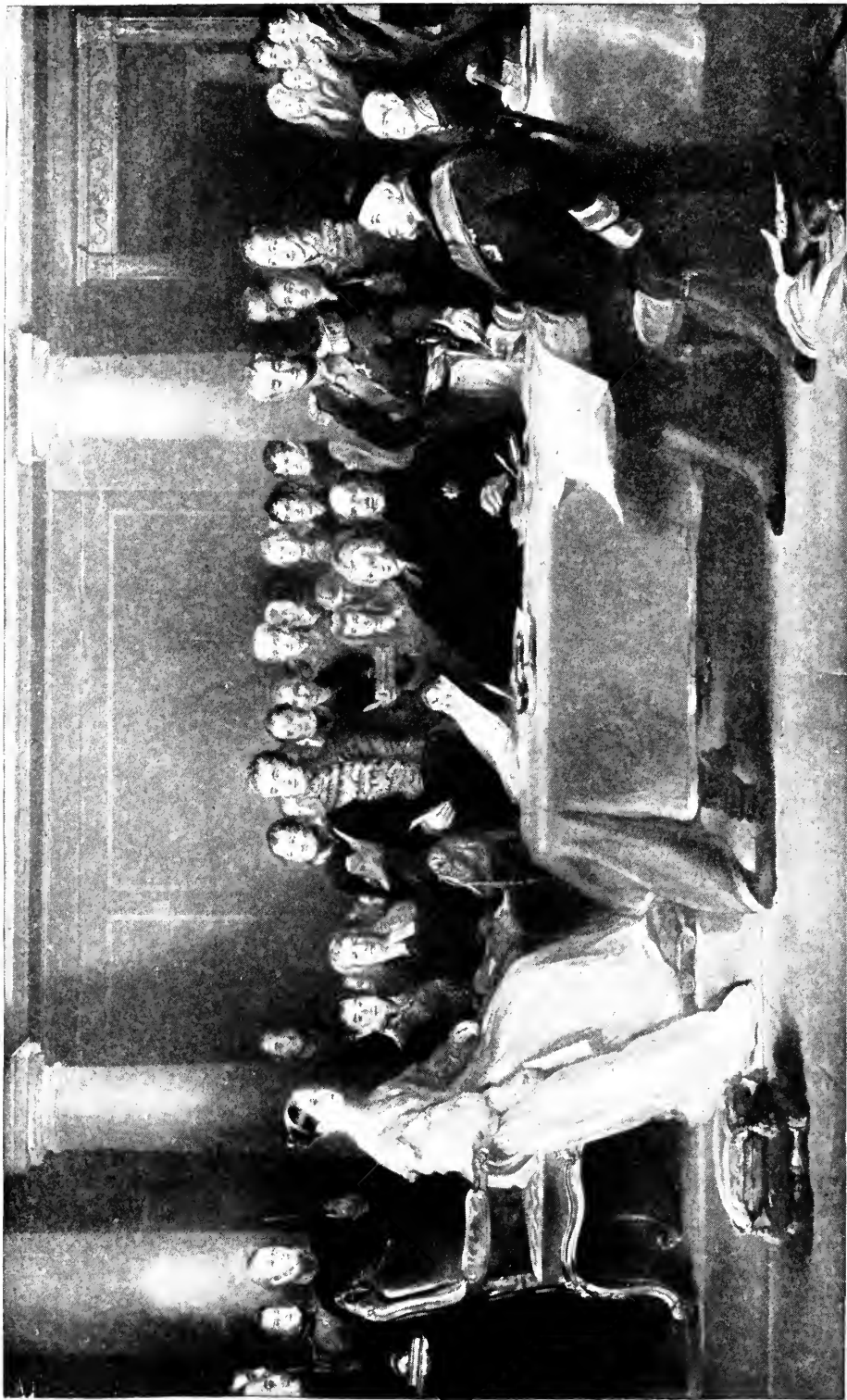
From the painting by Mary L. Gow, by permission of the Berlin Photographic Co.



QUEEN VICTORIA IN HER CORONATION ROBES

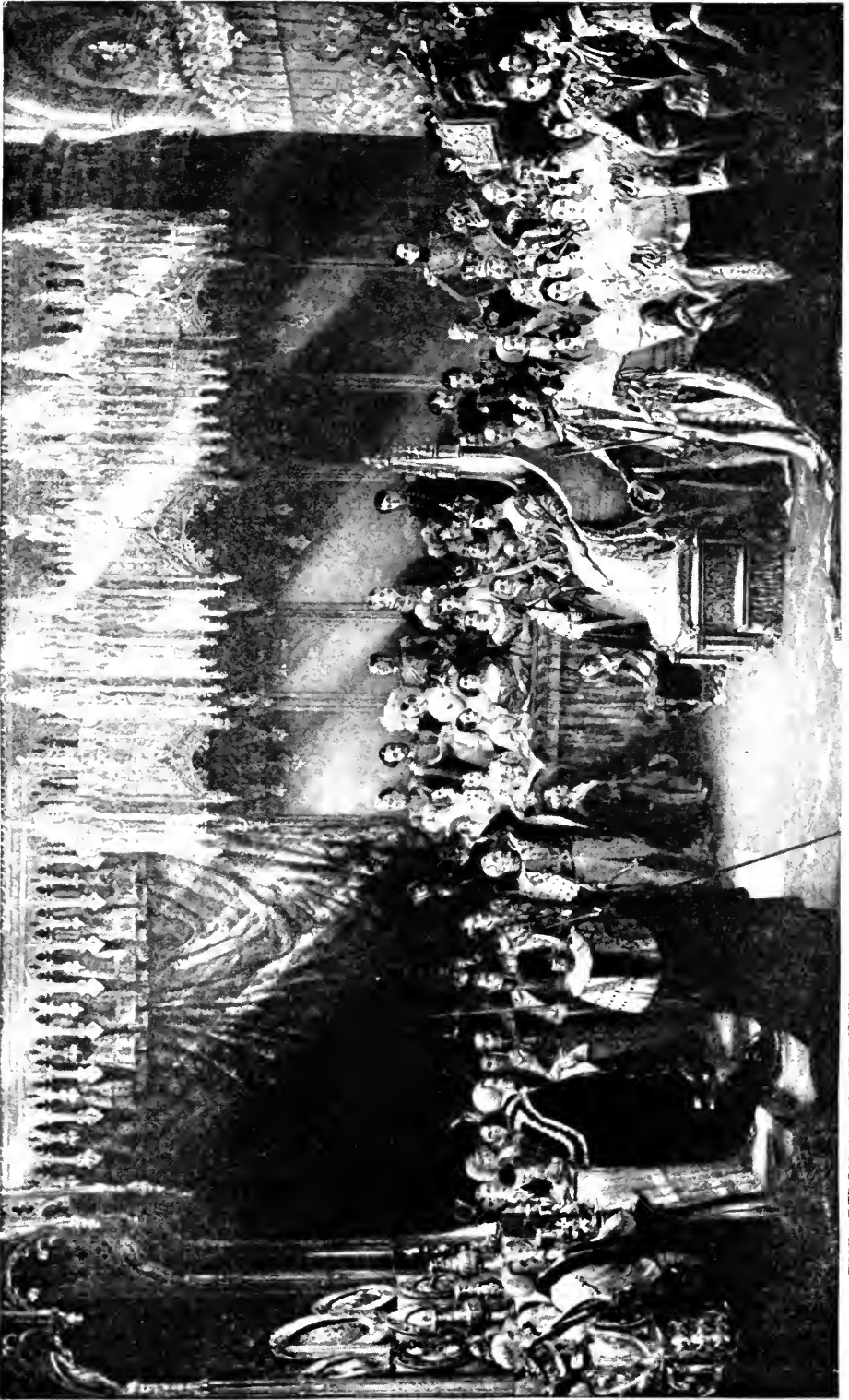
Succeeding to the throne in 1837, at the early age of eighteen years, Queen Victoria was crowned at Westminster Abbey on June 28th, 1838. The youthful queen of Great Britain and Ireland is in this picture represented in her coronation robes, standing in the dawn of the longest and most glorious reign in the nation's history.

From the painting by Sir George Hayter



THE FIRST COUNCIL OF QUEEN VICTORIA, AT KENSINGTON PALACE ON JUNE 21ST, 1837

The first act of the young queen after her accession was to summon a council of her Ministers and chiefs "to receive their homage and to give her Royal assurance of maintaining the constitutions of her kingdoms." Among the illustrious personages included in the above famous picture are the Duke of Wellington, Lord John Russell, and Lord Palmerston. From the painting by Sir David Wilkie, R.A.



THE CORONATION OF QUEEN VICTORIA: THE HISTORIC SCENE IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY ON JUNE 28TH, 1838

From the painting by Sir George Hayter

if necessary, to check the march of the procession. The Chartist leaders were cowed, and contented themselves with submitting their petition for the third time. A large number of the signatures, which had been estimated at 5,000,000, turned out to be fictitious; and amidst the ridicule excited by this discovery the Charter and Chartists slipped into oblivion.

The collapse of Chartism was significant, for the great Chartist demonstration was contemporaneous with a series of revolutionary movements on the Continent. It meant that in England the people at

were the product of the great war. They had been established for the protection of the agricultural interest, and had altogether excluded foreign corn from the English market except while the price of English corn stood above eighty shillings, so that the price of bread was maintained at a very high figure. A modification had been introduced, by which duties were imposed on foreign corn, in place of the import being prohibited, while home-grown corn stood below eighty shillings, the amount of the duty falling as the price of English corn rose, and vice versa.



THE CORONATION PROCESSION OF QUEEN VICTORIA

From the drawing by Champion

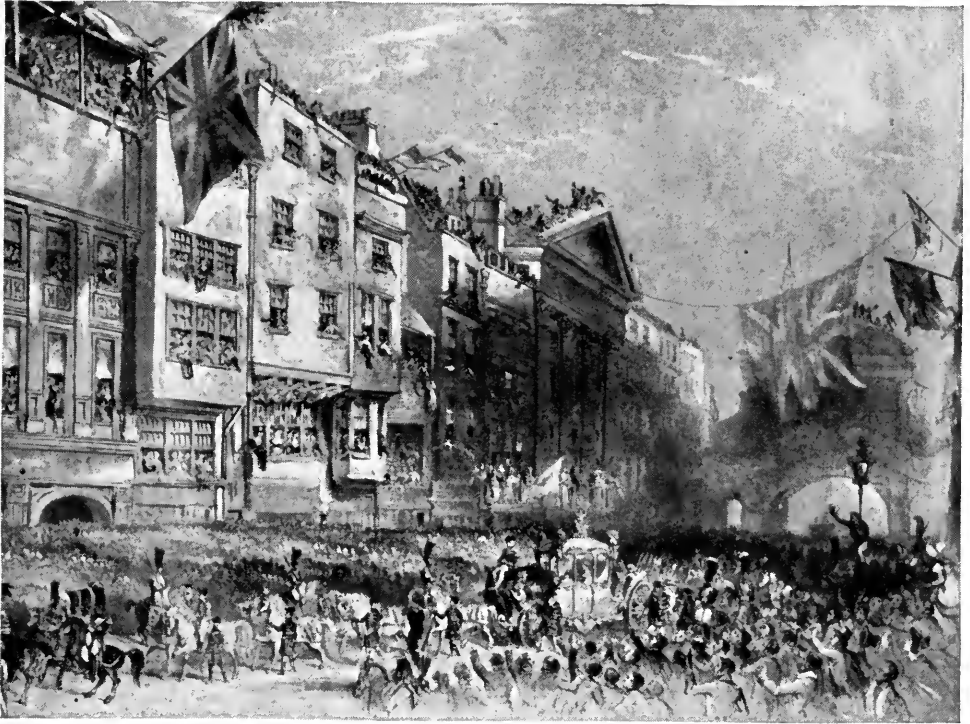
large declined to believe in physical force as the necessary means to attaining political reforms, preferring the methods of constitutional agitation. Chartism dissolved itself in the fiasco of 1848. But the political demands of the Chartists were adopted by constitutional reformers, and were in great part conceded during the following half century—though they have not brought the millennium. The episode emphasised the sobriety of the masses; and the result was probably in measure due to the improvement in the conditions of the industrial population owing to the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846. We have remarked that the Corn Laws

But this did not remove the obvious fact that the cost of the staple food of the working classes was kept high artificially, in order to benefit or preserve the agricultural interest. Apart from philanthropic considerations—though these carried their due weight in many quarters—the capitalist manufacturers, now the dominant power in the House of Commons, began to perceive that if the price of bread fell the operatives could live on a lower money wage, that the wages bill would be lowered, and with it the cost of production; that is to say, the middle classes saw that their own interests would be served by the abolition of the Corn Laws.

THE BRITISH ERA OF REFORM

The Anti-Corn Law League, first formed in 1838, owed its existence to a serious depression of the manufacturing industries. Cobden, Bright, and others of the leading organisers were philanthropists who saw the iniquity of artificially maintaining the price of food when wages were low and employment uncertain. They recruited their supporters to a great extent among the starving operatives of the North and Midlands. But the funds for the Free Trade campaign were largely

their own prospective ruin. The working classes, however, were not convinced by the Chartist doctrine, and felt that if bread were cheaper life would be easier. An Irish famine completed the conversion of the Conservative leader, Sir Robert Peel, who had already been agitating his party for Free Trade measures and the removal or reduction of duties protecting British industries. He took a number of his colleagues with him, but not the party as a whole. Peelites and Whigs together



QUEEN VICTORIA'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE CITY OF LONDON

The first official visit of Queen Victoria to the City of London was on Lord Mayor's Day, November 9th, 1837, and in this picture her carriage is seen passing Temple Bar on the way to the Guildhall. The picture is interesting not only on account of its historic value, but also by reason of the glimpse which it gives of a part of London now entirely altered.

supplied by manufacturers. There was no thought of giving to the masses the franchise as a means of self-protection. Accordingly, the extreme Chartists hated the Free Traders, and openly opposed their propaganda, on the ground that the charter would secure to the people all, and more than all, that was hoped from the repeal of the Corn Laws. The class character of the Free Trade agitation was a source of weakness, because the working-class agitators did not believe that the labouring class would benefit by it; while the landed interest saw in it

carried the repeal of the Corn Laws, but had hardly done so when the Protectionists and extreme Radicals combined to defeat the Ministry, and Peel's career as Prime Minister was closed. The Whigs, supported by Peelites, assumed the government, and were presently combined in the Liberal party.

Colonial development has been dealt with in detail elsewhere; but certain points must here be noticed. During the period under consideration nearly the whole of the Indian peninsula passed under the British dominion as a result of the great Mahratta

war; while the first Burmese war added territories beyond the Bay of Bengal. Under Bentinck's rule, progress was made in the organisation of administration and the development of education. On the north-west, however, the aggression of Persia, more or less under the ægis of Russia, produced British intervention in the affairs of Afghanistan, with disastrous consequences, of which the evil effects were at any rate diminished by the skilful operations of Pollock and Knott. In the same decade, however, the British supremacy was challenged by the Sikh army of the Punjab. Beaten in the first struggle, the Sikhs were renewing their challenge in 1848, when Lord Dalhousie arrived in India to take up the gage of battle and extend the British dominion, in 1849, over the Land of the Five Rivers up to the mountain passes, thus completing the ring-fence of mountain and ocean girlding the British Empire in India.

In Australia the settlements, which at first had been penal in character, were assuming the form of true colonies, but were not yet emancipated. In South Africa, transferred to Great Britain as a result of the Napoleonic war, a part of the Dutch population—partly in consequence of the abolition of slavery—began during the fourth decade of the century to remove itself beyond the sphere of British interference, and to found the communities which developed into the Orange Free State and the Transvaal Republic.

It was, however, almost at the moment of Queen Victoria's accession that dissatisfaction with the existing system in the colonies of Upper and Lower Canada, which had been established in the time of the younger Pitt, reached an acute stage, issuing in insurrection and in the dispatch of the epoch-making commission of Lord Durham. The report of the commissioner was the starting-point virtually of a new theory of colonial relations. It led directly to the Act of Reunion of 1842, which was gradually followed by the federal union of all the British colonies

in North America, with the exception of Newfoundland, as states of the Canadian Dominion. The foundation was laid for that system under which the colony was no longer to be treated as a subordinate section of the empire, but was to receive full responsible government—a government, that is, in which the Ministers are responsible to the representative assemblies as Ministers in England are responsible to Parliament; to become, in fact, *mutatis mutandis*, a counterpart of the United Kingdom, practically independent except in matters affecting war and peace. Canada, indeed, did not immediately achieve this status even after the Act of Reunion; but that Act may be regarded as initiating the change which has since been carried out in nearly all the British colonies where the white population has ceased to bear the character of a garrison. Of the



PRINCE ALBERT

The younger son of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Prince Albert first met Queen Victoria in 1836. They fell in love, and were married in 1840, the Prince then receiving the title of Royal Highness.

ocean girlding

religious movements in this period some account will be found in a later chapter of this section. But we have still to review here a development of English literature which has no parallel except in the Shakespearean era, for the beginnings of which we must go back to the Revolution epoch.

During three-fourths of the eighteenth century, classicalism had dominated prose and poetry alike. In place of poems, satires, epigrams, admirable essays and dissertations in verse had been produced in abundance in strict accord with rigid conventions; no scope had been granted to the lyrical utterance of passion, and spontaneity had been repressed as barbaric or at least impolite. But the spirit which was rousing itself to a stormy attack on social and political conventions was not to spare the conventions of literature.

The Genius of Robert Burns

These were, indeed, set at naught by the lyrical genius of Robert Burns, whose first volume of poems appeared in 1786. Burns, however, was not a pioneer in the true sense—consciously promulgating a new theory. Essentially his work was the most splendid expression of a poetical type which had always flourished in Scotland outside the realms

of polite literature. But its power and fascination arrested attention, and carried the conviction that subjects forbidden by the critics as vulgar were capable of treatment which was undeniably poetical. He demonstrated anew that the poet's true function is to appeal to the emotions of men, and that this may be done through the medium of language which is not at all cultured. Unlike Burns, however, the so-called "Lake School" of Wordsworth and Coleridge were conscious exponents of a theory which defied the critical dogmas of the day. But Coleridge's practice contradicted a part of his own theory, and when Wordsworth acted upon it in its entirety, he did not write poetry. Their revolt against artificial language and artificial restrictions of subject led them virtually to affirm that the best poetry may treat of commonplace matters in commonplace language.

The paradox becomes obvious when we perceive that Coleridge is never commonplace, and that it is precisely when he is not commonplace that Wordsworth is great, though unfortunately he never recognised that truth himself. The familiar

fact must yield the unfamiliar thought; the familiar terms must combine in the unfamiliar phrases which stamp themselves upon the mind. The current criticism erred, not in condemning the commonplace, but in identifying the commonplace with the superficially familiar, and treating conventions as fundamental laws of art. That these were errors was conclusively proved by the practice rather than by the critical expositions of the Lake school. The volume of "Lyrical Ballads," which contained "Tintern Abbey" and the "Ancient Mariner," was a sufficient refutation of the orthodox doctrines.

The poetical work which was produced in the twenty-six years which passed between the publication of the "Lyrical Ballads," 1798, and the death of Byron, 1824, travelled far enough from the standards of the eighteenth century. Within that period Sir Walter Scott adapted the old ballad form to metrical narrative, and turned men's minds back to revel in the gorgeous aspect of the Middle Ages, somewhat forgetful of their ugly side. Byron burst upon the public, an avowed rebel, whose tragic poses were unfortunately only too easy of imitation

A Group of Great Poets



A ROYAL ROMANCE: THE MARRIAGE OF QUEEN VICTORIA IN 1840

The interesting ceremony represented in the above picture took place at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, on February 10th, 1840. Queen Victoria was then in her twenty-first year, while Prince Albert was three months her junior.

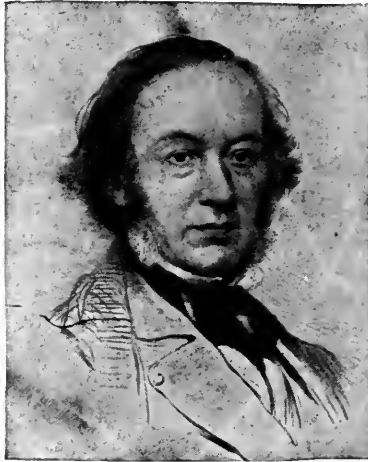
From the painting by Sir George Hayter

by a host of self-conscious rhymesters, and gave vice a morbid picturesqueness; but redeemed himself by the genuineness of his passion for liberty, and died at Missolonghi fighting for the liberation of Greece. Shelley, a rebel of another kind, shocked the world by his Promethean defiance of an unjust God, of tyranny in every form, but was, in fact, the prophet not of atheism and materialism, but of an intensely spiritual pantheism; the most ethereal, most intangible, most exquisite among the masters of song. John Keats died when he was only five-and-twenty, but he had already lived long enough to win for himself a secure place in the elysium of "poets dead and gone." His poetry is the practical expression of his own dictum: "Beauty in truth, truth beauty; that is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know." Among great English poets there is no other whose work is so devoid of all ethical element, none in whom the sense of pure beauty is so overmastering or its rendering more perfect.

Among the poets whom we have named, Byron's influence alone was European; but that influence pales by the side of Walter Scott's in the realm of prose romance. There were novelists before Scott, but it was he who gave to the novel that literary predominance which at one time characterised the drama. Practically it was he who revealed the capacities of prose romance for the portrayal of character and of picturesque incident, through the amazing achievement of the series of "Waverley Novels," whereof the first appeared in 1814. Before the close of our period, the genius of Charles Dickens

had already developed a new type of the novelist's art, in the "Pickwick Papers"; but his great contemporary and rival, William Makepeace Thackeray, had not yet achieved fame in this field. The Bronte sisters, however, with "Wuthering Heights" and "Jane Eyre," 1847, had just given convincing proof, if any were needed after Jane Austen, Scott's contemporary, that the novel is a literary instrument which woman can handle as successfully as man. By that time all the great poets of the Revolution era had passed away, save Wordsworth, who was all but an octogenarian; but the stars of Tennyson and Browning had already appeared above the horizon.

The time of ferment which produced this outburst of literary activity was also responsible for two new movements of English thought, the utilitarian and the idealist. Utilitarianism is the sceptical and inductive spirit of such eighteenth-century thinkers as David Hume, applied to the study of morals and social institutions. The movement began with the French Encyclopædists; it came to England through Jeremy Bentham, 1748-1832, than whom no man has exercised a more far-reaching influence on the thought or government of modern England. Most of the social and political reforms which characterise the early Victorian era were suggested by Bentham. His two great works, the "Fragment on Government," 1776, and the "Principles of Morals and Legislation," 1789, belong chronologically to the age of the Revolution; but it was only in later life that Bentham became a prophet among his own people. His greatest disciple was



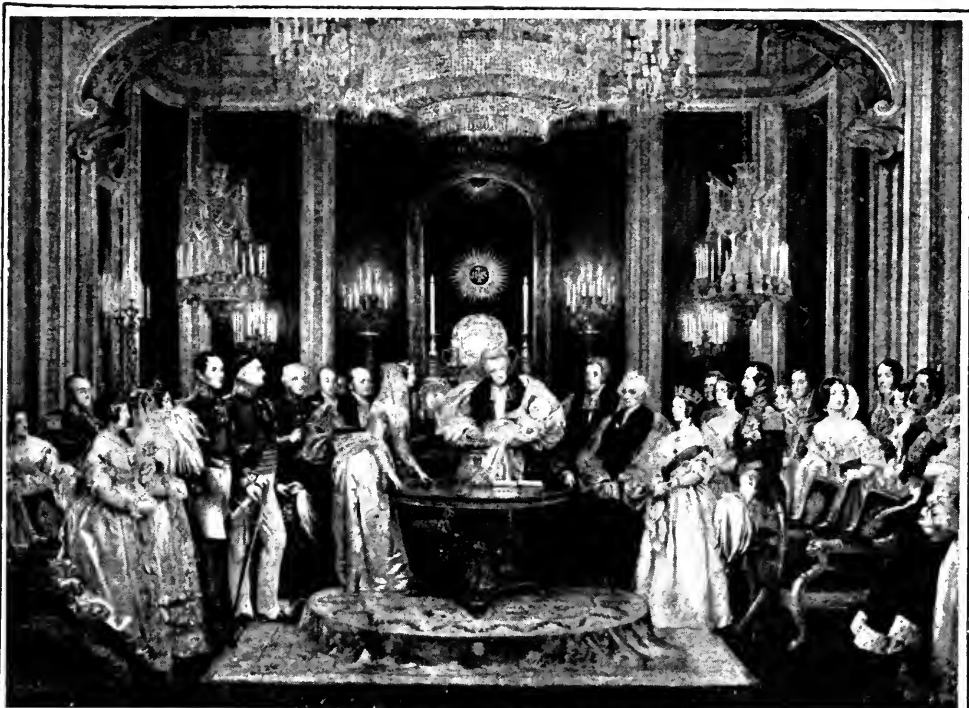
RICHARD COBDEN

"The Apostle of Free Trade," he denounced as iniquitous artificially to maintain the price of food when wages were low and employment uncertain, and to his labours was largely due the abolition of the Corn Laws in 1846.



JOHN BRIGHT

Along with Cobden and others in the agitation against the Corn Laws, John Bright used his great eloquence both in Parliament and on the public platform to further the cause of Free Trade. He held office in later Ministries.



THE CHRISTENING OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE IN 1840
From the painting by C. R. Leslie



CHRISTENING THE PRINCE OF WALES, THE PRESENT KING EDWARD, IN 1841
From the painting by Sir George Hayter

DOMESTIC EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF QUEEN VICTORIA



Robert Burns, 1759-96



William Wordsworth, 1770-1850



S. T. Coleridge, 1772-1834



Jane Austen, 1775-1817



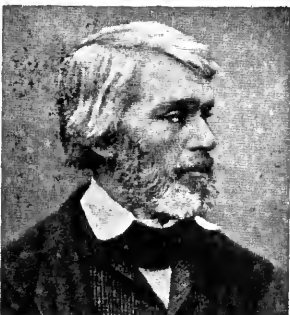
Lord Byron, 1788-1824



P. B. Shelley, 1792-1822



John Keats, 1795-1821



Thomas Carlyle, 1795-1881



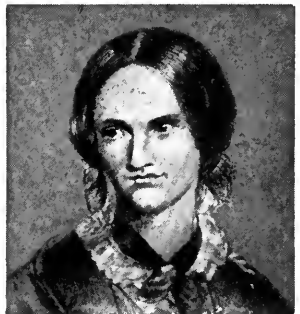
Lord Macaulay, 1800-59



W. M. Thackeray, 1811-63



Charles Dickens, 1812-70



Charlotte Bronte, 1816-55

GREAT MEN AND WOMEN OF LETTERS FROM BURNS TO CHARLOTTE BRONTE

THE BRITISH ERA OF REFORM

John Stuart Mill, 1806-1873, whose versatile genius never showed to more advantage than when he was handling social questions in Bentham's spirit. "Mill was not so rigorous a thinker as Bentham; but the moral enthusiasm of the younger man, his power of exposition, and his susceptibility to the best ideas of his time, gave him the respectful attention of all thoughtful minds. What Bentham did for the theory of legislation, Mill did for the theory of wealth." Mill's "Political Economy," 1848, although largely based upon the investigations of Adam Smith, Ricardo, and Malthus, marks an era in the history of that science. Mill was the first to define with accuracy the proper limits of economic study. He originated a number of new theories. He diagnosed the economic evils of his time and suggested practical remedies. Above all, however, he was the first to see the parts of economic science in their true proportions and to connect them as an ordered whole. The tendency of modern thought is to belittle the deductive school of economists which Mill represents; but his claim to be regarded as the classic of that school has never been disputed. Similarly, by his later writings on "Liberty," 1859, and "Representative Government," 1860, he became the accredited exponent of English Liberalism; while his essay on "Utilitarianism," 1861, by giving a larger and less material interpretation to Bentham's formula, "the greatest happiness of the greatest number," did much to bring out the common basis of belief on which Liberals and idealists have conducted their long controversy.

The idealist movement begins with Coleridge, whose philosophic writings, notably the "Aids to Reflection," published in 1825, although fragmentary and unsystematic, are the first sign of a reaction among English metaphysicians against Hume's disintegrating criticism. In a diluted and theological form the new tenets formed the intellectual stock in

trade of the Tractarians, whose attempt to imbue Anglican dogmas with a new significance and to destroy the insularity of the Established Church is the most remarkable phenomenon in the religious history of modern England. The idealists found a powerful though erratic ally in Thomas Carlyle, 1795-1881. In literature a romantic of the most lawless sort, unequalled in power of phrase, in pictorial imagination, and in dramatic humour, but totally deficient in architectonic skill, Carlyle wrote one history, "The French Revolution," 1837, and two biographies, "Cromwell," 1845, "Frederick the Great," 1858-1865, of surpassing interest. But his most characteristic utterances



SIR WALTER SCOTT

As poet and novelist Scott occupies a unique place among the world's writers. From his fertile pen came a rich library of stirring tales all aglow with the magic of romance and revealing a creative genius unmatched since Shakespeare. Born in 1771, he died in 1832.

are to be found in "Sartor Resartus," 1833, and "Heroes and Hero-Worship," 1841, the first a biting attack upon formalism and dogma, the second a vindication of the importance of individual genius in maintaining and in reforming the social fabric. Carlyle's gospel of labour and silence, and his preference for the guidance of instinct as opposed to that of conscious reflection, have exercised a great, though indeterminate, influence upon many thinkers who are unconscious of their debt to him.

Carlyle's characteristics can hardly be brought out more vividly than by placing his work beside that of Thomas Babington Macaulay, no idealist, but a typical Whig, whose clear-cut antithetical style made him the past-master of popular exposition, and the still prevalent model for the essayist and the historian.

Finally, we note the appearance of John Ruskin, whose "Modern Painters" began to appear in 1842. Entering the literary field primarily as a critic of the arts of painting and architecture, Ruskin extended his criticism, constructive and destructive, to literature and economics, the essential characteristic of his teaching being insistence on the ethical basis of all human energies: teaching expressed with unsurpassed eloquence.

H. W. C. DAVIS; A. D. INNES



AS SEEN FROM THE FANALE MARITTIMO LIGHTHOUSE



THE TOWN AND HARBOUR VIEWED FROM THE NORTH - EAST



THE FINE ANCHORAGE, WITH THE TOWN IN THE BACKGROUND

TRIESTE, THE CHIEF SEAPORT OF AUSTRIA - HUNGARY

Photochrome

THE
RE-MAKING
OF
EUROPE



EUROPE
AFTER
WATERLOO
III

THE REACTION IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE ASCENDANCY OF METTERNICH

THE Austrian state, totally disorganised by the period of the French Revolution and Napoleonic wars, had nevertheless succeeded in rounding off its territories at the Congress of Vienna. In internal affairs Francis I. and Metternich tried as far as possible to preserve the old order of things; they wished for an absolute monarchy, and favoured the privileged classes. There was no more tenacious supporter of what was old, no more persistent observer of routine than the good Emperor Francis. He was an absolute ruler in the spirit of conservatism.

He saw a national danger in any movement of men's minds which deviated from the letter of his commands, hated from the first all innovations, and ruled his people from the Cabinet. He delighted to travel through his dominions, and receive the joyful greetings of his loyal subjects, since he laid the highest value on popularity; notwithstanding all his keenness of observation and his industry, he possessed no ideas of his own. Even Metternich was none too highly gifted in this respect. Francis made, at the most, only negative use of the abundance of his supreme power. Those who served him were bound to obey him blindly: but he lacked the vigour and strength of character for great and masterful actions; his thoughts and wishes were those of a permanent official. Like Frederic William III., he loathed independent characters, men of personal views, and he therefore treated his brothers Charles and John with unjustified distrust.

The only member of his family really acceptable to him was his youngest brother, the narrow-minded and characterless Louis. On the other hand, Francis was solicitous for the spread of beneficial institutions, and for the regulation of the legal system; in 1811 he introduced the "Universal Civil Code," and in so doing completed the task begun by Maria

Theresa and Joseph II. His chief defect was his love of trifling details, which deprived him of any comprehensive view of a subject; and his constant interference with the business of the Council of State prevented any systematic conduct of affairs.

**Austria's
High Position
in Europe**

Francis owed it to Metternich that Austria once more held the highest position in Europe; he was therefore glad to entrust him with the management of foreign policy while he contented himself with internal affairs. Metternich was the centre of European diplomacy; but he was only a diplomatist, no statesman like Kaunitz and Felix Schwarzenberg. He did not consolidate the new Austria for the future, but only tried to check the wheel of progress and to hold the reins with the assistance of his henchman Gentz; everything was to remain stationary.

The police zealously helped to maintain this principle of government, and prosecuted every free-thinker as suspected of democracy. Austria was in the fullest sense a country of police; it supported an army of "mouchards" and informers. The post-office officials disregarded the privacy of letters, spies watched teachers and students in the academies; even such loyal Austrians as Grillparzer and Zedlitz came into collision with the detectives. The censorship was blindly intolerant and pushed its interference to extremes. Public education, from the university down to the village school, suffered under the suspicious tutelage of the authorities; school and

**Reign of
Suspicion and
Espionage**

Church alike were unprogressive. The provincial estates, both in the newly-acquired and in the recovered Crown lands, were insignificant, leading, as a matter of fact, a shadowy existence, which reflected the depressed condition of the population. But Hungary, which, since the time when Maria Theresa was hard pressed, had insisted on its national

independence, was not disposed to descend from its height to the general insignificance of the other Crown lands, and the Archduke Palatine, Joseph, thoroughly shared this idea. It was therefore certain that soon there would be an embittered struggle with

Széchényi "the Greatest of the Hungarians"

the government at Vienna, which wished to render the constitution of Hungary as unreal as that of Carniola and Tyrol. The indignation found its expression chiefly in the assemblies of the counties, which boldly contradicted the arbitrary and stereotyped commands from Vienna, while a group of the nobility itself supported the view that the people, hitherto excluded from political life, should share in the movement. In the Reichstag of 1825 this group spoke very distinctly against the exclusive rule of the nobility. The violent onslaught of the Reichstag against the Government led, it is true, to no result; the standard-bearer of that group was Count Stephen Széchényi, whom his antagonist, Kossuth, called "the greatest of the Hungarians."

The Archduke Rainer, to whom the vicerealty of the Italian possessions had been entrusted, was animated by the best intention of promoting the happiness of the Lombard-Venetian kingdom, and of familiarising the Italians with the Austrian rule; but he was so hampered by instructions from Vienna that he could not exercise any marked influence on the Government. The Italians would hear nothing of the advantages of the Austrian rule, opposed all "Germanisation," and prided themselves on their old nationality. Literature, the Press, and secret societies aimed at national objects and encouraged independence, while Metternich thought of an Italian confederation on the German model, and under the headship of Austria.

It was also very disastrous that the leading circles at Vienna regarded Italy as the chief support of the whole policy of the empire, and yet failed to understand the great diversity of social and political conditions in the individual states of the peninsula. Metternich, on the other hand, employed every forcible means to oppose the national wishes, which he regarded,

both there and in Germany, as outcomes of the revolutionary spirit. Yet the hopes of the nations on both sides of the Alps were not being realised; the "Golden Age" had still to come.

The condition of the Austrian finances was deplorable. Since the year 1811, when Count Joseph Wallis, the Finance Minister, had devised a system which reduced by one-fifth the nominal value of the paper money—which had risen to the amount of 1,060,000,000 gulden—permanent bankruptcy had prevailed. Silver disappeared from circulation, the national credit fell very low, and the revenue was considerably less than the expenditure, which was enormously increased by the long war. In the year 1814 Count Stadion, the former Minister of the

Interior, undertook the thankless duties of Minister of Finance. He honestly exerted himself to improve credit, introduce a fixed monetary standard, create order on a consistent plan, and with competent colleagues to develop the economic resources of the nation. But various financial measures were necessary before the old paper money could be withdrawn en bloc, and silver once more put into circulation. New loans had to be raised, which increased the burden of interest, in the years 1816 to 1823, from 9,000,000 gulden to 24,000,000, and the annual

expenditure for the national debt from 12,000,000 to 50,000,000. The National Bank, opened in 1817, afforded efficient help. If Stadion did not succeed in remodelling the system of indirect taxes, and if the reorganisation of the land-tax proceeded slowly, the attitude of Hungary greatly added to the difficulties of the position of the great Minister of reform, who died in May, 1824. The state

of the Emperor Francis was naturally the Promised Land of custom-house restrictions and special tariffs; industry and trade were closely barred in. In vain did clear-headed politicians advise that all the hereditary dominions, excepting Hungary, should make one customs district; although the Government built commercial roads and canals,



FRANCIS I. OF AUSTRIA
He succeeded his father, Leopold II., as Emperor of Germany, but in 1804 he renounced the title of German-Roman Emperor, retaining that of Emperor of Austria.

still the trade of the empire with foreign countries was stagnant. Trieste never became for Austria that which it might have been; it was left for Karl Ludwig von Bruck of Elberfeld to make it, in 1833, a focus of the trade of the world by founding the Austrian-Lloyd Shipping Company. Red tape prevailed in the army, innovations were shunned, and the reforms of the Archduke Charles were interrupted. This was the outlook in Austria, the "Faubourg St. Germain of Europe."

Were things better in the rival state of Prussia? Frederic William III. was the type of a homely bourgeois, a man of sluggish intellect and of a cold scepticism, which contrasted sharply with the patriotic fire and self-devotion of his people. His main object was to secure tranquillity; the storm of the war of liberation, so foreign to his sympathies, had blown over, and he now wished to govern his kingdom in peace. Religious questions interested him more than those of politics; he was a positive Christian, and it was the wish of his heart to amalgamate the Lutheran and the Reformed Churches, an attempt to which the spirit of the age seemed very favourable. When the tercentenary of the Reformation was commemorated in the year 1817, he appealed for the union of the

two confessions, and found much response. The new Liturgy of 1821, issued with his own concurrence, found great opposition, especially among the Old Lutherans; its second form, in 1829, somewhat conciliated

its opponents, although the old tutelage of the Church under the supreme bishop of the country still continued to be felt, and Frederic William, both in the secular and spiritual domain, professed an absolute

lulism which did not care to see district and provincial synods established by its side. The union, indeed, produced no peace in the Church, but became the pretext for renewed quarrels; nevertheless it was introduced into Nassau, Baden, the Bavarian Palatinate, Anhalt, and a part of Hesse in the same way as into Prussia. The king wished to give to the Catholic Church also a systematised and profitable development, and therefore entered into negotiations with the Curia, which were conducted by the ambassador Barthold G. Niebuhr, a great historian

but weak diplomatist. Niebuhr and Altenstein, the Minister of Public Worship, made too many concessions to the Curia, and were not a match for Consalvi, the

Cardinal Secretary of State. On July 16th, 1821, Pope Pius VII. issued the Bull, "De salute animarum," which was followed by an explanatory brief, "Quod de fidelium." The king confirmed the agreement by an order of the Cabinet; Cologne and Posen became archbishoprics, Trèves, Münster, Paderborn, Breslau, Kulm, and

Ermeland bishoprics, each with a clerical seminary. The cathedral chapters were conceded the right of electing the bishop, who, however, had necessarily to be a persona grata to the king.



METTERNICH IN LATER LIFE

Metternich's domination of European politics after the fall of Napoleon in 1815 stands out prominently in the history of the period. He was the centre of European diplomacy, but he was only a diplomatist and not a statesman.



Joseph



Széchenyi

LEADERS OF HUNGARIAN INDEPENDENCE

Insisting on its national independence, Hungary was unwilling to descend to the insignificance of the other Crown lands under Austria, and both the Archduke Palatine, Joseph, and Count Stephen Széchenyi assisted the movement in assemblies and elsewhere. Széchenyi was described by his antagonist Kossuth as "the greatest of the Hungarians."

The truce did not, indeed, last long; the question of mixed marriages led to renewed controversy. Subsequently to 1803, the principle held good in the eastern provinces of Prussia that the children in disputed cases should follow the religion of the father, a view that conflicted with a Bull of 1741; now, after

The Problem of Mixed Marriages

1825, the order of 1803 was to be valid for the Rhine province, which was for the most part Catholic. But the bishops of the districts appealed in 1828 to Pope Leo XII. He and his successor, Pius VIII., conducted long negotiations with the Prussian ambassador, Bunsen, who, steeped in the spirit of romanticism, saw the surest protection against the revolution in a close adherence between national governments and the Curia.

Pius VIII., an enemy of liberal movements, finally, by a brief of 1830, permitted the celebration of mixed marriages only when a promise was given that the children born from the union would be brought up in the Catholic faith; but the Prussian Government did not accept the brief, and matters soon came to a dispute between the Curia and the Archbishop of Cologne.

It was excessively difficult to form the new Prussian state into a compact unity of a firm and flexible type. Not merely its elongated shape, its geographical incoherency, and the position of Hanover as an excrescence on its body, but above everything its composition out of a hundred territorial fragments with the most diversified legislatures and the most rooted dislike to centralisation, the aversion of the Rhenish Catholics to be included in the state which was Protestant by history and character, and the stubbornness of the Poles in the countries on the Vistula, quite counterbalanced a growth in population, now more than doubled, which was welcome in itself. By unobtrusive and successful labour the greatest efforts were made towards establishing some degree of unity. The ideal of unity could not be universally realised in the legal system and the administration of justice. The inhabitants, therefore, of the Rhenish districts were conceded the Code Napoleon, with juries and oral procedure, but the larger part of the monarchy was given the universal common law. The narrow-minded and meddlesome system of the excise and the local variations of the land-tax system were intolerable.

The New Prussian State

The root idea of the universal duty of bearing arms, that pillar of the monarchy, was opposed on many sides. This institution, which struck deeply into family life, met with especial opposition and discontent in the newly acquired provinces. In large circles there prevailed the wish that there should no longer be a standing army.

But finally the constitution of the army was adhered to; it cemented together the different elements of the country. The ultimate form was that of three years' active service, two years' service in the reserve, and two periods of service in the militia, each of seven years. The fact that the universal duties of bearing arms and defending the country were to be permanent institutions made Frederic William suspicious. His narrow-minded but influential brother-in-law, Duke Charles of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the sworn opponent of the reform legislation of Stein, Hardenberg, and Scharnhorst, induced him to believe that a revolutionary party, whose movements were obscure, wanted to employ the militia against the throne, and advised, as a counter precaution, that

Prussia Divided into Provinces

the militia and troops of the line should be amalgamated. But the originator of the law of defence, the Minister of War, Hermann von Boyen, resolutely opposed this blissful necessity. An ordinance of April 30th, 1815, divided Prussia into ten provinces; but since East and West Prussia, Lower Rhine and Cleves-Berg were soon united, the number was ultimately fixed at eight, which were subdivided into administrative districts.

Lords-lieutenant were placed at the head of the provinces instead of the former provincial Ministries. Their administrative sphere was accurately defined by a Cabinet order of November 3rd, 1817; they represented the entire Government, and fortunately these responsible posts were held by competent and occasionally prominent men. The amalgamation of the new territories with Old Prussia was complete, both externally and internally, however difficult the task may have been at first in the province of Saxony and many other parts, and however much consistency and resolution may have been wanting at headquarters, in the immediate vicinity of Frederic William. But the struggle with the forces of local particularism was long and obstinate. The great period of Prince Hardenberg.

THE REACTION IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Chancellor of State, was over. He could no longer master the infinity of work which rested upon him, got entangled in intrigues and escapades, associated with despicable companions, and immediately lost influence with the king, himself the soul of honour; his share in the reorganisation of Prussia after the wars of liberation was too small. On the other hand, he guarded against Roman encroachment, and assiduously worked at the question of the constitution. His zeal to realise his intentions there too frequently left the field open to the reactionaries in another sphere. Most of the higher civil servants admired the official liberalism of the chancellor, and therefore, like Hardenberg and Stein, appeared to the reactionaries as patrons of the extravagant enthusiasm and "Teutonising" agitation of the youth—as secret democrats, in short. Boyen was the closest supporter of Hardenberg; the Finance Minister, Count Bülow, formerly the distinguished Finance Minister of the kingdom of Westphalia, usually supported him, while the chief of the War Office, Witzleben, the inseparable counsellor of the king, who even ventured to work counter to the Duke of Mecklenburg, was one of the warmest advocates of the reform of Stein and Hardenberg. The reactionaries, under Marwitz and other opponents of the great age of progress relied on the Ministers of the Interior and of the Police, the over-cautious Schuckmann and Prince William of Wittgenstein. The latter was a bitter enemy of German patriotism and the constitution, and the best of the tools of Metternich at the court of Berlin.

The reaction which naturally followed the exuberant love of freedom shown in the wars of liberation was peculiarly felt in Prussia. Janke, Schmalz, the brother-in-law of Scharnhorst, and other place-hunters clumsily attacked in pamphlets the "seducers of the people" and the "demagogues," in

order to recommend themselves to the Governments as saviours of the threatened society. The indignation at their falsehoods was general; there appeared numerous refutations, the most striking of which proceeded from the pen of Schleiermacher and Niebuhr. The Prussian and Württemberg Governments, however, stood on the side of Schmalz and his companions, and rewarded his falsehood with a decoration and acknowledgment. Frederic William III., indeed, strictly forbade, in January, 1816, any further literary controversy about secret combinations, but at the same time renewed the prohibition on such societies, at which great rejoicings broke out in Vienna. He also forbade the further appearance of the "Rhenish Mercury," which demanded a constitution and liberty of the Press.

Gneisenau was removed from the general command in Coblenz. Wittgenstein's spies were continually active. The emancipation of the Jews, in contradiction to the royal edict of 1812, lost ground. The Act for the regulation of landed property proclaimed in September, 1811, was "explained" in 1816, in a fashion which favoured so greatly the property of the nobles at the cost of the property of the peasants that it virtually repealed the Regulation Act.

In the course of the last decade there had been frequent talk of a General Council. Stein's programme of 1808 proposed that the Council of State should be the highest ratifying authority for acts of legislation. Hardenberg, on the other hand, fearing for his own supremacy, had contemplated in 1810 giving the council a far more modest rôle. But neither scheme received a trial; and in many quarters a Council of State was only thought of with apprehension. When, then, finally the ordinance of March 20th, 1817, established the Council of State, it was merely the highest advisory authority,



FREDERIC WILLIAM III.
He ascended the throne of Prussia in 1797, and being deeply interested in religious questions, he did much to further the union of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches.



NIEBUHR THE HISTORIAN
Distinguished as a historian, Barthold Niebuhr in 1823 took up his residence at Bonn, and gave a great impetus to historical learning by his lectures in that city.

the foremost counsellor of the Crown, and Stein's name was missing from the list of those summoned by the king.

The first labours of the Council of State were directed to the reform of the taxation, which Count Bülow, the Finance Minister, wished to carry out in the spirit of modified Free Trade. His schemes were

The Aggressive Schemes of Count Bülow

very aggressive, and aimed at freedom of inland commerce, but showed that, considering the financial distress of the moment, the state of the national debt, which in 1818 amounted to 217,000,000 thalers, \$165,000,000, the want of credit, and the deficit, no idea of any remission of taxation could be entertained. In fact, Bülow demanded an increase of the indirect taxes, a proposal which naturally hit the lower classes very hard. Humboldt headed the opponents of Bülow, and a bitter struggle broke out. The notables convened in the provinces to express their views rejected Bülow's taxes on meal and meat, but pronounced in favour of the direct personal taxation, graduated according to classes.

Bülow was replaced as Finance Minister at the end of 1817 by Klewitz—the extent of whose office was, however, much diminished by all sorts of limitations—and received the newly created post of Minister of Trade and Commerce. In Altenstein, who between 1808 and 1810 had failed to distinguish himself as Finance Minister, Prussia found a born Minister of Public Worship and Education.

In spite of many unfavourable conditions he put the educational system on a sound footing; he introduced in 1817 the provincial bodies of teachers, advocated universal compulsory attendance at school, encouraged the national schools, and was instrumental in uniting the University of Wittenberg with that of Halle, and in founding the University of Bonn in 1818. Bülow, a pioneer in his own domain, not inferior to Altenstein in the field of

Bülow's Hand on the Customs

Church and school, administered the customs department, supported by the shrewd Maassen. The first preparatory steps were taken in 1816, especially in June, by the abolition of the waterway tolls and the inland and provincial duties. A Cabinet Order of August 1st, 1817, sanctioned for all time the principle of free importation, and Maassen drew up the Customs Act, which became law on May 26th, 1818, and came into force

at the beginning of 1819, according to Treitschke "the most liberal and matured politico-economic law of those days"; it was simplified in 1821 to suit the spirit of Free Trade, and the tolls were still more lowered. An order of February 8th, 1819, exempted from taxation out of the list of inland products only wine, beer, brandy, and leaf tobacco; on May 30th, 1820, a graduated personal tax and corn duties were introduced.

Thus a well-organised system of taxation was founded, which satisfied the national economy for some time. All social forces were left with free power of movement and scope for expansion. It mattered little if manufacturers complained, so long as the national prosperity, which was quite shattered, revived. Prussia gradually found the way to the German Customs Union. No one, it is true, could yet predict that change; but, as if with a presentiment, complaints of the selfishness and obstinacy of the tariff loan were heard beyond the Prussian frontiers. What progress had been made with the

Retrospection of Frederic William

granting provincial estates and popular representation, promised by the king by the edict of May 22nd, 1815? The commission promised for this purpose was not summoned until March 30th, 1817. Hardenberg directed the proceedings since it had assembled on July 7th in Berlin, sent Altenstein, Beyme, and Klewitz to visit the provinces in order to collect thorough evidence of the existing conditions, and received reports, which essentially contradicted each other.

It appeared most advisable that the Ministers should content themselves with establishing provincial estates, and should leave a constitution out of the question. Hardenberg honestly tried to make progress in the question of the constitution and to release the royal word which had been pledged; Frederic William, on the contrary, regretted having given it, and gladly complied with the retrogressive tendencies of the courtiers and supporters of the old regime. He saw with concern the contests in the South German chambers and the excitement among the youth of Germany; he pictured to himself the horrors of a revolution, and Hardenberg could not carry his point.

The Federal Diet, the union of the princes of Germany, owed its existence to the Act of Federation of June 8th, 1815, which

could not possibly satisfy the hopes of a nation which had conquered a Napoleon. Where did the heroes of the wars of liberation find any guarantee for their claims? Of what did the national rights consist, and what protection did the whole Federation offer against foreign countries?

Even the deposed and mediatised princes of the old empire were deceived in their last hopes; they had once more dreamed of a revival of their independence. But they were answered with cold contempt that the new political organisation of Germany demanded that the princes and counts, who had been found already mediatised, should remain incorporated into other political bodies or be incorporated afresh; that the Act of Federation involved the implicit recognition of this necessity. The Act of Federation pleased hardly anyone, not even its own designers.

The opening of the Federal Diet, convened for September 1st, 1815, was again postponed, since negotiations were taking place in Paris, and there were various territorial disputes between the several federal states to be decided.

Disputes of Federal States Austria was scheming for Salzburg and the Breisgau, Bavaria for the Baden Palatinate; the two had come to a mutual agreement at the cost of the House of Baden, whose elder line was dying out, and Baden was confronted with the danger of dismemberment. The two chief powers disputed about Mainz until the town fell to Hesse-Darmstadt, but the right of garrisoning the important federal fortress fell to them both. Baden only joined the Federation on July 26th, 1815, Würtemberg on September 1st. Notwithstanding the opposition of Austria and Prussia permission was given to Russia, Great Britain, and France to have ambassadors at Frankfort, while the Federation had no permanent representatives at the foreign capitals. Many of the South German courts regarded the foreign ambassadors as a support against the leading German powers; the secondary and petty states were most afraid of Prussia.

Finally, on November 5th, 1816, the Austrian ambassador opened the meeting of the Federation in Frankfort with a speech transmitted by Metternich. On all sides members were eager to move resolutions, and Metternich warned them against precipitation, the very last fault, as it turned out, of which the Federal Diet

was likely to be guilty. On the question of the domains of Electoral Hesse, with regard to which many private persons took the part of the elector, the Federation sustained a complete defeat at his hands. The question of the military organisation of the Federation was very inadequately solved. When the Barbary States in 1817

The Idea of a German Fleet Abandoned extended their raids in search of slaves and booty as far as the North Sea, and attacked merchantmen, the

Hanseatic towns lodged complaints before the Federal Diet, but the matter ended in words. The ambassador of Baden, recalling the glorious past history of the Hansa, in vain counselled the federal states to build their own ships. The Federation remained dependent on the favour of foreign maritime Powers; the question of a German fleet was dropped. Nor was more done for trade and commerce; the mutual exchange of food-stuffs was still fettered by a hundred restrictions.

How did the matter stand with the performance of the article of the Act of Federation, which promised diets to all the federal states?

Charles Augustus of Saxe-Weimar had granted a constitution on May 5th, 1816, and placed it under the guarantee of the Federation, which also guaranteed the Mecklenburg constitution of 1817. The Federation generally refrained from independent action, and omitted to put into practice the inconvenient article empowering them to sit in judgment on "the wisdom of each federal government." Austria and Prussia, like most of the federal governments, rejoiced at this evasion; it mattered nothing to them that the peoples were deceived and discontented.

The same evasion was adopted in the case of Article XVIII., on the liberty of the Press. The north of Germany, which had hitherto lived apparently undisturbed, and the south, which was

The Feudal System in Hanover seething with the new constitutional ideas, were somewhat abruptly divided on this point.

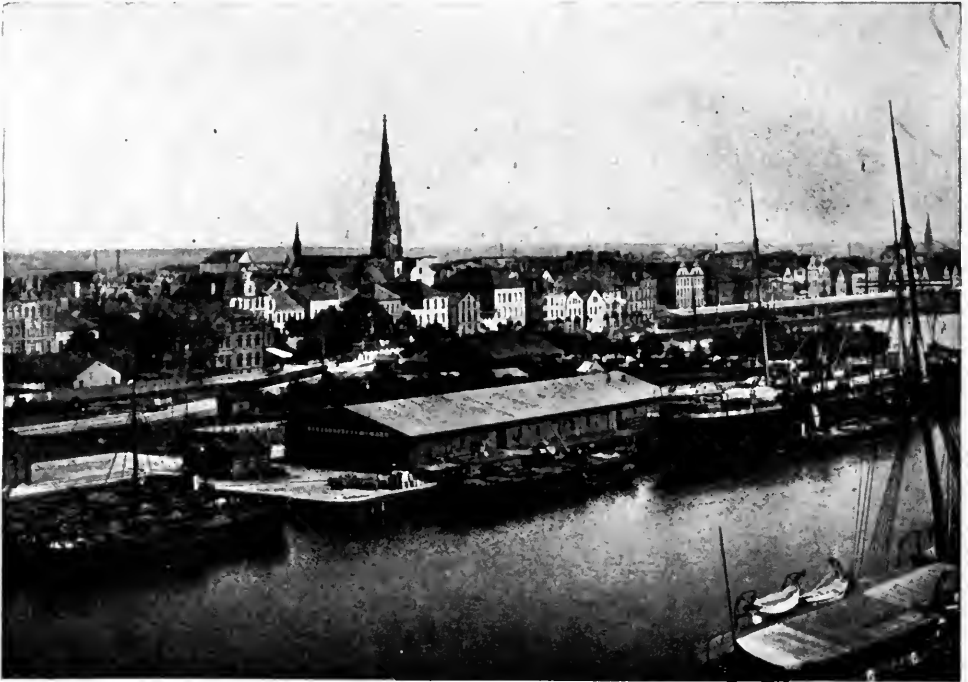
In Hanover the feudal system, which had been very roughly handled by Westphalian and French rulers, returned cautiously and without undue haste out of its lurking-place after the restoration of the House of Guelph. In the General Landtag the landed interest was enormously in the preponderance. Count Münster-Ledenburg, who governed the new kingdom

HISTORY OF THE WORLD

from London, sided with the nobility; the constitution imposed in 1814 rested on the old feudal principles. The estates solemnly announced on January 17th, 1815, the union of the old and new territories into one whole, and on December 7th, 1819, Hanover received a new constitution on the dual-chamber system, and with complete equality of rights for the two chambers. The nobility and the official class were predominant. There was no trace of an organic development of the commonwealth; the nobility conceded no reforms, and the people took little interest in the proceedings of the chambers.

Charles insulted King George IV., and challenged Münster to a duel. Finally, the Federal Diet intervened to end the mismanagement, and everything grew ripe for the revolution of 1830.

In the kingdom of Saxony, so reduced in territory and population, matters returned to the old footing. Frederic Augustus I. the Just maintained order in the peculiar sense in which he understood the word. Only quite untenable conditions were reformed, otherwise the king and the Minister, Count Einsiedel, considered that the highest political wisdom was to persevere in the old order of things.



GENERAL VIEW OF THE TOWN OF BREMERHAVEN, FOUNDED IN 1827 Photochrome

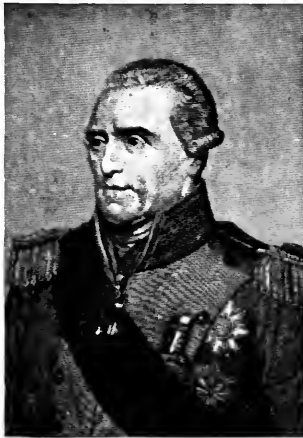
The preponderance of the nobility was less oppressive in Brunswick. George IV. acted as guardian of the young duke, Charles II., and Count Münster in London conducted the affairs of state, with the assistance of the Privy Council of Brunswick, and promoted the material interests of the state, and the country received on April 25th in the "renewed system of states" a suitable constitution. Everything went on as was wished until Charles, in October, 1823, himself assumed the government and declared war on the constitution. A regime of the most despicable caprice and licence now began;

Industries and trade were fettered, and there was a total absence of activity. The officials were as narrow as the statesmen. In the Federation Saxony always sided with Austria, being full of hatred of Prussia; Saxony was only important in the development of art. Even under King Anthony, after May, 1827, everything remained in the old position. Einsiedel's statesmanship was as powerful as before, and the discontent among the people grew.

The two Mecklenburgs remained feudal states, in which the middle class and the peasants were of no account. Even the organic constitution of 1817 for Schwerin



Charles II.



Frederic Augustus



William I.

REACTIONARY RULERS OF EUROPEAN STATES

Assuming the government of Brunswick in 1823, Charles II. declared war on the constitution, and a regime of the most despicable caprice and licence went on until the Federal Diet intervened to end the mismanagement. Known as the Just, Frederic Augustus I. of Saxony followed in the old order of things, and thus the country was stunted in its industries. King of Württemberg, William I. promised a liberal representative constitution, but did not fulfil his pledges ; he died in 1821.

made no alteration in the feudal power prevailing since 1755 ; the knights were still, as ever, supreme in the country. The Sternberg Diet of 1819 led certainly to the abolition of serfdom, but the position of the peasants was not improved by this measure. Emigration became more common ; trades and industries were stagnant. Even Oldenburg was content with " political hibernation." Frankfort-on-Main received a constitution on October 18th, 1816, and many obsolete customs were abolished. In the Hansa towns, on the contrary, the old patriarchal conditions were again in full force ; the council ruled absolutely. Trade and commerce made

great advances, especially in Hamburg and Bremen. The founding of Bremerhaven by the burgomaster Johann Smidt, a clever politician, opened fresh paths of world commerce to Bremen.

The Elector William I., who had returned to Hesse-Cassel, wished to bring everything back to the footing of 1806, when he left his country ; he declared the ordinances of " his administrator Jérôme " not to be binding on him, recognised the sale of domains as little as the advancement of Hessian officers, but wished to make the fullest use of that part of the Westphalian ordinances which brought him personal advantage. He promised, indeed, a liberal



THE FAMOUS UNIVERSITY OF BONN, FOUNDED IN THE YEAR 1818

Photochrome

representative constitution, but trifled with the Landtag, and contented himself with the promulgation of the unmeaning family and national law of March 4th, 1817. When he died, unlamented, in 1821, the still more capricious and worthless regime of William II. began, which was marked by debauchery, family quarrels, and public discontent.

Reforms of the Grand Duke Louis Far more edifying was the state of things in Hesse-Darmstadt, where the Grand Duke, Louis I., although by inclination attached to the old regime, worked his best for reform, and did not allow himself to be driven to reaction after the conference at Carlsbad. He gave Hesse on December 17th (March 18th), 1820, a representative constitution, and was an enlightened ruler, as is shown, among other instances, by his acquiescence in the efforts of Prussia toward a customs union.

The most unscrupulous among the princes of the Rhenish Confederation, Frederic of Würtemberg, readily noticed the increasing discontent of his subjects, and wished to meet it by the proclamation of January 11th, 1815, that ever since 1806 he had wished to give his country a constitution and representation by estates; but when he read out his constitution to the estates on May 15th, these promptly rejected it. The excitement in the country increased amid constant appeals to the "old and just right." Frederic died in the middle of a dispute on October 30th, 1816. Under his son, William I., who was both chivalrous and ambitious, a better time dawned for Würtemberg. But the estates offered such opposition to him that the constitution was not formed until September 25th, 1819; but the first diet of 1820-1821 was extremely amenable to the government. William was very popular, although his rule showed little liberalism.

Bavaria, after the dethronement of its second creator, Napoleon, had recovered the territory on the left bank of the Rhine, and formed out of it the **Bavaria's Recovered Territory** Rhenish Palatinate, whose population remained for a long time as friendly to France as Bavaria itself was hostile. "Father Max" certainly did his best to amalgamate the inhabitants of the Palatinate and Bavaria, and his premier, Count Montgelas, effected so many profitable and wise changes for this kingdom, which had increased to more than thirteen hundred square German miles, with four million souls, that much

of the blame attached to this policy might seem to be unjustified. His most dangerous opponents were the Crown Prince Louis, with his leaning towards romanticism and his "Teutonic" sympathies and hatred of France, and Field-Marshal Count Wrede. While Montgelas wished not to hear a syllable about a new constitution, the crown prince deliberately adopted a constitutional policy, in order to prepare the downfall of the hated Frenchman.

Montgelas' constitution of May 1st, 1808, had never properly seen the light. He intended national representation to be nothing but a sham. The crown prince wished, in opposition to the Minister, that Bavaria should be a constitutional state, a model to the whole of Germany. Montgelas was able to put a stop to the intended creation of a constitution in 1814-1815, while his scheme of an agreement with the Curia was hindered by an increase in the claims of the latter. He fell on February 2nd, 1817, a result to which the court at Vienna contributed, and Bavaria spoke only of his defects, without being in a position to replace Montgelas' system by another. The Concordat of June 5th, 1817, signified a complete victory of the Curia, and was intolerable in the new state of Bavarian public opinion; the "kingdom of darkness" stood beside the door. The Crown met the general discontent by admitting into the constitution some provisions guaranteeing the rights of Protestants, and thus naturally furnished materials for further negotiations with the Curia. On May 26th, 1818, Bavaria finally received its constitution; in spite of deficiencies and gaps it was full of vitality, and is still in force, although in the interval it has required to be altered in many points.

Bavaria thus by the award of a liberal constitution had anticipated Baden, which was forced to grant a similar one in order to influence public opinion in its favour. Prospects of the Baden Rhenish-Palatinate were opened up to Bavaria by arrangements with Austria. The ruling House of Zähringen, except for an illegitimate line, was on the verge of extinction, and the Grand Duke Charles could never make up his mind to declare the counts of Hochberg legitimate. At the urgent request of Stein and the Tsar Alexander, his brother-in-law, Charles, had already announced to Metternich and

Hardenberg in Vienna on December 1st, 1814, that he wished to introduce a representative constitution in his dominions, and so anticipated the Act of Federation. Stein once more implored the distrustful man, "whose indolence was boundless," to carry out his intention; but every appeal rebounded from him, and he once again postponed the constitutional question.

The Bavarian craving for Baden territory became more and more threatening. A more vigorous spirit was felt in the Baden Ministry after its reorganisation. At last, on October 4th, Charles, by a family law, proclaimed the indivisibility of the whole state and the rights of the Hochberg line to the succession. It was foreseen that Bavaria would not submit tamely to this. German public opinion, and even Russian influence were brought to bear in favour of a constitution. Baden was forced to try to anticipate Bavaria in making this concession. Even the Emperor Alexander opened the first diet of his kingdom of Poland on the basis of the constitution of 1815, and took the occasion to praise the blessing of liberal institutions. Then Bavaria got the start of Baden.

**Rejoicings
in Liberal
Germany**

Tettenborn and Reitzenstein represented to Charles that Baden must make haste and create a still more liberal constitution, which was finally signed by Charles on August 22nd, 1818.

It was, according to Barnhagen, "the most liberal of all German constitutions, the richest in germs of life, the strongest in energy." It entirely corresponded to the charter of Louis XVIII. The ordinances of October 4th, 1817, were also contained in it and ratified afresh. The rejoicings in Baden and liberal Germany at large were unanimous. In Munich there was intense bitterness. The Crown Prince Louis in particular did not desist from trying to win the Baden Palatinate, and we know now that even Louis II. in the year 1870 urged Bismarck to obtain it for Bavaria. Baden ceded to Bavaria in 1819 a portion of the district of Wertheim, and received from Austria Hohengeroldseck. The congress at Aix-la-Chapelle had also pronounced in favour of Baden in 1818.

Nassau, before the rest of Germany, had received, on September 2nd, 1814, a constitution, for which Stein was partly responsible. But the estates were not summoned until the work of reorganising the duchy was completed. Duke William

opened the assembly at last on March 3rd, 1818, and a tedious dispute soon broke out about the Crown lands and state property. The Minister of State, Bieberstein, a particularist and reactionary of the purest water, adopted Metternich's views. In popular opinion the credit of the first step was not given to Nassau,

**Unruly
Scenes in
the Diets**

because it delayed so long to take the second. If Metternich looked towards Prussia, he saw the king in his element, and Hardenberg in continual strife with Humboldt; if he turned his eyes to South Germany, he beheld a motley scene, which also gave him a hard problem to solve. In Bavaria the first diet led to such unpleasant scenes that the king contemplated the repeal of the constitution. In Baden, where Rotteck and Baron Liebenstein were the leaders, a flood of proposals was poured out against the rule of the new Grand Duke, Louis I.; the dispute became so bitter that Louis, on July 28th, 1819, prorogued the chambers. In Nassau and in Hesse-Darmstadt there was also much disorder in the diets.

The reaction saw all this with great pleasure. It experienced a regular triumph on March 23rd, 1819, through the bloody deed of a student, Karl Ludwig Sand. It had become a rooted idea in the limited brain of this fanatic that the dramatist and Russian privy councillor, August von Kotzebue, was a Russian spy, the most dangerous enemy of German freedom and German academic life; he therefore stabbed him in Mannheim. While great and general sympathy was extended to Sand, the governments feared a conspiracy of the student associations where Sand had studied.

Charles Augustus saw that men looked askance at him, and his steps for the preservation of academic liberty were unavailing. Metternich possessed the power, and made full use of it, being sure of the assent of the majority of German governments, of Russia, and of Great Britain; even from France approval was showered upon him. Frederic William III., being completely ruled by Prince Wittgenstein and Kaunitz, was more and more overwhelmed with fear of revolution, and wished to abolish everything which seemed open to suspicion.

The universities, the fairest ornaments of Germany, were regarded by the rulers as hotbeds of revolutionary intrigues;

they required to be freed from the danger. The authorities of Austria and Prussia thought this to be imperatively necessary, and during the season for the waters at Carlsbad they wished to agree upon the measures. Haste was urgent, as it seemed, for on July 1st, 1819, Sand had already found an imitator. Karl Löning, an apothecary's apprentice, attempted

The Iron Hand in Prussia

to assassinate at Schwalbach Karl von Ibell, the president of the Nassau Government, whom, in spite of his liberal and excellent administration, the crackbrained Radicals loudly proclaimed to be a reactionary. The would-be assassin committed suicide after his attempt had failed. In Prussia steps were now taken to pay domiciliary visits, confiscate papers, and make arrests. Jahn was sent to a fortress, the papers of the bookseller Reimer were put under seal, Schleiermacher's sermons were subject to police surveillance, the houses of Welcker and Arndt in Bonn were carefully searched and all writings carried off which the bailiffs chose to take. Protests were futile. Personal freedom had no longer any protection against the tyranny of the police. The privacy of letters was constantly infringed, and the Government issued falsified accounts of an intended revolution.

On July 29th Frederic William and Metternich met at Töplitz. Metternich strengthened the king's aversion to grant a general constitution, and agitated against Hardenberg's projected constitution. On August 1st the Contract of Töplitz was agreed upon, which, though intended to be kept secret, was to form the basis of the Carlsbad conferences; a censorship was to be exercised over the Press and the universities, and Article 13 of the Act of Federation was to be explained in a corresponding sense. Metternich triumphed, for even Hardenberg seemed to submit to him. Metternich returned with justifiable self-complacency to Carlsbad, where he found

Metternich's Reactionary Measures

his selected body of diplomatists, and over the heads of the Federal Diet he discussed with the representatives of a quarter of the governments, from August 6th to 31st, reactionary measures of the most sweeping character. Gentz, the secretary of the congress, drew up the minutes on which the resolutions of Carlsbad were mainly based. Metternich wished to grant to the Federal Diet a stronger influence on the legislation of the several states, and

through it indirectly to guide the governments, unnoticed by the public. The interpretation of Article 13 of the Act of Federation was deferred to ensuing conferences at Vienna, and an agreement was made first of all on four main points. A very stringent press law for five years was to be enforced in the case of all papers appearing daily or in numbers, and of pamphlets containing less than twenty pages of printed matter; and every federal state should be allowed to increase the stringency of the law at its own discretion.

The universities were placed under the strict supervision of commissioners appointed by the sovereigns; dangerous professors were to be deprived of their office, all secret societies and the universal student associations were to be prohibited, and no member of them should hold a public post. It was enacted that a central commission, to which members were sent by Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Hanover, Baden, Hesse-Darmstadt, and Nassau, should assemble at Mainz to investigate the treasonable revolutionary societies which had been discovered; but, by the distinct

The Te Deum of the Reactionaries

declaration of Austria, such a commission should have no judicial power. A preliminary executive order, to terminate after August, 1820, was intended to secure the carrying out of the resolutions of the Federation for the maintenance of internal tranquillity, and in given cases military force might be employed to effect it.

On September 1st the Carlsbad conferences ended, and the party of reaction sang their Te Deum. Austria appeared to be the all-powerful ruler of Germany. "A new era is dawning," Metternich wrote to London. The Federal Diet accepted the Carlsbad resolutions with unusual haste on September 20th, and they were proclaimed in all the federal states. Austria had stolen a march over the others, and the Federal Council expressed its most humble thanks to Francis therefor. All free-thinkers saw in the Carlsbad resolutions not merely a check on all freedom and independence, but also a disgrace; nevertheless, the governments, in spite of the indignation of men like Stein, Rotteck, Niebuhr, Dahlmann, Ludwig Börne, and others, carried them out in all their harshness. The central commission of inquiry hunted through the Federation in search of conspiracies, and, as its own reports acknowledge, found nothing of importance,

THE REACTION IN CENTRAL EUROPE

but unscrupulously interfered with the life of the nation and the individual. Foreign countries did not check this policy, although many statesmen, Capodistrias at their head, disapproved of the reaction. The Students' Association was officially dissolved on November 26th, 1819, but was immediately reconstituted in secret.

There was no demagogism in Austria; Prussia was satisfied to comply with the wishes of the court of Vienna, and even

Hardenberg was prepared for any step which Metternich prescribed. Every suspected person was regarded in Berlin as an imported conspirator. The edict of censorship of 1819, dating from the day of liberation, October 18th, breathed the unholy spirit of Wöllner; foreign journals were strictly supervised. The reaction was nowhere more irreconcilable than in Prussia, where nothing recalled the saying of Frederic the Great, that every man might be happy after his own fashion. The

gymnasia were as relentlessly persecuted as the intellectual exercises of university training; nothing could be more detestable than the way in which men like Arndt, Gneisenau, and Jahn were made to run the gauntlet, or a patriot like Justus Gruner was ill-treated on his very deathbed, or the residence of Görres in Germany rendered intolerable. This tendency obviously crippled the fulfilment of the royal promise of a constitution—a promise in which

Frederic William had never been serious. Hardenberg and Humboldt were perpetually quarrelling; Humboldt attacked the exaggerated power of the chancellor, who was not competent for his post; Hardenberg laid a new plan of a constitution before the king on August 11th, 1819. The king, in this dispute, took the side of Hardenberg, and the dismissal of Boyen and Grolman was followed, on December 31st, 1819, by that of Humboldt and

Count Beyme. Metternich rejoiced; Humboldt, the "thoroughly bad man," was put on one side and thenceforth lived for science.

Hardenberg's position was once more strengthened; his chief object was to carry the revenue and finance laws. On January 17th, 1820, the ordinance as to the condition of the national debt was issued, from which the Liberals received the comforting assurance that the Crown would not be able to raise new loans except under the joint guarantee of the proposed assembly of the estates, and

that the trustees of the debt would furnish the assembly with an annual statement of accounts. Shipping companies and banks were remodelled; the capital account was to be published every three years. Hardenberg then brought his revenue laws to the front, and in spite of many difficulties these laws, which, though admittedly imperfect, still demanded attention, were passed on May 20th, 1820.



Stein.



Rotteck



Humboldt



Eichhorn

A GROUP OF DISTINGUISHED GERMANS

Entering the service of Prussia in 1780, Baron von Stein worked for progress and laid the foundations of Prussia's subsequent greatness. Rotteck, a professor at Freiburg, was eminent as a historian and publicist; famous as a naturalist and traveller, Humboldt explored unknown lands, while Eichhorn was a prominent Prussian statesman and jurist.

In accordance with the agreement made in Carlsbad, the representatives of the inner federal assembly met in Vienna, and deliberated from November 25th, 1819, to May 24th, 1820, over the head of the Federal Diet; the result, the final act of Vienna of May 15th, 1820, obtained the same validity as the Federal Act of 1815.

Eichhorn's Ideal of Union In the plenary assembly of June 8th, 1820, the Federal Diet promoted it to be a fundamental law of the Federation. Particularism and reaction had scored a success, and the efficiency of the Federal Diet was once more crippled. The nation was universally disappointed by the new fundamental law, which realised not one of its expectations; but Metternich basked in the rays of success.

The question of free intercourse between the federal states had also been discussed in Vienna, and turned men's looks to Prussia's efforts towards a customs union. The Customs Act of May 26th, 1818, was unmercifully attacked; it was threatened with repeal at the Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle, but weathered the storm, and found protection from Johann Friedrich Eichhorn. In the field of material interests Eichhorn had a free hand; he was a hero of unobtrusive work, who with indefatigable patience went towards his goal—the union of the German states to Prussia by the bond of their own interests. In 1819 he invited the Thuringian states, which formed enclaves in Prussia, to a tariff union, and on October 25th in that year the first treaty for accession to the tariff union was signed with Schwarzburg-Sondershausen; since this was extremely advantageous to the petty state, it served as a model to all further treaties with Prussian enclaves.

The German Commercial and Industrial Association of the traders of Central and Southern Germany was founded in Frankfurt during the April Fair of 1819, under the presidency of Professor Friedrich List of Tübingen. The memorial of the association, drawn up by List and presented to the diet, pictured as its ultimate aim the universal freedom of commercial intercourse between every nation; it called for the abolition of the inland tolls and existing federal tolls on foreign trade, but was rejected. List now attacked the several governments, scourged in his journal the faults of German

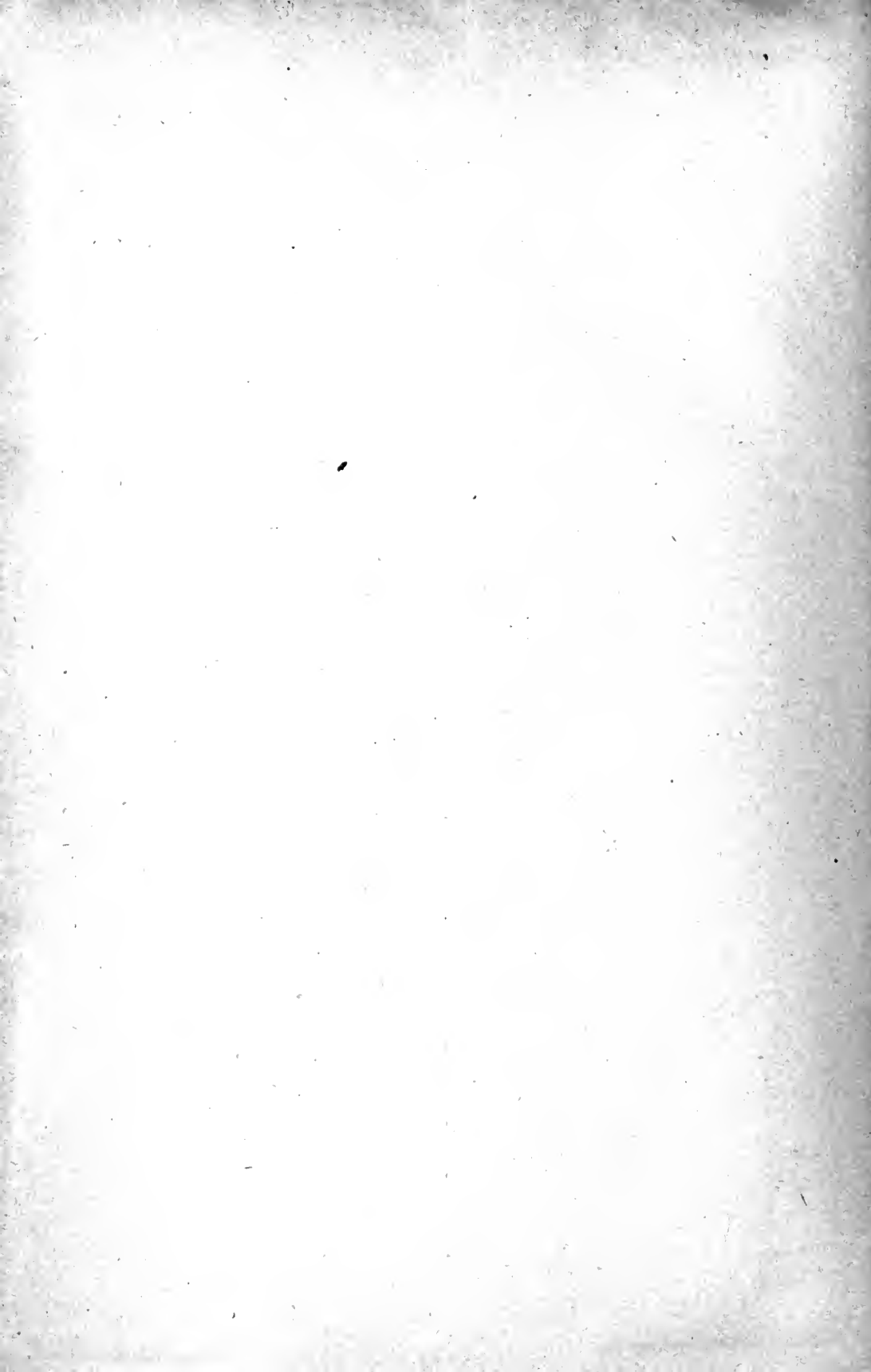
commercial policy, was an opponent of the Prussian Customs Act, and always recurred to federal tolls. Far clearer were the economic views of the Baden statesman Karl Friedrich Nebenius, whose pamphlet was laid before the Vienna conferences. He too attacked the Prussian Customs Act; but his pamphlet, in spite of all its merits, had no influence on the development of the tariff union. Johann Friedrich Benzenberg alone of the well-known journalists of the day spoke for Prussia. Indeed, the hostility to Prussia gave rise to the abortive separate federation of Southern and Central Germany, formed at Darmstadt in 1820. Such plans were foredoomed to failure. All rival tariff unions failed in the same way.

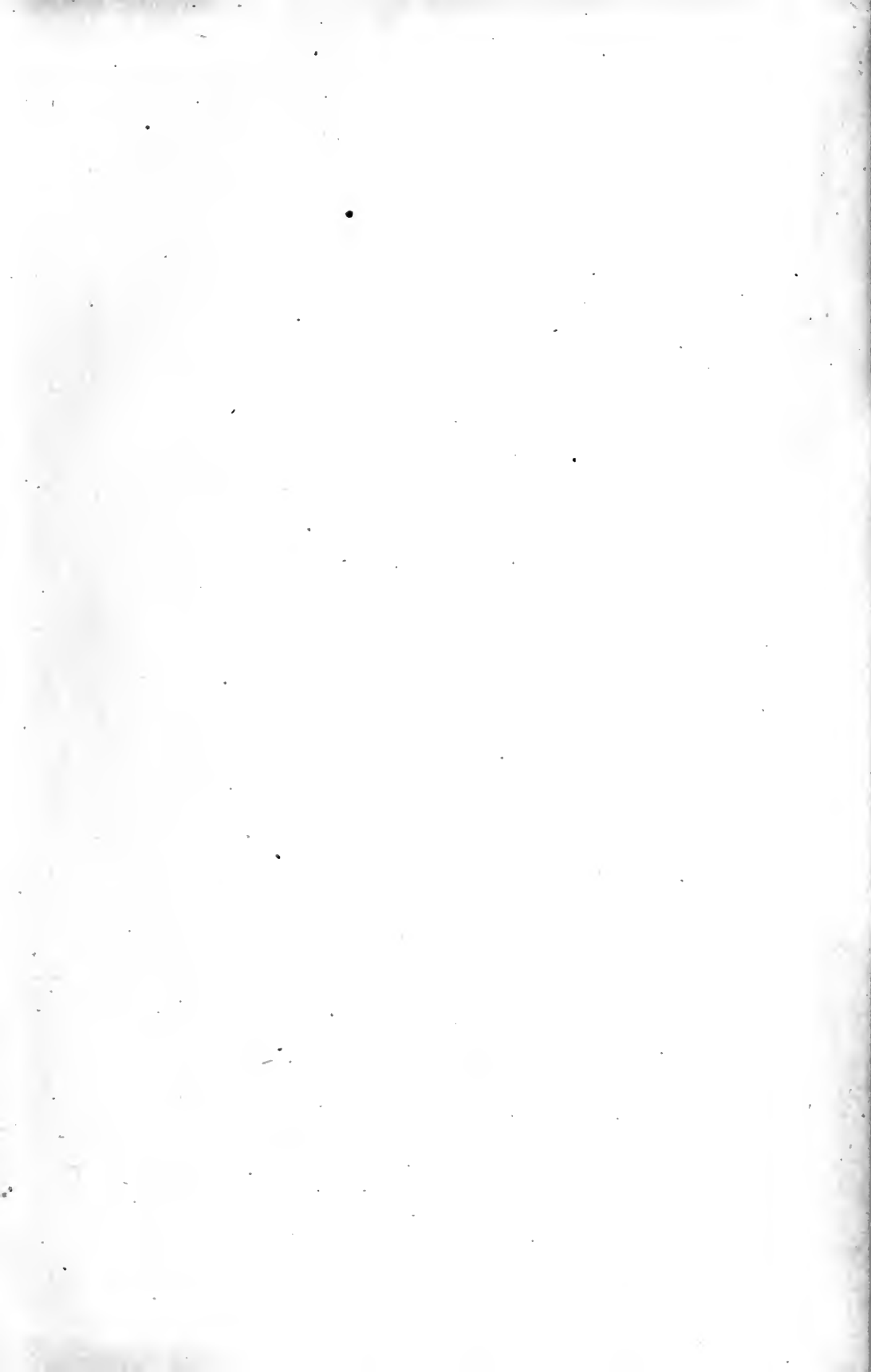
Hardenberg's influence over Frederic William III. had been extinguished by Metternich, and the Chancellor of State was politically dead, even before he closed his eyes, on November 26th, 1822. A new constitution commission under the presidency of the Crown Prince Frederic William (IV.), who was steeped in romanticism, consisted entirely of Hardenberg's

Reaction Against Triumphant opponents, and would only be content with charters for the several provinces. The king consented to them. After Hardenberg's death the king could not consent to summon Wilhelm von Humboldt, but abolished the presidency in the Cabinet. The king contented himself with the law of June 5th, 1823, as to the regulation of provincial estates.

Bureaucracy and feudalism celebrated a joint victory in this respect. Austria could be contented with Prussia's aversion to constitutional forms, and, supported by it, guided the Federal Diet, in which Würtemberg, owing to the frankness and independence of its representative, Wangenheim, now and again broke from the trodden path. Wangenheim suggested the plan of confronting the great German powers with a league "of pure and constitutional Germany," under the leadership of Bavaria and Würtemberg, proposing to create a triple alliance. But the Vienna conferences of January, 1823, arranged by Metternich, soon led to Würtemberg's compliance. Wangenheim fell in July. The Carlsbad resolutions were renewed in August, 1824, and the Federal Diet did not agitate again, after it had quietly divided the unhappy Central Enquiry Commission at Mainz in 1828.







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