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THE

CATECHISM

OF

MODERN HISTORY.



EDITED BY

REV. T. WILSON.



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A  
C A T E C H I S M  
O F  
M O D E R N H I S T O R Y .

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LESSON I.

WHEN does Modern History commence ?

At the fall of Rome, which took place in the year 410.

How long had she then endured ?

Upwards of 1,000 years, during which she had increased from a petty settlement to a vast and splendid city, the capital of a vast empire ; her armies were almost everywhere victorious ; her senators were famous for their wisdom, and her nobles for wealth ; and the city itself was one of the wonders of the world.

Who at length conquered Rome ?

\*

Alaric, the king of a fierce and barbarous tribe of people from the north of Europe, invaded

Italy, and at last penetrated to the gates of Rome. The Romans, terrified at his approach, sought for peace, which was granted on their promising to pay an enormous ransom.

Did the Romans keep their word ?

No ; when the time of payment came, Honorius, the Roman emperor, contemptuously refused to pay the promised tribute.

What was the consequence of this refusal ?

The whole army of Goths, with the incensed Alaric at their head, again invaded Rome, and at last reduced it to such extremities, that Honorius once more sued for peace, promising to pay 5,000 lbs. of gold, and 30,000 lbs. of silver as the price of peace.

Did the Goths grant this request ?

Yes ; they consented once more to be bribed, but demanded as a security for the payment of the money, that several of the chief citizens should give up their children as hostages.

How did the Romans now keep their faith ?

When Alaric demanded the stipulated sum, the perfidious Honorius again refused ; once more the barbarians laid siege to Rome, took it by storm, plundered it, and finally burnt the greater part of it to the ground.

Did no part of the city escape ?

Yes ; Alaric showed great moderation in his revenge. He gave orders that his soldiers should be sparing of blood ; that no senator should be put to death ; that all should be spared who fled into the churches for refuge ; and that the public edifices should be preserved.

When did Alaric's death occur?

Not long after the taking of Rome, whilst he was meditating the conquest of Africa. He was succeeded in his kingdom by his brother Ataulphus.

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## LESSON II.

WHAT was the state of Rome after her capture by the Goths?

She continued to linger on, but with diminished power, for nearly 70 years.

Who next invaded her?

She was assailed on all sides by several barbarous tribes, and at length, in the year 455, Genseric, the king of the Vandals, landed in the Tiber, and took the city by storm.

How was this invasion of the Vandals worse than that of the Goths?

The city was entirely given up to the fierce and licentious soldiery for 14 days and nights, and they showed neither mercy or pity. Every part of the city was pillaged, and neither public nor private buildings escaped destruction; and great numbers of the Roman citizens were carried away captives into Africa.

What great event next befel Rome?

About 20 years later she was again taken by Odoacer king of the Heruli. Rome was then

in far too weak a condition to resist, and accordingly Augustulus, the last of the Roman emperors, went out to meet his invaders, and resigned into their hands the insignia of his sway. His life was spared, and he was allowed to retire to the neighbourhood of Rome. Odoacer assumed the power and title of king, and thus put an end to the Empire of the West, in the 1229th year from the foundation of Rome.

How long did Odoacer reign?

He never assumed the purple or diadem of emperor, but was content with the simple title of *king*, the name of no country being attached to it as his dominions. After a prosperous and prudent reign of 14 years, his fortunes sank before the superior genius of Theodoric, the king of the Ostrogoths.

What became of the empire of Rome under Theodoric?

Under his sway all traces of the imperial government were swept away or entirely changed, and Italy was formed into a kingdom.

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### LESSON III.

#### THE GOTHs, VANDALS, AND HUNS.

Who were the Goths?

They were a fierce and barbarous tribe of people, known at different times under the names

of Getæ, Goths, and Germani, who dwelt in what is now Germany, Sweden, and Norway.

After the fall of the Western Empire, where did the Goths settle ?

They over-ran nearly the whole of Europe ; a considerable portion of the population of every country in this division of the globe, excepting Russia, Poland, and Hungary, being of Gothic origin and descent.

Why are Russia, Poland, and Hungary to be excepted ?

Because in them the Slavonic race predominates.

Who were the Vandals ?

They came from Silesia and Bohemia, and in the beginning of the fifth century, together with the Suevi and Alani, vanquished the Franks and crossed the Rhine. Ultimately, after settling in Spain, they were harassed by the Visigoths, and passed over into Africa, which became the chief seat of their power.

Who were the Huns ?

A nation who inhabited a part of Sarmatia, and from thence having passed over to the country on the banks of the Don, drove out from it the original inhabitants, the Alani, and almost destroyed them.

Did their power afterwards increase ?

Yes ; in 411 the Huns under Attila threatened the Western Empire with entire destruction, and gradually made themselves masters of all the northern countries from the borders of Persia to the banks of the Rhine.

Was the name of Goths applied to no other tribes of people than the first who bore the name ?

Yes ; the Alani, Suevi, and other mixed tribes, were often called by the general name of Goths. Where did the Alani, Suevi, and Vandals afterwards settle ?

They passed the Pyrenean mountains and desolated all Spain, from whence, as we have before seen, the Vandals crossed over into Africa.

What were the two great divisions of Goths ?

The Ostro or East-Goths, and the Visi or West-Goths ; the former chiefly from the coast of the Black Sea ; and the latter from Dacia and Pannonia.

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## LESSON IV.

### THE EASTERN EMPIRE.

At the time of the fall of the Western, what was the state of the Eastern Empire ?

It seemed like the Western, to be fast verging towards its fall.

What new empire was about to rise ?

That of the Saracens ; a people who are said to have assumed their name, to induce the belief of their being the legitimate descendants of Abraham by *Sara* ; whereas in reality they were

Ishmaelites, or descendants of Abraham by Hagar.

Before this time, how had the Saracens or Arabs lived ?

They were a Nomadic or wandering people, living chiefly in independent tribes, and acknowledging no superior but the head of their tribe. Those in the interior were almost entirely shepherds, while those on the coast lived chiefly by fishing and piracy.

Before the appearance of Mahomet what was their religion ?

They worshipped idols ; but retained something of the Jewish religion in the rite of circumcision, frequent washings, and abstaining from certain meats ?

Of what rank was Mahomet ?

The principal of the Arabian tribes was that of Koreish ; and of this tribe Mahomet was a prince, though his entire wealth consisted of but one slave and five camels. He was born in the year A.D. 571,

What great improvements did Mahomet bring into the religion of the Arabs ?

He taught his followers to believe in one God, Almighty, Eternal, Creator of all things ; to pray to this God seven times a day ; to love all men ; to assist the poor and needy and protect the injured ; and to show kindness to inferior animals.

Were there no other points in his religion worthy of being noticed ?

Yes ; many others are worthy of being noticed,

only to be condemned. Unbridled indulgence of the passions was permitted, and the highest reward of the good Musselman in the future state was to consist in sensual enjoyments. Four wives were permitted to each of his followers, and an unlimited number of concubines.

Did Mahomet reject all the Old Testament revelation ?

No ; many of its truths are to be found in his system, blended with much that is false and wicked. He taught his followers that God had at sundry times sent diverse prophets on earth to keep alive the knowledge of the truth ; and that the most eminent of these were Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ, and Mahomet—who was the last and greatest of all ; thus blasphemously making himself to be greater than the Son of God.

In what form did he deliver his precepts to his followers ?

In a book which he called the Koran, and which he declared to have been delivered to him by the Angel Gabriel.

Where did his preaching commence ?

In the city of Mecca, his birth-place ; beyond the walls of which, it is probable, that his religion would never have spread, had he not been persecuted, and at length banished.

Whither did he fly ?

To Medina, where, after he had gained some friends, with the sword in one hand and the Koran in the other, he exhorted his disciples to

strive for empire and dominion in this world, and eternal happiness in the next.

With what success did the prophet meet?

In a few years all Arabia was subdued to his empire and religion; and from this country his doctrines spread throughout the vast empire of the east, the whole of which gradually gave way before the victorious arms of the Saracens.

When did Mahomet die?

He died suddenly at the age of 64, in the year 633, in the midst of his conquests in Syria (where he had taken several towns), and was buried at Medina. His flight from Mecca, which took place about 13 years after the promulgation of his faith, is termed by the Mahometans the Hegira, and is used by them as a point to date from, like the Christian era with us. The year answers to A.D. 622.

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## LESSON V.

### THE EMPIRE OF THE SARACENS.

WHEN did the empire of the Saracens become renowned for extent and power?

In the eighth century when the dominion of the Visigoths in Spain was reft away from them by the Saracens, who invaded and overran the whole country.

What countries did their empire comprise when at its height?

Spain and Portugal in Europe; in Africa, the States of Barbary and Egypt, and almost all the Southern parts of Asia; Syria, Phenicia, and Mesopotamia, which were taken from the Eastern Empire in one campaign, and finally the vast empire of Persia itself.

Under whom was the last of these conquests achieved?

Omar, the second successor after Mahomet.

What great loss did literature sustain about this time?

The wonderful library at Alexandria, founded by Ptolemy Philadelphus, was destroyed by the lieutenants of Omar, who affirmed that all the knowledge contained in this vast collection of books was either comprised in the Koran, and therefore superfluous, or not comprised in it, and therefore unnecessary. The library is said to have consisted of more than 700,000 volumes.

Which was the first capital of this empire?

Mecca, the birth-place of Mahomet; but the power was afterwards transferred, at first to Couffa, a city on the banks of the Euphrates, and finally to Bagdad.

How long did the descendants of Omar continue on the throne?

A succession of 19 kaliphs (as the Saracen sovereigns were called) of his family, termed Omniades, reigned at Mecca and Couffa; after which began the dynasty of the Abassides, or descendants of Mahomet by the male line. During the reign of the second of these kaliphs, the empire was transferred to Bagdad.

When did Bagdad become most famous ?

In the middle of the ninth century, under the celebrated kaliph, Haroun Alraschid, Bagdad became most renowned as the great seat of learning and science, and to it philosophers and literati flocked from all parts of the East.

For what sciences were the Arabians remarkable ?

For medicine and astronomy. They had also some acquaintance with mechanics, were well skilled in geometry, and were most probably the inventors of algebra.

While Bagdad thus flourished under caliph Alraschid, what rival city vied with her in learning and magnificence ?

Cordova, in Spain ; which had been the residence of Abdalrahman, the last heir of the Omniades, who when the caliphate was possessed by the Abassides fled into this country, and was soon after acknowledged sovereign of all the Moorish possessions in the south of Spain.

What remains of the power and magnificence of the Moors are still visible in Spain ?

The Moorish structures in Spain were principally erected during the eighth, ninth and tenth centuries, and several which still remain convey to us an idea of opulence and grandeur almost beyond belief. The mosque of Cordova, completed about the year 800, is one of the most remarkable of them.

What caused the downfall of the empire of the Saracens ?

The refusal of their separate states and governments to acknowledge one head.

What was the consequence of this ?

Egypt asserted her independence, and became the residence of a sultan ; Mauritania became under an absolute prince the kingdom of Morocco ; Syria revolted, and Tunis, Algiers, and Tripoli soon followed the example, while Cordova obeyed a race of princes of the ancient family of Omar.

Whom did the caliphs invite to their assistance ?

The Turks, who not long after seized the government for themselves, left the caliphs but the mere name of authority, and gradually subdued the greater part of Asia.

After the Saracen empire was thus divided, did the separate sovereigns pay any respect to the caliph of the east ?

Yes ; they still acknowledged him as the successor of Mahomet, but not as their temporal superior.

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## LESSON VI.

### THE EMPIRE OF THE FRANKS.

Who were the Franks ?

A tribe of Gothic origin, originally from the banks of the lower Rhine, and Weser, who with some other petty tribes having formed a league for mutual defence against Rome, took thence the name of Franks or Freemen.

Who is the first sovereign of this united people mentioned in history ?

Pharamond ; but of his existence even we have no very credible account, and Clovis, the grandson of Merovius, the kinsman and successor of Pharamond, is generally considered to be the true founder of the monarchy ; the first race of French kings being called Merovingians, from Merovius the head of the race.

What were the other great families of French sovereigns ?

The Carlovingian, so called from Charlemagne ; and the Capetine from Hugh Capet, of which the houses of Valois and Bourbon were branches.

What were at this time the great divisions of the land of France ?

Two ; Austrasia, the eastern division, and Neustria the western, which the four sons of Clovis divided between themselves at his death.

What is the general character of the reigns of the Merovingian kings ?

The whole period of their reigns was almost an uninterrupted scene of anarchy and confusion, through the frequent rising and usurpation of the chief officers of the state, the mayors of the palace.

To what height did their power rise ?

They held the French monarchs in almost entire subjection, and left them little more than the title of king ; until the time of Pepin, the father of Charlemagne, who deposed Childeric III, the last of the Merovingian race, and fully asserted that power of which his predecessors had possessed but the name.

How long did the Merovingian family reign ?

There were about forty princes of the family of Merovius who reigned during 332 years.

Who succeeded the Merovingians ?

Pepin the Short, the father of Charlemagne, was the first of the Carolingians who reigned 235 years until the time of Hugh Capet, whose reign began in 987.

Why was Charlemagne, or Charles the Great, so called ?

From his great success, power, and talents. His empire reached beyond the Danube ; Dalmatia and Istria were subdued ; the barbarous nations as far as the Vistula, conquered and rendered tributary ; the greater part of Italy was vanquished ; and his talents were yet more remarkable in the civil and political regulation of the empire than in war.

How was it that the line of Charlemagne was at last excluded from the rightful succession of the throne of France ?

On the death of Louis V, or the Idle, as he was called, his uncle Charles, Duke of Brabant and Hainault was the right heir to the crown ; but Hugh Capet, Count of Paris, one of the most ambitious and powerful of the nobles, defeated the forces of his rival, and was elected sovereign by the unanimous voice of his peers, A.D. 987.

How long have the family of Capet reigned ?

Upwards of 800 years, down to the present time. The house of Valois, one of the branches of the Capetian line succeeded in 1328, and continued to reign until the death of Henry III, in 1589.

Who succeeded him ?

Henry IV, of Bourbon, whose descendants occupied the throne until the year 1793, when the monarchy was abolished at the great revolution, and the government became a republic, which it continued to be until Napoleon Buonaparte was declared emperor in 1804.

What became of Buonaparte ?

After a long career of success and bloodshed, and being the victor in many battles, he was at last overcome by the combined forces of Europe, at Waterloo, near Brussels, June 18, 1815, and was forced to surrender to the allied powers. He died in 1821, a miserable exile in the Island of St. Helena; and the ancient line of Bourbon was restored to the throne.

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## LESSON VII.

### THE NORMANS.

Who were the Normans, Norsemen, or Northmen ?

Another race of Gothic origin who inhabited Scandinavia. They began to commit depredations on their neighbours during the reign of Charlemagne, who however, was powerful enough to prevent their making any considerable encroachment on his dominion.

What countries did they subsequently invade ?

About the year 844 they made almost simultaneous attacks on France, England and Spain. Spain succeeded in repelling the invaders, but in both the other countries, the Norsemen were more successful. During the reign of Pepin, King of Aquitaine, who through fear had united his forces to those of the Norsemen, France, Germany, Flanders, and England, were successively ravaged.

Who was the most distinguished of the Norsemen chieftains ?

Raoul, or Rollo, who attempted to get a footing in England A.D. 885, but not succeeding he proceeded to France. Here his followers settled, and becoming united with the Franks, produced that race who were to be the future conquerors of England in the 11th century.

Who was the great opponent of the Norsemen, or Danes, as they were at first called in England ?

Alfred the Great, a Saxon prince, grandson of Egbert, who about 400 years after the arrival of the Saxons in Britain ruled over all the kingdoms of the Heptarchy. Before his death, in the year 900, he had almost completely defeated the Danes, and left his kingdom in a high state of prosperity.

Why had the Saxons come to Britain ?

A deputation had been sent into Germany, by a British king, Vortigern, begging the Saxons to come over to England and assist the natives against the Picts and Scots, a savage people of the northern part of the island.

What was the result of this deputation ?

The Saxons came, A.D. 450 ; drove the Scots and Picts back to the north, and next turned their thoughts to the reduction of the Britons themselves. This they finally accomplished, and their power was established under the chiefs who founded the kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy. What right had William, Duke of Normandy, to claim the throne of England ?

Edward the Confessor had nominated him his successor, by will, and his rival Harold had taken an oath to remain his obedient subject, and to support his claim.

When was the Norman power established in England ?

In 1066, when Harold was defeated and slain at the battle of Hastings, and the Saxons completely routed.

What was the state of central Europe during this period ?

It was invaded and ravaged by the Huns, Hungarians, or Magyers, who extended their armies into Greece and Italy. Germany was the longest exposed to their hostilities, and accordingly suffered the most.

## LESSON VIII.

## THE GERMANIC EMPIRE.

WHEN did the empire of Germany arise ?

About the year 843, the Western Empire was divided into the three sovereignties of Germany, Italy, and France ; and after the deposition of Charles the Fat, the empire of Charlemagne subsisted only in name. Arnold, or Arnulph, a bastard son of Carloman, made himself master of Germany ; and considered himself, as emperor, to be master of France, though that country was possessed by Eudes and Charles the Simple ; while Italy was divided between Guy, Duke of Spoleto, and Berengarius of Friuli.

How long did this continue ?

About the year 962, the empire of the west was completely restored and given to Otho the Great, who was crowned emperor of the Romans.

Who was the first of the Saxon dynasty of emperors ?

Henry the Fowler, who was elected emperor by the states of Germany, A.D. 919. He was a prince of great ability, and soon changed the state of affairs for the better ; under him the disorderly nobles were united ; the Hungarians vanquished, and the empire freed from a most disgraceful tribute imposed during the preceding reign.

Who succeeded Henry I ?

His son Otho the Great, who united Italy to the empire, and became the most celebrated character of his age in Europe. He is famous for the subjection in which the popedom was kept during the greater part of his reign.

Who was the last of the Saxon dynasty of emperors ?

Henry, Duke of Bavaria, who was elected emperor of the west, on the death of Otho III, from whom he was descended in the female line. He died 1024.

By whom was the power of the emperors contested ?

By the popes ; between whom and the emperors a constant struggle for pre-eminence continued for a long period.

When did this struggle begin ?

In the reign of the emperor, Henry IV, whose authority was much weakened by his long minority ; he having succeeded his father when only five years old.

What circumstances favoured the policy of the popes ?

Edward the Confessor had conferred the chief ecclesiastical dignities of his kingdom on foreigners, who were devoted to the interest of the pope. In Spain, the new provinces wrested from the Moors, became firm allies of the Roman See, as the spread of Christianity tended to make Norway and Sweden ; but the most powerful allies, supporting papal authority, were the Normans who had settled in England and Italy.

When did the power of the popes reach its greatest height ?

Under Hildebrand, who became pope with the title of Gregory VII, A.D. 1073. His two great objects were to enforce the celibacy of the clergy and the right of the pope to invest bishops with the pall and ring that belonged to their dignity. Henry IV, then emperor, soon saw a new power established, gradually becoming greater than his own, and entered into an alliance with the Normans against their common enemy.

What was the end of this quarrel ?

The emperor was cited by Gregory to answer before the council at Rome, on a charge of protecting excommunicated bishops, and granting investitures ; and, having refused to obey the summons, was solemnly excommunicated, and finally, after suffering many indignities, forced to stand barefooted and to fast for three days in the depth of winter, in an outer court, and even then the sentence of excommunication was only *suspended*.

What was the fate of Gregory ?

Rodolph having been elected by the discontented nobles of Germany, after the deposition of Henry, the pope again excommunicated Henry and sent to Rodolph a crown of gold. But Henry enraged at this, assembled an army, and defeated and slew Rodolph, forced the Germans into submission, and after having been twice driven from the gates of Rome, at length procured the installation of Clement III as pope ; while Gregory soon after retired to Salerno, where he was seized with a mortal disease, A.D. 1086.

## LESSON IX.

## EMPIRE OF THE TURKS.

Who were the Turks or Tartars ?

The barbarous tribes inhabiting those regions anciently called Scythia.

What was the position of their territory ?

It lay to the north of mount Caucasus, and extended eastward, to the wall of China.

What is the character of the Eastern or Byzantine Empire, during the ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries ?

It is little better than a scene of usurpation, fanaticism, and perfidy. Civil dissensions distracted the state ; demoralization pervaded all ranks, and dishonour and profligacy triumphed in the palace.

Who were its invaders during this period ?

The Saracens, who penetrated almost to the very gates of Constantinople ; the Normans who invaded Sicily ; and the Seljukian Turks who entered Asia Minor.

Whence was the term Seljukian derived ?

From Seljuk, one of the most renowned of their chiefs.

How came the Seljukian Turks to cross the river Oxus ?

They were invited to do so by the Ghaznevid sultans, and having finally settled in Khorassan, they seized on Bagdad. About the year 1070

they were powerful enough to expel the Greeks from Syria, and take possession of the greater part of Asia Minor.

Where did the power of the Ottoman Turks commence ?

In Asia Minor: where the Seljukian dynasty soon gave way to that of Othman, who wrested from the Byzantine empire Prusa, the ancient capital of Bithynia (A.D. 1327), and made it his own metropolis.

When was the Turkish power first established in Europe ?

In 1358, when Soliman, the grandson of Ottoman, crossed the Hellespont, and captured Gallipoli. Who is generally regarded as the founder of the Turkish empire ?

Othman, or Ottoman (born 1285), who led out a band of Turks from Bithynia, a province of Asia Minor, where they had taken refuge, against the Tartars, and made considerable conquests.

Who had been before this period the great leader of the Mogul Tartars ?

Zenghis Khan, who, with his immediate descendants, overran and subdued the greater part of Asia, including Russia, Tartary, China, and Hindostan ; and at length died, A.D. 1266.

What is the present capital of Turkey ?

Constantinople, the residence of the sultan. It is situated near the mouth of the Bosphorus, and is a fine and well built city.

## LESSON X.

## THE CRUSADES, OR WARS OF THE CROSS.

WHAT were the crusades ?

Expeditions undertaken by the christian powers of Europe to gain possession of the holy city Jerusalem, and expel the Turks from the land of Palestine.

Who first raised up the spirit of the crusades ?

Peter the Hermit, a native of Amiens, who travelled through the greater part of Italy, France, and Germany, everywhere rousing the people, and preaching the duty of expelling the infidels from the holy city.

What was the effect of his preaching ?

His enthusiasm spread through all ranks of people ; some were moved by really religious motives, others by the mere hope of acquiring rich territories in Palestine ; but all were stirred with the greatest zeal—kings, princes, bishops, clergy and warriors, with one accord pressed forward to the work.

What pope encouraged the people to join in the crusades ?

Urban II, at the Council of Clermont, where the war was sanctioned, and multitudes assumed the badge of the cross, to restore which to its rightful position was, as the clergy said, the object of their expedition.

When did the first band of crusaders set out ?

Soon after the Council of Clermont, 1095. They numbered about 80,000, among whom were many disorderly and ambitious nobles, and still more than all, groups, eager both for plunder and enterprise, with a mixed multitude of fanatics and adventurers. Under the guidance of Peter the Hermit this vast host marched through Bulgaria and Hungary towards Constantinople. How many reached their destination ?

Scarcely 20,000 ; their progress was marked by rapine and hostility in every country through which they passed ; and having at length reached Constantinople, and having been transported in the emperor's ships across the Bosphorus, they were met in the plain of Nicea, and cut to pieces by the Sultan Solyman.

But was this the only result of the preaching of Peter the Hermit ?

No ; a much larger force, consisting of several hundred thousands, was put under the guidance of Godfrey of Bouillon, Hugh, brother of the French king, and Robert, eldest son of William the Norman, with other noted generals. This enormous host marched by the same route, and though many fell off by the way, when on the plains of Nicea they amounted to upwards of 60,000 foot, and 100,000 horse.

With what success did they meet ?

The Saracens, overpowered by numbers, were twice defeated ; and the crusaders, pursuing their success, penetrated at length to Jerusalem, which, after a siege of five weeks, they took by storm, and with savage fury put to death the

whole of the inhabitants who were either Jews or Mahometans, sparing neither age nor sex. In the year 1099, Godfrey was proclaimed King of Jerusalem, and the crusaders divided Syria and Palestine into four separate states?

What was the effect of this division?

The Turks began to recover strength, and the crusaders were obliged to beg for aid from their christian brethren in Europe. This caused a second crusade, which was undertaken in the year 1146, when 200,000 French, Germans, and Italians, under Hugh, brother of Philip I, set out for the Holy Land, but all met with the fate of the first adventurers. Meanwhile, at the preaching of Bernard, 300,000 men under the Guidance of Louis VII, and Conrad, Emperor of Germany, enrolled themselves under the standard of the Cross, and perished miserably—the Germans being defeated by the Sultan at Iconium, and the French at Laodicea.

Who joined in the third crusade?

France, England, and Germany, each furnished armies, headed by their respective sovereigns, Philip, Richard the Lion Hearted, and Frederick Barbarossa. But this expedition was scarcely more successful than the last; the German emperor died in Asia, and though Richard and Philip met with some success, they became jealous of each other's fame, and the French monarch retired in disgust to France. Richard, thus left single-handed to cope with the illustrious Saladin, most nobly continued the con-

test, until his army being at length reduced by conquest, famine, and fatigue, he concluded an honourable treaty with his rival, and after various adventures reached England, where he found that his brother John had usurped the crown : having been treacherously assisted by the king of the French.

What was the object of the fourth crusade ?

The object of this expedition, scarcely to be called a crusade, was the destruction of the empire of the East. It was at first successful ; and under Baldwin, Count of Flanders, the adventurers sacked and plundered Constantinople. But Baldwin was made emperor only to be cruelly murdered by the Greeks, who, combining with the Turks and Bulgarians, dethroned him, and cutting off his legs and arms, exposed him to be devoured by wild beasts.

Were any other expeditions of a similar kind undertaken ?

Yes, several others ; for the enthusiastic spirit was still as violent as ever, and still pervaded all ranks. The last great crusade was undertaken by Louis IX, King of France, A.D. 1248.

With what success did this meet ?

After some success in Egypt, whither he had set out with his queen, his three brothers, and all the chivalry of France, Louis was utterly defeated, and fell into the hands of the enemy. He was glad to purchase his liberty for an enormous ransom, and returned to France ; but

in a second expedition against the Moors in Africa, his army and himself were destroyed by a pestilence in 1270.

Was England concerned in this crusade?

While Louis was on the coast of Africa, Edward, son of Henry III, and afterwards King Edward I, led an army to the Holy Land, and fought bravely, but with no considerable result. This expedition is sometimes called the seventh crusade. With this ended those memorable expeditions, in which it is computed that upwards of two millions of Europeans perished in the East.

What had been the state of affairs in the East, previous to the setting out of the last crusade?

Genghiskhan, with his Tartars, had issued from the countries beyond Taurus, upon Persia and Syria, and massacred indiscriminately Turks, Jews, and Christians, A.D. 1227. The orders of Christian Knights, especially the Templars, made a most desperate resistance, but the Christians were entirely defeated, though their fate was for a time retarded by the crusade of Louis IX. They retained a few places on the sea coast, but their affairs were in a most wretched condition, and so continued to the end.

What has been the supposed effect of these wars?

The improvement of European manners; but we find no improvement in the times immediately succeeding. Two centuries, scarcely less dark and barbarous than the preceding, were yet to come, ere the revival of letters may be said to have taken place. The papal power increased;

the characters of many kingdoms were materially changed, and the lower classes began to acquire weight and importance. Chivalry too, with its accompanying benefits and evils, was much advanced by these wars.

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## LESSON XI.

EUROPE IN THE 13th AND 14th CENTURIES.

How was Germany governed in the beginning of the 13th century?

By Frederick II, who paid homage to the Pope for Naples and Sicily, afterwards possessed by his brother Manfred, who usurped the crown, which rightly belonged to his nephew Conrad. The pope, jealous of the growing power of the emperor, gave the investiture of Naples and Sicily to Charles of Anjou, who overcame and slew his rivals. The Sicilians, to revenge this act of the cruel usurper, murdered in one night every Frenchman in the island. This horrible massacre, which is termed the massacre of the Sicilian vespers, happened on Easter Sunday, 1282.

When may the house of Austria be said to date its rise?

From the year 1274, when Rodolphus of Hapsbourg, a Swiss baron, was elected Emperor of Germany. The electoral princes, jealous of

each other, could not make an unanimous choice of one of their own number, and accordingly selected Rodolph, who had formerly been steward of the household to the King of Bohemia. Having been once his superior lord, the king could ill bear to pay the usual homage for his Germanic territory, and upon his refusal to do so, was dethroned by the Emperor of Austria, and the kingdom has ever since remained a part of the empire.

Did the emperor's authority extend into Italy?

No; throughout Germany it was firmly established, but the three Italian states of Venice, Genoa, and Pisa, were independent, opulent, and flourishing; while most of the European kingdoms, except England, were exhausted, feeble, and disorderly. During the reign of Henry III, the authority of parliament was strengthened by the establishment of the House of Commons, while, not long after, the example of the English was followed in France, where Philip IV, 1308, summoned the Third Estate, or Commons, to the national assembly, which had previously consisted of the nobles and clergy.

What was the revolution of Switzerland in the beginning of the 14th century?

Three of the Swiss cantons having combined against Austria, a small band of 400 or 500 defeated an immense host of Austrians in one of the mountain passes; and the struggle ended in the Swiss, after 60 pitched battles, securing for themselves their dear bought liberty. Each

of the 13 cantons then became independent, and all were united by a solemn treaty to succour each other in time of need.

Did the contest between the secular and papal power still continue?

Yes; it continued unabated, though the power of the pope received several severe checks; the Emperor of Germany refused to acknowledge the supremacy of the pope; a solemn council declared him independent of the See of Rome, and the Universities of Oxford and Paris censured and condemned the increasing power of the popedom.

Why was the Council of Constance called in 1414?

It was called by the Emperor Sigismund, who judged this a favourable opportunity for deciding all differences between the factions of the French and Italian cardinals, who had elected three different popes. In this council the three pontiffs were degraded, and a fourth elected.

What other business was transacted at this council?

John Huss, the undaunted disciple of Wickliffe, was tried for heresy in denying the hierarchy, and satirizing the immoralities of the popes and bishops, and condemned to be burnt. Such also was the fate of his friend, Jerome of Prague, who, as it is said, displayed at his execution the eloquence of an apostle, and the constancy of a martyr, 1416.

What two great errors did Wickliffe in England principally attack?

The doctrine of transubstantiation, and the supremacy of the pope.

What discoveries were made about this time?

Those of gunpowder and printing. Gunpowder by Swartz, a German monk; and printing by Guttenberg, in Germany, 1439, whence it was introduced into England by Caxton, the first English printer.

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## LESSON XII.

### DECLINE AND FALL OF THE GREEK EMPIRE.

WHEN was the Greek empire first invaded by the Turks?

About the middle of the 14th century the Turks crossed over into Europe, and took Adrianople, and the emperor concluded a most humiliating treaty with them.

What was the result of the Turkish invasion?

Tamerlane, the prince of the Usbek Tartars, was invited by the Asiatics to protect them against the Ottoman power, and having summoned the Turk to renounce his conquests, received for answer a proud defiance. Not long after, near Angoria, in Phrygia, the Turks were completely defeated, and Bajazet, their sovereign, made prisoner by Tamerlane.

Where did the conqueror fix his empire?

He made Samarcand his capital, and received there the homage of all the eastern princes. The city became for a time renowned for learning

and polite literature, but gradually relapsed into its ancient barbarism.

On the death of Tamerlane, what became of the Turkish power ?

The Turks again meditated the destruction of Constantinople, and were only prevented from attacking it by the invasion of their own empire by John Scanderberg, Prince of Albania, who with great talent and military skill maintained his independence against the whole of the Turkish forces.

When was the Eastern Empire finally overthrown ?

In the year 1453, the Turks assailed Constantinople both by sea and land, took it by storm, and massacred such of the inhabitants as opposed them.

What followed the storming of Constantinople ?

The conquest of Greece and Epirus ; and the power of Venice, which effectually opposed that of Greece, alone prevented a like fate from overtaking Italy. The resources of Venice by sea were at this time almost unrivalled.

Which was now the most important rival of Venice ?

Genoa, also a port on the Mediterranean, and an independent republic, governed by a doge (or duke) and senate of twelve.

What is the present government of the Turks ?

An absolute monarchy ; the power of the sultan being subject to no control but the precepts of the Koran, which it would be held impious to transgress.

Who is the sultan's chief officer of state ?

The Grand Vizier, who, with six subordinate viziers, constitutes a supreme tribunal, the power of which is absolute throughout the empire, except in cases where the culprit is a Bashaw or a Janizary. All dignities are dependent solely on the sultan's pleasure.

Whence do the revenues of the Grand Seignior arise ?

Here also the despotic nature of the government is plainly apparent ; for the revenues arise from direct taxes and customs on the subjects, annual tributes from the Tartars, and the confiscations of estates, from the highest to the lowest subjects in the empire. No project on which the sultan may determine is deemed too arbitrary or too expensive to be for a moment rejected by his subjects. His word is the final dictum of the law.

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## LESSON XIII.

### SPAIN.

How was Spain originally peopled ?

The earliest colonists of Spain were Carthaginians from Tyre, the first among the eastern nations that engaged in traffic by sea.

What was the nature of the earliest revolutions since the christian era ?

In the 5th century great part of the country was overrun by the Vandals, who in their turn gave way to the Visigoths. The kingdom of the Visigoths was in the 8th century subverted by the Moors, whose power continued in Spain until the close of the 9th, when the christian kingdoms of Navarre and Leon were founded. Was Spain ever under the dominion of Rome ?

Yes ; from about 200, B.C., to the invasion of the Vandals.

What was the last stronghold of the Moorish power in Spain ?

Granada, which was captured by Ferdinand, King of Arragon, in 1492, when he not only captured their city, but finally expelled them from Spain.

What were the kingdoms of Spain in the 13th century ?

Leon and Castile, Navarre, Arragon, Portugal, and Moorish Spain, all of which were subdued but Granada.

When was a change made in their divisions ?

Towards the end of the 15th century, when Ferdinand of Arragon, by his marriage with Isabella, Queen of Castile, united the whole into one kingdom, and not long after entirely subdued the Moorish power in Spain ; while, at the beginning of the 16th century, Portugal, which had hitherto been a Spanish province, became an independent kingdom.

What maritime discoveries were made during the 15th century ?

The Cape of Good Hope was discovered by Vasco

de Gama, and not long after, India was reached by the same intrepid voyager.

Who was De Gama, and what other discoveries were made about this time ?

De Gama was a Portuguese ; but Columbus, a Genoese, was sent out by Ferdinand and Isabella, and first discovered the West Indies, and within a few years the continent of America. During the 16th century Mexico and Peru were invaded and conquered by the Spainards, and a westward passage to the East Indies achieved by Ferdinand Magalhaens, a Portugese, 1519 ; who also discovered the islands since called the Ladrones and Philippines.

In whose age were the discoveries of Mexico and Peru made ?

In the age of Charles V, who succeeded Ferdinand and Isabella on the throne of Spain. He also became Emperor of Germany on the death of his grandfather, Maximilian, A.D., 1519. Charles was also grandson to Ferdinand and Isabella, by Johanna, their daughter.

What was the character of Charles V ?

He was both a warlike and a wise prince, and during his reign Spain equalled on power and greatness any of the European states. Under him Spain possessed territories in Italy, in Africa, America, and the Netherlands. The latter rebelled against the cruel bigotry of his son and successor, Philip I, and in 1581 asserted their independence.

Did the power of Spain continue in other respects unabated long after this ?

No ; from the death of Philip II, Spain gradually declined ; while under Philip III she was compelled to make peace with the Dutch, and restore some confiscated estates to the House of Nassau.

What was the state of Spain under Philip IV ?

Its disorders and losses increased ; for not only did the Dutch seize on Brazil, while the French invaded Artois ; but Portugal, hitherto a province of Spain, now declared her independence and became a separate kingdom, after having been for 60 years subject to Spain, A.D. 1640.

Of what house was Charles V and his immediate successors ?

Of the house of Austria, which, after Charles II, was succeeded by the house of Anjou, in whose favour, after many years of bloodshed and strife, the contest terminated. The first sovereign of the new line was Philip, Duke of Anjou, 1713.

Was England concerned in this contest ?

Yes ; and by the treaty of Utrecht, signed in 1713, she gained from Spain possession of Minorca.

What is the general character of the Spaniards ?

They are a haughty and indolent people, although not wanting in generosity or feelings of honour. Their religion is Roman Catholic. They are zealous disciples of Rome, and are bigoted, and generally ignorant.

## LESSON XIV.

## PORTUGAL.

How is Portugal connected with Spain ?

It forms the western part of the same peninsula, and, as we have seen, was for many years a Spanish province.

For what were the Portuguese famous in the 15th century ?

They were famous as the earliest maritime discoverers ; and in the year 1420, the Portuguese, after having explored a part of the African coast, before this time unvisited, discovered Madeira, where they founded a colony, and planted the vine and sugar cane.

What followed this discovery ?

A bull was obtained from the pope, granting to the Portuguese all future discoveries between Cape Horn and India ; and among these were the Verde Islands, and the Cape of Good Hope, from whence De Gama sailed on, and arrived at length on the coast of Malabar, where subsequently the city of Goa was taken by storm, and became the residence of a Portuguese viceroy.

What was the computed income of the Portuguese from the Spice Islands only, and what arose from that branch of trade ?

200,000 ducats. The Venetians, ever jealous of any rising maritime and commercial power,

offered to be the sole purchasers of these spices, but were refused; and the wealth consequently flowed into the seaports of France; and Lyons, Tours, Abbeville, Marseilles, and Bourdeaux, became immensely enriched.

When did the great revolution in Portugal take place?

The revolution in Portugal (anciently Lusitania), was effected in the year 1640, when the Duke of Braganza, of the ancient royal family commanded the troops. He was urged on in his ambitious views by his wife, and finding the nation favourable to his views, was proclaimed king at Lisbon. No great change in government was ever so speedily and easily effected; the guards of Spain were defeated, and the partisans of the old government put to the sword. Not long after, the example of the capital was followed by most of the principal towns throughout the empire.

Did Spain again attempt to establish her power in Portugal?

Yes; she has done so several times since, but failed. In the year 1688 the Portuguese were declared a free and independent people by the treaty of Lisbon.

How was Portugal then governed?

By an absolute monarchy. The consent of the Cortes, or National Parliament, consisting of clergy, nobility, and commons, was formerly necessary before taxes could be imposed or the royal succession settled; but their meetings are now entirely discontinued, and the king,

with a council of state, transacted all ordinary business.

When did the Portuguese government again become constitutional?

Don Pedro, on the death of the king his father, John VI, resigned the crown to his daughter, Maria II, and the new constitution was sworn to by the nation and by Don Miguel. After Pedro's return to Brazil, which had been previously ceded to him, and now ranked as an independent state, his brother Don Miguel, though he had sworn to maintain the constitution of Portugal, usurped the throne and overthrew the constitution. Hence sprung the long series of civil wars, which nearly to the present time have rendered Portugal a scene of bloodshed, but have ended in establishing the queen upon the throne.

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## LESSON XV.

THE NORTHERN NATIONS OF EUROPE IN THE  
13TH AND 14TH CENTURIES.

WHAT was the state of these nations during this period?

Their history presents to us but little more than scenes of sanguinary conflict and rude barbarism.

How were the dominions of Denmark and Sweden considerably increased ?

By the expeditions undertaken against the Sclavonians and other barbarous nations, which, while they increased the territory of these kingdoms, gave them also a higher rank among the states of Europe.

What was the condition of Prussia about the middle of the 13th century ?

It was invaded by the Knights of the Teutonic order, and finally subdued in 1283 ; while Hungary, after having suffered no less from the invasion of the Mongolian hords, at length began somewhat to recover her lost rank and possessions.

What conquests had these Moguls achieved ?

They had invaded and almost entirely subdued the greater part of Asia, and many of the north-eastern nations of Europe ; but about the middle of this century their empire was destroyed.

What event happened towards the end of this century affecting the northern nations ?

Sweden, Norway, and Denmark were united into one state by Margaret, who has been called the Semiramis of the north, under the treaty of Calmar, which was signed in A.D. 1397.

When was this union dissolved ?

In the 15th century, when the Swedes becoming irritated by the severity exercised on them, and the favour shown to their Danish fellow subjects by the successors of Margaret, separated from the union, and chose a sovereign of

their own. Their choice fell upon Charles VIII, one of their native nobles; and during the remainder of this century the Swedes struggled manfully and continually for their independence.

But what occurred to the kingdom of Denmark?

In 1450, Christian I, of Oldenberg, was made King of Denmark, and in his family the royal succession has continued to the present time.

When did the principles of the Reformation first reach Denmark?

Frederic I, successor of the tyrant Christian II, invited the Lutherans to preach in his kingdom.

What Frederic thus began, Christian III completed; and in the year 1536, the Romish worship was suppressed. The change was not long in reaching Norway, which shortly after lost its independence, and became subject to Denmark.

Of what countries does the kingdom of Sweden now consist?

Sweden, Norway, and part of Lapland.

When was the independence of Sweden established?

By Gustavus Vasa, who, to revenge the massacre of the Swedish nobles, barbarously committed by Christian II, urged the brave peasants of Dalecarlea to rebellion, and being at length victorious, established his country's independence, and was crowned king, 1523. Among the slaughtered nobles was the father of the Swedish hero, who, with upwards of 90 other

nobles and senators, had been the victims of the tyrant's perfidy.

What other celebrated monarch has Sweden produced in more modern times ?

Charles XII, whose extraordinary achievements and wondrous heroism have placed him in the highest rank among the conquerors of past ages. He was a monarch at 15, and after being crowned in 1697, and passing the greater part of his glorious reign in military operations, died nobly at the siege of Frederickshall, in the year 1718, after a reign of 21 years.

What was his first campaign ?

Poland, Russia, and Denmark having joined in an invasion of his kingdom, the young monarch first marched to Copenhagen ; and not only forced the Dane to lay down his arms, but to make full indemnity to the Duke of Holstein, whose dominion he had attacked, while Poland advanced upon Livonia. He next turned his arms against Russia, and in one battle (at Narva, A.D. 1700), with a force not equal to one-fourth of his adversary's, defeated 50,000 Russians, slaying 30,000, and taking the remainder prisoners.

Did Charles take vengeance also on the Poles ?

Yes ; he penetrated into their country, subdued both the capitals Warsaw and Cracow, deposed Augustus their king, and placed on the throne his own dependent Stanislaus.

What great reverse did he meet with ?

The defeat at Pultown, when 9,000 Swedes

fell in the field, and 14,000 were taken prisoners.

What ensued on this memorable battle ?

With the wreck of his army he succeeded in reaching Turkey, and making an alliance with the Grand Seignior. But though his enemies, the Russians, were defeated by the combined forces, Charles XII at length quarrelled with the Turk, and was driven from that country. He finally returned in disguise to his own country, and having conceived the design of wresting Norway from Denmark, was shot at the siege of Frederickshall, 1718.

Who was a recent famous king of Sweden ?

Charles John Bernadotte, to whom Sweden was ceded by the Russians, Prussians, and Austrians, A.D. 1814, at which time also Norway was once more taken from the dominion of Denmark, and attached to Sweden.

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## LESSON XVI.

POLAND, PRUSSIA, DENMARK, AND AUSTRIA.

WHEN did Poland become a kingdom ?

In the year 942. When the Teutonic Knights in the 14th century were masters of the Prussian dominions, Poland also suffered from their oppression. But the Poles were at length roused

to insurrection, and not only regained their former possessions, but added to them several Prussian provinces.

What revolution took place in their form of government during this century ?

It became an *elective monarchy*, and subsequently the only one of that kind in Europe. Its existence as a kingdom ceased at the end of the 18th century, when the Polish hero, Kosciusko, bravely endeavoured to rescue his country from her oppressors. But brave and undaunted as were his struggles for freedom, they were fruitless ; the combined power and treachery of Russia and Prussia at length overcame him, and Poland became the prey of Russia, Austria, and Prussia, A.D. 1772.

When did Prussia become a kingdom ?

In the year 1700, when Frederick the Great was crowned her first king. Her form of government is that of an absolute monarchy, founded on a military basis. Her revenues are small, but still equal to the expenses of the state, as she has neither a navy or colonies to support. Prussia has since that time gradually increased in power during the last century, although she suffered much during her war with France.

Of what does the kingdom of Denmark consist ?

The peninsula of Jutland forms the greater division of the kingdom ; the remainder of which consists of the islands, Zealand, Fanen, and some other smaller ones at the mouth of the Baltic Sea. Holstein and Sleswick also, duchies of Lower Germany, belong to Den-

mark; and her capital city, Copenhagen, is situated on the island of Zealand.

Of what form is her government?

The government, formerly elective, in 1660 became absolute and hereditary; the people voluntarily resigning their liberties into the hands of the sovereign.

What is the situation of Austria?

It is one of the central countries of Europe; bounded on the north by Bohemia and Moravia, on the east by Hungary, and divided into Upper and Lower Austria by the river Ems.

But is this what is termed the Austrian empire?

No; it is only Austria proper; the empire, including Bohemia, Moravia, part of Silesia, Hungary, Sclavonia, Transylvania, Bosnia, and part of Servia, with many other towns and districts. Austria exceeds all the other provinces of Germany in fertility of soil, salubrity of air, and beauty of country.

When was Austria erected into an archduchy?

It was erected into a marquisate by Otho I, and into a duchy by the Emperor Frederick Barbarosa; but the Emperor Rodolph, of Hapsburgh, seized Austria from Othogar, King of Bohemia, and it then became an archduchy. Since then the kingdom has gradually increased in extent and power, and but little trace remains of the humble Counts of Hapsburgh. In the year 1740, however, the Styrian imperial family became extinct, and was succeeded by that of Lorraine, to which the present emperor belongs.

Who succeeded Rodolph of Hapsburgh ?

Albert, whose tyranny and injustice formed a strong contrast to the equity and moderation of his predecessor, and eventually caused the revolution of Switzerland, of which some cantons had formed part of the hereditary dominions of the house of Hapsburgh.

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## LESSON XVII.

### SARDINIA AND SAVOY.

WHEN was Sardinia invaded ?

It was invaded and conquered by the Spaniards in 1303, in whose possession it remained until 1708, when it was taken by an English fleet, and given to the Duke of Savoy with the title of king.

Who was the first king ?

Victor, who abdicated the throne in favour of his son, 1730. It then, not long after, became annexed to Italy, and Buonaparte was crowned king of the whole, 1805. At the downfall of Napoleon, however, in 1814, it was again restored to the rightful sovereign, Victor Emanuel, with the addition of Genoa.

Of what ancient country did Savoy form a part ?

Of Gallia Narbonensis. It shared the general fortune of Switzerland until the year 1040,

when Conrad, Emperor of Germany, gave it to Herbert, with the title of earl. In the year 1417, it was erected into a duchy by the emperor at the request of the Earl of Savoy.

How is it connected with Sicily ?

In 1713 the last duke, having taken Sicily by the assistance of England, was made King of Sicily, which, at the peace of Utretcht, he changed for Sardinia, 1718. The dukedom is now possessed by the King of Sardinia ; for though a great part of the country was added to France in 1796, seized by the French, 1798, they were ultimately repulsed, and it was restored to Sardinia, 1816.

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## LESSON XVIII.

### S WITZEELAND.

WHEN did the great revolution of Switzerland take place ?

In the year 1315, when the Swiss, anciently the Helvetii, always a brave and resolutely independent people, revolted against the oppression of Austria. Three of the cantons, namely, Schwitz, Ury, and Underwalden, then united their forces, and with a small army of 400 or 500 men defeated an immense host of Austrians in one of the mountain passes. This brave and

undaunted spirit soon spread through the rest of the country, and after upwards of sixty pitched battles, won and secured the dear bought liberty of the Swiss.

What is the constitution of Switzerland ?

The thirteen cantons were united by treaty for common defence, that in case of foreign hostilities each was to furnish succour in proportion to its extent and power ; while with respect to internal policy each was to be independent. The governing diet is composed of members sent from each of the cantons, the president of which is styled Landamman of Switzerland.

Was this independence ever lost ?

Yes, for a time the Swiss were subject to France, but in the year 1803 a second constitution was offered to them by Napoleon, which was accepted. This divided the country into 19 cantons, and fixed the government of the country in a diet, composed, as before, of a member from each canton.

How did the Swiss endeavour to keep alive the military spirit of the nation ?

By employing their troops in time of peace in foreign service for hire. These troops have ever been distinguished in foreign service for the same qualities which render them remarkable at home,—their constant fidelity and undaunted and persevering bravery. These noble qualities, together with the economy and industry of the Swiss, have enabled them to attain, considering the size of the country, a high rank among the nations of Europe.

## LESSON XIX.

## THE NETHERLANDS.

WHAT is the character of the Nether (or Lower) Lands ?

Generally speaking, one unbroken flat, not varied by the least hill or rock. Some of the provinces are even below the level of the sea, from which they are protected by immense dikes, and partly by sand hills cast up by the ocean itself.

Of what does the kingdom of Holland or the Netherlands now consist ?

It now comprises the territory of the ancient republic of the seven united provinces, as well as some portion of the province of Limburg.

Who were the ancient inhabitants of the Netherlands ?

The Batavi, whom Cæsar, in his German invasion, found dwelling on the banks of the Rhine. Batavia and Friesland were in 843 incorporated with the then newly created kingdom of Germany, under governors, who afterwards became independent; and from about A.D. 1000 until the end of the 11th century, the country was divided into duchies, counties, and imperial cities.

Among these who were the chief ?

The Counts of Flanders, whose power gave way to that of the house of Burgundy. After the

death of Charles the Bold, the last duke of Burgundy, the Netherlands passed under the dominion of Austria; and subsequently, in 1548, under that of Spain, when Charles V, by pragmatic sanction, united with Spain the 17 united provinces.

How long did the Netherlands continue under the dominion of Spain?

Until the tyrannical persecution of their sovereign drove the Hollanders into open rebellion, and caused them to renounce their allegiance to Philip III, and to form for themselves the celebrated republic afterwards called Holland. This consisted of seven provinces; and in 1648 their independence was fully acknowledged by the other European powers.

What was the state of these provinces during the remainder of this century?

Not peaceful; for they were engaged in war with England and France, and at the beginning of the next century in the war of the Spanish succession. Throughout the 18th century there was a continual struggle for power between the house of Orange and a republican party, which terminated for awhile in 1747, when William IV was made stadtholder of all the seven provinces. But this again broke out in 1786, and in 1794, when the republican power rose by the aid of the French, and the stadtholder was obliged to flee to England, the provinces took the name of the Batavian republic, and the remaining part of the Netherlands was called the Belgic republic.

Into whose power did the kingdom then fall ?

Into that of France, in whose hands it continued until 1813, when the people, encouraged by the disasters of the French, expelled them, and recalled their lawful sovereign.

When were Holland and Flanders again united ?

In 1815, when the seven northern, and the ten southern provinces, after being separated for 200 years, were again united under the title of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This union, however, lasted but until the year 1830, when the Belgians, growing dissatisfied, revolted, and claimed their independence of the Dutch. This independence was acknowledged in 1830, and Leopold, Prince of Saxe Coburg, was appointed their king.

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## LESSON XX.

### RUSSIA.

How was Russia anciently peopled ?

Probably by wandering tribes of Scythian origin.

They did not become at all renowned in history until the year 900, about which time they invaded the city of Constantinople. Both the attacks which they made were frustrated ; the one by a tempest, and the second by the operation of Greek fire, with which the enemy destroyed the Russian fleet.

Under what foreign dominions did Russia successively fall ?

About the middle of the 11th century the Poles invaded and conquered the greater part of Russia ; but it is uncertain how long they retained their dominion. A tribe of Tartars next invaded and conquered it, A.D. 1200, and to them it remained subject until about 1540, when John Basilowitz restored its independence.

What was its state at this time as to civilization ?

Up to this period Russia still continued in a state of rude barbarism, almost unequalled in Europe, and it had made but little advancement up to the commencement of the 18th century.

What great event in the history of Russia then took place ?

Russia became an empire, and Peter the Great first assumed the title of emperor or czar of all the Russias, which was recognized by all the powers of Europe.

Why was he called the Great ?

From his wise and prudent policy in governing his country, and the great efforts he made to introduce into it a knowledge of the modern improvements in the arts, and the cultivation of science. That he might himself become acquainted with engineering and ship building, he travelled through Holland and England, and laboured as a common workman in the dockyard at Deptford.

What was the effect of Peter the Great's labours ?

In 36 years he raised his country from a state of semi-barbarism to a high degree of military

power and political importance. But even in the midst of this, much that was barbarous and savage in habits and customs still remained, and still does remain in the Russian empire.

By whom was Peter the Great succeeded?

He died 1725, aged 53, and was succeeded by Catherine, whom he had raised from the humble cottage of a Livonian peasant to be his wife, and at his death commanded to be made empress.

What has occurred since the reign of Catherine?

But little worthy of notice, except the intolerable and despotic cruelty of the Russian despots to the unfortunate nation of Poles, whom they deprived of country, and almost entirely of existence as a nation; and the memorable defeat of the vast French army under Buonaparte.

Who is the present emperor?

Nicholas, great-grandson of Peter the Great, and brother of the late Emperor Alexander.

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## LESSON XXI.

### PERSIA.

WHAT great historical event happened to Persia in the 15th century?

It underwent a sudden religious revolution. The followers of Mahomet had, up to this period, held that his kinsman Omar had been the pro-

phet's successor ; but a new sect now sprung up, asserting that Ali, another of his kinsmen, was his successor. Ali was the son-in-law of Mahomet, and at the head of the sect which asserted his claim was Ismael his descendant. Ismael enforced his opinions by the sword, and eventually subdued all Persia and Armenia as the empire of his descendants.

Which king among these is worthy of notice ?

Shah Abbas, the great-grandson of Ismael. His sway was despotic, but most skilful ; and under him Persia reached the height of her prosperity. In the reign of his son and successor, the Great Mogul seized on Candahar, and the Turks, their old enemies, on Bagdat, 1638.

How long did his dynasty remain on the throne ?

Until the beginning of the 18th century, when a second revolution terminated the dynasty of the Sophis, and the regal power passed into the hands of the Affghan Tartars.

To whom did they in turn give way ?

To Kouli Khan, who gained the mastery of the Affghans, and restored the rightful line to the crown. This, however, was but for a time. Kouli Khan at length seized the government for himself, with the title of Nadir Shah.

What events have marked the more recent history of Persia ?

The inroads of the Tartars have since then much harrassed Persia, in addition to frequent civil commotions ; but peace has been made with her old enemy, Russia, and there is now reason

to hope that the march of civilization is spreading more widely through the land, and bringing with its usual attainments, the blessing of truth and order.

What is the government of Persia?

It differs in no essential respect from that of Turkey. No rank is held in Persia but that annexed to office; and possession of even this depends entirely on the caprice or will of the monarch.

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## LESSON XXII.

### CHINA.

WHAT is the character of the early history of the Chinese?

All the accounts which we possess, are to be regarded rather as mythical than historical. The Chinese historians refer a part of their history to the time of the creation, and a second period to that of the flood, when they say their land was but partially flooded. Their authentic history may be said to commence about 1,000 years before Christ.

What was the state of the empire then?

It was divided into petty and independent states, between which was an almost continuous warfare. 400 years after this was the age of the great philosopher Confucius; but it was not

until after several hundred years had passed away, that the government became monarchical.

When did the incursions of the Tartars begin ?

About 200 years before the time of Christ, when the Chinese were often compelled to buy off, by paying large tribute, the unwearied and savage invaders, who eventually were to become their masters and rulers.

When was China first united under one supreme government ?

In 585, when the two great northern and southern divisions were formed into one empire, and the capital fixed at Honan.

What great bulwark of national defence did the Chinese erect against their enemies the Tartars ?

What is called the great wall of China, which extends for nearly 2,000 miles, in an almost uninterrupted line, across mountains, valleys, plains, and declivities.

Did this serve as an effectual barrier ?

No; the Tartars eventually triumphed, and founded the line of emperors at present on the throne.

What features are worthy of notice among the Chinese ?

The excessive population of the country, which has been variously estimated at 200 millions, 333 on Lord Macartney's authority, and 307,467,000 according to the last census; while the population of Peking, the present capital, has been stated as double that of London, though but with very little probability.

What is the character of the Chinese ?

The character of the Chinese themselves is that of an ingenious and mechanical people, some of whose manufactures far exceed in beauty any of our own, especially the carving in wood and ivory. They have, however, but little originality, and many of their most ingenious and clever performances are but skilfully executed copies.

Of what description is the present government ?

It is purely despotic, and is exercised most absolutely over a bigoted, narrow-minded, and jealous nation, who, nevertheless, have some redeeming qualities in that they are generally peaceable, docile, and industrious.

Among our modern discoveries, which do the Chinese claim as their own ?

Those of printing, gunpowder, and the mariner's compass ; and there appears to be good reason for believing that they possessed a knowledge of them many centuries before their discovery in Europe.

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## LESSON XXIII.

### HINDUSTAN OR INDIA.

FROM what source is it probable that this country was originally peopled ?

It appears probable from tradition, and other

evidence, that the hindoos are descended from some tribe of people inhabiting the central plains of Asia.

When may the modern history of Hindustan be said to commence?

At the latter part of the 10th century, when it was invaded by a tribe of Tartars, who were Mohammedans, from whose hands, after various revolutions, the government passed into those of the Affghans.

When did the Mohammedan empire in Hindostan begin to decline?

In 1316, the Mohammedan power being succeeded by that of the line of Timur, or Tamerlane, whose dominions gradually extended to the Ganges. The Tartar dominion however in its turn began to decline, and petty independent princes to rise upon its ruins, until about the middle of the 18th century (1753), when its dissolution may be said to have taken place.

What then became of the empire of the Tartar or Mogul emperors?

Its last monarch became a pensioner of the English East India Company, under whose control the whole dominion gradually sunk, 1753.

What Europeans first obtained dominion in Hindustan?

The Portuguese; who, about the year 1498, first landed on the Malabar coast. Their dominion gradually increased, until the beginning of the 19th century, when the English, Dutch, and French began to settle on the coast, and the Portuguese power declined.

Do the French and Dutch now hold any possessions in India?

At present, the French possessions consist only of Pondichery, which was restored to them by the English at the peace, while the Dutch dominion has altogether ceased.

Do any monuments of the ancient Hindoos still remain?

Yes; many wonderful ones, which tell plainly of their former magnificence and civilization. Such are the vast temples of Elephanta and Salsette cut in the solid rock, and the huge piles of Chillambrum and Seringham; in addition to the remains of hill fortresses, the structure of which clearly evinces no small progress in the arts, while the state of many of their national manufactures was considerably in advance of all European nations of the age.

What was the chief characteristic of their manners and customs?

The almost despotic spirit of caste which pervaded all ranks of society. These castes were four in number, each exercising their own peculiar trade or profession, and never intermarrying with each other.

How were these castes distinguished?

The first caste, of Brahmins, was entirely devoted to religion and the sciences; to the second was committed all civil power in the government of the state, and from it were chosen the sovereigns, magistrates, and soldiers; husbandmen and merchants constituted the third; while the fourth was composed of artizans, labourers and servants.

What has been the effect of this spirit ?

A singular permanence of manners and institutions, which still, as it ever has done, characterises this ancient people.

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## LESSON XXIV.

### AMERICA.

Is the early history of America well known ?

No ; until its discovery by Europeans nothing worthy of reliance is known. It long appeared a mystery how this vast continent, situated as it was, should have been found peopled throughout. Now, however, since the northern extremity has been more accurately defined, it is clearly seen how the narrow strait which separates it from Asia might be crossed, and how the tide of migration first reached the shores of America.

How was the discovery of America by Europeans effected ?

By the single efforts of one noble and high-minded man, named Columbus, who with difficulty collected the necessary means for equipping his few small vessels. He continued to sail westward until he landed at St. Salvador, one of the Bahamas, and not long after reached Hispaniola and Cuba.

What parts of the continent were subsequently discovered ?

Newfoundland, and some of the northern coast, by an Englishman, named Sebastian Cabot; then by the Portuguese, Labrador; next, the coast of Brazil; and about the same time the coast of Mexico. Within 30 years nearly the whole length of the vast continent had been coasted, and the conquests of Mexico and Peru, by Cortes and Pizarro, made Europeans acquainted with the eastern coast.

What effect had the conquest and colonization of America by Europeans on the other nations?

It affected materially the fortunes of both hemispheres, and particularly the new one. The cruelty and iniquity which attended this conquest in the first instance, are perhaps unequalled in history. The natives of Peru and Mexico, after suffering the most ruthless cruelty, were reduced to a state of wretched bondage, while those of the West Indies were almost exterminated.

How have these islands been since peopled?

The unhappy tribes of Africa have been by fraud and violence kidnapped by Europeans, carried off as slaves, and inhumanly condemned to the lash of the West Indian slave driver.

To whom does America owe its name?

To Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine merchant, who some years after Columbus had discovered the West India islands, is said to have first touched the mainland of America.

What is meant by the American revolution?

The rebellion of the United States against the authority of England, the mother country.

What was the cause of this rebellion ?

Britain claimed the right of imposing taxes on these states without their consent. This the states refused to acknowledge, alleging that no representative of their nation was a member of our parliament, and therefore the parliament had no right to impose taxes. After much fruitless discussion of the question, both sides had recourse to arms.

What events followed upon this ?

The struggle which ensued was long and sanguinary, and at last terminated in the freedom of the states being recognised by the other European powers, and even by Britain herself, 1783.

When did the Americans first renounce all connexion with the mother country ?

In 1776, when the campaign had already extended through two years. During this time, and for several succeeding years, the contest was maintained with unabated ardour, and various success by both parties. The good fortune of the Americans was mainly owing to the patriotic bravery of their renowned leader, Washington, whose efforts at length wrested from Great Britain an acknowledgment of their independence, under the title of the United States.

What possessions in America still remain to Great Britain ?

But a comparatively small proportion of what once constituted her American dominions ; “ an assemblage of vast, ill-defined, and straggling territories.” These are Upper and Lower Ca-

nada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and some islands at the mouth of the river St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, and some of the most important of the West Indian Islands, while in South America, she holds the colonies of Essequibo, Berbice, and Demarara, and a portion of Guiana. When was the first British settlement made in North America ?

In the 4th year of James I, 1607, in Virginia ; while the second was New England, founded by the Plymouth company, in 1614. Soon after this date a large body of dissenters fled from England, purchased the Plymouth patent and built New Plymouth.

What is the situation of Mexico ?

Mexico forms the greater part of the extensive tract of land which connects together Northern and Southern America. After its conquest by the Spaniards, it became one of their chief vice-royalties, but it is now an independent kingdom.

What is the present condition of Peru and Chili ?

Both these countries at the beginning of this century threw off their allegiance to Spain, and were declared independent states ; not, however, without much bloodshed—and, in Upper and Lower Peru, almost constant civil war ; the reign of order and justice being now but imperfectly restored.

When was Brazil first discovered ?

Its coast was first touched by Vincent Pinzon, one of Columbus' companions, A.D. 1499 ; and in the following year another part of the coast was discovered by a Portuguese.

What is its subsequent history ?

It became the object of contention between Spain, Portugal and France, and even England. The Portuguese eventually gained possession of the greater part of it, and under their rule, about 1699, it reached to a great height of prosperity. Its government has been noticed in a former lesson. It became an empire in 1822.

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## LESSON XXV.

### THE CITY OF LONDON.

WHEN do we find mention first made in history of London ?

As a chief town of the Trinobantes, the people of the famous Cassivelaunus, in the time of Julius Cæsar, and in the year 50, it was considered an important city by the Romans, who strongly fortified it. A.D. 294 it was walled, and a palace built there; about the middle of the seventh century it became the seat of a bishoprick, and in 885 it was repaired by order of Alfred the Great.

By whom was the Charter granted to the city ?

By King John, who granted the Londoners the power of choosing a lord mayor out of their own body annually (this office having previously been for life), and to return or depose sheriffs at pleasure, and their common councilmen annually.

What great calamity happened to the city in the seventeenth century?

In the year 1666, the greater part of the city was destroyed by fire, after having been, during the previous years, desolated by a most fatal plague, which carried off vast numbers of the inhabitants. So deeply had this fearful scourge penetrated into the recesses of the great city, that nothing less, it is imagined, than the awful fire which broke out during the following year, could have ever sufficiently cleansed and purified the air so as entirely to get rid of infection and contagion.

What is the present population of London?

Upwards of 2,000,000; while some idea may be formed of her commerce, when we find that in 1834, 1,280 trading vessels entered the port; and, that since that time their number has greatly increased.

*(For the History of England, &c., see Catechism of English History in this series.)*

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## LESSON XXVI.

### LITERATURE OF EUROPE.

FROM THE REVIVAL OF LETTERS TO THE END OF  
THE 15TH CENTURY.

Who were the first restorers of letters in Europe?  
The Arabians; who carefully translated into

Arabic the copies of ancient authors, which they had procured from the east. For, as their dominions were increased by fresh conquests, their learning and civilization went hand in hand with victory, and the conquered people had much cause to thank their warlike invaders on this ground, whatever other reasons they might have had for complaint.

Where was this example soon followed ;

By Charlemagne, who caused translations from the Arabic to be made, and founded several universities, as at Bologna and Paris ; also by our own King Alfred in Britain, some of whose good seed, in spite of the intervening and barbarous disorders of the kingdom, was vital, even until the arrival of the Normans in the 11th century, who themselves brought with them some taste for letters.

What tended much to keep this spirit alive, when once fairly roused in England ?

The labours of monks in abbeys and other religious houses, who were most indefatigable in transcribing and preserving copies of ancient manuscripts. And among much that was unworthy of their industry, many most precious relics of antiquity were preserved and copied again and again with a care most jealous and unwearied.

Into what did this taste for learning of an exclusive kind degenerate ?

Gradually into a cultivation of such subtleties of scholastic divinity as were almost equally barbarous with the ignorance of the preceding age. Who may be accounted the first to have detected

the fallacy and emptiness of the school philosophy, as it was termed ?

Roger Bacon, a Friar of great learning and intellect. He possessed not only great original powers of mind, but unwearied application ; and, not content with the mere acquisition of information from books or men, endeavoured by experiment and observation of nature, to test the knowledge he had acquired. In the prosecution of this design his discoveries were numerous and important, both in astronomy and optics, as well as chemistry, medicine, and mechanics. There is some ground for believing that he was not unacquainted with the composition of gunpowder and the construction of the telescope.

What was the prevailing taste in the 12th and 13th centuries ?

The poetical compositions were almost entirely of a light and trifling nature, consisting of dialogues, ballads, and satires on love, which were celebrated by the wandering minstrels or troubadours. Many fragments of these compositions till remain ; and much of their fabulous and chivalrous spirit is to be found in the histories of the age ; such as the chronicles of Monstrelet and Froissart, Matthew of Westminster, Philip de Comines, &c.

What was the state of classical learning in the 15th century ?

Many of the ancient authors were widely known, and copies of them were made with much care and labour ; and though during the early part of

this century, France and England showed but slight symptoms of the spirit of reviving literature, a brighter period was at hand, in which all the western part of Europe began to rouse herself as it were from the long slumber of dark superstition.

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## LESSON XXVII.

SCIENCE AND LITERATURE IN EUROPE FROM THE  
END OF THE 15TH TO THE END OF THE 17TH  
CENTURY.

WHAT is specially to be noted at the beginning of this period?

The rapid advance made by Europe generally in history, polite and classical learning, fettered as in a great measure it still was by the Aristotelian philosophy, which even then still remained engrafted on all theological learning.

What great philosopher at last arose whose genius tended to break these fetters?

Lord Bacon at the beginning of the 17th century, who, as Friar Bacon had done before him, prosecuted his study rather by experiment and observation of nature than by conjecture and reason.

What other philosopher lived about the same time?

Galileo, in 1609, constructed telescopes, and in support of the theory of the planets published by Copernicus more than a hundred years be-

fore, made several important discoveries. Kepler also made deep researches into the laws of astronomy, and the discoveries then made paved the way for many improvements in the sciences of nautical astronomy, navigation, and calculations.

What society for the encouragement of science was founded during this century ?

The Royal Society which originated in the private meetings of a few learned and scientific men, and was in 1662 incorporated by Charles II. A similar institution was founded in France about the same time ; and both the English and French institutions have done much for the advancement of intellectual and scientific research.

For what was the latter part of this century renowned ?

For being the era of Newton and Locke.

What are the chief particulars of the life of Newton ?

Sir Isaac Newton, when quite a young man, had made many most important discoveries, and lived to devote the whole of a long life to intellectual labour and research. His diligence and application were unwearied. To him we owe our knowledge of the laws of gravitation, which connect and regulate the whole machine of the universe ; while his theory of light and colours furnish us with the foundation of the science of optics, and on his philosophical work, the *Principia*, is based the whole structure of modern astronomy.

Of what kind were the labours of Locke ?

John Locke applied himself to the study of the human mind, and “from the simple fact that all knowledge is progressive, and that an infant gains its ideas gradually through the medium of the senses, he drew the conclusion that there are no innate ideas in the mind, but all are either immediate perceptions conveyed by the senses, or acts of the mind reflecting on those perceptions.”

What progress did poetry make during this period?

The great epic poet after the time of Tasso the Italian, was Milton, whose poem of “Paradise Lost” will bear comparison with the finest models of antiquity.

What was Spenser’s character as a poet?

Spenser, in the 16th century, rests his fame upon his fine poem, the “Faerie Queen,” in its way unrivalled; but this is rather to be regarded as an allegorical romance, than an epic poem.

What other great names have descended to us from the age of Elizabeth?

Shakespeare, whose unrivalled compositions in tragic and comic poetry have been, and will ever be, the admiration of the world. Raleigh as an historian, a poet, and philosopher; Surrey, Sydney, and Harrington, Cowley, Waller, and a host of others of not inferior merit as wits and poets.

Who are the most famous poets in the age next to that of Milton?

Dryden, who, it has been said, carried the artificial style of poetry to the height of perfection; and

Pope, whose exquisite melody and rhythm of verse have never been equalled ; and whose manners and delicacy of wit were as remarkable as his power of versification.

What great prose writers flourished in this period ? Addison, Steele, and, at a later period, Johnson ; all three renowned for the series of elegantly written essays, criticisms, and tales which they published in the form of periodicals. Addison is remarkable for the elegant and polished style of his writing, its chasteness, purity, and correctness ; Steele, for the wit, humour and vivacity of his style, which is at times more familiar and idiomatic than that of Addison ; while Johnson is remarkable for the classical grandeur, severe morality, and nervous power of expression, which characterise his writings on all subjects.

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# INVENTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

BEFORE A.D. 900.	CENTURY XIIth.	CENTURY XVth.	CENTURY XVI & XVIIth.
<p>ARCHERY introduced into England about 450.</p> <p>BELLS invented by Paulinus of Nola, 400.</p> <p>ENGLAND first so named by Egbert, 829.</p> <p>SILK introduced into Europe, 550.</p> <p>STONE buildings in England, 674.</p> <p>WATER-MILLS for grinding corn, at Rome, 555; corn anciently pounded in mortars.</p>	<p>GLASS windows in private houses in England, 1180; window glass first in England, 1557.</p> <p>MARINER'S COMPASS said to be used in Venice, 1260; much improved, 1576.</p>	<p>invented, 1330. At battle of Crescy, Edward had four pieces of cannon.</p> <p>GOLD first coined in England, 1344.</p>	<p>COFFEE first into England, 1641.</p> <p>BIBLE translated into English by Tyn-dal and Coverdale, 1534.</p> <p>BLOOD, Circulation of, through the Lungs, by Michael Servetus, 1553, fully confirmed by Harvey, 1628.</p> <p>GUINEAS first coined in England from gold brought from coast of Guinea.</p> <p>PAPER made at Dartford, in Kent, 1588.</p> <p>POTATOES introduced first into England by Hawkins, 1563.</p> <p>SOAP first made at London and Bristol, 1524.</p> <p>TEA brought first into Europe by Dutch Company, 1591.</p>
<p>CENTURY Xth.</p> <p>First tuneable set of bells hung up in Croyland Abbey, 960.</p> <p>CLOCKS and dials first set up in churches, 913.</p>	<p>CENTURY XIIIth.</p> <p>COALS discovered near Newcastle, 1234.</p> <p>GLASSES, magnifying, invented by Roger Bacon, 1260.</p> <p>MAGIC LANTHORN invented by Roger Bacon, 1253.</p> <p>SPECTACLES invented, 1299.</p> <p>WEIGHTS and Measures fixed to one standard in England, 1257.</p>	<p>ENGRAVING on metal first invented, 1423.</p> <p>PRINTING invented by J. Faust, in 1441; William Caxton brought wooden types into England, 1471.</p> <p>SUGAR grown in Madeira, in 1419; in Canary Islands, 1503; carried to West Indies by Portuguese and by the Spaniards, 1510.</p> <p>WATCHES at Nuremberg, in 1477; brought from Germany to England, in 1577.</p>	<p>SHIP, first two-decker built by Henry VII, (1509), of 1,000 tons, which cost £14,000.</p> <p>BAROMETERS invented, 1626. Marine ditto, 1700.</p>
<p>CENTURY XIth.</p> <p>BRIDGE, the first stone one at Bow, near Stratford, 1087.</p>	<p>CENTURY XIVth.</p> <p>GUNPOWDER invented, 1330.</p> <p>GUNS, great,</p>		



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