

W. C. ...
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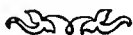
AN EARLY NEWS-SHEET.

A. D. 1563.



[*Only 250 copies printed.*]

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AN EARLY NEWS-SHEET.



THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF
POLAND IN 1563.

AN EXACT FACSIMILE OF A CONTEMPORARY
ACCOUNT IN LATIN, PUBLISHED
AT DOUAY.

TOGETHER WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL
NOTES, AND A FULL TRANSLATION
INTO ENGLISH.



LONDON:
CHATTO AND WINDUS, PUBLISHERS.

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INTRODUCTION.



THIS tiny volume is interesting, amongst other things, as being a specimen of those early printed news-sheets which were the precursors of modern journalism. After the invention of printing, the press was soon employed as a disseminator of current news. Religious disputations were the principal topics in the early part of the sixteenth century, and therefore we find the pamphlets of the time—for these were the first news-sheets—mostly occupied with the arguments and anathemas of the reformers of Northern

Europe, and the Catholics of the South. Some very early tracts, giving news of a more secular character, have recently been found in Germany; and Señor de Gayangos, of the Escorial in Madrid, informs me that Spain had news-sheets of a date quite as early as any which have yet been recorded by Italian and German bibliographers. To Venice is generally accredited the earliest newspaper. Its commercial position, in the early part of the sixteenth century—great, although somewhat on the decline from its previous splendour when a branch of the Medici family resided there—rendered the dissemination of news necessary for the trade of the city. The ships of Venice then covered all the seas which were counted as within the confines of the habitable globe; although scarcely a month passed but some adventurous captain would stray beyond the limits defined in his rude chart, and bring back with him to Venice the news of another land-discovery in the far West or in the far South. The arrival of the ship in the

Adriatic, the contents of its cargo, the price of commodities abroad, together with some account of the new island,¹ its wonderful people and marvellous products, would form the staple of the news-sheet of the hour. This document was in manuscript,

¹ The earliest accounts of the discoveries of Columbus were given in little books of a few pages, very similar to those quaint eight-page relations of our own Civil War, which recorded the defeat at Naseby, the victory at Edgehill, the death of Charles outside Whitehall, and the other great events of the hour. It is a singular fact that the substance of all these "relations," whether a barn be burnt "by accident of a soldier's firing," or 5,000 men slain and half a town levelled to the ground, was invariably given in eight pages of small quarto. In turning over a bundle of these "Intelligencers," it is amusing to note that when the newsmonger was more ignorant than usual, and could neither find words to amplify his material, nor any additional news to insert, he generally gave the substance of the first page over again on the last, enforcing it with repeated ejaculations of "may the Lord help us," "O trust in God, ye hypocrites," "may the ever-blessed God assist us all," "Amen, Amen," and such like.

written in a legible hand, and copies were affixed here and there at different points of the city—the news-rooms—for the immediate perusal of those merchants who chose to pay a gazzetta¹ for the reading.

In 1536 the Venetian possessions and factories in the East were attacked by the Turks, who at this period were very powerful, and in close alliance with Francis the First of France. As may be imagined, the people of Venice were extremely anxious to hear the news from the fleet; so the first regular monthly journal was established by the government to supply this information, and men were paid to read the particulars at the principal points of the city. But the heads of the Republic were fearful of the spread of false news and opinions dangerous to their position, so they ordained that no sheets

¹ An obsolete Venetian coin, equal in value to one-third of our penny.

should be issued but such as were sanctioned by the Doge and his Council. These functionaries, liberal in many things, were yet very jealous of the printing-press; and it was nearly fifty years after this time that the first printed newspaper was published in the city under official authority. A traveller informs us that so recently as the beginning of the present century manuscript news-sheets were in circulation amongst the poorer classes of Venice.

The origin of the now universal term *Gazette* is thus seen to have come—and very naturally—from the small coin originally paid for its perusal.

Blount, in his *Glossographia*, published in 1656, gives the following definitions to the word:—

“GAZZETTA.—A certain Venetian coin, scarce worth one farthing; also, a bill of news, or short relation of the occurrences of the time, printed most commonly at Venice, and thence dispersed every month into most parts of Christendom.”

At this date the Venice “Gazette” had evidently become a widely-circulated journal of considerable

importance, presenting its readers with news of a much more general character than the mere local affairs of the city where it was issued. Blount's statement that the "Gazzetta" was read every month in most parts of Christendom, receives corroboration from our own "Diurnals" and "Weekly Intelligencers" of the Civil War period. In a great many of them we find "Newes from Venice," "The *Gazzette* from Venice," "Our News Letter from Venice," &c.

M. Libri possessed four old news sheets:—

AVVISI di Giaverino con Narrazione del Campo Christiano e Turchesco, 4to. (*on the title a woodcut view*).

Fiorenza, 1594.

AVISO nuova della Presa della Cella chiamata la Maometta in Barberia, 4to.

Roma, 1602.

RELAZIONE della Presa d'Agliman in Caramania, &c., 4to.

Fiorenza, 1613.

NUOVA e vera Relazione di Quanto e Successo tra l'Armata Maritima di Venezia e li Corsari di Barberia con la tolta Destructione di essi Corsari, 4to. (*woodcut on title*). *Roma, 1638.*

In reference to them this distinguished bibliographer gives the following note in his catalogue:—
“Four curious early News-Letters, the prototypes of the subsequent Newspapers or Gazettes, a name erroneously supposed to have been given to them from the commencement, which, however, was not the case, as they derived it from the ‘Gazetta,’ the small coin usually paid for their perusal.” With all due deference to the bibliographical knowledge of the writer, I must here express a contrary opinion. The fact of a “Gazetta” having been printed in 1570, which is preserved in the British Museum, at once sets aside the conclusion, too quickly arrived at, that a newspaper of 1594-1602 was not so styled. Apart from this we have plenty of other proof.

An acknowledged success is invariably copied or caricatured in one way or another. Amongst the other printed trifles which appeared under the title of Gazette, soon after the Venice newspapers were printed, we find:

LA GAZETTE.

La Gazette en ces vers
 Contente les cervelles,
 Car de tout l'univers
 Elle reçoit nouvelles.

*Paris, jouxte la copie imprimée a Rouen, par
 Jean Petit, 1609.¹*

There were also:—

GAZETTE fur la culbute des coyons.

A Montalban, 1617.

La GAZETTE françoise pour le temps présent.

Troyes, 1622.

¹ Brunet says of this:—"Volume peu commun, qui contient, indépendamment du programme d'une Gazette satirique en vers, deux autres fatires dont voici les titres: *Les ballieurs* (balayeurs) *des ordures du monde*, et *la Caballe des matois*, plus un Discours *de la mode et bigarrure du monde*, et *Les joyeux et attristez par la Blanque*."—(Voir sur ce petit recueil la *Bibliothèque poétique* de Viollet-le-Duc, p. 349.)

La GAZETTE des Halles. 1649.

The title was also a common one for pamphlets in this country. Thus we have:—

The GAZETTE of Health. *Lond.* 1635.

The new GAZETTE, or a perfect Relation of affaires from abroad. 1638.

Maffinger, too, uses the word to indicate a coin of trifling value:—

“Since you have said the word I am content,
But will not go a GAZET less.”—

Maid of Honour, III. 1.

These adoptions of the Venetian title only serve to show the popularity which attended the Italian newspaper.

It seems probable that the term Gazette, or “Gazzetta,” was for a long time peculiar to the Venice newspapers, and that the temporary recitals,

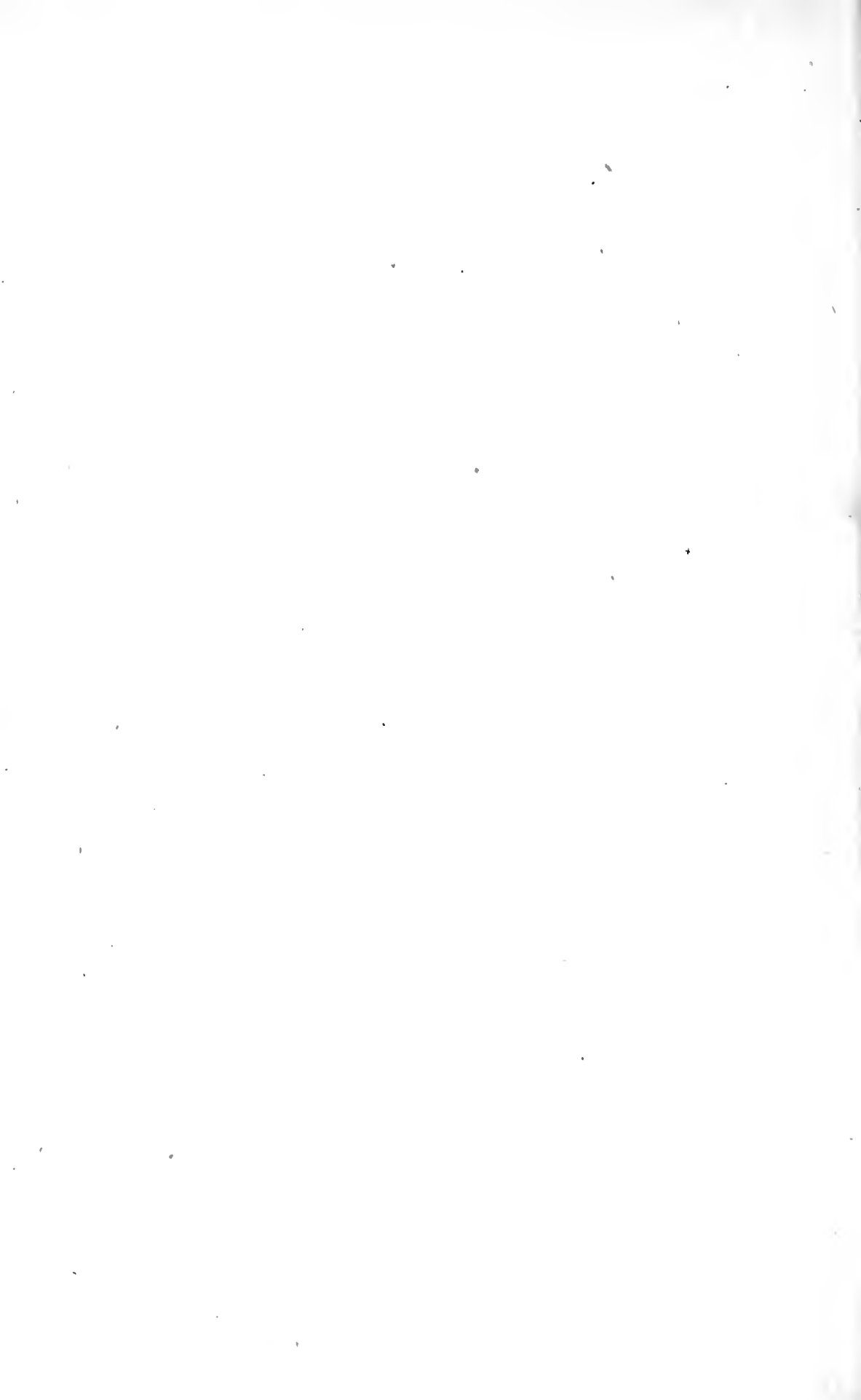
or news-sheets, of other towns, merely gave a pithy title, or sensational heading, to attract the necessary attention. "Mercuries," "Advices," "Journals," "News" or "Novelties," "Relations," "Diaries," "Summaries," "News Letters," "Chronicles," with many other titles of a more fanciful character, appear to have been the earliest attractive headings of ancient newspapers issued in this country and on the Continent.

In the famous Magliabechian Library at Florence, thirty volumes of manuscript Gazzettas, issued at Venice in the sixteenth century, are preserved. In our own British Museum some of these Italian news-sheets may be found, and the oldest printed one amongst them bears, as was remarked above, the date of 1570. It will be seen that the little news-sheet here reproduced in facsimile gives a date seven years earlier than this. The reader will please to remark the thoroughly "penny-a-line" character of the production, the want of sufficient news to eke out the

four pages, and therefore the distance apart of each paragraph, the great ornament at the end, and the arrangement of dots at the beginning to assist in filling up.

J. C. H.







[TRANSLATION.]

*Memorable and likewise Horrible Narrative
of the Cruel Expedition of
the Muscovites.*

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN INTO LATIN.



THE Army of the Muscovite, some weeks ago, invaded the territory of the Pole, and after six brave assaults, carried the City of Polotzki or Pleski by storm, (a town of Lithuania at a distance of seventeen miles from the deserts,) the which they plundered, and, putting fire to it, levelled with the ground; and

from that place they ordered twenty thousand people, first to have their arms and legs chopped off, and then to be strangled, a frightful spectacle to behold! No words can express the outrages they committed upon Matrons, Maidens and Children: sixty-two thousand and more people from that neighbourhood were led into Muscovia; Matrons and Maidens were stripped naked and (when they were naked and without any garment) they were led chained into captivity. Amongst those that were carried off was likewise the Wayn'oda of the Lithuanian Milice, otherwise the leader of their army, with his wife, whose life the enemy had spared.

And this matter threw such an exceeding terror into the whole of this province, that Sir Nicholas Radziwit, who was accounted the first among the Lithuanian Chieftains, quitted his estates on his own account, leaving them either to the safe keeping of his friends or as a prey to his enemies.

This success of their affairs still increased the

valour of the barbarous and, by their cruelty, already too formidable enemy. Anon they hurried to the assault of the town of Kioff, situated in another district of Poland; the which town, because it is situated on the river Dnieper, seemed most opportune to them for cutting off the provisions from the whole of that district, whereby the enemy hoped, that by these means it would come to pass, that all the other places in the neighbourhood, as in the former expedition, would fall into their hands, and become their property, for evermore.

For this reason they began by sending before them four thousand of the six thousand Tartars which were among them, into the deserts and wildernesses, who were to destroy every thing far and near by fire and by sword, up to the very walls of the City; imagining, perchance, that after having visited that whole district with such a calamity, they would meet with the same good fortune in the siege of this town as they had done before.

Amongst other things most dreadful to relate, the Muscovite sent word unto the Polish king, that he carried about with his army a Bier, such as those used in burying the dead, which was made of silver, and that he did not mean to make peace with him, until either the King's or his own head were placed on that Bier.

The army with which the Muscovite makes this plundering expedition, amounts (if report be true) to two hundred and sixty thousand men and more.

May the most good and most great God preserve us from such a furious and cruel enemy, and instil the right wisdom into those Princes of the Holy Roman Empire, who have the government in their hands, and may He instil into the whole of Europe such counsels as be most proper to revenge the enormity of this crime and to drive away those pests!



NOTES.

THE Czar at that time on the throne of Russia was Ivan IV. Bafilowitch, surnamed "the Terrible," who was one of those curses sent into the world, decked in imperial purple, for no other apparent reason but to make their subjects miserable. He succeeded his father in 1533; the opening ten years of his reign he was a minor, and therefore could only show just enough of his temper to awaken the darkest forebodings in the hearts of those over whom he was one day to have an unlimited sway. The first three years after he took up the reins of government, he fully realized all those anticipations. But all at once a change came over him. At the age of seventeen the voice of religion and humanity found its way into his heart, and for thirteen years a Trajan was seated on the throne of Russia, so that

army of 70,000 Poles, commanded by Kourbsky and Radzivit, invaded Russia from the side of Polosk, whilst Dewlet Gherai, Khan of the Crimea, at the head of 60,000 Tartars, penetrated into the province of Riailan; after an unsuccessful siege of the capital of that province, the Khan retreated on receiving the news that the Russians were preparing to attack him. The expedition commanded by Kourbski and Radzivit was equally unsuccessful, and the following year an armistice was concluded for three years.

Neither of the two powers had obtained any advantage, but thousands of houses were desolate, and thousands of families had a gap in them.

And the Poles then as now were a pitiful instance of the truth of Virgil's line :

“ Quidquid delirant reges, pleruntur Achivi.”



MEMORABILIS.

Et perinde stupenda de cru

DELI MOSCOVITARVM

Expeditione narratio , è Germanico

in Latinum conuerfa.

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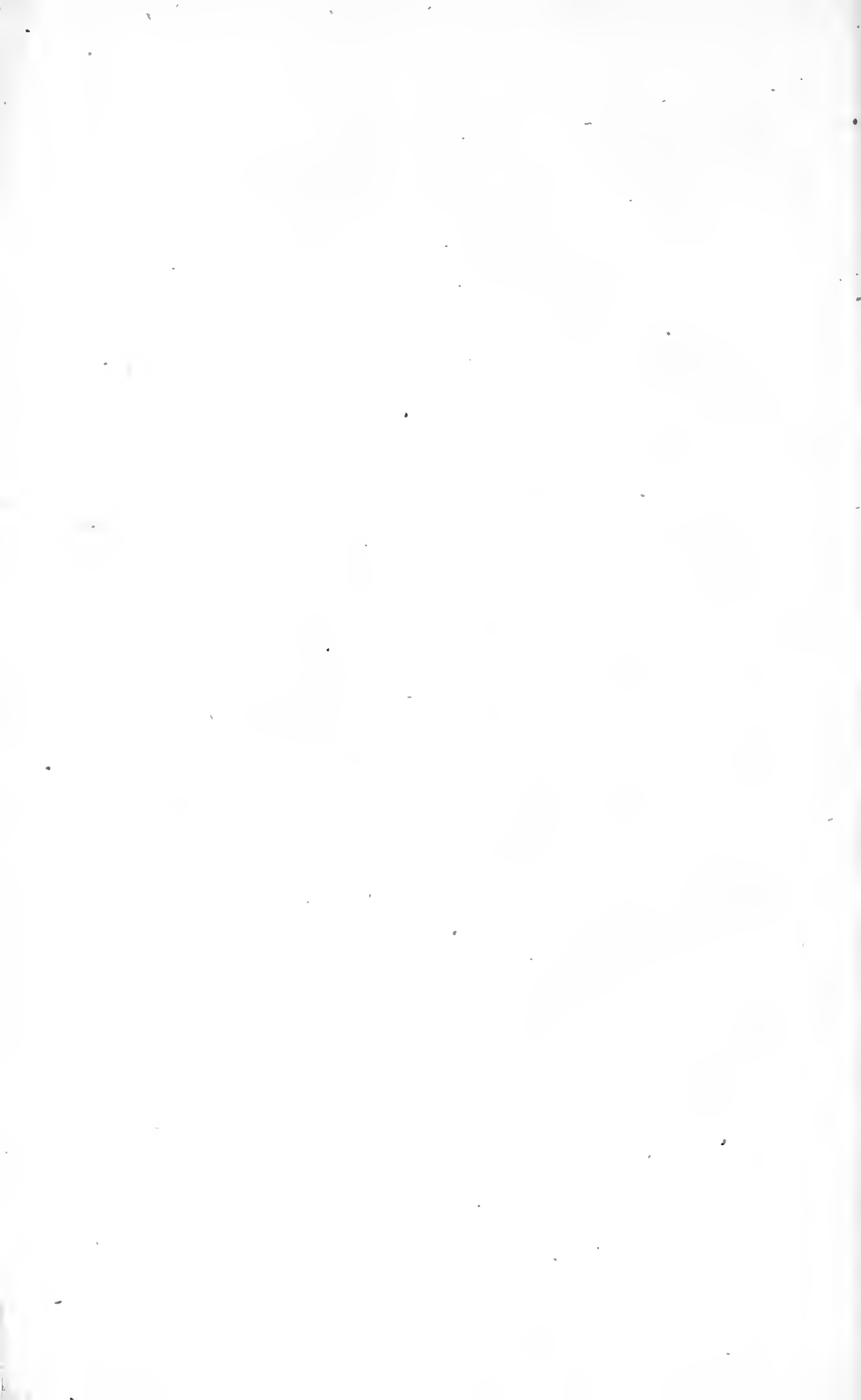


DVAC I.

Ex Typographia Iacobi Boscardi,

Typographi iurati Regiae

Maiestatis.



MEMORABILIS ET PERINDE
stupenda de Moscouitarum expeditione
narratio, è Germanico in Latinum.
conuersa.



Moscouitarum exercitus superioribus septi-
manis agrum Polonicū inuasit, & Polotz-
ki, alias Pleskj (Lituaniæ oppidum, quod sedecim
miliaribus à desertis situm est) validissima
manu, sex incurſionibus expugnauit, diripuit, &
dimissis ignibus solo equauit: eoque loci supra
viginti hominum milia, tristi admodum specta-
culo primum demenbrari, ac post strangulari
iuſſit. Nec ullis sanè verbis queat exprimi, quāta
in Matronas, in Virgines, in Pueros, Tyrannide
grassatus sit. E propinquis & vicinis inde locis
sexaginta & amplius hominum milia in Mosco-
uam abduxit: Matronas & Virgines vestibus
exuit, & omnes (vti nudæ, ac sine amictu erant)
vinctas in captiuitatem abstraxit. Inter alios ve-

rò ducebatur & Lituanicæ militiæ Vvaynoda seu dux exercitus, cum vxore, quibus hostis vitam condonauerat.

QVæ res tam magnam toti illi Prouinciæ trepidationem iniecit, vt Dominus Nicolaus Radziuit Lituanicæ Regulorum facile princeps terris suis sponte excesserit, omnemque imperij sui agrum, seu amicis seu hostibus prædæ reliquerit.

Hicrerum successus hosti Barbaro & nimia immanitate formidabili animos addidit. Moxque Kioff alias in Polonia ciuitatem aggredi festinauit. Quæ Ciuitas quia ad flumen Borischenē sita & ad cōmeatum toti illi plagæ subtrahendum, uisa est oportunitissima, futurum sperabat hostis, vt hac ratione facilè cætera omnia vicina & propinqua loca, perinde vt superiore expeditione suæ potestatis sui que mancipij faceret.

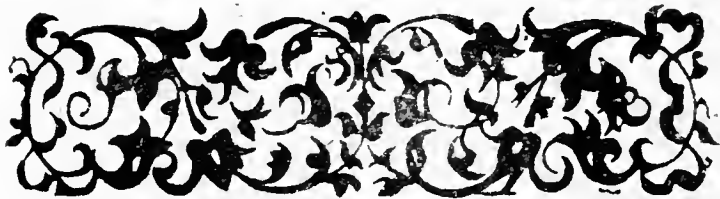
ITaque ante omnia ē sex millibus Tartarorum quos secum habebat quadringenta milia in deserto & solitudines præmisit qui omnia longè lateq; vsque ad ipsam Ciuitatem flamma & ferro vastarent. Ratus fore vt postquam hac calamitate totum eum agrum afflixisset in huius ciuitatis oppugnatione pari successu & fortuna qua hætenus vteretur.

Inter alia vero relatu tristissima, Moscouita Regi Poloniæ ab se nunciari iussit, quod ipse Capulum, quo mortui efferi solent, eumq; argenteum, cum Castris circumueheret, nec ante in gratiam cum eo redire constituisset, quàm aut ipsius Regis, aut suum proprium caput illi ferculo foret impositum.

EXercitus quo Moscouita in hac expeditione populatur (si vera est fama) est sexaginta centorum milium, & amplius virorum.

DEus Opt. Max. hunc tam sæuum & crude-
lem hostem à nobis auertat, Et Principibus
in Sacro Romano imperio summa rerum
tenentibus bonam mentem, totique
Europæ consilia quæq; ad hanc
scelerum immanitatem
vindicandam &
ad has pe-
stes
propulsandas, salubria
sint immitat.

* > *









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HRus
Fl&S

Author

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