

transpired while he swayed with full power on the imperial throne.

What I have written in regard to the relative value and progress of the Empire and Republic of Mexico, has not been prompted by any tincture of taste for Imperialism, nor by any personal enmity to the President or Cabinet of the Republic, with whom I have had none but amicable relations.

The engraving of the place where the execution of the Emperor occurred is taken from an excellent drawing made for me by my friend, Mr. JOHN M. PRICE, an English gentleman, and engineer on the Vera Cruz Railroad. It is a far better view than any photograph ever taken of that ground. None were taken at the very time of the execution.

If I have failed to embalm the name of that good man, MAXIMILIAN, in a pleasant style, I hope that the value and interest found in the materials of this work will compensate for the poverty of their dress.

FREDERIC HALL.

RUTLAND, Vt., December, 1867.

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## MAXIMILIAN.

### CHAPTER I.

Austria—Her accessions—House of Hapsburg—Its origin—Descendants thereof.

COULD we count backward the notches on the long measure of Time, for ten centuries, and by a magic wand bring up the then living from their subterraneous dwellings, in a certain part of the territory watered by the Danube, the ear would catch the sound of *Oest-reich* (east country), as the appellation of Austria. That territory was the nucleus around which, subsequently, has been formed the great Austrian empire.

If we carefully view that empire through the long vista of ages, we shall not fail to observe that its political and territorial phases have been more diverse than the number of the centuries.

If we now examine it in a geographical, ethnographical, and linguistic point of view, we shall consider it a curious piece of Mosaic work. It has been observed that the ethnographical map of Austria exhibits one hundred and twenty different groups of nationalities, and the number of linguistic groups nearly two thousand. It suggests itself to one's mind that the workers

on the Tower of Babel might have settled there. If, by a vote of those different races, the pieces of that artistic work could be disunited, what great political artist would be able to replace them?

If the diversified lands of that empire have long been illuminated by the gladsome light of peace, they, too, have had their share of the blazing light of camp-fires. And as their mighty hosts clashed the glittering steel, they counterfeited the stars of heaven.

If we glance at the variations made by the finger of Time, as it has traced the exterior lines of that empire, we shall see that it has been as meandering in its course as the winding Amazon.

As we review the history of Austria, in all its points, we shall be unmistakably impressed with the fact, that, with its governing power, there has been talent, genius, great foresight, and indomitable will. And if its rulers have given value and importance to things according to their dimensions, it is only what political history will attribute to every other powerful nation. The charge of the aggrandizement of territory would bring more than Austria into the culprit's box. And if the culprits were to be tried in the order of the magnitude of their crimes, Austria might not be first upon the list.

If, among the various groups of her subjects, and the diversity of their interests, there has been much complaining against the throne, the same has been witnessed by every other nation, at different periods, although the cause of the one may not have been that of the others. Still some cause has existed, in the estimation of the malcontents, for the complaint.

During a long period of time, the dukes of Austria sprang from the House of Bamberg. The governors of Austria received the title of dukes in the 12th century. Death, that never-failing visitor, at his appointed time walked in, and drew a notable mark on the family

record of that house, in the year A. D. 1246. That visitor then carried away the last of the male line thereof. Soon thereafter the main study of the inhabitants of that empire was skill in the use of the sword, the battle-axe, and the spear. There was a long struggle with the contending elements of war. The times, the circumstances, did not fail to present a man of powerful mind, a leader of men, who shaped events according to his will. That man was **RUDOLPH OF HAPSBURG**, Emperor of Germany, who was born in 1218, and son of **Albert IV.**, Count of Hapsburg.

He placed his son **Albert** upon the throne of Austria, in the year 1282. Thus dates the beginning of that illustrious House of Hapsburg, as connected with Austria, which has so long, so powerfully, and so successfully swayed the destinies of a vast portion of Europe; although, as has been observed, not without its terrible struggles, its alternate losses and gains.

As the years rolled on, the circle of its territorial jurisdiction extended wider and wider, by the force of marriage, purchase, and inheritance, until its superficial area had expanded far beyond that of any other State in the German Empire. This vast accession of territory necessarily elevated the rank of its sovereign head. **Rodolph IV.** assumed the title of Archduke Palatine in 1359; and he further marks his reign by the acquisition of Tyrol, in 1363. To the Archdukes thereof was allotted the high position of Emperor of the mighty Germanic Empire. As we trace back its history, we observe that on the list of emperors taken from among those Archdukes, the first was **Alfred II.**, who acknowledged the receipt of that imperial crown in the year 1438.

The holy link of matrimony that united the exceedingly ambitious **Maximilian I.**, at the age of eighteen, to **Mary**, daughter of **Charles the Bold**, Duke of **Burgundy**, in 1477, became as it were an extension of

Austria's territorial chain, which enclosed Flanders, Franche Conté, and all the Low Countries. Likewise the ceremony of marriage of Ferdinand I. with Ann, sister of Louis, King of Hungary and Bohemia, in 1521, was but the seed sown for another national harvest for Austria. That harvest became effectual on the death of the said king, which event transpired at the battle of Mohaez, in the year A. D. 1526; when Ferdinand gathered the two latter kingdoms into the great storehouse of his empire.

Upon the history of the sixteenth century, the bold, the enterprising, and ambitious Charles V. left his mark indelibly stamped. His own ambitious designs roused up the internal vigor of other nations more than the influence of any other sovereign head in Europe. His success was startling, and viewed with jealousy. The acquisitions of Austria, in his day, were unequalled by those of any other power. He was the great captain of the age, in whom was embodied the advancing spirit of the times. He was the ruler of half the world. He was the great shining light among crowned heads, and he shed his lustre on the surrounding kingdoms. His knowledge of men was remarkable. He adapted their talents and abilities to their proper sphere, as readily and as appropriately as a joiner fits his various pieces of work together.

He was born at Ghent, on the 24th day of February, in the year 1500. He was the son of Philip the Handsome, Archduke of Austria, and grandson of Maximilian and Mary,—the latter being the only child of Charles the Bold.

The blood of Charles V. trickled down through the veins of the late Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, who was not the only Maximilian that suffered imprisonment. The grandfather of Charles V. attempted, with an inadequate force, to take the city of Bruges, in 1488; the

result of which was, that he became imprisoned, but afterward favored with his liberty by giving hostages for his fidelity.

The increasing fear of other European States, occasioned by the territorial aggrandizement of Austria and the feuds between Protestants and Catholics, produced the Thirty Years' War, that commenced in 1618. The result of its termination was the treaty of Westphalia, in 1648, which secured the independence of the German States.

By the treaty of Utrecht, Austria gained the Italian provinces, in 1713.

The power, the wealth, the lustre of Austria could not protect its crowned heads from that fate which is reserved for all mortals. The last of the male line of the House of Hapsburg answered the summons from the grave, in the year A. D. 1720. That summons was served on Charles II. In consequence thereof the succession to that throne fell to his daughter Maria Theresa, who was succeeded by her son, Joseph II.

Francis II., at the age of 24, became Emperor of Germany, King of Bohemia, Hungary, etc., having succeeded his father, Leopold II., in 1792. Some of his claims and pretensions were contested, and the field of battle became the forum of trial and decision. After three unsuccessful campaigns, at different periods, against the French, he lost much of his territory. The decision thereon, made by the sword, was registered by the pen, in the treaty of Presburg. In 1804, he assumed the title of Francis I., Emperor of Austria; and in 1806 yielded up that of Emperor of Germany. Thus, through an unbroken line, male and female, did the House of Hapsburg hold the dignity of the title of Emperor of Germany from 1437 until 1806, when the dissolution of that great Germanic empire was recorded as an historical fact.

Francis doubtless thought that he had taken out a

policy of insurance when he gave the hand of his daughter, Maria Louisa, to Napoleon I. in 1810. But the premium paid produced no security. Francis found it necessary to array himself against his son-in-law, in 1813, on account of the unbounded ambition of the latter. He united with Russia and Prussia, entered the field himself against France, and there remained with his forces until peace. The darkness which then overhung Europe, was only dispelled by the glimmering light of the sword; and the gleaming thereof guided the pen that recorded the treaty of 1815. By which treaty, not only did Francis I. regain the greater part of his lost territory, but cemented firmer than ever the contending elements of the Austrian Empire.

Francis I. died in 1835, leaving the throne to his son Ferdinand I., who, in consequence of the political revolution in 1848, the fatigue of State affairs, added to an enfeebled state of health, decided to abdicate, at Olmutz, the 2d of December of that year, in favor of his brother, Archduke Francis Charles; who on the same day transferred his right to that throne to his eldest son, who was declared to be of the age of majority at 18, and who is the present Emperor of Austria. The storm then gathering over the house of Hapsburg was threatening, and augured danger. Hungary refused to recognize the new monarch, and constituted a Republic, under Kossuth, April 14th, 1849, which was short in its duration. By August, the superior force of Austria became victorious, and Hungary a conquered province. Fickle-handed Fortune was not more constant to Austria than to others. The Empire has lost beautiful Venice—the territory over which His Majesty Maximilian governed a short period, with leniency, receiving on his departure evidence of affection and regret on the part of the subjects therein.

Such is a brief outline of some of the noted changes

and conditions of the Austrian Empire and its rulers, during a long period of centuries. This roll of Austrian history we will here tie up.

The foregoing has been written that the mind of the reader may be refreshed by a glance at some of the prominent characteristic features of the history of that country and family whence sprang the main subject of this work.

If it may sometimes be said that, among the numerous streams that flow from the same pure source, some, whose waters are not limpid, may be discerned, it cannot thus be stated of that branch of the Hapsburg fountain which wound its way into the North American Continent. That branch has dried up. The drying up thereof caused millions of human tears to gush forth. But whilst it ran it was crystal clear, and beneath its radiant surface were seen the shining pebbles of Truth, Honor, Justice, and Charity.

Let us drop the curtain over long-past events, and bring up in review scenes of a nearer date.