

of the long and bloody wars between the houses of York and Lancaster: it effected a change in descents: it marks the decline of the feudal system, the waning power of the baronial aristocracy, and a corresponding increase of royal prerogatives: it was cotemporary with that greatest of events in Modern History, the discovery of America,—with the advance in knowledge and civilization that dawned upon the closing period of the Middle Ages; with the consolidation of the great European monarchies into nearly the shape and extent which they retain at the present day; and with the growth of the “balance of power” system, which neutralized the efforts of princes at universal dominion. A general survey of the condition of the principal States of Europe at this period will better enable us to comprehend the relations of their subsequent history.

II. OTHER NATIONS AT THE CLOSE OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.—

1. Of the States of Northern Europe—Denmark,¹ Sweden, and Norway,²—constituting the ancient Scandinavia, merit our first attention. After these kingdoms had long been agitated by internal dissensions, they were finally, by the treaty of Calmar,² (1397,) united into a single monarchy, near

1. Denmark embraces the whole of the peninsula north of Germany, early known as the *Cimbri* *Chersonese*, and afterwards as *Jutland*. Its earliest known inhabitants were the *Cimbri*. (See p. 171.) The famous but mysterious Odin, the Mars as well as the Mohammed of Scandinavian history, is said to have emigrated, with a band of followers, from the banks of the Tanais to Scandinavia about the middle of the first century before the Christian era, and to have established his authority, and the Scythian religion, over Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Skiold, son of Odin, is said to have ruled over Denmark; but his history, and that of his posterity for many generations, are involved in fable. Hengist and Horsa, the two Saxon chiefs who conquered England in the fifth century, reckoned Odin, (or Wodin in their dialect,) as their ancestor. Gorm the Old, son of Hardicanute I., (*Horda-knut*.) united all the Danish States under his sceptre in the year 863. His grandson Sweyn, subdued a part of Norway in the year 1000, and a part of England in 1014. His son Canute completed the conquest of England in 1016, and also subdued a part of Scotland. Canute embraced the Christian religion, and introduced it into Denmark; upon which a great change took place in the character of the people. At his death, in 1036, he left the crowns of Denmark and England to his son Hardicanute II. In 1385, Margaret, daughter of the Danish prince Waldemar, and wife of Haquin king of Norway, styled the Semiramis of the North, ascended the throne of Norway and Denmark. In 1389 she was chosen by the Swedes as their sovereign; and in 1397 the treaty of Calmar united the three crowns—it was supposed forever. In 1448, the princes of the family of Skiold having become extinct, the Danes promoted Christian I., count of Oldenburg, to the throne. He was the founder of the royal Danish family which has ever since kept possession of the throne. In 1523 the Swedes emancipated themselves from the cruel and tyrannical yoke of Christian II., king of Denmark. In their struggle for independence they were led by the famous Gustavus Vasa, who was raised to the throne of Sweden by the unanimous suffrages of his fellow citizens. Norway remained connected with Denmark till 1814, when the allied powers gave it to Sweden, as indemnity for Finland. (*Map No. XIV.*)

2. Calmar, rendered famous by the treaty of 1397, is a seaport town on the small island of Quarnholm, which is in the narrow strait that separates the island of Oland from the south eastern coast of Sweden. (*Map No. XIV.*)

the close of the fourteenth century, through the influence of Margaret of Denmark, whose extraordinary talents and address have rendered her name illustrious as the “Semiramis of the North.” But the union of Calmar, although forming an important epoch in Scandinavian history, was never firmly consolidated; and after having been renewed several times, was at length irreparably broken by Sweden, which, in the early part of the sixteenth century, (1521,) under the conduct of the heroic Gustavus Vasa, recovered its ancient independence.

2. East and south-east of the Scandinavian kingdoms were the numerous Slavonic tribes, which were gradually gathered into the empire of Russia. The original cradle of that mighty empire which dates back to the time of Rurick, a chief-^{II. RUSSIAN EMPIRE.}tain cotemporary with Alfred the Great, was a narrow territory extending from Kiev, along the banks of the Dnieper,¹ north to Novogorod.² Darkness for a long time rested upon early Russian history, but it has been in great part dispelled by the genius and research of Karamsin, and it is now known that as early as the tenth century the Russian empire had attained an extent and importance, as great, comparatively, among the powers of Europe, as it boasts at the present day. About the middle of the eleventh century the system of dividing the kingdom among the children of successive monarchs began to prevail, and the result was ruinous in the extreme, occasioning innumerable intestine wars, and a gradual decline of the strength and consideration of the empire.

3. Toward the middle of the thirteenth century the Tartar hordes of Northern Asia, falling upon the feeble and disunited Russian States, found them an easy prey; and during a period of two hundred and fifty years, Russia, under the Tartar yoke, suffered the direst atrocities of savage cruelty and despotism. At length, about the year 1480, John III., duke of Moscow, the true restorer of his

1. Dnieper, the *Borysthenes* of the ancients, still frequently called by its ancient name, is a large river of European Russia. It rises near Smolensko, runs south, and falls into the Black Sea, north-east of the mouths of the Danube. (*Map No. XVII.*)

2. Novogorod, or Novgorod, called also *Veliki*, or “the Great,” formerly the most important city in the Russian empire, is situated on the river Volkhof, near its exit from Lake Ilmen, one hundred miles south-east from St. Petersburg, and three hundred and five north-west from Moscow. The Volkhof runs north to Lake Ladoga. So inappreciable was Novgorod once deemed as to give rise to the proverb,

Quis contra Deos et magnam Novogordiam?

“Who can resist the Gods and Great Novgorod?”

From Novgorod to Kiev is a distance of nearly six hundred miles.

country's glory, succeeded in abolishing the ruinous system by which the regal power had been frittered away, while at the same time he threw off the yoke of the Moguls, and repulsed their last invasion of his country. Under the reign of this wise and powerful prince, the many petty principalities which had long divided the sovereignty were consolidated, and, at the end of the century, Russia, although scarcely emerged from its primitive barbarian darkness, was one of the great powers of Europe.

4. South of the country inhabited by the Russians, we look in vain, at the close of the fifteenth century, for the once famed Greek empire of Justinian, or, as sometimes called, the Eastern empire of the Romans. The account which we have given of the crusades represents the Turks, a race of Tartar origin, as spread over the greater part of Asia Minor. About the beginning of the fourteenth century, a Turkish emir,^a called Ottoman, succeeded in uniting several of the petty Turkish States of the peninsula, and thus laid the foundation of the Ottoman empire. About the year 1358 the Ottoman Turks first obtained a foothold in Europe; and at the close of the fourteenth century their empire extended from the Euphrates to the Danube, and embraced, or held as tributary, ancient Greece, Thes'saly, Macedónia, and Thrace, while the Roman world was contracted to the city of Constantinople, and even that was besieged by the Turks, and closely pressed by the calamities of war and famine. The city would have yielded to the efforts of Bajazet, the Turkish sultan; but almost in the moment of victory the latter was overthrown by the famous Timour, or Tamerlane, the new Tartar conqueror of Asia.

5. About the year 1370, Tamerlane, a remote descendant of the Great Gengis Khan, (p. 286,) had fixed the capital of his new dominions at Samarcand,¹ from which central point of his power he

1. *Samarcand*, anciently called *Marakanda*, now a city of Independent Tartary, in Bokhara, was the capital of the Persian satrapy of Sogdiana. (See *Map No. IV.*) Alexander is thought to have pillaged it. It was taken from the sultan Mahomet, by Gengis Khan, in 1220; and under Timour, or Tamerlane, it became the capital of one of the largest empires in the world, and the centre of Asiatic learning and civilization, at the same time that it rose to high distinction on account of its extensive commerce with all parts of Asia. Samarcand is now in a

a. *Emir*, an Arabic word, meaning a leader, or commander, was a title first given to the caliphs; but when they assumed the title of sultan, that of emir was applied to their children. At length it was bestowed upon all who were thought to be descendants of Mahomet in the line of his daughter Fatimah.

made thirty-five victorious campaigns,—conquering all Persia, Northern Asia, and Hindostan,—and before his death he had placed the crowns of twenty-seven kingdoms on his head. In the year 1402 he fought a bloody and decisive battle with the Turkish sultan Bajazet, on the plains of Angora,¹ in Asia Minor, in which the Turk sustained a total defeat, and fell into the hands of the conqueror. Tamerlane would have carried his conquests into Europe; but the lord of myriads of Tartar horsemen was not master of a single galley; and the two passages of the Bosphorus and the Hellespont were guarded, the one by the Christians, the other by the Turks, who on this occasion forgot their animosities to act with union and firmness in the common cause. Two years later Tamerlane died, at the age of sixty-nine, while on his march for the invasion of China.

6. The Ottoman empire not only soon recovered from the blow which Tamerlane had inflicted upon it, but in the year 1453, during the reign of Mahomet II., effected the final conquest of Constantinople. On the 29th of May of that year the city was carried by assault, and given up to the unrestrained pillage of the Turkish soldiers: the last of the Greek emperors fell in the first onset: the inhabitants were carried into slavery; and Constantinople was left without a prince or a people, until the sultan established his own residence, and that of his successors, on the commanding spot which had been chosen by Constantine. The few remnants of the Greek or Roman power were soon merged in the Ottoman dominion; and at the close of the fifteenth century the Turkish empire was firmly established in Europe.

7. While at the close of the fifteenth century the three Scandinavian kingdoms of the North, and Russia, formed, as it were, separate worlds, having no connection with the rest of Europe, Poland,² the ancient Sarmatia, supplying the connect

decayed condition: gardens, fields, and plantations, occupy the place of its numerous streets and mosques; and we search in vain for its ancient palaces, whose beauty is so highly eulogized by Arab historians.

1. *Angora*, a town of Natolia in Asia Minor, (see Note, *Rom.*, p. 281,) is the same as the ancient *Ancyra*, which, in the time of Nero, was the capital of Galatia. Here St. Paul preached to the Galatians.

2. *The Poles* were a Slavonic tribe (a branch of the Sarmatians), who, in the seventh century, passed up the Dnieper, and thence to the Niemen and the Vistula. About the middle of the tenth century they embraced Christianity, and toward the end of the same century were first called *Poles*, that is, *Slavonians of the plain*. The numerous principalities into which

ing link between the Slavonian and German tribes, had risen to a considerable degree of eminence and power. The history of Poland commences with the tenth century; but the prosperity of the kingdom began with the reign of Casimir the Great. (1333-1370.) In the year 1386 Lithuania¹ was added to Poland; and about the middle of the following century the Polish sovereign, Wladislas, was present d with the crown of Hungary, which he had nobly defended against the Turks. But Hungary soon reverted again to the German empire. After long wars with the Teutonic knights,² who, since the crusades, had firmly established their order in the Prussian part of the Germanic empire, the knights were everywhere defeated during the reign of Casimir IV., (1444-1492,) who added a large part of Prussia to the Polish territories. The Turkish province of Moldavia³ also became tributary to Poland; and at the close of the fifteenth century this kingdom had extended its power from the Baltic to the Euxine, along the whole frontier of European civilization, thus forming an effectual barrier to the Western States of Europe against barbarian invasion.

8. The German empire, at the close of the fifteenth century, comprised a great number of States lying between France and Poland, extending even west of the Rhine, and embracing the whole of cen-

the Poles were divided were first united into one kingdom in 1025, under king Boleslaus I.; but Poland was afterwards subdivided among the family of the Piasts until 1305, when Wladislas, king of Cracow, united with his sovereignty the two principal remaining divisions, Great and Little Poland. From 1370 to 1382 Hungary was united with Poland. The union with Lithuania in 1386, occasioned by the marriage of the grand duke of Lithuania with the queen of Poland, was more permanent. After the Lithuania nobility, in 1569, united with Great and Little Poland, in one diet, Poland became the most powerful State in the North. Although Poland has ceased to constitute an independent and single State—its detached fragments having become Austrian, Prussian, or Russian provinces—still the country is distinctly separated from those which surround it, by national character, language, and manners. The present Poland possessing the name without the privileges of a kingdom, and reduced to a territory extending two hundred miles north and south, and two hundred east and west, is, substantially, a part of the Russian empire. (Map No. XVII.)

1. The greater part of *Lithuania*, once forming the north-eastern division of Poland, has been united to Russia. It is comprised in the present governments of Mohilew, Witepsk, Minsk, Wilna, and Grodno. (Map No. XVII.)

2. The *Teutonic Knights* composed a religious order founded in 1190 by Frederic, duke of Slesbia, during a crusade in the Holy Land, and intended to be confined to Germans of noble rank. The original object of the association was to defend the Christian religion against the infidels, and to take care of the sick in the Holy Land. By degrees the order made several conquests, and acquired great riches; and at the beginning of the fifteenth century it possessed a large extent of territory extending from the Oder to the Gulf of Finland. The war with the Poles greatly abridged its power, and finally the order was abolished by Napoleon, in a war with Austria, April 24th, 1809.

3. *Moldavia*, nominally a Turkish province, but in reality under the protection of Russia, embraces the north-eastern part of the ancient Dacia. (Maps Nos. IX. and XVII.)

tral Europe. The Carolingian sovereigns of Germany were hereditary monarchs; but as early as the year 887 the great vassals of the crown deposed their emperor, and elected another sovereign, and from that remote period the emperors of Germany have continued to be elective.

9. Owing to the great number of the Germanic States, which were of different grades, from large principalities down to free cities and the estates of earls or counts—the frequent changes of territory among them, by marriages, alliances, and conquests,—the weakness of the federal tie by which they were united—and their conflicting interests, and frequent wars with each other and with the emperor,—the history of Germany is exceedingly complicated, and generally devoid of great points of interest. Many of the States had their own sovereigns, subordinate to their common emperor. About the middle of the fourteenth century there were three powerful States in Germany, which had absorbed nearly all the rest. These were 1st, *Luxemburg*,¹ which possessed Bohemia,² Moravia,³ and part of Silesia,⁴ and Lusatia:⁵ 2d, *Bavaria*, which had acquired Brandenburg,⁶ Holland,⁷ and the Tyrol:⁸ and 3d, *Austria*,⁹ which, in addition to a

1. The Grand Duchy of *Luxemburg* was divided in the year 1339, between Holland and Belgium. The town of Luxemburg, one hundred and eighty-five miles north-east from Paris, containing one of the strongest fortresses in Europe, belongs, with a portion of the surrounding country, to Holland. (Map No. XV.)

2. *Bohemia*, having Silesia and Saxony on the north, Moravia and the arch-duchy of Austria on the south-east, and Bavaria on the west, forms an important portion of the Austrian empire. (Map No. XVII.)

3. *Moravia*, an important province of Austria, lies east of Bohemia. In 1783 a portion of Silesia was incorporated with it. Moravia is the country anciently occupied by the *Quadi* and *Marcomanni*, who waged fierce wars against the Romans. (Map No. XVII.)

4. *Silesia* is north-east of Bohemia and Moravia, embracing the country on both sides of the Oder. (Map No. XVII.)

5. *Lusatia* was a tract of country having Brandenburg on the north, Silesia on the east, Bohemia and Bavaria on the south, and Meissen on the west. It is now embraced in the eastern part of the kingdom of Saxony, east of Dresden, the southern part of Brandenburg, and the north-western part of Silesia. It was divided into Upper and Lower Lusatia, the former being the southern portion of the territory. (Map No. XVII.)

6. *Brandenburg*, the most important of the Prussian States, lies between Mecklenburg and Pomerania on the north, and West Prussian Saxony and the kingdom of Saxony on the south. It includes Berlin, the capital of the Prussian empire. (Map No. XVII.)

7. *Holland* has the Prussian German States on the south-east, Belgium on the south, and the sea on the west. (Maps Nos. XV. and XVII.)

8. The *Tyrol*, (comprising the ancient Rhoetia with a part of Noricum, see Map No. IX.) is a province of the Austrian empire, east of Switzerland, and having Bavaria on the north, and Lombardy on the south. The Tyrolese, although warmly attached to liberty, have always been steadfast adherents of Austria. (Map No. XVII.)

9. The arch-duchy of *Austria*, the nucleus and centre of the Austrian empire, lies on both sides of the Danube, having Bohemia and Moravia on the north, and Styria and Carinthia on the south. In the time of Charlemagne, about the year 800, the margravate of Austria was

large number of hereditary States, possessed much of the Suabian territory. (See *Suabia*, p. 270.)

10. In the year 1438 the German princes elected an emperor from the house of Austria; and, ever since, an Austrian prince, with scarcely any intermission, has occupied the throne of Germany. Near the close of the fifteenth century the German States, then under the reign of Maximilian of the house of Austria, made an important change in their condition, by which the private wars and feuds, which the laws then authorized, and the right to carry on which against each other the petty States regarded as the bulwark of their liberty, were made to give place to regular courts of justice for the settlement of national controversies. In the year 1495, at a general diet held at Worms,¹ the plan of a Perpetual Public Peace was subscribed to by the several States: oppression, rapine, and violence, were made to yield to the authority of law, and the public tranquillity was thus, for the first time in Germany, established on a firm basis.

11. For a considerable period previous to the beginning of the fourteenth century, Switzerland, the *Helvetia* of the Romans, had formed an integral part of the Germanic empire; but in the year 1307 the house of Austria, under the usurping emperor Albert, endeavored to extend his sway over the rude mountaineers of that inhospitable land. The tyranny of Austria provoked the league of *Rutuli*;² the famous episode of the hero William Tell³ gave a new impulse to the cause of freedom; and in

formed south of the Danube, by a body of militia which protected the south-east of Germany from the incursions of the Asiatic tribes. In 1156 its territory was extended north of the Danube, and made a duchy. In 1438 the ruling dynasty of Austria obtained the electoral crown of the German emperors, and in 1453 Austria was raised to an arch-duchy. In 1526 it acquired Bohemia and Hungary, and attained the rank of a European monarchy. (*Map No. XVII.*)

1. *Worms* is on the west bank of the Rhine, forty-two miles south-west from Frankfort (*Map No. XVII.*)

2. *Rutuli* was a meadow slope under the Salzburg mountain, in the canton of Uri, and on the west bank of the Lake of Lucerne, where the confederates were wont to assemble at dead of night, to consult for the salvation of their country. (*Map No. XIV.*)

3. The story of *William Tell*, one of the confederates of *Rutuli*, is, briefly, as follows. Gessler the Austrian governor had carried his insolence so far as to cause his hat to be placed upon a pole, as a symbol of the sovereign power of Austria, and to order that all who passed should uncover their heads and bow before it. Tell, having passed the hat without making obeisance, was summoned before Gessler, who, knowing that he was a good archer, commanded him to shoot, from a great distance, an apple placed on the head of his own son, promising him his life if he succeeded. Tell hit the apple, but, accidentally dropping a concealed arrow, was asked by the tyrant why he had brought two arrows with him? "Had I shot my child," replied the archer, "the second shaft was for thee:—and, be sure, I should not have

the year 1308 the united cantons of Uri, Schwytz, and Unterwalden,¹ struck their first blow for liberty, and expelled their oppressors from the country. In 1315 the Swiss gained a great victory over the Austrians at Morgarten,² and another at Sempach³ in 1386; but they were regarded as belonging to the Germanic empire until about the close of the fifteenth century, when, in the famous Suabian war, army after army of the Austrians was defeated, and the emperor Maximilian himself compelled to effect a disgraceful retreat. This was the last war of the early Swiss confederates in the cause of freedom; and the peace concluded with Maximilian in 1499 established the independence of Switzerland.

12. The condition of Italy during the central period of the Middle Ages has already been described. (Sec II.) At the close of that period Italy still formed, nominally, a part of the Germanic empire; but the authority of the German emperors had silently declined during the preceding centuries, until at length it was reduced to the mere ceremony of coronation, and the exercise of a few honorary and feudal rights over the Lombard vassals of the crown. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, numerous republics had sprung up in Italy; and, animated by the spirit of liberty, they for a time enjoyed an unusual degree of prosperity; but eventually, torn to pieces by contending factions, and a prey to mutual and incessant hostilities, they fell under the tyranny of one despot after another, until, in the early part of the fifteenth century, Florence, Genoa,⁴ and Venice, were the only im-

missed my mark a second time." Gessler, in a rage not unmixed with terror, declared that although he had promised Tell his life, he should pass it in a dungeon; and taking his captive bound, started in a boat to cross the Lake of Lucerne, to his fortress. But a violent storm arising, Tell was set at liberty, and the helm committed to his hands. He guided the boat successfully to the shore, when, seizing his bow, by a daring leap he sprang upon a rock, leaving the barque to wrestle with the billows. Gessler escaped the storm, but only to fall by the unerring arrow of Tell. The death of Gessler was a signal for a general rising of the Swiss cantons

1. *Uri, Schwytz, Unterwalden*, see *Map No. XIV.*
2. *Morgarten*, the narrow pass in which the battle was fought, is on the eastern shore of the small Lake of Egeri, in the canton of Schwytz, seventeen miles east from Lucerne. (*Map No. XIV.*)

3. *Sempach* is a small town on the east bank of the small lake of the same name, seven miles northwest from Lucerne. (*Map No. XIV.*)

4. *Genoa*, a maritime city of northern Italy, is at the head of the gulf of the same name, seventy-five miles south-east from Turin. After the downfall of the empire of Charlemagne, Genoa erected itself into a republic. In 1174 it possessed an extensive territory in north-western Italy, nearly all of Provence, and the island of Corsica. Genoa carried on long wars with Pisa and Venice,—that with the latter being one of the most memorable in the Italian annals of the Middle Ages.

ports of States that had escaped the general catastrophe. Nearly all the numerous free towns and republics of Lombardy had been conquered by the duchy of Milan, which acknowledged a direct dependence on the German emperor.

13. The Florentines, who greatly enriched themselves by their commerce and manufactures, maintained their republican form of government, from about the close of the twelfth century, during a period of nearly two hundred and fifty years. The Genoese and Venetians, whose commercial interests thwarted each other, both in the Levant and the Mediterranean, quarreled repeatedly; but eventually the Venetians gained the superiority, and retained the command of the sea in their own hands. Of all the Italian republics, Genoa was the most agitated by internal dissensions; and the Genoese, volatile and inconstant, underwent frequent voluntary changes of masters. At the close of the fifteenth century Genoa was a dependency of the duchy of Milan, although subsequently it recovered once more its ancient state of independence.

14. Venice, to whose origin we have already alluded, was the earliest, and, for a long time, the most considerable, commercial city of modern Europe. At a very early period the Venetians began to trade with Constantinople and other eastern cities; the crusades, to which their shipping contributed, increased their wealth, and extended their commerce and possessions; and toward the end of the fifteenth century, besides several rich provinces in Lombardy, the republic was mistress of Crete and Cyprus, of the greater part of the Morea,² or Southern Greece, and of most of the isles in the Ægean Sea. The additional powers that at this time shared the dominion of Italy, were the popes, and the kings of Naples; but the temporal domains of the former were small, and those of the latter soon passed into other hands; for the continual wars which all the Italian States waged with each other had already encouraged foreign powers to form plans of conquest over them. In the year 1500 Ferdinand of Spain deprived France of Naples; and from this time the Spaniards, who were already masters of Sicily and Sardinia, became, for more than a hundred years, the predominating power in Italy.

1. The *Levant* is a term applied to designate the eastern coasts of the Mediterranean, from southern Greece to Egypt. In the Middle Ages the trade with these countries was almost exclusively in the hands of the Italians, who gave to them the general appellation of *Levants*, or eastern countries. (Italian, *Levante*: French, *Levant*.)

2. *Morea*, the ancient *Peloponnesus*, or southern Greece, is said to derive its modern name from its resemblance to a mulberry leaf. (Greek, *morea*, a mulberry tree.)

15. Turning to Spain, we behold there, in the beginning of the fifteenth century, the three Christian States of Navarre,¹ Aragon,² Castile³ and Leon⁴ united, and the Moorish kingdom of Granada.⁵ Frequent dissensions among the Christian States had long prevented unity of action among them, but in the year 1474 Ferdinand V. ascended the throne of Aragon; and, as he had previously married Isabella, a princess of Castile, the two most powerful Christian States were thus united. The plan of expelling the Moors from Spain had long been agitated; and in 1481 the war for that purpose was commenced by Ferdinand and Isabella. Ten years, however, were spent in the sanguinary strife, before the

1. *Navarre* is in the northern part of Spain, having France and the Pyrenees on the north, Aragon on the east, Old Castile on the south, and the Basque provinces (Biscay, Guipuzcoa, and Alava) on the west. A portion of ancient Navarre extended north of the Pyrenees, and afterwards formed the French province of Bearn. (See *Map No. XIII.*) During many centuries Navarre was an independent kingdom, but in 1284 it became united, by intermarriage, with that of France. In 1329 it again obtained a sovereign of its own. Although still claimed by France, in 1512 Ferdinand of Aragon united all the country south of the Pyrenees to the crown of Spain. In 1590 Henry IV., grandson of Henry king of Navarre, ascended the throne of France; and from that time to the reign of Charles X., the French monarchs, (with the exception of Napoleon,) assumed the title of "king of France and Navarre;" but only the small portion of Navarre north of the Pyrenees remained annexed to the French monarchy. Spanish Navarre is still governed by its separate laws, and has, nominally at least, the same constitution which it enjoyed when it was a separate monarchy; but its sovereignty is vested in the Spanish crown. (*Map No. XIII.*)

2. *Aragon* was bounded on the north by the Pyrenees, east by Catalonia, south by Valencia, and west by Castile and Navarre. While a separate kingdom it was the most powerful of the peninsular States, and comprised, in 1479, under the sovereignty of Ferdinand, exclusive of Aragon proper, Navarre, Catalonia, Valencia, and Sardinia. (*Map No. XIII.*)

3. *Castile* is the central and largest division of modern Spain. The northern portion being that first recovered from the Saracens, is called Old Castile, and comprises the modern provinces of Burgos, Soria, Segovia, and Avila: the southern portion, called New Castile, comprises the provinces of Madrid, Guadalaxara, Cuenca, Toledo, and La Mancha. After the expulsion of the Saracens, and various vicissitudes, the sovereignty of Castile was vested by marriage in Sancho III. king of Navarre, whose son Ferdinand was made king of Castile in 1034. Three years later he was crowned king of Leon. The crowns of Castile and Leon were repeatedly separated and united, till, by the marriage of Isabella, who held both crowns, with Ferdinand, king of Aragon, in 1497, the three kingdoms were consolidated into one. (*Map No. XIII.*)

4. The kingdom of *Leon* was bounded north by Asturias, east by Old Castile, south by Estremadura, and west by Galicia and Portugal. During the eighth century, this district, after the expulsion of the Moors, was formed into a kingdom, called after its capital, and connected with Asturias. It was first added to Castile in 1037, in the reign of Ferdinand I. king of Castile, who was king of Leon in right of his wife; but it continued in an unsettled state till 1230, when it was finally united, by inheritance, to the dominions of Ferdinand III. king of Castile. (*Map No. XIII.*)

5. *Granada*, consisting of the south-eastern part of ancient Andalusia, (Note p. 232,) is on the Mediterranean coast, in the south-eastern part of Spain. On the breaking up of the African empire in Spain, in the year 1238, Mohammed ben Alhassar founded the Moorish kingdom of Granada, making the city of Granada his capital. Granada remained in the possession of the Moors two hundred and fifty years, which comprise the season of its prosperity. In 1492 it surrendered to Ferdinand the Catholic, being the last foothold of Saracen power in Spain. (*Map No. XIII.*)

Christians were enabled to besiege Granada, the Moorish capital; but the capitulation of that city in January, 1492, put an end to the Saracen dominion in the Spanish peninsula, after it had existed there during a period of eight hundred years. In the year 1512 Ferdinand invaded and conquered Navarre; and thus the whole of Spain was united under the same government.

16. Toward the close of the eleventh century, the frontier province of Portugal,¹ which had been conquered by the Christians from the Moors, was formed into an earldom tributary to Leon and Castile; but in the twelfth century it was erected into an independent kingdom, and in the early part of the thirteenth it had reached its present limits. The history of Portugal is devoid of general interest, until the period of those voyages and discoveries of which the Portuguese were the early promoters and which have shed immortal lustre on the Portuguese name.

III. DISCOVERIES.—1. A brief account of the discoveries of the fifteenth century will close the present chapter. From the subversion of the Roman empire, until the revival of letters which succeeded the Dark Ages, no advance was made in the art of navigation; and even the little geographical knowledge that had been acquired

1. Portugal, anciently called *Lusitania*, (Note p. 166,) was taken possession of by the Romans about two hundred years before the Christian era; previously to which the Phœnicians, Carthaginians, and Greeks, traded to its shores, and probably planted colonies there. In the fifth century it was inundated by the Germanic tribes, and in 712 was conquered by the Saracens. Soon after, the Spaniards of Castile and Leon, aided by the native inhabitants, wrested northern Portugal, between the Minho and the Douro, from the Moors, and placed counts or governors over this region. About the close of the eleventh century Henry, a Burgundian prince came into Spain to seek his fortune by his sword, in the wars against the Moors. Alphonse VI. king of Castile and Leon, gave to the chivalric stranger the hand of his daughter in marriage, and also the earldom of the Christian provinces of Portugal. In 1139 the Portuguese earl, Alphonso I., having gained a brilliant victory over the Moors, his soldiers proclaimed him king on the field of battle; and Portugal became an independent kingdom. Its power now rapidly increased: it maintained its independence against the claims of Castile and Leon; and Alphonso extended his dominions to the borders of Algarve, in the south. In 1249 Alphonso III. conquered Algarve, and thus, in the final overthrow of the Moorish power in Portugal, extended the kingdom to its present limits.

The language of Portugal is merely a dialect of the Spanish; but the two people regard each other with a deep-rooted national antipathy. The character attributed to the Portuguese is not very flattering. "Strip a Spaniard of all his virtues, and you make a good Portuguese of him," says the Spanish proverb. "I have heard it more truly said," says Dr. Southey, "add hypocrisy to a Spaniard's vices, and you have the Portuguese character. The two nations differ, perhaps purposely, in many of their habits. Almost every man in Spain smokes; the Portuguese never smoke, but most of them take snuff. None of the Spaniards will use a wheelbarrow: none of the Portuguese will carry a burden: the one says, 'it is only fit for beasts to draw carriages;' the other, that 'it is fit only for beasts to carry burdens.'" (Map No. XIII.)

was nearly lost during that gloomy period. Upon the returning dawn of civilization, however, commerce again revived; and the Italian States, of which Venice, Pisa,¹ and Genoa, took the lead, soon became distinguished for their enterprising commercial spirit. The discovery of the magnetic needle gave a new impulse to navigation, as it enabled the mariner to direct his bark with increased boldness and confidence farther from the coast, out of sight of whose landmarks he before seldom dared venture; while the invention of the art of printing disseminated more widely the knowledge of new discoveries in geography and navigation. In the fourteenth century the Canary² islands, believed to be the *Fortunate islands* of the ancients, were accidentally rediscovered by the crew of a French ship driven thither by a storm. But the career of modern discovery was prosecuted with the greatest ardor by the Portuguese. Under the patronage of prince Henry, son of king John the First, Cape Bojador, before considered an impassable limit on the African coast, was doubled; the Cape de Verd³ and Azore⁴ islands were discovered; and the greatest part of the African coast, from Cape Blanco to Cape de Verd, was explored. (1419—1480.)

2. The grand idea which actuated prince Henry, was, by circumnavigating Africa, to open an easier and less expensive route to the Indies, and thus to deprive the Italians of the commerce of those fertile regions, and turn it at once upon his own country. Although prince Henry died before he had accomplished the great object of his ambition, the fame of the discoveries patronized by him had rendered his name illustrious and the learned, the curious, and the

1. Pisa, the capital of one of the most celebrated republics of Italy, and now the capital of the province of its own name in the grand duchy of Tuscany, is on the river Arno, about eight miles from its entrance into the Mediterranean, and thirteen miles north-east from Leghorn. In the tenth century Pisa took the lead among the commercial republics of Italy, and in the eleventh century its fleet of galleys maintained a superiority in the Mediterranean. In the thirteenth century a struggle with Genoa commenced, which, after many vicissitudes, ended in the total ruin of the Pisans. Pisa subsequently became the prey of various petty tyrants, and was finally united to Florence in 1406.

2. The *Canaries* are a group of fourteen islands belonging to Spain. The peak of Teneriffe, a half extinct volcano, on one of the more distant islands, is about two hundred and fifty miles from the north-west coast of Africa, and eight hundred miles south-west from the straits of Gibraltar.

3. The *Cape de Verd* islands, belonging to Portugal, are off the west coast of Africa, about three hundred and twenty miles west from Cape de Verd.

4. The *Azores* (*az-ores*) are about eight hundred miles west from Portugal. The name is said to be derived from the vast number of *hawks*, (called by the Portuguese *agor*,) by which they were frequented. At the time of their discovery they were uninhabited, and covered with forest and underwood.

adventurous, repaired to Lisbon¹ to increase their knowledge by the discoveries of the Portuguese, and to join in their enterprises. Among them Christopher Columbus, a native of Genoa, arrived there about the year 1470. He had already made himself familiar with the navigation of the Mediterranean, and had visited Iceland;² and he now accompanied the Portuguese in their expeditions to the coast of Guinea³ and the African islands. But while others were seeking a passage to India by the slow and tedious process of sailing around the southern extremity of Africa, the bold and daring mind of Columbus conceived the project of reaching the desired land by a western route, directly across the Atlantic. The spherical figure of the earth was then known, and Columbus doubted not that our globe might be circumnavigated.

3. Of the gradual maturing and development of the theory of Columbus,—of the poverty and toil which he endured, and the ridicule, humiliation, and disappointments which he encountered, as he wandered from court to court, soliciting the patronage which ignorance, bigotry, prejudice, and pedantic pride, so long denied him,—and of his final triumph, in the discovery of a new continent, equal to the old world in magnitude, and separated by vast oceans from all the earth before known to civilized man,—our limits forbid us to enter into details, and it would likewise be superfluous, as these events have already been familiarized to American readers by the chaste and glowing narrative of their countryman Irving. In the year 1492, the genius of Columbus, more than realizing the dreams of Plato's famous Atlantis,⁴ revealed to the civilized world another hemisphere,

1. *Lisbon*, the capital and principal seaport of Portugal, is situated on the right bank, and near the mouth, of the Tagus. The Moors captured the city in the year 716, and, with some slight exceptions, it remained in their power till, in 1145, Alphonso I. made it the capital of his kingdom. (*Map No. XIII.*)

2. *Iceland* is a large island in the Northern Ocean, on the confines of the polar circle. It was discovered by a Norwegian pirate in the year 861, and was soon after settled by Norwegians. In the year 928 the inhabitants formed themselves into a republic, which existed nearly our hundred years; after which Iceland again became subject to Norway. On the annexation of that kingdom to Denmark, Iceland was transferred with it.

3. *Guinea* is a name applied by European geographers to designate that portion of the African coast extending from about eleven degrees north of the equator, to seventeen degrees south.

4. *Atlantis* was a celebrated island supposed to have existed at a very early period in the Atlantic Ocean, and to have been, eventually, sunk beneath its waves. Plato is the first who gives an account of it, and he obtained his information from the priests of Egypt. The statement which he furnishes is substantially as follows:

"In the Atlantic Ocean, over against the pillars of Hercules, lay a very large and fertile island, whose surface was variegated by mountains and valleys, its coasts indented with many navigable rivers, and its fields well cultivated. In its vicinity were other islands from which

and first opened a communication between Europe and America that will never cease while the waters of the ocean continue to roll between them. Five years after the discovery of America, Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese admiral, doubled the Cape of Good Hope, and had the glory of carrying his national flag as far as India. These were the closing maritime enterprises of the fifteenth century: they opened to the Old World new scenes of human existence: new nations, new races, and new continents, rapidly crowded upon the vision; and imagination tired in contemplating the future wonders that the genius of discovery was about to develop.

there was a passage to a large continent lying beyond. The island of Atlantis was thickly settled and very powerful: its kings extended their sway over Africa as far as Egypt, and over Europe until they were checked by the Athenians, who, opposing themselves to the invaders, became the conquerors. But at length that Atlantic island, by a flood and earthquake, was suddenly destroyed, and for a long time afterwards the sea thereabouts was full of rocks and shoals."

A dispute arose among the ancient philosophers whether Plato's statement was based upon reality, or was a mere creation of fancy. Posidonius thought it worthy of belief: Pliny remains undecided. Among modern writers, Rudbeck labors to prove that Sweden was the Atlantis of the ancients: Bailly places it in the farthest regions of the north, believing that the Atlantides were the far-famed Hyperboreans; while others connect *America*, with its Mexican and Peruvian remains of a remote civilization, with the legend of the lost Atlantis. In connection with this view they point to the peculiar conformation of our continent along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, where everything indicates the sinking, at a remote period, of a large tract of land, the place of which is now occupied by the waters of the Gulf. And may not the mountain tops of this sunken land still appear to view as the islands of the West Indian group; and may not the large continent lying beyond Atlantis and the adjacent islands have been none other than America?