

CHAPTER III.

EUROPEAN HISTORY DURING THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

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I. INTRODUCTORY.—1. In the history of ancient Europe, two predominating nations,—first the Greeks, and afterwards the Romans, occupy the field; preserving, in the mind of the reader, a general unity of action and of interest. In the history of the Middle Ages this unity is broken by the forcible dismemberment of the Roman empire, by the confusion that followed the inroads of the barbarians, and that attended their first attempt at social organization, and by the introduction of a broader field of inquiry, embracing countries and nations previously unknown. In Modern History, subsequent to the fifteenth century, there is still less apparent unity, if we consider the increased extent of the field to be explored, and the still greater variety of nations, governments, and institutions, submitted to our view; and to avoid inextricable confusion, and dry summaries of unintelligible events, we are under the necessity, in a brief compend like the present, of selecting and developing the *principal points* of historic interest, and of rendering all other matters subordinate to the main design.

2. But while it would be in vain to attempt, within the limits of a work like the present, to give a separate history of every nation, the reader should not lose sight of any,—that, as opportunities occur, he may have a place in the general framework of history for the stores which subsequent reading may accumulate. It was in accordance with these views, that, near the close of the preceding chapter, we took a general survey of the nations of Europe; and although a few of the European kingdoms will still continue to claim our chief attention in the subsequent part of this history, we must not shut our eyes to the fact that they embraced, during this period, but a small portion of the population of the globe; and that a History, strictly *universal*, would comprise the cotemporary annals of more than a hundred different nations. The extent of the field of modern history is indeed vast; in it we can select only a few verdant spots, with which alone we can hope to make the reader familiar; while the riches of many an unexplored region must be left to repay the labor of future researches.

3. At the opening of the sixteenth century, Great Britain, Scotland, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Poland, Prussia, and Turkey, were distinct and independent nations; Hungary and Bohemia were temporarily united under one sovereignty; Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, still feebly united by the union of Calmar, were soon to be divided again; the Netherlands, known as the dominions of the house of Burgundy, had become a dependence of the Austrian division of the Germanic empire; and Italy, comprising the Papal States, and a number of petty republics and dukedoms, was fast becoming the prey of surrounding sovereigns. In the *East*, Persia, after having been for centuries the theatre of perpetual civil wars, revolutions, and changes of no interest to foreigners, again emerged from obscurity at the beginning of the sixteenth century, and, toward the end of that period, under the Shah Abbas, surnamed the Great, established an empire embracing Persia Proper, Media, Mesopotamia, Syria, and Farther Armenia. About the same time a Tartar or Mogul empire was established in Hindostan by a descendant of the great conqueror Tamerlane. China was at this time, as it had long been, a great empire, although but little known. Egypt, under the successors of the victorious Saracens, still preserved the semblance of sovereignty, until, in 1517, the Turks reduced it to the condition of a province of the Ottoman empire. Such were the principal States, kingdoms, and nations, of the Old World, whose

annals find a place on the page of *universal* history; and, turning to the West, beyond the wide ocean whose mysteries had been so recently unveiled by the Genoese navigator, we find the germs of civilized nations already starting into being;—and History must enlarge its volume to take in a mere abstract of the annals that now begin to press forward for admission to its pages. Amidst this perplexing profusion of the materials of history, we turn back to the localities already familiar to the reader, and seek for historic unity where only it can be found,—in those principles, and events, that have exerted a world-wide influence on the progress of civilization, and the destinies of the human race.

II. THE AGE OF HENRY VIII. AND CHARLES V.—1. About the period of the beginning of the sixteenth century a new era opens in European history, in the rise of what has sometimes been called “the States-system of Europe;” for it was now that the reciprocal influences of the European States on each other began to be exerted on a large scale, and that the weaker States first conceived the idea of a balance-of-power system that should protect them against their more powerful neighbors. Hence the increasing extent and intricacy of the relations that began to grow up between States, by treaties of alliance, embassies, negotiations, and guarantees; and the more general combination of powers in the wars that arose out of the ambition of some princes, and the attempts of others to preserve the political equilibrium.

2. The inordinate growth of the power of the house of Austria, in the early part of the sixteenth century, first developed the defensive and conservative system to which we have alluded; and for a long time the principal object of all the wars and alliances of Europe was to humble the ambition of some one nation, whose preponderance seemed to threaten the liberty and independence of the rest.

3. It has been stated that the marriage of Maximilian of Austria, with Mary of Burgundy, secured to the house of Austria the whole of Burgundy, and the “Low Countries,” corresponding to the modern Netherlands. In the year 1506, Charles, known in history as Charles V., a grandson of Maximilian and Mary of Austria, and also of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, inherited the Low Countries: on the death of Ferdinand, in 1516, he became heir to the whole Spanish succession, which comprehended Spain, Naples, Sicily, and

Sardinia, together with Spanish America. To these vast possessions were added his patrimonial dominions in Austria; and in 1519 the imperial dignity of the Germanic empire was conferred upon him by the choice of the electors, when he was only in his nineteenth year.

4. Charles soon resigned to his brother Ferdinand his hereditary Austrian States; but the two brothers, acting in concert for the advancement of their reciprocal interests, were regarded but as one power by the alarmed sovereigns of Europe, who began to suspect that the Austrian princes aimed at universal monarchy; and their jealousy was increased when Ferdinand, by marriage, secured the addition of Hungary and Bohemia to his dominions; and, at a later period, Charles, in a similar manner, obtained for his son, afterwards Philip II. of Spain, the future sovereignty of Portugal.

5. When the imperial throne of Germany became vacant by the death of Maximilian, Francis I. of France and Charles V. were competitors for the crown; and on the success of the latter, the mutual claims of the two princes on each other's dominions, especially in Italy and the Low Countries, soon made them declared enemies. France then took the lead in attempting to regulate the balance of power against the house of Austria; and the favor of Henry VIII. of England was courted by the rival monarchs, as the prince most likely to secure the victory to whomsoever he should give the weight of his influence.

6. In year 1509 Henry VIII., then at the age of eighteen, had succeeded his father Henry VII. on the throne of England,—receiving at the same time a rich treasury and a flourishing kingdom, and uniting in his person the opposing claims of the houses of York and Lancaster. The real power of the English monarch was at this time greater than at any previous period; and Henry VIII. might have been the arbiter of Europe, in the rivalries and wars between Francis I. and Charles V., had not his actions been the result of passion, vanity, caprice, or resentment, rather than of enlightened policy.

7. Each of the rival princes sedulously endeavored to enlist the English monarch in his favor: both gave a pension to his prime minister, cardinal Wolsey; and each had an interview with the king—Francis meeting him at Calais, and Charles visiting him in England,—but the latter won Henry through the influence of Wolsey whose egregious vanity he duped by encouraging his hopes of

II. THE RIVALRY BETWEEN FRANCIS I. AND CHARLES V.

III. HENRY VIII. OF ENGLAND.

promotion to the papal crown. Moreover, Henry was, at the beginning, ill-disposed towards the king of France, who virtually governed Scotland through the influence of the regent Albany; and, by an alliance with Charles, he hoped to recover a part of those domains which his ancestors had formerly possessed in France. Charles also gained the aid of the pope, Leo X.; but, on the other hand, Francis was supported by the Swiss, the Genoese, and the Venetians.

8. In the year 1520 Francis seized the opportunity of an insurrection in Spain to attempt the recovery of Navarre, which had been united to the French crown by marriage alliance in 1490, and conquered by Ferdinand of Spain in 1512. Navarre was won and lost in the course of a few months, and the war was then transferred to Italy. In two successive years the French governor of Milan was driven from Lombardy: the Duke of Bourbon, constable of France, the best general of Francis, who had received repeated affronts from the king, his master, deserted to Charles, and was by him invested with the chief command of his forces; and in the year 1525 Francis himself was defeated by his rebellious subject in the battle of Pavia, and taken prisoner, but not until his horse had been killed under him, and his armor, which is still preserved, had been indented by numerous bullets and lances. In the battle of Pavia the French army was almost totally destroyed. In a single line Francis conveyed the sad intelligence to his mother. "Madam all is lost but honor."

9. Francis was conveyed a prisoner to Madrid; and it was only at the expiration of a year that he obtained his release, when a fever, occasioned by despondency, had already threatened to put an end at once, to his life, and the advantages which Charles hoped to derive from his captivity. Francis had already prepared to abdicate the throne in favor of his son the dauphin, when Charles decided to

1. The house of *Bourbon* derives its name from the small village of Bourbon in the former province of Bourbonnais, now in the department of Allier, thirteen miles west from Moulins, and one hundred and sixty-five miles south from Paris. (*Map No. XIII.*) In early times this town had lords of its own, who bore the title of barons. Aimer, who lived in the early part of the tenth century, is the first of these barons of whom history gives any account. The male princes of this line having become extinct, Beatrix, duchess of Bourbon, married Robert, second son of St. Louis; and their son Louis, duke of Bourbon, who died in 1341, became the founder of the house of Bourbon. Two branches of this house took their origin from the two sons of Louis. The elder line became extinct at the death of the constable of Bourbon, who defeated Francis at Pavia, and was himself killed in 1527, in the assault of the city of Rome. From the other line have sprung several branches,—first, the royal branch, and that of Condé; since which the former has undergone several subdivisions, giving sovereigns to France, to Spain, to the two Sicilies, and Lucca and Parma.

release the captive monarch, after exacting from him a stipulation to surrender Bur'gundy, to renounce his pretensions to Milan and Naples, and to ally himself, by marriage, with the family of his enemy. But Francis, before his release, had secretly protested, in the presence of his chancellor, against the validity of a treaty extorted from him while a prisoner; and, once at liberty, it was not difficult for him to elude it. His joy at his release was unbounded. Being escorted to the frontiers of France, and having passed a small stream that divides the two kingdoms, he mounted a Turkish horse, and putting him at full speed, and waving his hand over his head, exclaimed aloud, several times, "I am yet a king!" (March 18, 1526.)

10. The liberation of Francis was the signal for a general league against Charles V. The Italian States, which, since the battle of Pavia, had been in the power of the Spanish and German armies, now regarded the French as liberators; the pope put himself at the head of the league; the Swiss joined it; and Henry VIII., alarmed at the increasing power of Charles, entered into a treaty with Francis, so that the very reverses of the French monarch, by exciting the jealousy of other States against his rival, rendered him much stronger in alliances than before.

11. During these events, the rebel Duke of Bourbon remained in Italy, quartering his mercenary troops on the unfortunate inhabitants of Milan; but when the Italians declared against the emperor, all Italy was delivered up to pillage. To obtain the greater plunder, Bourbon marched upon Rome, followed not only by his own soldiers, but by an additional force of fourteen thousand brigands from Germany. Pope Clement, terrified by the greatness of the danger which menaced the States of the Holy See, discharged his best troops, and shut himself up in the castle of St. Angelo. Rome was attacked, and carried by storm, although Bourbon fell in the assault; the pillage was universal, neither convents nor churches being spared; from seven to eight thousand Romans were massacred the first day; and not all the ravages of the Goths and Huns surpassed those of the army of the first prince in christendom.

12. The pillage of Rome, and the captivity of the pope, excited great indignation throughout Europe; and the hypocritical Charles, instead of sending orders for his liberation, ordered prayers for his deliverance to be offered in all the Spanish churches. At this favorable moment Francis sent an army into Italy, which penetrated to the very walls of Naples; but here his prosperity ended; and the

impolicy of the French king, in disgusting and alienating his most faithful allies, lost for him all the advantages which he had gained. Both the rival monarchs now desired peace, but both strove to dissemble their real sentiments: although Charles had been generally fortunate in the contest, yet all his revenues were expended; and he desired a respite from the cares of war to enable him to crush the Reformation, which had already made considerable progress in his German dominions. A peace was therefore concluded at Cambray, in August 1529, which was as glorious to Charles as it was disgraceful to France and her monarch. The former remained supreme master of Italy; the pope submitted; the Venetians were shorn of their conquests; and Henry VIII. reaped nothing but the emperor's enmity for his interference.

13. The conduct of Henry VIII. in his domestic relations reflects disgrace upon his name, and is a dark stain upon his character. He was first married to Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, and aunt of Charles V. of Germany, a woman much older than himself, but who acquired and retained an ascendancy over his affections for nearly twenty years. For divorcing her, and marrying Anne Boleyn, he was excommunicated by the pope,—a measure which induced him to break off all allegiance to the Holy See, and declare himself supreme head of the English church. Three years after his second marriage, a new passion for Jane Seymour, one of the queen's maids of honor, effaced from his memory all the virtues and graces of Anne Boleyn; and seventeen days saw the latter pass from the throne to the scaffold. The marriage ceremony with the lady Jane was performed on the day following the execution. Her death followed, in little more than a year. In 1540 Henry married Anne of Cleves, on the recommendation of his minister Cromwell; but his dislike to his new wife hastened the fall of that minister, who was unjustly condemned and executed on a charge of treason. Soon after, Henry procured a divorce from Anne, and married Catherine Howard, niece of the duke of Norfolk; but on a charge of dissolute conduct Catherine was brought to the scaffold. In 1543 the king married Catherine Parr, who alone, of all his wives, survived him; and even she, before the king's death, came near being brought to the block on a charge of heresy.

14. Soon after the accession of Henry, the celebrated Wolsey appeared on the theatre of English politics. Successfully courting the favor of the monarch, he soon obtained the first place in the royal

favor, and became uncontrolled minister. Numerous ecclesiastical dignities were conferred upon him: in 1518, the pope, to ingratiate himself with Henry, created Wolsey cardinal. Courted by the emperors of France and Germany, he received pensions from both; and ere long his revenues nearly equalled those of the crown, part of which he expended in pomp and ostentation, and part in laudable munificence for the advancement of learning. When Henry, seized with a passion for Anne Boleyn, one of the queen's maids of honor, formed the design of getting rid of Catherine, and of making the new favorite his wife, Wolsey was suspected of abetting the delays of the court of Rome, which had been appealed to by Henry for a divorce. The displeasure of the king was excited against his minister; and, in the course of three years, Wolsey, repeatedly accused of treason, and gradually stripped of all his possessions, died of a broken heart. (1530.) In his last moments he is said to have exclaimed, in the bitterness of humiliation and remorse, "Had I but served my God as diligently as I have served my king, he would not have given me over in my gray hairs."^a

a. The following soliloquy is put by Shakspeare into the mouth of the humbled favorite on the occasion of his surrendering to Henry the great seal,—and also his dying advice to his attendant Cromwell.

Farewell, a long farewell to all my greatness!
This is the state of man; To-day he puts forth
The tender leaves of hope, to-morrow blossoms
And bears his blushing honors thick upon him:
The third day comes a frost, a killing frost;
And,—when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
His greatness is a ripening,—nips his root,
And then he falls, as I do. I have ventur'd
Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,
This many summers in a sea of glory;
But far beyond my depth; my high-blown pride
At length broke under me; and now has left me,
Weary, and old with service, to the mercy
Of a rude stream, that must forever hide me.
Vain pomp and glory of this world, I hate ye;
I feel my heart new open'd: O, how wretched
Is that poor man, that hangs on princes' favors!
There is, betwixt that smile we would aspire to,
That sweet aspect of princes, and their ruin,
More pangs and fears than wars or women have;
And when he falls, he falls like Lucifer,
Never to hope again."

"Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away ambition;
By that sin fell the angels; how can man then,
The image of his Maker, hope to win by't?
Love thyself last; cherish those hearts that hate thee;
Corruption wins not more than honesty:

15. During the stirring and eventful period of the early rivalries of Francis I. and Charles V.—a period full of great events, of conquests and reverses, all arising out of the selfish views of individual monarchs, but none of them causing any lasting change or progress in human affairs, the great principle of religious freedom began to agitate all classes, and to give fresh life to the public mind in Europe. At this time the pope, as the head of the Catholic religion, assumed to himself both spiritual and temporal power over all the kingdoms of the world often, amidst the blackest crimes, and immersed in the grossest sensualities, he avowed, and his adherents proclaimed, the doctrine of his *infallibility*, or "entire exemption from liability to err;" and although bold men in every age had protested against papal pretensions, yet the great mass of the people, the clergy, the nobility, and the monarchs, still regarded the pope as supreme and infallible authority over the thoughts and the actions of men. The memory and opinions of Wickliffe¹ the reformer had been solemnly condemned by the council of Constance² thirty years after his death: John Huss, and

1. *Wickliffe*, born in England about the year 1324—called the "morning star of the Reformation"—was an eminent divine and ecclesiastical reformer. He vigorously attacked papal usurpation, and the abuses of the church. The pope insisted on his being brought to trial as a heretic; but he was effectually protected by his patron, the duke of Lancaster. He died in 1384.

2. *Constance*, a city highly interesting from its historical associations, is situated on the river Rhine, at the point where the river unites the upper part of the Lake of Constance with the lower. Though mostly within the natural limits of Switzerland, the city belongs to the grand duchy of Baden. (*Maps* Nos. XIV. and XVII.)

The great object of the celebrated *Council of Constance*, which continued in session from 1414 to 1418, was to remove the divisions in the church, settle controversies, and vindicate the authority of general councils, to which the Roman pontiff was declared to be amenable. When, in 1411, Sigismund ascended the throne of Germany, there were three popes, each of whom had anathematized the two others. To put an end to these disorders, and stop the influence of John Huss, a native of Bohemia, who had adopted and zealously propagated the doctrines of Wickliffe, Sigismund summoned a general council. The pretended heresies of Wickliffe and Huss were condemned; and the latter, notwithstanding the assurances of safety given him by the German emperor, was burnt at the stake, July 6th, 1415. His friend and companion Jerome of Prague, met with the same fate, May 30th, 1416. After the ecclesiastical dignitaries supposed they had sufficiently checked the progress of heresies by these execr-

Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,
To silence envious tongues. Be just and fear not:
Let all the ends thou aimst at, be thy country's,
Thy God's, and truth's; then if thou fall'st, O Cromwell
Thou fall'st a blessed martyr."

"O Cromwell, Cromwell,
Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal
I serv'd my king, he would not in mine age
Have left me naked to mine enemies."

Shakspeare's Henry VIII., Act III., Scene II.

Jerome of Prague, with a host of less celebrated martyrs, had been publicly burned for professing heretical opinions; and the creed of the unfortunate Albigenses¹ had been extinguished in blood. Yet as civilization advanced, the moral power and authority of the popes declined; and the spirit of religious inquiry daily grew more rife: the pope was less popular in his own dominions than at a distance; and while the imperial city was sacked by the haughty Bourbon, and the pope himself was held a prisoner by a tumultuous soldiery, his emissaries were collecting tribute in the German dominions, and along the shores of the Baltic. The avarice of the pope, Leo X., was equal to the credulity of the Germans; and billets of salvation, or indulgencies professing to remit the punishment due to sins, even before the commission of the contemplated crime, were sold by thousands among the German peasantry. Martin Luther, a man of high reputation for sanctity and learning, and then professor of theology at Wittenberg² on the Elbe, first called in question the efficacy of

tions, they proceeded to depose the three popes, or anti-popes, John XXIII., Gregory XII., and Benedict XIII. They next elected Martin V., and thus put an end to a schism that had lasted forty years.

Travellers are still shown the hall where the council assembled; the chairs on which sat the emperor and the pope; the house in which Huss was apprehended; his dungeon in the Dominican monastery; and, in the nave of the cathedral, a brazen plate let into the floor on the spot where the venerable martyr listened to his sentence of death; also the place, in a garden, where he was burnt.

The decrees and excommunications of the council were despised in Bohemia; and in a bloody war of seventeen years' duration the Bohemian adherents of Huss took terrible vengeance upon the emperor, the empire, and the clergy, for his death—a revenge which the gentle and pious mind of Huss would never have approved. After the close of this war, the religious freedom of the Hussites continually suffered more and more; and the stricter sect of the diminished band was finally merged in the fraternity of Bohemian and Moravian brethren, which arose in 1457, and, under the most violent persecutions, exhibited an honorable steadfastness of faith, and the most exemplary purity.

1. *Albigenses* is a name given to several heretical sects in the south of France, who agreed in opposing the dominion of the Roman hierarchy, and in endeavoring to restore the simplicity of primitive Christianity. In 1209 they were first attacked, in a cruel and desolating war, by the army of the cross, called together by pope Innocent III.—the first war which the church waged against heretics within her own dominions. In 1229 Louis VIII. of France fell in a campaign against the heretics. It is said that hundreds of thousands fell, on both sides, in this war; but the Albigenses were subdued, and the inquisition was called in to extirpate any remaining germs of heresy. The name of the Albigenses disappeared about the middle of the thirteenth century; but fugitives of their party formed, in the mountains of Piedmont and Lombardy, what is called the French Church, which was continued to the times of the Hussites and the Reformation.

2. *Wittenberg*, a town of Prussian Saxony, on the Elbe, is fifty miles south-west from Berlin. (*Map* No. XVII.) It derives its chief interest from its having been the cradle of the Reformation.—Luther and Melancthon having both been professors in its university, and their remains being deposited in its cathedral. A noble bronze statue of the great reformer was erected in the market-place in 1821. "It represents, in colossal proportions, the full-length figure of Luther, supporting in his left hand the Bible, kept open by the right, pointing to a passage in

these indulgences; and his word, like a talisman, broke the spell of Romish supremacy.

16. In 1517 Luther first read in public his famous theses, or propositions, in which he bitterly inveighed against the traffic in indulgences, and challenged all the learned men of the day to contest them with him in a public disputation. Luther did not at once form the resolution to separate from the Romish Church; but the pressure of circumstances, and the warmth of controversy with his adversaries, impelled him from one step to another; and as he enlarged his observation and reading, and discovered new abuses and errors, he began to entertain doubts of the pope's divine authority—rejected the doctrine of his infallibility—gradually abolished the practice of mass, auricular confession, and the worship of images—denied the doctrine of purgatory, and opposed the fastings of the Romish Church, monastic vows, and the celibacy of the clergy. In 1520 the pope declared the writings of Luther heretical; and Luther in return solemnly burned, on the public square of Wittenberg, the papal bull of condemnation, and the volumes of the canon law of the Romish Church.

17. In 1521 the council of the Sorbonne,¹ in Paris, under the influence of the French monarch, declared, "that flames, and not reasoning, ought to be employed against the arrogance of Luther;" and in the same year the diet of Worms, at which Charles V. himself presided, pronounced the imperial ban of excommunication against Luther, his adherents, and protectors, condemned his writings to be burned, and commanded him to be seized and brought to punishment. The king of England, Henry VIII., who made pretensions to theological learning, wrote a volume against Luther; and the pope was so pleased with this token of Henry's religious zeal, that he conferred upon him the title of "*defender of the faith*," an appellation still retained by the sovereigns of England.

the inspired volume. The pedestal on which the statue stands is formed of a solid block of red polished granite, twenty feet in height, ten feet in width, and eight feet in depth. On each of its sides is a central tablet bearing a poetical inscription, the import of the principal being that "if the Reformation be God's work, it is imperishable; if the work of man, it will fall."²

1. The *Sorbonne*, originally a college for the education of secular clergymen at the university of Paris, founded about the year 1250, became so famous that its name was extended to the whole theological faculty of the university. The kings seldom took any steps affecting religion or the church without having asked the opinion of the Sorbonne, which, inimical both to the Jesuits and the Reformation, steadfastly maintained the liberties of the Gallican church. But the Sorbonne outlived its fame: its spirit often degenerated into blind zeal and pedantic obstinacy: its condemnation of the writings of Helvetius, Rousseau, and Marmontel, subjected it to much derision; and the Revolution of 1789 put an end to its existence.

18 But notwithstanding this opposition from high quarters, the age was rife for changes: the art of printing rapidly spread the tenets of the reformers; and many of the German princes espoused the cause of Luther, and gave him protection. But Charles V., after the peace of Cambray, had determined to arrest the farther progress of the Reformation; and for this purpose he proceeded to Germany, where he assembled a diet of the empire at Spire,¹ March 1529; and here the majority of the States, which were Catholic decreed that the edicts of the diet of Worms should be retained, and that all those who had been gained over to the new doctrine should abstain from farther innovations. The reformers, including nearly half the German princes, entered a violent *protest* against these proceedings, on which account they were distinguished as PROTESTANTS,—an appellation since applied indiscriminately to all the sects, of whatever denomination, that have withdrawn from the Romish church.

19. In the year 1530 Charles assembled another diet of the empire at Augsburg,² to try the great cause of the Reformation, hoping to be able to effect a reconciliation between the opposing parties, although he was urged by the pope to have recourse at once to the most rigorous measures against the stubborn enemies of the Catholic faith. The learned and peaceable Melancthon presented to the diet the articles of the Lutheran creed, since known by the name of the confession of Augsburg; but no reconciliation of opposing opinions could be effected; and the Protestants were commanded to renounce their errors, upon pain of being put under the ban of the empire. Charles was preparing to employ violence, when the Protestant princes of Germany concluded a defensive league, (Dec. 1530), and having obtained promises of aid from the kings of France, England, and Denmark, held themselves ready for combat. At this time Henry VIII., although abhorring all connection with the Lutherans, was fast approaching a rupture with the pope, who stood in the way of the king's contemplated divorce from his first wife Catherine, and

1. *Spire*, one of the most ancient cities of Germany, is in Rhenish Bavaria, on the west bank of the Rhine, twenty-two miles south of Worms. There may still be seen at Spire the outer walls of an old palace in which no fewer than forty-nine diets have been held, the most celebrated of which was that of 1529. In the celebrated cathedral of Spire nine German emperors, and many other celebrated personages, have been buried. (Map No. XVII.)

2. *Augsburg* is a city of Bavaria, between, and near the confluence of, the rivers Wertach and Lech, branches of the Danube, thirty-five miles northwest from Munich. Augsburg is very ancient. Augustus having settled a colony in it about twelve years B. C., named it *Augusta Vindelicorum* (Map No. XVII.)

his marriage with the afterwards unfortunate Anne Boleyn; and Francis, although he burned heretics in France, did not hesitate to league himself with the reformers of Germany, in order to weaken the power of his rival.

20. In addition to these obstacles to the purpose of Charles, at this moment the Turkish sultan, Solyman the Magnificent, invaded Hungary, at the head of three hundred thousand men; and Charles, fearing the consequences of a religious war at this juncture, hastened to offer to the Protestants all the toleration they demanded, until the next diet. After the Turks had been defeated, and driven back upon their own territories, Charles thought it his duty, as the greatest monarch, and the protector of entire Christendom, to make a crusade against the piratical Moors of Northern Africa, who, under their leader Barbarossa, held Tunis and Algiers,¹ and were in close alliance with the Turkish sultan. In the summer of 1535 he landed at Tunis at the head of thirty thousand men, defeated the Moors in battle, and, to his inexpressible joy, was enabled to set at liberty twenty-two thousand Christian captives, whom the Moors had reduced to slavery. On his return from this expedition he found the king of France preparing for war against him; and the hostilities which immediately broke out between the rival monarchs delayed the decisive rupture between the Catholics and Protestants of Germany for a period of twelve years. In the summer of 1535 Francis invaded Savoy,² and threatened Milan; and in the following year

1. *Algiers*, or Algeria, a country of northern Africa, having the city Algiers for its capital, comprises the *Numidia* proper of the ancients. It formed part of the Roman empire; but during the reign of Valentinian III., count Boniface, the governor of Africa, revolted, and called in the Vandals to his assistance. The latter having taken possession of the country, held it till they were expelled by Belisarius, A. D. 534, who restored Africa to the Eastern empire. It was overrun and conquered by the Saracens in the seventh century: in the early part of the sixteenth century Ferdinand of Spain wrested several provinces from them; but ere long the Spanish yoke was thrown off by the famous Corsairs known in history as Barbarossa I. and II. Algiers then became the centre of the new empire founded by the Barbarossas, and for a long period carried on almost incessant hostilities against the powers of Christendom, capturing their ships, and reducing their subjects to slavery. Attempts were made at different times to abate this nuisance. In 1541, Charles V., six years after his expedition against Tunis, attacked Algiers; but his fleet having been nearly destroyed by a storm, he was compelled to return with great loss. Both France and England repeatedly chastised the insolence of the Algerines by bombarding their city; but in general the European powers purchased exemption from the attacks of Algerine cruisers by paying tribute to the dey. In 1815 the Americans compelled the dey to renounce all tribute from them, and pay sixty thousand dollars as indemnification for their losses; and in the following year the English bombarded Algiers, destroyed the Algerine fleet, in the harbor, and compelled the dey to set all his Christian slaves at liberty, and engage to cease his piracies. Finally, in 1830, a war arose between France and Algiers, which has resulted in the reduction of the latter to a province of the French empire.

2. *Savoy*, now included in the kingdom of Sardinia, is in north-western Italy, south of the

Charles V. entered the south of France with a large force; but the French marshal, Montmorency, who commanded there, acting the part of the Roman Fabius, avoided a general battle, laid waste the country, and finally compelled the emperor to retreat in disgrace, with the wreck of a ruined army.

21. In 1538 the rival monarchs, having exhausted all their pecuniary resources, concluded, at Nice,¹ a truce of ten years, through the mediation of the pope; but in 1542 war was again renewed,—the king of Scotland and the sultan of Turkey, together with the Protestant princes of Germany, Denmark, and Sweden, uniting with France, and the king of England taking part with the emperor Charles V. In vain Francis and Solymán, uniting their fleets, bombarded the castle of Nice; and the odious spectacle of the crescent and the cross united, alienated all the Christian world from the king of France. (1543.) The French, however, gained the brilliant victory of Cerisoles² against the allies, (April 1544,) but Henry VIII., crossing over to France, captured Boulogne.³ (Sept. 1544.) Already Charles had penetrated within thirteen leagues of Paris, when he formed a separate treaty with Francis, at Cressy. A short time later a peace was proclaimed between Francis and Henry, both of whom died in the same year, 1547.

22. At the time of the death of the king of France and the king of England, Charles V. was engaged in a war with his Protestant German subjects, having now determined, in concert with the pope, to adopt decisive measures for putting down the Reformation in his dominions. At the commencement of the war, the Protestant German States, although abandoned by France, Denmark, and England leagued together for the common defence; but Maurice of Saxony one of the leading Protestant princes, deserted to the emperor, and the isolated members of the league were soon overthrown. The rule of Charles now became highly tyrannical; and Catholics and Protestants equally declaimed against him. At length Maurice, to whom Charles was chiefly indebted for his recent victories, being secretly

took Geneva, and bordering on France and Switzerland. (*Map No. XIII.*) Savoy was under the Roman dominion till the year 400: it belonged to Burgundy till 530, to France till 879, to Arles till 1000, when it had its own counts, and, in 1416, was erected into a duchy. In 1792 it became a part of France, and in 1814 and 1815 was ceded to Sardinia. (*Maps Nos. XIV. and XVII.*)

1. *Nice* is a seaport of north-western Italy, ninety-five miles south-west from Genoa. (*Map No. XIII.*)

2. *Cerisoles* is a small village of Piedmont, near Carignan, in north-western Italy.

3. *Boulogne* is a seaport town of France on the English Channel, near the Straits of Dover twenty miles south-west from Calais. (*Map No. XIII.*)

dissatisfied with the conduct of the emperor, formed a bold plan for establishing religious freedom, and German liberties, but concealed his projects until the most favorable moment for putting them into execution. Having concluded a secret treaty with Henry II. of France, the son and successor of Francis, in 1552 he suddenly proclaimed war against the emperor, issuing at the same time a manifesto of grievances.

23. Charles, taken completely by surprise, narrowly escaped being made prisoner; and after having had the mortification of seeing all his projects overthrown by the man whom he had most trusted, he was compelled to sign the convention of Passau¹ with the Protestants. Three years later, the bad success of the war which he carried on against France changed this convention into the definite peace of Augsburg, (Sept. 1555,) by which the free exercise of religion was secured to the Protestants throughout Germany, although neither party was allowed to seek proselytes at the expense of the other. Such was the first victory of religious liberty under the banner of the Reformation. The spirit that had been awakened, pursued, from this time, a determined course, and all the efforts of princes were not able to arrest its progress.

24. The treaty of Augsburg was to Charles V. the hand-writing on the wall which showed him that the end of the mighty power which he had wielded was fast approaching. So offended was the pope at the sanction which Charles had given to the principles of religious toleration, that he became the avowed enemy of the house of Austria, and entered into a close alliance with the young king of France. Charles saw, from afar, the storm that was approaching, and, abandoned as he was by fortune, afflicted by disease, and opposed in his declining years by a rival in the full vigor of life, he wisely resolved not to forfeit his fame by vainly struggling to retain a power which he was no longer able to wield; and, in imitation of Diocletian, to the surprise of the world he abdicated his throne, and having resigned his German empire to his brother Ferdinand, and his kingdoms of Spain, the Netherlands, and Italy, to his son Philip, he retired to end his days in the solitude of the monastery of St. Just.¹

1. *Passau* is a fortified frontier city of eastern Bavaria, on the southern bank of the Danube. It derives its chief historical importance from the treaty concluded there in 1552. (*Map No. XVII.*)

2. The monastery of *St. Just* is in the province of Estremadura in Spain, near the town of Plasencia about one hundred and twenty miles south-west from Madrid. (*Map No. XIII.*)