

cham of the Tartars, who passed him among the fugitives. "I know the king of Poland," was the reply; "and I tell you, that with such an enemy we have no safety but in flight. Look at the sky; see if God is not against us."

6. So sudden and general was the panic among the Turks, that at six o'clock Sobieski entered the camp where a hundred and twenty thousand tents were still found standing; the innumerable multitude of the Orientals had disappeared; but their spoils, their horses, their camels, their splendor, loaded the ground. The cause of Christianity—of civilization—had prevailed; the wave of Mussulman power had retired, never to return. But Sobieski received little thanks from a jealous monarch for rescuing him and his country from irretrievable ruin; and Poland—unhappy Poland! had saved a serpent from death, which afterward turned and stung her for the kindness. Sobieski died in 1696, in the midst of the ruin that was fast overwhelming his country through the dissensions and clamors of a turbulent nobility, and just in time to save his withered laurels from being torn from his brow by the rude hand of rebellion. With him the greatness of his native land may be said to have ended.

7. *Russia*, at the commencement of the seventeenth century, was immersed in extreme ignorance and barbarism; and although a glimmering of light dawned upon her during the reign of Alexis, who died in 1677, yet the great epoch in the history of Russia is the reign of Peter the Great, whose genius first opened to its people the advantages of civilization. In 1689, this prince, then only seventeen years of age, became sole monarch of Russia. The vigorous development of his mind was a subject of universal wonder and admiration. Full of energy and activity, he found nothing too arduous to be attempted, and he commenced at once the vast project of changing the whole system of the government, and of reforming the manners of the people. His first exertions were directed to the remodelling and disciplining of the army and the improvement of his resources; and from the model of a small yacht on the river which runs through Moscow, he constructed the first Russian navy. In 1694 he took from the Turks the advantageous port of Azof,¹ which opened to his subjects the commerce of

1. The sea of Azof, the *Palus Maotis* of the ancients, communicates by the narrow strait of Yenicale, (an. *Cimmerian Bosphorus*.) with the north-western angle of the Black Sea. The port of Azof is at the mouth of the Don, at the north-eastern extremity of the sea of Azof. The town, anciently called *Tanais*, as it, in the middle ages, *Tana*, once had an extensive trade but is now fast falling into decay.

the Black Sea. This acquisition enlarged his views, and he commenced a system of internal improvements, which had for its object, by connecting the waters of the Dwina, the Volga,² and the Don, to open a water communication between the Baltic, Black, and Caspian Seas. A few years later he laid, near the shores of the Gulf of Finland, the foundations of St. Petersburg,³ a city which he designed to be the emporium of Northern commerce and the capital of his dominions.

8. Being convinced of the superiority of the natives of Western Europe over his own barbarous subjects, in 1697 he sent out to Italy, Holland, and Germany, two or three hundred young men, to learn the arts of those countries, particularly ship-building and navigation; and in the following year he himself left his dominions, as a private individual, to procure knowledge by his own observation and experience. He visited Amsterdam, where he entered himself as a common carpenter in one of the principal dockyards, laboring and living like the other workmen, and demanding the same pay; he also went to England, where he examined the principal naval arsenals; and after a year's absence returned home, greatly improved in mechanical science, and accompanied by numerous artisans whom he had engaged to aid him in the great design of instructing his subjects in the arts of more civilized nations. The chief political acts of the reign of this truly great man belong to the history of the next century.

9. In the sixteenth century *Turkey*, during the reign of Solyman the Magnificent, the cotemporary of the emperor Charles V., had become the most powerful empire in the world,^{IV. TURKEY.} reaching from the confines of Austria on the west, to the banks of the Euphrates on the east, and extending over Egypt on the south. Other able princes, who succeeded Solyman, with Mussulman pride held all the rest of the world in scorn, and the Ottoman arms continued to maintain their ascendancy over those of Christendom until the latter part of the seventeenth century, when, in 1683, the famous Sobieski, king of Poland, totally defeated the army em-

1. The *Dwina* here mentioned rises near the sources of the Volga, and empties into the Gulf of Riga, in the Baltic, nine miles below Riga. Another river of the same name falls into the White Sea, thirty-five miles below Archangel.

2. The *Volga*, or *Wolga*, the largest river of Europe, has its sources in central Russia, and its mouth in the Caspian Sea. It is the great artery of Russia, and the grand route of the internal traffic of that empire; but it is said that its waters are decreasing in depth, and that sandbanks are becoming serious obstacles to its navigation.

3. *St. Petersburg*, the modern capital of Russia, and one of the largest and finest cities of Europe, is situated at the mouth of the river Neva, at its entrance into the Gulf of Finland.

ployed in the siege of Vienna. This event marks the era of the decline of the Ottoman power. A powerful league formed between Austria, Russia, Poland, and Venice, followed upon the defeat of the Ottoman forces at Vienna, and in 1687 the Turks were finally driven out of Hungary, and dispossessed of the greater portion of Southern Greece. In 1697, while this war continued, they sustained a total defeat by the famous Prince Eugene, in the battle of Zenta,¹ in which they lost thirty thousand men. The treaty of Carlowitz² in 1699, completed the humiliation of the Porte;^a Transylvania,³ Slavonia,⁴ and Hungary, being preserved to the emperor of Austria, Podolia,⁵ with other portions of the Ukraine,⁶ remaining in the possession of Poland, while Russia retained her conquests on the Black Sea. Morea, or Southern Greece, was ceded to Venice.

10. The political history of *Italy*, during the seventeenth century, is of trifling importance, but the social condition of its people merits a passing notice. The Reformation had destroyed the political influence of the pope, who was reduced to the rank of a petty sovereign over the small territory embraced in the "States of the Church;" while Spain, mistress of the fairest provinces of the peninsula, as well as of its two large and beautiful islands, inflicted upon the country numerous evils which made the people at once poor and miserable. The effects of Spanish rule are faithfully characterized by a Milanese writer, who forcibly depicts the wretchedness of the fertile and once populous valley of Lombardy. "The Spaniards," he remarks, "possessed central Lombardy for a hundred and seventy-two years. They found in its chief city

1. *Zenta* is a small town of Southern Hungary, on the Theiss, a northern branch of the Danube, two hundred and forty miles south-east from Vienna. (In history the name of this town is variously spelled *Zenta*, *Zentha*, *Zenta*, and *Zeutha*.) (Map No. XVII.)

2. *Carlowitz* is a town of Austrian Slavonia, on the southern bank of the Danube, about fifty miles south of *Zenta*. (Map No. XVII.)

3. *Transylvania* is the most eastern province of the Austrian empire, lying east of Hungary, and north of the Turkish province of Wallachia. It is divided principally among three distinct races,—the Magyar, the Szekler or Sculli, and the Saxon. (Map No. XVII.)

4. *Slavonia*, a province of the Austrian empire, usually regarded as forming a part of Hungary, has Hungary on the north, and the Turkish provinces of Bosnia and Servia on the south. (Map No. XVII.)

5. *Podolia*, now a province of south-western Russia, lies along the eastern bank of the Dniester. It was long governed by its own princes; but, in 1569, it was united to Poland. It has belonged to Russia since 1793. (Map No. XVII.)

6. The *Ukraine*, (a word signifying "the frontier,") was an extensive country in the south-eastern part of Russian Poland, now forming the Russian provinces of Podolia, Kiev, Charkow, and Pollava. Kiev, on the Dnieper, was the chief town. (Map No. XVII.)

a. *Porte*—the Ottoman court, so called from the gate of the sultan's palace where justice is administered; as the Sublime *Porte*. *L. porta*, *Fr. porta*, "a door or gate."

three hundred thousand souls: they left in it scarcely a third of that number. They found in it seventy woollen manufactories: they left in it no more than five. They found agriculture skilful and flourishing: before the province was wrested from them they had passed laws which made emigration a capital crime." The Spanish governors of the provinces looked upon the conquered countries as estates calculated to fill their own and the royal coffers; and not only was the nation drained of its treasure, but of its blood also. The flower of the people, draughted by thousands into the Spanish armies, perished in the wars of France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

11. But numerous as were the evils which flowed from the administrative oppression of the Spaniards, they were light when compared with the fearful corruption in morals that pervaded the whole system of society. An insidious licentiousness, under the garb of gallantry, had been introduced by the Spaniards, while the spirit of the people, kindled into frenzy by Castilian fancies about knightly honor, but no longer ennobled by personal courage, or manly self-respect, made Italy, for many generations, infamous as the scene of poisonings and assassinations. Risings and revolutions of the people were frequent; during nearly the whole period of the seventeenth century the coasts were continually infested by Turkish and Algerine corsairs; the fields were ravaged; houses, villages, and whole towns were burned; and thousands were carried away into slavery; while, in the interior, robbers were scarcely less destructive, large troops of whom plundered, or exacted ransoms, and more than once resisted successfully battalions of regular soldiers. Such is the mournful picture presented by Italy, the land of Roman greatness and renown, during the seventeenth century.

12. The principal events, to which we have not already alluded, that mark the history of the Spanish peninsula during the seventeenth century, are the expulsion of the Moors, the revolt of Portugal, and the acknowledgment of the independence of Holland. Twice during the sixteenth century, the Moors, or Moriscos, had risen against their Christian masters; they had been dispersed, from Granada, among the other Spanish provinces, and compelled, against their will, to receive Christian baptism. Tranquillity could scarcely be hoped from so arbitrary a measure; and the Moriscos, thirsting for revenge, entered into a correspondence with the African princes, whom they urged to invade the peninsula, promising to rise on the

first signal. This circumstance becoming known, the expulsion of the whole body was decreed, and the cruel mandate was carried into execution, although not without open resistance in several of the provinces. (1610.) In all, no fewer than six hundred thousand of the most ingenious and industrious portion of the community were forcibly driven from their homes, while large numbers, by making a profession of Christianity, were permitted to remain. This was a blow no less fatal to the prosperity of Spain, than the revocation of the edict of Nantes was to a sister kingdom.

13. Portugal had been united to Spain in 1580, partly by conquest, and partly in accordance with the wishes of a portion of its nobility; but the union failed to give satisfaction to the people of the former country. Finding themselves ground to the dust by intolerable taxes and forced loans, their complaints disregarded, their persons insulted, and their prosperity at an end, in 1640 they organized a general revolt, and the sway of Spain over Portugal was forever broken, by the election, to the throne, of the duke of Braganza,¹ with the title of John IV. To complete the humiliation of Spain, eight years later, in the treaty of Munster,² she was compelled to acknowledge the independence of Holland, after having maintained against her a warfare of eighty years' duration, only interrupted by a brief truce of twelve years from 1609 to 1621; and even during this period, hostilities did not cease in the Indies. The disasters that were befalling Roman Catholic Spain were fast overwhelming that proud monarchy with disgrace and ruin, while the new Republic of Holland was taking its place, as a free and independent State, among the most powerful nations of Europe. The treaty of Westphalia, signed the same year, 1648, secured to Holland internal tranquillity, by reconciling the conflicting interests of her own people, and guaranteeing the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty,—one of the noble aims and results of Christian civilization.

14. The history of the Asiatic nations in the seventeenth century, merits but little notice. During this period a series of imbecile tyrants ruled over Persia. Their reigns were generally peaceful, but the higher classes were enervated

VII.
ASIATIC
NATIONS.

1. *Braganza* is a town at the north-eastern extremity of Portugal. In 1442 it was erected into a duchy, and in 1640, John, eighth duke of Braganza, ascended the Portuguese throne under the title of John IV. His descendants continue to enjoy the crown of Portugal, and have also acquired that of Brazil. The town and surrounding district of Braganza still belong to the king of Portugal as the duke of Braganza. (*Map No. XIII.*)

2. *Munster*, a town of Westphalia, is ninety-five miles north-east from Aix-la-chapelle. The treaty of Munster was a part of that of Westphalia. See *Westphalia*, p. 360. (*Map No. XVII.*)

by luxury, and the martial spirit of the people suffered so much from inaction, that early in the following century the Affghans, a warlike people on the confines of India, invaded the kingdom, and placed the royal diadem on the head of their chief Mahmoud. In 1644 an important revolution was terminated in China, by which the Manchoo, a race sprung from the expelled Mongols and the eastern Tartars, established themselves firmly in the empire, after a war of twenty-seven years' duration. Happily for the country, Shunchy, the first emperor of the Manchoo-Tartar dynasty, showed himself a generous and enlightened monarch; and his son and successor Kang-hy, who had the singular fortune to reign sixty years, was one of the most illustrious sovereigns that ever ruled the country,—the Chinese historians ascribing to him almost every virtue that can adorn a throne.

15. In the early part of the seventeenth century the great Mogul empire of Asia, having northern Hindostan for the seat of its central power, and the Persian dominions for its western limits, gradually declined in greatness until, in 1659, the famous Aurungzebe succeeded to the throne, by the imprisonment of his father. Under this prince, who ruled with the most tyrannical cruelty, establishing Mohammedanism throughout his dominions by a rigorous persecution of the Hindoos, and the destruction of their temples, the Mogul empire was extended and consolidated; but on his death, in 1707, it experienced a rapid decline, and was soon broken into fragments.

16. The seventeenth century marks the era of the establishment of the principal Dutch, Spanish, French, and English colonies in the New World, and on the coasts of Asia and Africa. Near the close of the preceding century the Dutch had founded the colony of Surinam¹ in South America, and in 1607 they gained a footing in the East Indies by capturing, from the Portuguese, the Moluccas² or Spice Islands, which they continued to hold against all competitors. A few years later they founded New Amsterdam, now New York. In 1619 they founded Batavia,

VIII. COLO-
NIAL ESTAB-
LISHMENTS.

¹ *Surinam*, or Dutch Guiana, is on the north-eastern coast of South America, having French Guiana on the east, and English Guiana on the west.

² The *Moluccas*, of which Amboyna is the principal, are a cluster of small islands north of Australia or New Holland, and between Celebes and New Guinea. They are distinguished chiefly for the production of spices, particularly nutmegs and cloves. When in 1511 the Portuguese discovered these islands, the Arabians were already settled there. The Portuguese had almost the entire monopoly of the spice trade till the beginning of the seventeenth century, when the Dutch took the islands from them. Since 1796 the Moluccas have been twice conquered by the English, but by the peace of Paris in 1815 they were restored to the Dutch.

in the island of Java;—about the same time they wrested the Japanese trade from the Portuguese. In 1650 they seized and colonized the Cape of Good Hope, which had previously been claimed by the English, and six years later they expelled the Portuguese from the island of Ceylon.¹ The Dutch adopted, in their colonial regulations, a more exclusive system of policy than other nations; and this, together with their harsh treatment of the natives, was the principal cause of the final ruin of their empire in the Indies.

17 The numerous colonies founded by Spain in the New World during the previous century had now become consolidated into one vast empire, embracing most of the islands of the West Indies, together with the extensive realms of Mexico and Peru, over which the Spanish monarch ruled with the most absolute despotism. The immense wealth derived from these possessions excited the envy and cupidity of all Europe; and frequently, during the wars of the seventeenth century, the Spanish fleets, laden with the gold and silver of the New World, fell into the hands of the Dutch, French, or English cruisers; while bands of pirates, or Buccaneers, who had their coverts among the small islands of the West Indies, often plundered the coasts, and roamed at will, the terror of the Spanish seas.

18. The materials for a history of the Spanish possessions in the New World, during nearly three centuries, are exceedingly meagre and uninteresting, treating of little but the same unvarying rule of arbitrary and avaricious viceroys or governors, of commercial restrictions the most odious and oppressive, and of the miseries of an aboriginal population, the most abject that could possibly be conceived.

19. The French colonization, in the New World, during the seventeenth century, embraces only the founding of Quebec, and a few other feeble settlements in the Canadas; and, at the very close of the century, the landing of two hundred emigrants, and the erection of a rude fort, in Lower Louisiana. Nor was anything important accomplished by the French, during this period, in the newly discovered regions of the Old World. About the middle of the century they attempted to make Madagascar² one of their colonies, a scheme

1. *Ceylon* is a large island belonging to Great Britain, near the southern extremity of Hindostan. The cinnamon tree, which was found only in Ceylon and Cochin-China, is its most valuable production. Extensive ruins of cities, canals, aqueducts, bridges, temples, &c., show that Ceylon was, at a remote period, a rich, populous, and comparatively civilized country. After Holland had been erected into the Batavian republic in 1795, the English took possession of Ceylon, and at the peace of Amiens, in 1802, it was formally ceded to them.

2. *Madagascar* is a large island off the eastern coast of South Africa, from which it is sep-

which proved futile on account of the extreme unhealthiness of the island. In 1672 the French purchased the town of Pondicherry,¹ in Hindostan, from its native sovereign, and established there a colony with every reasonable prospect of success; but the place was several times taken from them by the Dutch and the English, until, finally, it was restored at the treaty of Paris in 1815, and is now the principal French settlement on the Asiatic continent.

20 In the latter part of the sixteenth century the English began to turn their attention to the commerce of the East Indies; and in the year 1600 a company of London merchants, known as the London East India Company, obtained a charter from queen Elizabeth, giving to them the exclusive right of trading with those distant countries. During the seventeenth century the London company made little progress in effecting settlements in the Indies; and at the close of that period, a small part of the island of Java,² Fort St. George at Madras,³ the island of Bombay,⁴ and Fort William erected at Calcutta⁵ in 1699,

rated by Mozambique Channel. Soon after the peace of 1815 the French formed several small colonies on the eastern coast of the island; and from 1818 to 1825 the English missionaries had some success in converting the natives; but since the latter period the missionaries have been forbidden to approach the island, and Madagascar may now be reckoned among the barbarous countries of eastern Africa.

1. *Pondicherry* is a town of Hindostan, on the south-eastern coast, eighty miles south-west from Madras. Population about fifty-five thousand. The French possessions in India, comprising Pondicherry, Chandernagore, Karical in the Carnatic, Mahé in Malibar, and Yanam in Orissa, with the territory attached to each, have a total population of about one hundred and sixty-six thousand, of whom one thousand are whites.

2. *Java* is a large island of the Asiatic archipelago, south of Borneo, belonging principally to the Dutch, and the centre, as well as the most valuable, of their possessions in the East. Area, a little less than that of the State of New York. Population between five and six millions. The Portuguese reached Java in 1511, and the Dutch in 1595. The latter founded Batavia in 1619. In 1811 Java was taken by a British force, and held till 1816, when, in pursuance of the treaty of Paris, it was restored to the Dutch.

3. *Madras* is a large city on the south-eastern coast of Hindostan, eight hundred and seventy miles south-west from Calcutta. Population upwards of four hundred thousand. Madras is badly situated, has no harbor, and is almost wholly unapproachable by sea. It was the first requisition made in India by the British, who obtained it by grant from the rajah of Bijapur, in 1639, with permission to erect a fort there. The fort was besieged in 1702 by one of Aurungzebe's generals; and in 1744 by the French, to whom it surrendered after a bombardment of three days. It was restored to the English at the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, and successfully sustained a memorable siege by the French under Lally in 1758-9; since which it has experienced no hostile attack. Madras is the capital of the British presidency of the same name, which embraces the whole of South Hindostan, extending about five hundred miles north from Cape Comorin.

4. *Bombay* is built on an island of the same name, on the western coast of Hindostan, ten hundred and fifty miles south-west from Calcutta. Population about two hundred and forty thousand. In 1531 Bombay was obtained by the Portuguese from a Hindoo chief; by them it was ceded to Charles II., in 1661, as part of queen Catherine's dowry; and in 1663 it was transferred, by the king, to the East India Company, at an annual rent of ten pounds sterling. Soon after it realized to the company a revenue of three thousand pounds a year. Bombay is the capital of the presidency of the same name.

5. *Calcutta*, the capital of the British dominions in the East, is situated on the eastern side

the whole inhabited by only a few hundred Europeans, formed the extent of their East India possessions. Such was the feeble beginning, and slow progress, of an association of merchants that "now rules over an empire containing a hundred millions of subjects, raises a tribute of more than three millions annually, possesses an army of more than two hundred thousand men, has princes for its servants, and emperors pensioners on its bounty."

21. The first successful attempt at American colonization by the English was the settlement of Jamestown, in Virginia, in the year 1607. This was followed by the settlement of Plymouth in New England, in 1620, by a band of Puritans, who had resolved to seek, in the wilderness of America, that freedom of worship which their native country denied them. During the same century the English formed settlements in all the Atlantic States from Maine to Georgia, the latter only excepted, which was not colonized until the year 1733; the Dutch, who had settled New Amsterdam, now New York, were conquered by the English in 1644; and at the same time the Swedes, who had settled Delaware, and had subsequently been reduced by the Dutch, shared the fate of their masters. The history of the British American colonies, during the seventeenth century is marked no less by the struggles of the colonists against the natural difficulties of their situation, and by the Indian wars in which they were often involved, than by their noble resistance to the arbitrary and oppressive rule of the mother country. The early colonists, those of New England especially, had left their homes on the other side of the Atlantic, to seek, in the wilds of America, an asylum where they might enjoy unmolested their religious faith and worship; and they brought with them to the land of their adoption, that spirit of independence, and those principles of freedom, which laid the foundation of American liberty.

22. The early history of these colonies is full of instruction to all,—in its lessons of patient endurance, and unyielding perseverance, exalted heroism, individual piety, and public virtue; but to American citizens it possesses a peculiar interest, as the history of the development and growth of those principles of free government which suc-

of the river Hoogly, the most western arm of the Ganges, about one hundred miles from its entrance into the Bay of Bengal. Resident population about two hundred and thirty thousand. The English first made a settlement here in 1690, when Calcutta was but a small village, inhabited chiefly by husbandmen. In 1756 a Bengal chief dispossessed the English of their settlement, but it was retaken by Colonel Clive in the following year, since which it has been quietly retained by the British, and risen to its present degree of importance.

ceeding time has perfected to the happiness and glory of our country, and the advancement of the cause of freedom throughout the world. In a work of general history like the present we cannot hope to do such a subject justice; and instead of attempting here a brief and separate compend of our early annals, it will be more satisfactory and useful to refer the student to some of the numerous standard works on American history which are at all times accessible to him, and with some one of which it is presumable every *American* youth will early make himself familiar, before he enters upon the study of the general history of nations.