

sand men in the field, with seven hundred and seventy-four cannon.

The Austrian force was composed of two armies. One under Count Clam Gallas, the other and largest under Gen. Benedek. In all, they numbered over two hundred and sixty thousand men, with seven hundred and sixteen cannon.

The Prussians now marched through the mountain-defiles into Bohemia. To their surprise, and that of every one else, they passed these easily defended defiles without opposition. The reputation of Gen. Benedek was so great, that every one suspected some deep-laid plan by which the Prussians were to be enticed into the heart of the enemy's country and overwhelmed. But no plan at all seems to have been formed. With all her long preparation, the crisis found her unready, her army ill-organized, poorly equipped and provisioned. Benedek had announced to the soldiers, that he was going "to lead the brave and faithful Austrian army against the unjust and wanton foes of the empire." But, instead, the Prussian army was being led against him. It was from the start, and all the way through, a defensive war on the part of Austria. Though brave enough, the Austrians lacked the spirit which animated the Prussians.

The Austrians expected the attack to come from behind the mountains of Eastern Bohemia, and had massed their largest army there. And so, when the advance of Frederick Karl's army crossed the Erzgebirge, it was opposed only by the outlying brigades of Clam Gallas. There were several unimportant engagements, and then a severe fight at Podol, which cost the Austrians a loss of twenty-four hundred men, while the Prussians lost only one hundred and twenty-four.

Two of the Prussian armies now advanced leisurely, driving the enemy before them toward Munchengratz, where Clam Gallas was intrenched. On the 28th of June he was attacked; and, after a short but sharp fight, he was forced to retreat in haste.

The Prussian armies continued to advance by several routes. They took Gitschin after a severe battle, in which they lost two thousand men, and the Austrians twice as many, and encamped the next morning near Horzitz, having established communication with the forces of the Crown Prince: while Clam Gallas retired to join the main army under Benedek. He had proved himself a skillful commander. For with only half as many men as the Prussians, and less than half as many guns, he had compelled his enemies to spend six days in advancing forty miles.

Meanwhile the third Prussian army had crossed the defiles with but little trouble. Gen. Steinmetz alone met with opposition, and was once driven back into the pass. But he persevered, and by six-hours' fighting he got through with a loss of nearly two thousand men. The Austrians lost six thousand. On the 28th he had another battle at Skalitz. He was again successful, causing a loss to the Austrians of over eleven thousand. The Prussian right wing also had a hard fight in coming through the mountains. After coming through one of these defiles, they were driven back. The Austrian general, Gablentz, obtained re-enforcements; and a corps of the Prussian guards was sent to re-enforce the right wing and attack Gablentz. There was a series of battles; and the Austrians were again defeated with a loss of four thousand, while the Prussians lost only eight hundred and thirty-four.

The great preponderance of Austrian loss in these battles was owing, not only to the superior fighting qualities of the Prussian army, but also to the fact that the needle-gun vastly increased the effectiveness of each Prussian soldier.

The deadly power of breech-loading arms was being conclusively proved.<sup>1</sup>

The three Prussian armies were now all in Bohemia, and

<sup>1</sup> It is said, that, in one of the first of these engagements, "an entire battalion of Austrians was struck down almost to a man."



moving steadily forward in lines converging toward a point north of the Austrian army, which was now concentrated between Josephstadt and Königgrätz.

The two armies were now face to face, and the decisive battle of the war was to be fought.

On the 1st of July the King of Prussia arrived at the headquarters of the army. He had heard that Gen. Benedek intended to attack the Prussians before the Crown Prince and the army under his command could come up. The Crown Prince was approaching, but he was still fifteen miles away. King William resolved not to wait, either for his arrival or for Benedek's onset, but to attack at once, and thus anticipate his enemies.

A message was sent to the Crown Prince, ordering him to hasten his advance; and on July 3, at eight o'clock in the morning, the Prussians began to move upon the Austrian position. They would have been less hasty, it may be, had they known the true state of affairs. They supposed they had only part of the Austrian army before them. They were soon undeceived.

At the foot of the slope, on the crest of which was the Austrian position, were several villages, occupied by outposts. The Prussians carried these easily enough, and advanced up the slope. But now they were met by a withering fire from their enemy's artillery. Their progress was checked. They could not advance in the face of the storm of shot and shell which burst upon them. They were compelled to halt. Benedek, seeing the Prussians hesitate, now hurled his reserves against their left wing, intending to cut it off, and crush it before the Crown Prince could have time to come up to its help. But the Prussians stood their ground with true German stubbornness. All efforts to drive them from their position were in vain; though at times the left wing wavered, and seemed on the point of giving way before the overwhelming weight of the Austrian assault. Thus the battle con-

tinued, the artillery on both sides keeping up an incessant and tremendous fire, until, as the day wore on, the Austrian right showed signs of wavering. It was evident that help was coming to the sorely pressed Prussians.

The advance of the army of the Crown Prince was attacking the flank of the Austrian right wing. The Prussians began to cheer. The unseen assailant of the Austrians was evidently becoming more and more formidable every minute. The Crown Prince had come. The Austrian right wing was giving way. It was being rolled up and crushed. The Prussians advanced, and, by partially enclosing the Austrians between two fires, threw them into confusion. The battle was decided. The Austrians were hopelessly and terribly defeated. Their army was speedily broken up, and the soldiers fled in confusion. Many perished in the waters of the Elbe, or were crushed under the wheels of the fleeing baggage-wagons. All that saved the Austrians from the extremest horrors and miseries of such a terrible defeat, was their splendid cavalry, which with undaunted courage stood between the flying host and their foes,—that, and the further fact, that the Prussians were deficient in cavalry.

This great battle is sometimes called Königgrätz, but more commonly Sadowa, from the small town of that name near the battle-field. The Prussian loss was 9,000 men, killed and wounded. The Austrians lost 16,235 killed and wounded, and 22,684 prisoners.

They asked for a truce. It was refused; and the Prussians pushed forward for Vienna, whither Benedek had withdrawn the shattered remnant of his army. At the same time the Southern army, which had been employed against Italy, was brought to the capital. Every thing was done to strengthen the fortifications of the city; and preparations were made for a last desperate stand, when the Emperor of the French intervened, and proposed a truce. This was accepted, and was soon followed by a treaty of peace.



Italy, the ally of Prussia in this war, though entering actively into the strife, did not greatly distinguish herself. She entered into the war with the enthusiasm which became her revived nationality, and with heroic determination to free Venetia from the hated Austrian yoke.

An army of two hundred thousand men was raised. Half of this number, under Gen. Della Marmora, were to cross the Mincio between Peschiera and Mantua. The other half were stationed around Bologna to operate on the lower Po.

The Austrian Archduke Albert opposed this force. He had ninety thousand men, beside the garrisons of the great fortresses which compose what is called "the Quadrilateral," and that of Venetia, which were not available for active service.

La Marmora crossed the Po with his army. He proceeded on his march in a careless manner. The Archduke Albert watched him closely; and, when the Italian army became entangled between the river and the hills, the Austrians attacked them in full force.

The Italian left wing was broken, and would have been destroyed had not another division crossed the river, and, coming to their assistance, held the enemy at bay for the remainder of the day.

The Austrian attack on the Italian right was at first unsuccessful. In the center were the villages of Custoza and Monte Belvidere. These were the keys to the Italian position. There was an obstinate struggle on both sides for the possession of these villages; but toward the close of the day the Austrians gained them, and victory was decided in their favor. The Italians fell back in fair order toward the Mincio, and were soon re-assembled on the right bank of the river. The loss to each side in this battle was about eight thousand.

The Italian generals now spent more than a week in discussing another plan for a campaign, since this first one had

failed. In the mean time the news of Sadowa came, and with it the news that Austria had ceded Venetia to the French Emperor, Napoleon III. Although it was well understood that this was done simply to save Austria the humiliation of giving up Venetia directly to Italy, and that the French emperor would surely hand that much-desired province over, the Italians refused to make a separate treaty with Austria. They remained true to their ally, Prussia, and continued to prosecute the war vigorously. Gen. Garibaldi, with his volunteers, and Gen. Medici, with a division of the Italian army, advanced into the Trentino, driving before them the small body of Austrians which had been left after the Archduke's army had been withdrawn from Italy to assist in the defense of Vienna. The Italians also made vigorous war by sea. In this, however, they were not very successful; the Austrian admiral, with his small fleet, proving more than a match for them, in spite of their great ironclads. At last Italy was content to sign an armistice. She laid claim to the Trentino, but it was thought that she was sufficiently rewarded and Austria sufficiently punished by the cession of Venetia to a now really united Italy.

By the treaty of Prague (Aug. 23, 1866) which now followed, Austria was completely bereft of her ancient place in Germany. The old Confederation was dissolved; and a new Germany, with Prussia at its head, appeared.

Austria was entirely excluded from participation in this new Germany, and had to consent formally to the surrender of Venetia to Italy, and to pay beside a war indemnity of forty million thalers, the Prussian troops to remain on her territory until it was paid.

It was bitter humiliation to Austria, but the peace purchased at such a heavy cost has brought its blessings. As soon as it was concluded, the emperor turned his attention to home affairs. We have seen how, when constitutional reforms were introduced into the Austrian empire before the



war with Prussia, Hungary was dissatisfied. She insisted on her right to self-government, and refused to be put off with any thing else. There was no insurrection or revolution in Hungary this time. It was a purely passive resistance that was now offered. The Hungarians refused to pay taxes: and Austria, always in financial straits, was, in consequence of the war, sorely pressed for money; and this sort of resistance on the part of Hungary was very effective.

On Dec. 14, 1865, the emperor opened the Hungarian Diet in person at Pesth. He then declared, that, so far as it did not affect the unity of the empire and the position of Austria as a European power, he was willing to grant what they demanded, and recognize their right to self-government.

In November, 1866, after the peace had been concluded, an imperial rescript, signed by the emperor, was published, in which he promised, by the appointment of a responsible ministry and the restoration of municipal self-government, to do justice to the constitutional demands of Hungary.

Not only was the cause of German unity advanced by the humbling of Austria, but the renovation of the Austrian empire itself and the long-delayed liberation of Hungary was promoted by it. Austria, having ceased to be a great German power, was compelled to cherish the other nationalities committed to her care. Of these Hungary was the most important; and she was now to assume the place which rightfully belonged to her, — the leading place in the membership of States which compose the Austrian empire.

The progress of Austria in liberal government has been rapid since the war with Prussia.

In 1866 Baron Beust, a Saxon, and therefore a foreigner in Austria, and a Protestant, became the minister of foreign affairs. Afterward he was made prime minister and chancellor of the empire.

In 1867 the Reichsrath assembled at Vienna to deliberate on amendments to the Hungarian Constitution, on the re-

sponsibility of the imperial ministers to the Reichsrath, on the extension of constitutional self-government in the different provinces, on the re-organization of the army, on the improvement of the administration of justice, and the promotion of the economical interests of the country.

In his speech at the opening of this meeting of the Reichsrath, the emperor said, "To-day we are about to establish a work of peace and concord. Let us throw a veil of forgetfulness over the immediate past, which has inflicted such deep wounds upon the empire. Let us lay to heart the lessons which it leaves behind; but let us derive with unshaken courage new strength, and the resolve to seek the peace and prosperity of the empire."

On the 8th of June, 1867, the Emperor and Empress of Austria were crowned King and Queen of Hungary at Pesth.

On the 30th of July, 1870, the concordat with Rome, which had long been an incubus upon Austria, was suspended, on account of the proclamation of the infallibility of the pope. One beneficent result of this action was, the bringing about of a better state of feeling between Austria and Italy. A sympathy which had hitherto been wanting arose between these two countries. In the great war of 1870, between France and Prussia, Austria took no part. Nothing could more plainly show how entirely her connection with Germany had been severed; and nothing could better prove how utterly her hope of regaining her position in Germany had gone out, than the fact that she remained a silent spectator of this great struggle, one result of which was, to consolidate Prussian power in Germany more firmly than ever. It was far better for Austria that she should remain at peace, and exert her strength in the task so new to her of perfecting the institutions of a constitutional state. To this task she applied herself.

In 1873 a reform bill was passed, taking the election of members of the Reichsrath out of the hands of the provincial



diets, and transferring it to the body of electors in the several provinces. Almost every householder now has the right to vote.

In the autumn of 1873 an international exhibition of the world's industry, similar to those which had taken place at London and Paris, and afterward in our own country, was held at Vienna. It attracted visitors from all parts of the world.

In 1874 a bill for the abolition of the concordat with the pope was introduced by the government, and measures were taken for the restriction of the power of the Romish clergy. One by one the fetters and the props of despotism were falling, and Austria was entering more and more entirely into the progressive spirit of the age.

The emperor had not always maintained his course "in the path of constitutionalism." Between the years 1865 and 1867 he had been inclined to swerve from it. But the terrible lessons of Sadowa had made him sadder and wiser; and now, in his speech at the opening of the Reichsrath on the 15th of November, 1874, he declared, that, "by the system of direct popular elections, the empire has obtained real independence."

The treaty of Berlin, which resulted from the war between Russia and Turkey, placed the former Turkish provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the administration of Austria. It has proved a troublesome trust. But it has extended Austrian territory and influence in the direction of her now manifest destiny. Practically these provinces have been incorporated into the Austrian empire. The acquisition has increased her strength in Eastern Europe. "Austria, as a constitutional state, no longer enfeebled by the just discontent of the multitudinous races which she governs, enjoys abundantly the elements out of which a prosperous career may be fashioned."



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