

## Century of Servian History

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FOR upwards of four centuries the Serbs groaned under the Turkish yoke, until, in 1804, unable to endure the oppression of the Turkish dahis, they broke out into rebellion under George Petrovich, sur-named Tsrni, or "Black George." George was born at Topola in 1767; at first he merely aimed at conquering the dahis, but afterward attempted to drive the Turks out of Servia. This he succeeded in doing after many failures. In 1813, however, they re-conquered the country, and George with his adherents was compelled to fly to Austria. He returned in 1817, but was treacherously murdered by order of Milosh Obrenovich, who had now become the Servian leader. We have no space here to sketch the struggles of Milosh to secure the independence of Servia. He was himself of peasant origin and in his youth had been a swine-herd. The Turks had contrived to kill or drive out of the country all the Servian aristocracy, leaving only peasants to till the ground, feed swine (one of the great industries of the country) and pay the harach. Milosh was declared Prince by the National Assembly, and in 1830 secured the consent of the Porte to his enjoyment of the title, with succession reserved to his family. Turkey allowed Servia a quasi-independence, but held and garrisoned several fortresses. Milosh had so little forgotten his Turkish training that he had made himself obnoxious to his subjects by his despotic acts. He was a man of simple, even coarse habits, as many of the anecdotes told of him testify. He was compelled to abdicate in 1839 in favor of his son Milan, who, however, was of too feeble a constitution to direct the government, and, dying soon afterwards, was succeeded by his young brother Michael. He also abdicated in 1842, and the Serbs then elected Alexander, the son of Tsrni George. His rule lasted seventeen years. He was compelled to resign in 1859, and Milosh, now very old, was invited to come from Bucharest. He lived, however, only one year, dying in 1860, and left the throne to his son Michael, then aged forty, who was thus a second time elected Prince of Servia. Michael was a man of refinement, and had learned much during his exile. The condition of the country improved during his reign, and in 1862 he succeeded in getting the Turkish garrisons removed from Belgrade. The Moslem inhabitants have gradually withdrawn from the country, so that they are now represented by a few families. While walking in his park, called