

has never been relinquished though instead of being as ruler it is now as conquerer.

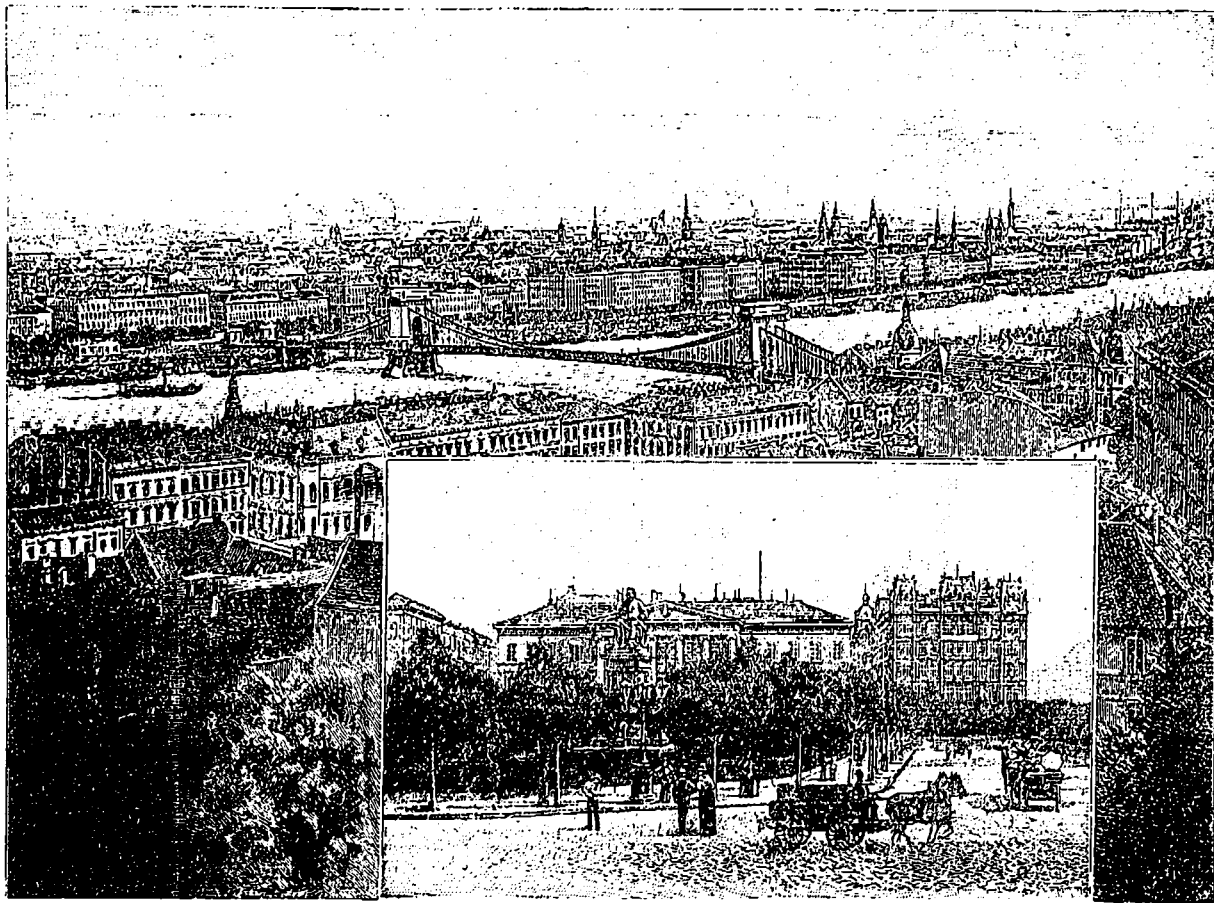
But the Hapsburgs were not wise rulers, nor did they understand the people. They neglected the sacred duties of their office, their soldiers and officers were allowed all sorts of excesses against the loyal nation, they broke their promises, they allowed the Turks to make inroads into their country, they consented to disastrous treaties of peace without consulting the Hungarian diets. The brave Hungarians bore always the brunt of battles and the foreign officers took most of the glory and all the gain. At times the Hapsburg dynasty would be in danger; then there were promises and partial improvement only to give place to a new rule of oppression when the danger was over. Notwithstanding all this the Hungarians true in their loyalty to the reigning house would not throw off the yoke when in 1809 Napoleon gave them the opportunity. What would have been the conse-

pions of the people and the people were the loyal protectors\* of the kings. For three hundred years the Hapsburgs endeavored to crush out the spirit of independence and at last succeeded by treachery in accomplishing what force had failed to do and Hungary was crushed; her constitution was discarded. The rule of despotism was supreme. This was at the close of the last century. But during the next generation a new set of men came on the scene. For twenty-eight years no Hungarian Diet had been called together, for what had Austria to call together a Parliament to legislate for a country that was to all appearance—dead.

But the new and younger blood prevailed and the Diet was called together in 1832 and sat for four years. It enacted wise measures for the country, and especially for the peasantry. But the Austrian Emperor would not sanction their laws and dissolved the Diet, and the position became intolerable to the Hungarians.

from men who had judgment enough to realize his future abilities. At the early age of 20, he was a successful advocate in his native town. In 1831 he removed to Pesth, the capital city, and became a political journalist. He first took part in the affairs of the country in 1836. He was then sent to the Diet as the substitute of an absent magnate. In that capacity he held a seat in the Chamber, but the laws gave him no influence. He soon grew tired of this circumscribed honor, gave up the post, and commenced the publication of "Reports of the Diet."

As editor of this paper which on account of the state of the law was not printed but written by pen, he became of great influence and authority in the Parliament. He learned stenography and employed a large number of short-hand writers. Although the expense of writing made his paper very costly, it had a large circulation, and soon became the first and most powerful of the public agents in the field



BUDA-PESTH.

quences had they accepted his invitation it is interesting to contemplate. They would have overthrown a dynasty which had always been the stronghold of absolutism, and would have set up a nation of liberal-minded and constitutional heroes; Hungary's voice would have been heard over the world, Austria's would have been silenced, Poland's liberty would have followed and two mighty nations would have barred Russian enroachments on the west. But the opportunity was not accepted. The romantic generosity of the Hungarians kept them quiet during a period when Austria's weakness would have compelled her to grant what Austria's strength afterwards enabled her to refuse.

Barbarism, freedom, despotism, these three tell the history of Hungary. Having emerged with wonderful strides out of their wild state the Hungarians up to the 16th century enjoyed more civil and personal freedom than any other European state. Their kings were the cham-

The most active and influential member of the Diet of 1832 was Baron Wesselenyi who for a trumpery offense was imprisoned.

Another member of the Diet was Louis Kossuth, son of Andreas Kossuth by his wife Caroline Weber. He was born on the 27th of April, 1806, in the village of Monok, in the upper regions of Hungary. His family was highly respectable, dating back to antique nobility, but by the slow wear and tear of time and suffering in the cause of freedom, it has been reduced to poverty. Seventeen of the name had been attainted for treason against the Hapsburgs in the sixteenth century.

Louis Kossuth had in childhood the promise of extraordinary genius and mental strength. His mother impressed upon him the stamp of her own powerful mind and kindled those glowing aspirations which afterwards advanced him to the front rank of humanity. His early teachings were received in a charitable way

on the side of the country and its constitutional interests. He soon attempted to publish his paper by lithograph but the press was confiscated and he returned to manuscript issues.

It was now that he undertook the leadership of the national awakening from the deadness of despotism. He acquired the French and English languages so that he could study French and English principles of freedom and tolerance. Day and night, with barely time for rest, he gathered to himself the elements of greatness and power and expended them in arguments and pleadings for popular rights and immunities. This became intolerable to the cold temper of the Austrian absolutists. Accordingly, while he was walking alone at night on the shores of the Danube he was seized by the minions of tyranny, blindfolded and cast into prison. After a long confinement he was brought to trial, pale and haggard from suffering but with firm step and erect head. Thousands of the