

him. His country always admired, and would perhaps have loved him, if a free people were not always jealous of their liberty; perhaps, too, if he had been less fond of the Queen. He had the singular glory of humbling the Ottoman power, which for a long time had humbled the Princes of Christendom. All Europe sought his alliance, and Poland acquired an importance under his government that it never possessed afterwards. Charles XII, the Alexander of the North, lamented his death in these emphatic terms: "So great a king ought never to have died."