

where freedom of worship was guaranteed by the Charter, buildings had been recently erected. From the former the Protestants were rigorously excluded; the walls of the latter were demolished. The Protestant Defensors met in Diet and appealed to the Government for redress of grievances. Their appeal was treated with contempt. The Protestants were thoroughly exasperated. Under the leadership of Count Thurn, a reckless, impetuous German-Bohemian, violent resistance was decided upon. The Emperor and the King were both absent from Prague, seeking to secure the allegiance of the Hungarians, who were thoroughly Protestant, and who had during some years showed small respect for the authority of the Emperor. The Counsellors of the Emperor were held responsible for the indignities and outrages that had been perpetrated upon the Protestants. It was decided that a body of Protestant nobles, with Thurn at their head, should force themselves into the apartments of the Counsellors, demand of them a direct answer as to the source of the obnoxious procedures, and in case of refusal to give full satisfaction should employ violence. One of the most obnoxious ministers had left the city. Martinitz and Slawata were accosted. On refusal to give the information demanded of them, they were seized and hurled from the windows into the moat seventy or eighty feet below. Their secretary, Fabricius, remonstrated and was similarly dealt with. Marvellously, all escaped without even a broken bone. When they were seen rising and trying to escape many shots were fired at them from the windows, but not one took effect. The Protestant nobles at once took possession of the city, established a provisional Government, and compelled the citizens to swear allegiance to the new Government. The throwing from the windows was the beginning of Bohemia's woe. It precipitated a struggle which must have come sooner or later between the Roman Catholic and the Protestant powers of Europe—a struggle that was destined to last for nearly a generation, that was to deluge the continent with blood, that was to cause an amount of human woe that is absolutely incomputable, that was to destroy property to an extent we can scarcely conceive of, that was to leave central Europe almost a desolation.

*(To be continued.)*