



CASTLE GARDEN, BUDA-PEST.

withal—passed by him in Italy, not in Hungary; spent in an obstinate voluntary exile, not as the patriot who necessarily sits so aloof from his former work and his passionately loved people; a time lived through by Kossuth as a literary hermit and (as he said) “a political Cassandra,” unhappy, wrong-headed, embittered, and at odds with the very men who had been his former coadjutors, and who still valued and loved him.

There is undoubtedly a deeply conscientious, iron dignity about those last gray-coloured years of Kossuth in Collegno and Turin, but it amounts to a melancholy picture of *intransigence*. He could not, he would not, countenance the political resurrection of Hungary, because it was accomplished with concessions that he declared were against his principles, although the greatest and wisest one of them, the coronation of the Emperor of Austria as the Apostolic King of Hungary, had been among his most outspoken convictions prior to 1849. Opportunism was out of his creed.

Achilles, brooding in his tent, the Pope, an irritating rather than a dignified recluse, thanks to his “*Non possumus!*”—they are not edifying pictures in heroic fable or modern history, and Kossuth growing old in Italy, refusing to sanction the wise diplomacies of Deak, Wesselenyi, Gorgey, Szechenyi, Andrassy, and the rest—who saw so much clearer than he the policy for victory—is a striking instance of how ardent heroism can lack political common-sense.

When Kossuth began to work for Hungary, the condition of every class, except the nobility, was so fettered to mediæval conditions, and the social status of the Hungarian proletariat was so degraded from the exercise, from even the idea, of many elementary human rights and privileges, that it was like a phase of Europe to be read of, with shame, only in old chronicles. It accepted as a veritable national fact. Hungary was an Oriental, a Turkish part of the world, in its atmosphere, at least so far as the mass of the the people must needs live and