

Methodist Magazine and Review.

FEBRUARY, 1898.

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN QUESTION.



HERDSMAN OF THE HUNGARIAN PLAIN.

The storm-centre of Europe during the last few weeks has shifted from the banks of the Bosphorus and the frontiers of Greece to the banks of the Danube and the Moldau. The attention of Christendom has been focused on the turbulent scenes of the Austrian Reichsrath and the still more turbulent riots of Prague. It is difficult for us in this Western continent, where one language is supreme from the Rio Grande to the Saskatchewan, a distance as great as from the Loire to the Volga, to comprehend the motley mixture of many tongues and many races that make up the population of Central and South-eastern Europe.

In the spring of 1892, the present writer traversed these south-eastern principalities, through Roumelia, Bulgaria, Servia, Bosnia, Slavonia, Hungary, Austria, and Bohemia, and the strongest impression received was that of the poly-

glot speech and striking varieties of costume, custom, architecture, and national distinctions. These facts greatly enhance the difficulty of administering the government and placating the jealousies of these rival races. One of the best presentations of this problem is that given by the accomplished editor of *The Northwestern Christian Advocate*, from which we quote as follows :

"No ruler in Europe wears a more uneasy crown than does Frances Joseph of Austria-Hungary. His very title of 'His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty,' with its triple specifications as 'Emperor of Austria, King of