

VIII.—HUNGARY.

REFORMED CHURCH OF HUNGARY.

The Reformation, according to the more Calvinistic views, began to be preached in larger circles, and with general success, only after the year 1550. The great Calvinistic preachers were Devay—who, after his sojourn in Basel, 1538, changed his former opinions and accepted the Helvetic views,—Kalmanesay, Szegedi, Huszar, Gal, but particularly Peter Melius.

The Calvinistical view of the Lord's Supper, and its generally puritanic principles, wrought with such power upon the purely Magyar inhabitants of many towns and villages, that the greater part of those belonging formerly to the Lutheran creed now embraced the Helvetic Reformation.

The works of Bullinger and Calvin were read (1551-1557) by pastors and laymen, and it was these works that caused the change of mind. Luther and Melancthon, and afterwards Bullinger and Beza, promoted in a high degree the Hungarian Reformation by their letters addressed to the high nobility and pastors.

The first Reformed Confession (*Confessio Ecclesiæ Debrecinensis*)—though written two years earlier, and dedicated to a commander of a fortified place—was printed in Debrecen in 1562, with a preface signed by two ministers of the Debrecen congregation:

STATISTICS.

Since 1734 the Hungarian Reformed Church has been divided into five independent superintendencies. The president of each of them is the superintendent, and a general curator from among the laymen. In every superintendency there is a Theological Hall, besides other necessary schools; each of them has its own autonomy, and is independent of the others. A general synod of all the five superintendencies has never been held, but recently Debrecen proposed a plan for such a general synod. The form of government, worship, and creed is the same in all the superintendencies, but the historical past was not favourable to a union.

In the five superintendencies there are 2,007 mother congregations, 2,017 ministers, and 248 licentiates. Thus there is one minister for every 937 souls.

The population of Hungary is fifteen millions and a-half; the number of souls belonging to the Reformed Faith and Church is two millions.

IX.—BOHEMIA.

"In 1859 the war with France and Italy brought absolutism to an end, and the condition of the Church was somewhat improved. In 1864