

and privileged classes of Hungary form, at least, a twentieth part of her population; that, upon the whole, this population has generally been found attached to them; and that the diet has often resisted and defied the crown of Austria, we cannot say that it is composed of slaves. No longer, indeed, can they be said to defy the crown; and in the consciousness, perhaps, that they have sunk nearer to the people, so they feel more with them, and raise their voices more loudly for them.

The debate was carried on in Latin: numbers spoke, and, in general, they had a ready and fluent command of language, and a very animated and manly delivery. Few of their speeches were more than ten minutes in length, and the greater part still shorter. It is true that, as it has seldom fallen to my lot to hear Latin spoken since, as a youth, I listened to declamations, I cannot pretend to speak of the classical correctness of expressions, or the construction of sentences; but thus far I can say, it was not a bald, meagre, thin Latin, and many of the sentences fell richly rounded on my ear. There was a churchman who spoke rapidly, bitterly, and very well; and there was an elderly deputy with grey hairs, who replied to him most eloquently, with a fire and freedom that surprised me. I could not get fully at the subject, but it was some question connected with a tax that had been imposed, under the late viceroy, on salt, and that was felt and complained of by the people. This fine old Hungarian, in the course of his speech, dwelt proudly upon the ancient privileges of his country, and complained that the spirit of them had been greatly invaded during the late lieutenancy. His loyal expressions toward the person and family of the emperor were warm, and seemed to be sincere; but he returned, quite as bitterly, to his attack on the measure on which he sought to impeach the minister; and, in one part, where he was more particularly pleading the cause of

the people, he cried out, with animation, '*Vox populi, vox Dei!*' It electrified the whole assembly. For a moment I might have fancied myself in a free assembly; but the calm, complacent smile upon the features of a keen-looking president, who is the representative of the crown, reminded me that there was a bridle upon the Hungarian steed, and, although he is suffered to prance loftily in pride and beauty, and to fancy as he gallops that he is running far away, his rider sits laughingly at ease in the saddle, and knows better. The illusion is still more completely dissipated at the doors of this assembly; no fiery horses stand saddled and neighing for their masters; but a long row of mean open carriages, each, however, with a hussar behind it, wait tamely in the street, and such of the spurred members as have one get slowly into it, loll indolently back, and are driven to their lodgings. This, it will be observed, was a meeting of the second chamber; a holding of the full diet, where the *magnates* attend, I was not fortunate enough to see; and I am still left, in spite of all descriptions, a little in doubt as to the picture it would actually present: magnificent it may be, yet, judging from what I did see, the splendour has probably been exaggerated,

THE TOWER OF BABEL.

FROM Herodotus we learn that the Tower of Babel, or (what was doubtless the same,) the Temple of Belus, was a stadium in length and breadth, *σταδίου καὶ τοῦ μήκος καὶ τοῦ εὐρος*.^{*} This, according to Rich's computation, which allows five hundred feet to

^{*} I have given the quotation, because I am aware that it is a disputed passage. The translating the word *μήκος* "height" instead of "length," has caused much abuse of Herodotus; but Wesseling's edition of that author's works has repaired his injured fame.—*Vide Herod. Wess. p. 85. Note.*