

eyes of M. Kossuth, his people have forfeited their high aspirations and lost their chivalrous love of independence ; whilst, by accepting the present union of their fortunes with Austria in a satisfied spirit, he holds that they have betrayed the future hopes of that country for which he and so many other patriots have bled and struggled. To consider what might have been is not usually productive of much practical good ; but, perhaps the short space we can devote to the notice of this book may not be unprofitably applied in asking ourselves whether the fate of Hungary would have been a more fortunate one had not the brute force of Russia been thrown into the scale against the struggles of the Liberationists, putting a bloody period to the war of Independence. In spirit and bravery the Hungarians proved, through all those stormy scenes, their right to an independent existence as a nation. But more is needed in a nation than spirit, bravery and national traditions. M. Kossuth, at page 201 of his present work, points out that the census of 1851 only gives some seven millions of people as the purely German element in the thirty-seven millions of mixed races that go to make up the Austrian Empire. The conclusion he draws is that this number is not enough to give the Empire, which he so justly hates, a national character. But Hungary itself only numbers some eleven millions, and these, if erected into a kingdom by themselves, would be far too weak to stand alone among the gigantic powers of the Continent. How then did the Hungarian leaders propose to swell their numbers and increase their area, so as to find a basis wide enough to be self-supporting ? The answer is simple. The Croats and Slavs were to be made a component part of the new body politic, although their repugnance to the Hungarian rule had been well marked and is known to every student of Magyar history and literature. In other words the new nationality must, in self-defence, repeat the rôle of oppressor, and practise on weaker countries the same compulsion it had complained of so bitterly itself. M. Kossuth found great comfort in the recognition that at length greeted the earnest endeavours of Italy to throw off the rule of the stranger, but the case presents no parallel. The population of Italy is considerably more than double that of Hungary, and its perfect and

well-defined natural barriers and landmarks impress the idea of unity upon the nation with overwhelming force. Again, to lose Italy was but the loss of an always festering limb to Austria ;—to have lost Hungary would have been annihilation, and the powers that assisted or looked on complacently at the enriching of Sardinia, did not by any means desire the destruction of the House of Hapsburg.

M. Kossuth condemns the moderate party among his countrymen for accepting the amended dual-constitution which was accorded them in 1867. We think that in this his better judgment is clouded by the naturally harsh feelings of an exile against the government that proscribes him. For how does the matter now stand ? We saw that in 1851 the German element in the Hapsburg rope of sand was but small, and the chance of war since then has materially and permanently reduced even that slight proportion. People are not lacking who will prophecy that the remaining Teutonic element in the population of Austria will yet gravitate towards the imposing mass of the German Empire. Be this as it may, the power of Hungary, if it be wisely husbanded and increased by the exercise of a legitimate influence over the less civilized races near it seems destined, in future, to prove the growing predominant power of the two-headed Austro-Hungarian kingdom. Like two dogs chained to the same collar, the force of the stronger will decide the road they are to take, and we shall be surprised if the seat of power does not slowly move down the Danube. In this light Hungary will more than have achieved its independence, it will have changed places with its former masters and that by a natural and peaceful process instead of a series of bloody and revolutionary struggles. And yet, while applauding Deak, who can prevent the regretful sigh for Kossuth ?

This volume is occupied in giving the particulars of the last attempt that showed the refugees of 1848 a chance to save their country in their own way. With Austria and France grappling in the death-struggle among the marshes of the Po, and under the guns of the Quadrilateral, it did not need the eagle-eye of Kossuth to discern the commanding position which a revolted Hungary could at once assume. Austria, attacked in flank and rear, her army organization