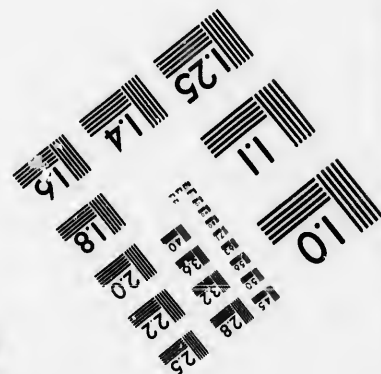
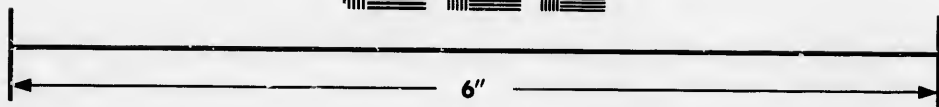
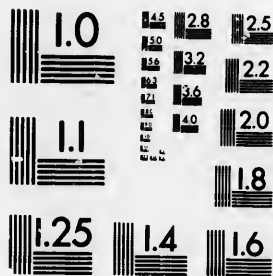


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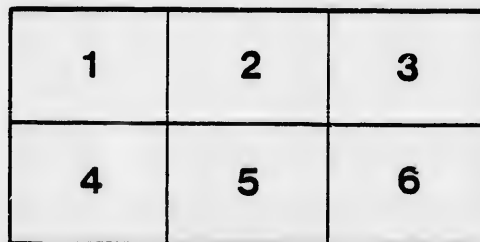
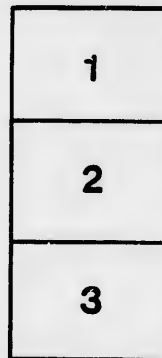
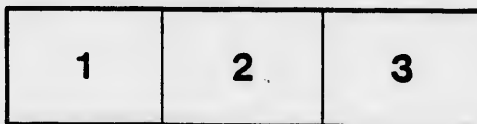
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CATECHISM

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CONTAINING

A SUMMARY VIEW OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
REVOLUTIONS THAT HAVE PRODUCED CHANGES
IN THE DESTINY OF NATIONS,

FROM THE

EARLIEST AGES TO THE PRESENT TIME.

NEW EDITION REVISED AND ALTERED.

ARMOUR & RAMSAY, MONTREAL.
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1842.

GENERAL HISTORY

Section

CHAPTER I
 THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY
 FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS
 TO THE BEGINNING OF THE PRESENT
 CENTURY.

Section

CHAPTER II
 THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY
 FROM THE END OF THE PRESENT
 CENTURY TO THE PRESENT TIME.

CHAPTER III

APPENDIX
 TO THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY
 FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS
 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

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CATECHISM

OF

UNIVERSAL HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

ON THE NATURE OF HISTORY.

Q. WHAT is History ?

A. The narration of real events, intended for the instruction and amusement of mankind.

Q. Let us examine this definition attentively—into how many parts is it divided ?

A. Two ; the first part declares the *subject* about which history treats, and the second explains the *object* or end proposed in writing history.

Q. What is the subject of history ?

A. The narration of real events.

Q. Why do you use the word *real* ?

A. To distinguish history from poetry and romance, in which the circumstances are invented by the authors.

Q. What is the object of history ?

A. The instruction and amusement of mankind.

Q. How does history instruct mankind ?

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A. By furnishing them with examples of virtuous and vicious characters, and shewing them the effects produced by such, both on themselves and others.

Q. Are any classes of real events excluded from history by the necessity of mankind's deriving instruction from historical narratives?

A. Yes; all events that it would be wholly useless for us to know should be passed over by the historian.

Q. Can you give any instances?

A. Trifling circumstances that do not materially affect any great event; such as how a general breakfasted on the morning of a battle, how many times a statesman coughed in making a speech, &c.

Q. Should all minute circumstances be passed over?

A. No; matters apparently as trifling as any which we have mentioned, frequently have produced great effects. An insult offered by a drunken soldier to a crazy beggar was the chief cause of the crusades, in which so much blood was shed.

Q. Are there any other reasons for recording matters apparently trifling?

A. Yes; such little circumstances frequently convey to us a better idea of character than the most laboured descriptions.

Q. What is the second object of history?

A. Amusement: the matter must not only be instructive, but the manner in which it is related must be pleasing.

Q. What is excluded from history by this part of the definition?

A. Mere details of facts, such as are contained in chronological tables; dry catalogues of names, &c.

Q. What are the principal duties of a good historian ?

A. The first and most important is a strict adherence to truth ; the second, to place examples of virtue and vice before the reader in such a striking light, as to make him adhere to the former, and reject the latter ; and thirdly, to deliver these salutary lessons in an agreeable form.

CHAPTER II.

THE DIVISIONS OF HISTORY.

Q. How is history divided ?

A. The first great division of history is into *sacred* and *profane* ; this division depends on the character of the narrator. The writers of Sacred History were assisted by the Holy Spirit, and therefore could not err ; the authors of profane history being forced to rely on their own judgments are liable to mistake.

Q. Is there any collection of sacred histories ?

A. All the books acknowledged as sacred are collected in the Bible. The books of the Old Testament contain an account of the general history of the world, from the creation to the call of Abraham, and a particular account of Abraham and his descendants, from the time of that patriarch, to the return of the Jews from the Babylonish captivity. The books of the New Testament relate the first preaching and early progress of christianity.

Q. What examples are there of profane history ?

A. All histories but the Bible are called profane.

Q. Is there any other division of history ?

A. Yes ; history is also divided into universal and particular.

Q. What do you mean by universal history ?

A. That which gives an account of all the nations in the world, from their origin to the present time. It is evident that complete universal history cannot be written, since many nations are totally unknown to us, and even if they were, the records of all nations could not be examined by a single person in the course of the longest life.

Q. What do you mean by particular history ?

A. That which is confined within certain limits ; any definite portion of the general history of mankind.

Q. What are the most common limits ?

A. Time, place, nature of events, and person.

Q. How do you explain these more fully ?

A. *Time* limits the narrative to the period in which the events occurred, as the history of the middle ages ; *place* confines the historian to some particular country, or district, or city, as the history of England, of Middlesex, or of London ; *the nature of events* limit the author to one particular class of circumstances, as in civil, military, or ecclesiastical history ; and finally, *the person* directs attention to the individual by whom the most important events were transacted, as the history of Buonaparté's wars, or Alexander's conquests.

CHAPTER III.

SUBDIVISIONS OF PARTICULAR HISTORY.

Q. How is history divided with respect to time ?

A. The most common, as well as the most general division, is into ancient and modern history.

Q. What *epoch* marks this division ?

A. The subversion of the Western Empire, A. D. 476 ; when Augustulus, the last Roman emperor, was dethroned by Odoacer, king of the Heruli. From this epoch the origin of most of the kingdoms in Western Europe is dated.

Q. What do you mean by an epoch ?

A. That period of time in which some great change or revolution in human affairs took place.

Q. Is this epoch of universal application ?

A. No ; it is limited to the western kingdom, then formed from the fragments of the Roman empire ; but it does not mark any remarkable period in the history of the eastern empire, or of any Asiatic or African nation.

Q. Are there any histories more particularly limited by time ?

A. Yes ; the histories of any particular period, as of the middle ages ; and the records of single years, such as annual registers and chronicles.

Q. What are chronicles ?

A. They are records of events, merely stating the order of time in which they occurred ; such are annual registers, public or private journals, newspapers, &c.

Q. Can these be properly called histories ?

A. No ; because they do not form one continued narrative.

Q. Is there any other reason ?

A. They are also confined to a mere statement of facts, without investigating their causes, or tracing their consequence, which is the duty of every good historian.

Q. Are chronicles therefore totally useless ?

A. Far from it ; they supply the most authentic materials for the formation of history.

Q. Which is the more interesting limit in particular history, place or time ?

A. Place, for men are more linked together by being born in the same country, than by having lived in the same age ; and besides, nations are more specially pointed out by place than by time.

Q. What are the principal kinds of history considered in relation to the nature of the events related ?

A. Civil history is an account of the progress and government in a state ; ecclesiastical, relates the history of the church ; military, details the narratives of warlike expeditions ; literary, gives an account of the progress of letters ; financial, details every thing that concerns trade, revenue, &c.

Q. How does ecclesiastical history differ from sacred ?

A. Ecclesiastical history does not rest on divine authority, and therefore, though both treat about the same subject, they have not equal claims to our respect.

Q. Are there any other kinds of history connected with this division ?

A. Yes ; there are two very remarkable species ; 1st, when the historian relates a course of events

springing from a common origin, and leading to a common termination, as the Rise and Progress of the Roman Republic, the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, the History of the Reformation, &c. ; 2d, when some single important event is narrated, as the Retreat of the Ten Thousand, The Peloponnesian War, &c.

Q. What is the history of persons called ?

A. It is named biography, from two Greek words, which signify "to write a life."

Q. Is there any particular species of biography distinguished by another name ?

A. Yes ; when a person writes the history of his own life, it is called auto-biography.

Q. What other subjects should be studied, in order that we should have a perfect knowledge of history ?

A. Chronology, which informs us of the time when remarkable events took place, and Geography,* which describes the countries in which they occurred.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ORIGIN OF NATIONS.

Q. Where do we learn the manner in which the earth was peopled ?

A. In the book of Genesis, which is the first

* See Catechism of Geography.

book of the Old Testament, and was written by Moses, the Jewish legislator.

Q. What account is there given us?

A. We are informed that God created Adam and Eve, whom he placed in the garden of Eden; that in consequence of their sins they were expelled from that seat of bliss; that their descendants peopled the whole earth; that in consequence of their wickedness God sent a flood, in which all human beings were drowned, except Noah and his family; and finally, that from Noah and his three sons are descended the present inhabitants of the earth.

Q. On what occasion did men separate into nations?

A. When the confusion of languages prevented them from completing the Tower of Babel, which they had begun to build. The account of this important event is very brief, and has been differently explained by commentators, but, from a variety of circumstances, it seems clear, that the separation of men into tribes and nations, took place at the time in which the event is stated to have happened.

Q. Speaking generally, how was the earth divided between the sons of Noah?

A. Japhet and his descendants came into Europe, Shem and his family settled in Central Asia, and the posterity of Ham took possession of Western Asia and Northern Africa.

Q. Has this division of the earth remained unchanged?

A. No; the Cuthite tribes, descended from Ham, were a very warlike race, and spread their conquests in every direction. They appear to have been also

the first who introduced civilization into the countries which they subdued.

Q. What general character may be given of this warlike race ?

A. They were the first who established an aristocracy, that is, a rank of nobility ; they made those whom they conquered their servants ; they uniformly preserved the tradition of the Deluge, but they also introduced the corruptions of idolatry.

Q. What were the principal nations or tribes by whom Europe was peopled ?

A. We meet with the names of many tribes in the traditions and early histories of Europe, but the principal appear to have been the Pelasgi, the Iberians, the Celts, and the Scythians.

Q. Who were the Pelasgi ?

A. They appear to have been the first settlers in Greece, from whence many of them passed into Italy and conquered the straggling Celtic tribes which were scattered through the country.

Q. Is the history of the Pelasgi well known ?

A. There is scarcely any historical topic more disputed than all that relates to this ancient people.

Q. How is this accounted for ?

A. At the time when authentic history begins, the Pelasgi were a fallen people, their strength was gone, their glory had departed. In Greece, they were subdued by the Hellenes ; in Italy, they were conquered by the barbarous tribes who descended from the Alps, and only a few obscure traditions testified that they once ruled in lands where all but their name was forgotten.

Q. Are there any proofs of their greatness still remaining ?

A. Yes, these massive buildings formed of enormous blocks of stone, which would seem to have required super-human power to raise, are by uniform history and tradition ascribed to the Pelasgi.

Q. What name is given to this style of building?

A. It is called Cyclopic architecture, because its strength and rudeness reminds us of the Cyclops.

Q. Who were the Cyclops?

A. The poets fable that they were giants, equally remarkable for their ugliness and their strength.

CHAPTER V.

THE ORIGIN OF NATIONS CONTINUED.

Q. WHERE were the Iberians settled?

A. In the extreme west of Europe; little is known of this people beyond their name; but from their easily mixing with the Celtic tribes, they appear to have descended from the same stock.

Q. Where did the Celts dwell?

A. The Celts, and more especially that branch of them named the Cimmerians, appear originally to have inhabited the east of Europe, and to have retired gradually before the Scythians, until they were at length driven into Gaul and the British islands.

Q. Who were the Scythians?

A. A hardy warlike people, that from the earliest ages inhabited the northern parts of Europe and Asia, whence hordes of them have frequently issued into the more fruitful regions of the south, spreading

terror and desolation every where. Sometimes they have returned back with their plunder, but more frequently they have settled in the conquered countries, and there founded new kingdoms.

Q. What modern nation is descended from the Scythians?

A. The Tartars; and they still preserve the wandering, warlike, and plundering habits of their ancestors.

Q. Were there any other causes that operated to change the character of nations besides these invasions?

A. Yes, commercial nations, as soon as they attained power and strength, began to send out colonies to places convenient for trade. These colonies, in process of time, formed new states or kingdoms.

Q. What nations first sent out colonies?

A. The Phœnicians were the first, and after a lapse of some centuries the Grecians imitated their example.

Q. Where did the Phœnicians dwell?

A. We read of them as settled at the eastern extremity of the Mediterranean in the remotest ages. Their chief city was at first Sidon; but it was soon eclipsed by the rising greatness of Tyre, which became the richest and most powerful commercial city on record. The prophet Isaiah says of Tyre, that "its merchants were princes, and its traffickers the honourable of the earth."

Q. For what were the Phœnicians particularly remarkable?

A. For their great skill in navigation; they penetrated into the Atlantic Ocean and traded with the

British islands ; they are said, on a very good authority, to have discovered the passage round the Cape of Good Hope ; but unquestionably they were acquainted with a great part of Western Africa, on which they planted colonies.

Q. What was the most remarkable Phœnician colony ?

A. Carthage, in the north of Africa, nearly opposite the southern extremity of Italy. This city soon began to rival Tyre itself, and when Tyre was taken by Alexander, it became the greatest commercial state in the world.

Q. Where were the Greek colonies settled ?

A. The earliest Greek colonies were those that took possession of the provinces of Asia Minor, called Ionia, Æolia, and Caria, about one thousand years before the birth of Christ ; afterwards the Greeks sent colonies to the best commercial situations on the Archipelago and Black Sea.

Q. Had the Greeks no colonies in Western Europe ?

A. Yes ; so numerous were their settlements in Italy, that the southern part of the peninsula was called Great Greece (*Magna Græcia.*) They also obtained possession of a great part of Sicily.

Q. How is America supposed to have been peopled ?

A. By emigrants from Asia, for the two continents almost join in the north at Behring's Straits. It is curious that we find in America traces of a nation possessing habits, customs, and traditions similar to those of the Cuthite tribes in the Old Continent.

CHAPTER VI.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE ASSYRIAN AND PERSIAN EMPIRES.

Q. WHERE was the first great empire established ?

A. In central Asia, where Ninus founded the Assyrian empire, and made Nineveh the capital of his dominions.

Q. By whom was this empire enlarged ?

A. By Semiramis, his wife, and successor ; she transferred the seat of government to Babylon, and laid the foundation of the future greatness of that city.

Q. Did the subsequent sovereigns imitate her wisdom ?

A. No ; they sunk into sloth and luxury, confining themselves in their palaces, and indulging in every species of debauchery and dissipation.

Q. What was the consequence of this misconduct ?

A. In the reign of Sardanapalus, the Medes rose in rebellion, and being joined by other tribes, besieged their sovereign in Babylon. Sooner than submit to the insurgents, Sardanapalus piled together all his treasures, and having set fire to the whole, threw himself into the flames. With him ended the first Assyrian empire, after it had lasted twelve hundred years.

Q. What followed ?

A. After about forty years of confusion, a new empire was founded, which attained greater celebrity, though it did not possess such extensive dominions as the former.

Q. Under what sovereign did the second Assyrian empire flourish most ?

A. Under Nebuchadnezzar the Great. He completely subdued the greater part of Central Asia, and after having taken Jerusalem, he carried the Jews into captivity, as his predecessors had done to the Israelites.

Q. What distinction do you make between the Jews and Israelites ?

A. By the Jews I mean the two tribes which adhered to the royal family of David, when the other two revolted under the guidance of Jeroboam.

Q. By whom was the second Assyrian empire overthrown ?

A. By Cyrus the Great, a Persian prince.

Q. Did he establish any new empire ?

A. Yes ; he founded the Persian empire, which was still more extensive than the preceding.

Q. Why is the history of the Persian empire better known than that of the Assyrian ?

A. Because the Persians pursued their conquests to the coasts of Western Asia, and thus came into contact with the Greeks at the precise period when they were sufficiently civilized to pay attention to history.

Q. What were the principal conquests of Cyrus ?

A. He subdued the Assyrian empire, which comprehended the greater part of Central Asia ; he conquered the Lydians, Phrygians, and Grecian colonies in Asia Minor, and he made himself master of Phœnicia and Syria.

Q. What became of Cyrus ?

A. The two greatest historians, Herodotus and Xenophon, give very opposite accounts of his death, but the former is more generally credited.

Q. What is the account given by Herodotus ?

A. He says that Cyrus having invaded Scythia, incautiously advanced too far ; Tomyris, the queen of the Massagetæ, a Scythian tribe, took advantage of his rashness, and after many harassing skirmishes, she suddenly attacked the Persian forces, cut the greater part of them to pieces, and slew the king himself on the spot.

Q. How is Tomyris said to have insulted her enemy's dead body ?

A. She ordered his head to be cut off and thrown into a vessel filled with human blood, saying, " Let him now satiate himself with that for which he has always thirsted."

Q. What account does Xenophon give of the death of Cyrus ?

A. Xenophon declares, that after a long and prosperous reign, he died tranquilly at Babylon.

Q. Did the successors of Cyrus enlarge the boundaries of his empire.

A. Yes ; his son Cambyses annexed Egypt to the Persian dominions.

CHAPTER VII.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN KINGDOM.

Q. By whom was the kingdom of Egypt founded ?

A. It is supposed to have been founded by Misraim, the son of Ham, about two thousand years

before the christian era ; it lasted more than sixteen centuries, when it was overthrown by Cambyses, as we have already mentioned.

Q. Did the ancient Egyptians distinguish themselves by any works of art ?

A. Their edifices are remarkable for their stupendous magnitude, especially the pyramids, which, though erected now more than three thousand years, have never been equalled. Thebes, their most ancient capital, is supposed to have been the greatest city in the world.

Q. For what besides their magnitude are the Egyptian works of art remarkable ?

A. For nothing else ; they are totally destitute of elegance and grace ; the statues of their gods present the strangest mixtures of animal and human forms ; and the columns of their temples seem to have been erected without any regard to the rules of proportion.

Q. Were not the ancient Egyptians distinguished for their scientific attainments ?

A. Yes ; the Greeks derived all their knowledge of science from the Egyptians ; but unfortunately learning was confined in Egypt to the priesthood, and this privileged class used every means to prevent the diffusion of knowledge among the people.

Q. What means were most efficacious for this purpose ?

A. Instead of ordinary writing, they used certain symbols, called *hieroglyphics* ; the priests alone understood the meaning of these signs, and as they kept their interpretation a profound secret, no one but a person of their order could study science.

Q. Are there any remarkable events recorded in the history of ancient Egypt ?

A. Yes ; but especially the invasion of the Shepherd-kings, the village of Lesostris, and the voyages of discovery undertaken by the command of Pharaoh Necho.

Q. Who were the Shepherd kings ?

A. Very little is known about them : they are supposed to have been a band of Cuthite warriors, who invaded Egypt at a very early period, probably about eighteen hundred years before the birth of Christ. They treated the inhabitants with the most remorseless cruelty ; but after having tyrannized over the country for a few years, they were expelled by a general insurrection of the inhabitants.

Q. Why do you assign about eighteen hundred years before Christ as the probable date of this remarkable invasion ?

A. We find in the book of Genesis, that when Abraham visited Egypt, the inhabitants shewed no aversion to strangers ; but when the brethren of Joseph went thither to purchase corn, the Egyptians would not eat at the same table with persons from that part of the world which had given birth to their oppressors.

Q. Who was Sesostris ?

A. An Egyptian king, who subdued the greater part of western Asia, and even penetrated into Europe. Pillars bearing inscriptions testifying his victories, were erected in various parts of the east. His age, however, is so far removed from every authentic record, that nothing can be determined with certainty, either as to the date of his conquests, or the extent and duration of his empire. Indeed, some writers doubt whether such a person ever existed.

Q. What great voyage was undertaken in the reign of Pharaoh Necho?

A. The circumnavigation of Africa, which is said to have been performed by a Phœnician fleet, sent out by this sovereign.

Q. Was Egypt the last country annexed to the Persian Empire?

A. It was the last of any importance. The Persian monarchs attempted to subdue Greece, but were defeated by the gallant inhabitants.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE CHANGES PRODUCED BY THE CONQUESTS OF ALEXANDER.

Q. What was the next great revolution in the ancient empires?

A. The overthrow of the Persian empire by Alexander the Great.

Q. Who was Alexander?

A. The king of Macedon, a small principality on the north of Greece. By the prudence of his father, Philip, this little kingdom was raised from a state of the utmost misery to the supremacy of Greece.

Q. Had Alexander a very numerous army to conquer such an extensive empire as that of Persia?

A. No; his forces would have been insufficient to garrison one of its smallest provinces.

Q. How then did he succeed?

A. By his own skill as a general, and by the

valour of his soldiers. The Persians, against whom he had to contend, were cowardly and effeminate, their generals totally ignorant of the art of war, and their sovereign unfit to govern or command.

Q. Where was the decisive battle fought which put an end to the Persian empire ?

A. On the plains of Arbela, as they are called, though more than a day's journey distant from that city. Alexander's army did not amount to a tenth of that opposed to him, but by his superior skill he routed the enemy with very little loss.

Q. Did Alexander endeavour to add any new kingdoms to the empire of Persia ?

A. He attempted to subdue India, but his soldiers, after a small part of the country was conquered, refused to follow him further. He consequently was forced to return, and soon after died at Babylon.

Q. What was the consequence of Alexander's death ?

A. His generals divided the empire among them, many of the conquered provinces declared their independence, and in a few years the extensive monarchy of Alexander was shattered to pieces.

Q. What were the principal kingdoms formed from the fragments of the Macedonian empire ?

A. Egypt, Syria, Parthia, Cappadocia, Bithynia, Pontus, and Macedon.

Q. By whom was the new kingdom of Egypt founded ?

A. By Ptolemy, the son of Lagus, the wisest and bravest of Alexander's generals. Most of his successors took the name of Ptolemy, but few inherited the prudence and valour of the first sovereign.

Q. For what was Egypt under the Ptolemies most remarkable ?

A. For the great attention paid to literature. A public library was established at Alexandria, in which were collected all the best works of the most eminent writers; and the kings encouraged the cultivation of learning, both by precept and example.

Q. Who was the founder of the Syrian kingdom?

A. Seleucus; his descendants were called Selucidæ, and severely oppressed the Jews. They were almost continually at war with the kings of Egypt.

Q. By whom was the kingdom of Parthia founded?

A. By Arsaces, a Persian Satrap, who took up arms to resist the exactions of the Macedonians; similar circumstances led to the foundation of the several little kingdoms in Asia Minor.

Q. For what were the Parthians remarkable?

A. For their bravery and cruelty; their principal strength lay in their mounted archers, who usually retreated before discharging their missiles. Hence it was said that the flight of the Parthians was more to be dreaded than their advance.

Q. What was the next great empire after the destruction of the Macedonian?

A. The Roman, which included the greater part of the known world.

CHAPTER IX.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE PROGRESS AND EXTENT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

Q. By whom was Rome founded?

A. It is said to have been founded by Romulus, seven hundred and fifty years before the birth of

Christ, but there is reason to believe that the city existed much earlier.

Q. Why is there much uncertainty about the early Roman history ?

A. Because the most important records were destroyed when the city was taken by the Gauls.

Q. What was the Roman form of government ?

A. It was at first governed by kings, of whom seven reigned in succession ; afterwards a republican form of government was established, which lasted more than four hundred years, and was finally overthrown by Julius Cæsar.

Q. Had the Romans to struggle with many difficulties before they attained universal dominion ?

A. Few nations had to contend with greater ; their city was taken by Porsenna, (a fact that historians vainly labour to conceal,) and burned by the Gauls ; in the wars with Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, and with the Carthaginians, they were more than once brought to the very brink of ruin. Their unconquerable courage, however, made them rise superior to every misfortune, and finally raised them to the summit of empire.

Q. What were the first nations subdued by the Romans ?

A. The Latins, and some other small states in central Italy. After the termination of the war with Pyrrhus, (B. C. 274,) the Greek states in the south acknowledged the supremacy of Rome, and the subjugation of the entire peninsula was completed soon after.

Q. What was the first foreign conquest aimed at by the Romans ?

A. The island of Sicily, which being equally de-

sired by the Carthaginians, led to those destructive wars between the two nations, commonly called the Punic wars.

Q. How did these wars terminate ?

A. The Romans destroyed Carthage, and enlarged their own dominions by the addition of Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Spain, and Northern Africa.

Q. Did they acquire any dominions in the east about this time ?

A. Yes ; during the second and third Punic wars they were engaged in a vigorous contest with the Macedonian kings, which ended in the subjugation of Epirus, Macedon, and finally of all Greece.

Q. In what war did the Romans pass over into Asia ?

A. In the war with Antiochus, king of Syria, they easily triumphed over this monarch, and established their own authority as paramount in Asia Minor.

Q. By what Asiatic monarch were the Romans most vigorously opposed ?

A. By Mithridates, king of Pontus, who for twenty-six years maintained a vigorous war against the Romans ; he was frequently defeated, more frequently deserted by cowardly followers, and betrayed by faithless friends ; but his spirit was still unconquered, he rose superior to misfortune, and was found a dangerous rival at the moment when he seemed completely crushed.

Q. By whom was Mithridates subdued ?

A. He was totally defeated by Pompey, and compelled to take refuge in Scythia ; there he meditated the daring project of marching through central Europe and invading Italy over the northern

Alps; but his soldiers, terrified by the prospect of such dangers as they must have encountered, mutinied and placed his son at their head. Mithridates, thus deprived of all hope, put an end to his life by poison.

Q. Did Pompey enlarge the dominions of Rome?

A. Yes, he subdued Syria, Palestine, and several other important provinces in Asia.

Q. Were any additional conquests made in Western Europe?

A. Julius Cæsar subdued Gaul and part of Britain; he also penetrated some distance into Germany.

Q. When was Egypt annexed to the Roman dominions?

A. It was made a Roman province by Augustus after his victory at Actium, B. C. 31.

Q. Why is this epoch particularly remarkable?

A. Because then the Roman empire was completely established on the ruins of the republic.

Q. Were any additions made to the Roman empire in the reign of Augustus?

A. Yes, Vindelicia, Rhætia, and some other German districts were made provinces.

Q. When was Britain completely subdued?

A. The entire island was never conquered, but the Romans obtained possession of England, as a province, after the defeat of Caractacus, A. D. 51.

Q. What was the last important addition made to the Roman empire?

A. Dacia, which was subjugated by the emperor Trajan, A. D. 103.

CHAPTER X.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE EFFECTS OF CONSTANTINE'S REIGN.

Q. What may be considered as the first cause of the Decline and Fall of the Roman empire ?

A. In addition to the vices of the rulers, the luxury of the nobles, the profligacy of the people, and the general demoralization of all classes, we may consider the transfer of the seat of government from Rome to Byzantium as one of the causes which operated most powerfully in bringing about the destruction of this mighty empire.

Q. By whom was this effected ?

A. By the emperor Constantine the Great, A.D. 328 ; he changed the name of Byzantium to Constantinople, and it is so called to the present day.

Q. For what reason did he select Byzantium as the capital of the empire ?

A. On account of its central situation It stands on the narrow strait which separates Europe from Asia, and seemed therefore well fitted to be the metropolis of an empire, which included a great part of both quarters of the globe. It possesses also one of the finest harbours in the world, and commands the navigation of the seas in the east of Europe.

Q. Is there any other reason assigned for this selection ?

A. Some credulous historians have asserted, that Constantine at first chose Chalcedon, (now *Scutari*,) at the opposite side of the strait as his capital, but that while planning the ground, an eagle seized on

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the architect's line, and flying across the strait, dropped it on the Byzantine shore.

Q. For what is the reign of Constantine more particularly remarkable ?

A. During his reign christianity was established as the public religion of the empire, the pagan temples destroyed, and the heathen sacrifices prohibited.

Q. When was the Roman empire divided ?

A. After the death of Jovian (A.D. 364), one of his successors, Valens, became emperor of the east ; the empire of the west fell to the lot of Valentinian.

CHAPTER XI.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE FALL OF THE WESTERN EMPIRE.

Q. Which was, the eastern or western empire, first destroyed ?

A. The western ; the Romans, and indeed all the Italians exhibited the most lamentable weakness and decay. Barbarous tribes from the forests of Scythia, Sarmatia, and Germany, poured their forces into the frontier provinces, and at length found their way over the Alps ; and the inhabitants, sunk in luxury and sloth, were unable to offer any effectual resistance.

Q. What were the names of these tribes ?

A. The Huns, Goths, Vandals, Alans, Lombards, &c.

Q. Where did these tribes settle ?

A. The Vandals seized on Spain, the Burgundians took possession of that part of Gaul, which still retains their name. The Visigoths, after having taken and plundered Rome itself, established a kingdom in the south of France, and the Franks, from whom the modern French are descended, commenced the formation of a new state on the lower Rhine.

Q. When did these events take place ?

A. In the beginning of the fifth century after Christ, and before that century was terminated, the entire western empire was completely broken up.

Q. How did the Roman emperors act ?

A. They withdrew their forces from the more remote provinces, leaving the inhabitants, degraded by long servitude, to make the best defences they could ; they also hired some of the barbarians to check the progress of the others, but generally found their allies equally as dangerous as their enemies.

Q. When did Britain cease to be a Roman Province ?

A. The Romans quitted Britain, A. D. 426, and never returned.

Q. Did the Vandals establish themselves in any country but Spain ?

A. Yes ; under the guidance of Genseric, they passed over into North Africa, and founded a kingdom there.

Q. Which of the barbarians committed the most fearful ravages ?

A. Attila, king of the Huns, who spread such desolation throughout Europe, that he was usually called *the scourge of God*.

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Q. What nation became masters of Southern Britain ?

A. The Saxons. After being deserted by the Romans, the Britains were unable to protect themselves from the inroads of their ferocious neighbours, the Picts and Scots, they therefore applied for assistance to the Angli, a Saxon tribe ; but they, after having repelled the invaders, established themselves in the country, which they called after their own name, Angleland, since contracted into England.

Q. When was the western empire completely overthrown ?

A. When Augustulus, the last emperor, was dethroned by Odoacer, king of the Heruli ; the conqueror assumed the title of king of Italy, (A.D. 476.)

Q. By whom was the kingdom of France founded ?

A. By Clovis, king of the Franks ; he defeated Siagrias, the Roman general, at Soissons, and by this victory became master of the greater part of Gaul.

Q. Was there any other of the invading nations settled in Gaul ?

A. The Ostrogoths or eastern Goths (so called to distinguish them from the Visigoths, who lived in the west) possessed the south eastern part of the country.

Q. Which of the Ostrogothic monarchs was the most remarkable ?

A. Theodoric, who, A. D. 493, conquered Italy from the Heruli, and established a kingdom, of which Ravenna was the capital.

Q. Did any of the eastern emperors make an attempt to recover Italy ?

A. Yes ; Justinian the First, during his glorious

reign, sent the celebrated Belisarius into Africa and Italy, both of which countries he annexed to the empire.

Q. Was Justinian remarkable as a legislator and statesman ?

A. Yes ; he collected the great body of the Roman laws into one uniform code, called the Pandects ; on this celebrated code the civil law throughout Europe is founded. The emperors before him, terrified by the victories of Alaric, king of the Goths, purchased peace from the barbarians, by paying tribute ; but Justinian refused to continue the degrading practice.

Q. Did the renewed prosperity of the empire long continue ?

A. No ; fresh hordes of barbarians poured into the provinces, the emperors were destitute of courage, conduct, or virtue, Constantinople became a theatre for the exhibition of every crime, and the dominions in the west were lost irrecoverably.

Q. What new tribe of barbarians invaded Italy ?

A. The Longobardi or Lombards, so called from the length of their beards. They came from Pannonia, (the modern kingdom of Hungary,) and founded the kingdom of Lombardy in northern Italy.

Q. How long did the empire of the east continue ?

A. About a thousand years, though exposed to dangers as great as those to which the western empire had yielded in a single century. It was assailed on all sides by the barbarians, and was at the same time torn by internal commotions, in themselves sufficient to have destroyed the most powerful empire in the world.

Q. How then was it saved from immediate destruction ?

A. By the almost impregnable situation of its capital, where the forces of the empire were kept secure until the storm swept by, and by its despotic form of government, which prevented the dissolution of the monarchy while the ruler lived.

CHAPTER XII.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE MOHAMMEDANS.

Q. In the last chapter we viewed the manner in which the western empire was broken up into several kingdoms by the invasions of the northern barbarians ; let us now direct our attention to the eastern empire. Can you tell me by what formidable enemies was it assailed ?

A. By the followers of the Arabian impostor Mohammed, called Saracens, Turks, Tartars, Moguls, &c. ; to the ferocity of the northern barbarians they joined religious bigotry, and put to the sword all who refused to adopt the system of their false prophet.

Q. Who was Mohammed ?

A. He was the son of Abdallah, an Arab nobleman, who resided at Mecca ; he was born A. D. 569, and soon after his birth had the misfortune to lose both his parents ; his uncles seized on the orphan's property, and shared it among them ; but one of them more charitable than the rest adopted him and gave him an education suitable to his birth.

Q. How was Mohammed first raised into notice ?

A. By his marriage with a rich widow ; being enabled to support the dignity of his birth, he became the chief of a powerful political party in Mecca, and was a dangerous opponent of the Koreish, then the ruling tribe in that part of Arabia.

Q. When did he commence his career as a prophet ?

A. In the fortieth year of his age ; his first converts were made in his own family, but as they were persons of great influence, they spread his doctrines among their friends and dependants ; the Koreish foreseeing that the religious power acquired by the founder of the new sect would be directed to their destruction, took up arms, and compelled Mohammed to fly, with his followers, to Medina.

Q. Is the flight of Mohammed from Mecca a remarkable era ?

A. Yes ; it is called the era of the Hegira, and from it the Mohammedan nations still reckon their years.

Q. How did Mohammed pursue his course ?

A. He soon became the prince of Medina, and commenced a vigorous war against his enemies at Mecca ; he fought in person at nine battles, and in the course of ten years made himself master of the entire peninsula of Arabia. The Koreish were the first who submitted, and the other tribes soon followed their example. Mecca, after a long resistance, yielded, and there Mohammed died, after having laid the foundation of the most extensive empire.

Q. Where are the principles of the Mohammedan religion explained ?

A. In the Koran, a work written by Mohammed, partly at Mecca, and partly at Medina ; it is regarded by his followers with the same reverence that the Bible is by Christians.

Q. What are the most remarkable features in the religion of Mohammed ?

A. The Koran asserts the unity of the Godhead in the strongest terms; and contains many doctrines, borrowed both from the Old and New Testament, which were manifestly introduced to conciliate both Jews and Christians. It imposes on all true believers the necessity of propagating their religion by the sword, and promises them the most extravagant sensual enjoyments in another world, as a reward for their adherence to the mandates of the prophet.

Q. What was the first country subdued by the Mohammedans ?

A. Syria ; preparations were made to invade this country previous to the impostor's death, and after that event, Abu-bekir, the father-in-law and successor of Mohammed, led his forces into the country, and having defeated the Greek emperor obtained possession of all the provinces between Mount Libanus or Lebannon, and the Mediterranean sea.

Q. Were these conquests extended farther ?

A. Omar, who succeeded the former caliph, was the bravest and wisest of the Mohammedan rulers ; he deprived the Greek empire of the remainder of Syria, and subdued Phœnicia, Mesopotamia, Chaldæa, and Persia ; at the same time his generals conquered Egypt, Libya, and Numidia.

Q. What other countries were afterwards subdued ?

A. Spain was almost totally subdued by a

Saracenic army, invited over by Count Julian to revenge an insult offered to his daughter by King Roderic, the last Gothic sovereign of that country. France was invaded, but was saved by the abilities of Charles Martel, who obtained a brilliant victory over the Saracens, and thus in all human probability saved Europe from the Mohammedan yoke.

Q. By whom were the caliphs subdued ?

A. By the Tartar tribes, who had been previously converted to the religion of Mohammed.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE NEW EMPIRE OF THE WEST.

Q. Was there not a second empire established in the west ?

A. Yes ; Charlemagne, the king of France, was crowned emperor of the west by Pope Leo III. at Rome, A. D. 800 ; his dominions included France, Germany, and Italy.

Q. Did this empire long continue ?

A. No ; it was soon broken up, by the custom which the ancient French kings had of dividing their dominions among their children.

Q. Which were the last Norman tribes that invaded the south-west of Europe ?

A. The Danes or Normans, for both names belong to the same people ; they were as cruel and savage as any of the former invaders, but their conquests were not so extensive.

Q. What countries did they principally devastate ?

A. England and France ; in the latter country they obtained the province of Neustria, which they called after their own name, Normandy.

Q. Did they make any other conquest ?

A. They established themselves in Sicily, and in the south of Italy.

Q. Who was the first Norman monarch that ruled in England ?

A. William, surnamed the Conqueror ; he was the natural son of Robert duke of Normandy, and after his father's death succeeded to the inheritance of that duchy. Edward, called the Confessor, the last of the Anglo-Saxon monarchs, bequeathed the crown of England to William, and though the great majority of the English nation chose Harold for their king, William was enabled to make himself master of the country, A. D. 1066.

Q. What was the general character of the Normans as conquerors ?

A. They treated the native inhabitants with the most barbarous cruelty both in England, France, and Sicily. The feudal system, which had begun in France after the death of Charlemagne, was adopted by the Normans, and pushed to a fearful extent. The serfs were treated as the absolute property of their masters, and exposed to every species of oppression.

Q. What was the condition of Italy after the cessation of the inroads of the barbarians ?

A. A great number of small republics were formed, which, if they had been united by a general confederacy, would probably have formed the happiest and most powerful state in Europe ; but they

were engaged in continual wars with each other, and distracted besides by internal commotions.

Q. Which of these republics were the most remarkable ?

A. The confederate states of the Lombards, Venice, Genoa, and Florence.

Q. Did any power derive great additional strength from the distractions of Europe ?

A. Yes ; the See of Rome took advantage of it to claim universal dominion ; they sanctioned the Norman invasion of England, and in a later age the invasion of Ireland.

Q. Which of the popes was the most remarkable for the extravagance of his claims ?

A. Hildebrand, commonly known by the name of Gregory VII ; he boldly asserted that the pope was superior to all the monarchs on earth, and might depose them at his pleasure. His violence involved him in disputes with every monarch in Europe, and introduced the most frightful disorders.

Q. How long did these distractions continue ?

A. From the death of Charlemagne to the commencement of the crusades, that is, from the middle of the ninth, to the beginning of the twelfth century, may be considered as the darkest period of European history.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE AGE OF CHIVALRY AND THE CRUSADES.

Q. While the Normans were dispossessing the descendants of the northern nations that had overthrown the Roman empire of the conquests which

their ancestors had won, were not the Saracenic caliphs attacked by new barbarous tribes ?

A. Yes ; the Tartars or Turks, whom they had taken into their pay, and instructed in the Mohammedan religion, took up arms against their employers, and founded four new kingdoms or sultanies in Asia.

Q. What were these sultanies called ?

A. The three first were denominated Seljukian, from Seljuk the founder of their race ; the fourth was called the Ottoman, and from this the present Turkish empire is deduced.

Q. Where were these sultanies established ?

A. In middle and southern Asia ; the first Seljukian sultany was that of Persia ; the second was the sultany of Kennan, in ancient Cannania, on the shores of the Persian Gulf ; the third was named the sultany of Roum or Iconium, and occupied the greater part of Asia Minor ; the Ottoman sultany was founded last of all, its original seat of government was Prusa in Bithynia.

Q. What was the consequence of the overthrow of the original Saracenic empire ?

A. It produced a fatal effect on the civilization of Asia ; the Arabian Saracens were attached to literature and science ; the courts of the first caliphs were filled with men of learning, whom the government protected and encouraged ; but the Turkish and Tartar tribes were purely barbarians, not merely ignorant of literature, but despising and detesting its very name.

Q. Did the Seljukians persecute the christians ?

A. Yes, with far more severity than the caliphs had done ; in fact, after the first burst of religious

enthusiasm had wasted away, the successors of Mohammed ceased to be persecutors, and not protected merely their christian subjects, but entered into amicable relations with the European states, and invited christian merchants to settle in their dominions. But the Turks were the most virulent persecutors, and inflicted the most terrible calamities on the unfortunate christians of *Asia*.

Q. What induced the western Europeans to take up arms against the Turks ?

A. The treatment which the christian pilgrims to Jerusalem received. The practice of undertaking pilgrimages to the scenes which had been rendered illustrious by the birth, life, and death of Christ, seems to have prevailed from the earliest ages of the church ; but when Jerusalem fell into the hands of the Saracens these pilgrimages became very dangerous, more especially after the establishment of the Tartar tribes in western Asia.

Q. By whom were the European monarchs induced to take up arms ?

A. By Peter the hermit, a native of Picardy. Indignant at witnessing the oppressions and cruelties to which the christians were subjected, he went every where through Europe, preaching the necessity of rescuing Jerusalem from the hands of the infidels.

Q. What was the consequence ?

A. The pope having approved the projects of Peter, a religious enthusiasm spread all over western Europe, and a series of destructive wars for the recovery of Palestine were commenced, which finally ended in disappointment and defeat.

Q. What were these wars called ?

A. They were named Crusades or Croissades, from the crosses borne by the soldiers on their right shoulders.

Q. Did these wars lead to the establishment of any new kingdoms ?

A. In the first crusade the christian kingdom of Jerusalem was established under Godfrey, of Bouillon and three principalities named the counties of Edessa, Antioch, and Tripoli, but they all fell successively into the hands of the Saracens again.

Q. What extraordinary event took place in the fifth crusade ?

A. The crusaders, instead of attacking the Saracens, laid siege to Constantinople, which they captured after a brief siege. They overthrew the ancient Greek dynasty, and established a Latin empire on its ruins, which only lasted about fifty years.

Q. How long did the crusades continue ?

A. About two hundred years ; they terminated when Acre was taken by the Egyptian sultan, A. D. 1291, and the last christian garrison driven from Palestine.

Q. Was any new state founded by the christians, who were driven from the Holy Land ?

A. The Knights Hospitallers, or Knights of St. John, established themselves in Rhodes, and from thence carried on a fierce naval war against the Mohammedans ; when driven from that island they settled in Malta, of which they retained possession to the beginning of the present century.

Q. Was there any other order of knighthood established for the defence of Palestine besides that of the Hospitallers ?

A. Yes, there was also the order of Knights Templars; they were distinguished from the former by the ensign of a red cross, that borne by the Hospitalers was white.

Q. What became of the Templars?

A. Their extensive domains excited the cupidity of Philip the Fair, king of France, and he being seconded in his efforts by Pope Clement V., commenced a fierce persecution against this unfortunate order. The greater part of the knights were put to death with the most execruciating tortures, and all their property confiscated, (A. D. 1310.)

CHAPTER XV.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE FALL OF THE EASTERN EMPIRE.

Q. DURING the crusades, were there any remarkable changes occurring in the west of Europe?

A. The Saracenic or Moorish kingdom in Spain was gradually weakened, and the christian kingdoms of Aragon, Castile, and Leon, established in the Peninsula.

Q. What province did the Moors inhabit?

A. The province of Granada was the principal seat of the Moors in Spain, and they were totally confined within its limits, after the establishment of the kingdoms mentioned above.

Q. How was the Spanish monarchy consolidated?

A. By the marriage of Ferdinand, king of Arragon, with Isabella, the heiress of Castile, A. D. 1474.

Some time before this event the kingdom of Leon had merged into that of Portugal.

Q. When did the Swiss republic originate?

A. In consequence of the oppressive government of the Austrian emperor Albert, three cantons threw off their allegiance to the emperor, and declared themselves independent. They were soon joined by others, and animated by love of liberty, they overcame the immense armies sent against them, and purchased their freedom by the most heroic bravery.

Q. What kingdom was about this time founded in the north of Germany?

A. The kingdom of Prussia; it was conquered by the Teutonic knights, and continued for a long time subject to that order. Afterwards the sovereignty was conferred on the house of Brandenburg, in which family it still continues.

Q. With what nations were the Prussians at war during the greater part of their early history?

A. With the Poles, a brave Sarmatian people, who during the middle ages were the most conspicuous of the continental nations for valour and integrity.

Q. What northern nations began to be conspicuous about the same period?

A. The Danes, Norwegians, and Swedes; these nations having ceased from sending out their piratical fleets, began to assume a place among the European states. They were however little known until they were united into one state by the treaty of Calmer, A. D. 1397.

Q. How were affairs conducted in the east after the cessation of the crusades?

A. The Greek emperors displayed the most scan-

dalous cowardice and incapacity. The Ottomans having succeeded to the dominions of the Seljukian Turks, completed the conquest of the Greek provinces in Asia, and at length passed over into Europe, under the guidance of Amurath I., (A. D. 1352.)

Q. Did the Turks meet with much success in Europe?

A. They subdued the greater part of ancient Thrace, and established their seat of government at Adrianople.

Q. Did they immediately overthrow the Greek empire?

A. No; its fate was delayed by the sudden irruption of Timour Bec, or Tamerlane, a leader of a new Tartar tribe, into the Asiatic provinces. Bajazet, the Turkish emperor, went against the invader, but was defeated and made prisoner at the battle of Prusa.

Q. When was Constantinople taken?

A. It was captured by Mohammed II., on the 29th of May, A. D. 1453; Constantine, the last and best of the Greek emperors, made a gallant resistance, but the Turks were lavish of life, and numbers finally triumphed over valour. Thus ended the eastern empire, and on its ruins was established the kingdom of Turkey.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

Q. WHAT two important events in the latter part of the fifteenth century produced great changes in the state of Europe?

A. The discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, a Genoese, in the service of Spain, (A. D. 1492,) and the discovery of the passage round the Cape of Good Hope by Vasco de Gama, a Portuguese admiral, (A. D. 1495)

Q. Did any other event at the same time raise Spain to a very high rank among the nations of Europe ?

A. Yes, the province of Granada was subdued by Ferdinand and Isabella, and the Moorish dynasty totally destroyed.

Q. Who was Columbus ?

A. He was a native of Genoa, a state that rivalled Venice in commerce and riches. The *Genoese, previous to the destruction of the Greek empire, had a mercantile colony on the Black Sea, from which they traded over land with India. But when the progress of the Turks drove them from this establishment, they saw with regret the commerce of the east usurped by their rivals the Venetians. Columbus participating in these feelings, advised his countrymen to seek a new line of communication with India by sailing westwards.

Q. How was this proposal received by the Genoese senate ?

A. they treated it with contempt ; few could, at that time, conceive the possibility of arriving at a country that lay to the east of them by sailing in a westerly direction ; for though the real figure of the earth was at that time known to most men of learning, the knowledge of it was not so general that all would confess it, nor so accurate that even the learned could understand the consequence of this important truth.

* See Chapter XX.

Q. To whom did Columbus next apply ?

A. He is said to have offered his services to Henry VII., king of England, whose avarice prevented him from advancing the money necessary to fit out a proper armament. He then applied to Isabella, and she having heard Columbus explain his plans, was so convinced of their utility and importance, that she pledged her jewels to furnish him with a fleet.

Q. Was Columbus exposed to much danger on his voyage ?

A. Yes ; his crew, wearied by the length of time that had elapsed without their seeing land, mutinied, and were with great difficulty prevailed on to proceed.

Q. What was the first land discovered by Columbus ?

A. The island of Hayti, or St. Domingo, which he named Hispaniola or Little Spain. After a brief delay, he returned home, bringing with him some gold, and other productions of the country, together with two of the natives.

Q. How was Columbus treated on his return ?

A. The court of Spain testified the most extravagant joy ; a new expedition was immediately prepared to revisit and secure the position of the newly discovered countries, and all the honours that royalty could bestow were showered on the illustrious navigator.

Q. Did this gratitude continue ?

A. No ; the Spanish court, with singular ingratitude, greedily received the accusations made against Columbus by envious enemies. A commission was dispatched to investigate his conduct, and after a mock trial he was sent home in chains to Spain.

Q. What became of Columbus ?

A. He was honourably acquitted on his trial, and allowed to take out another fleet for the prosecution of his discoveries. This expedition was frustrated by the jealousy of the Spaniards, and Columbus was forced to return to Spain, where he learned that his friend and patroness, Isabella, had died during his absence. Having in vain solicited some remuneration for his services from king Ferdinand, he retired from court, and sunk under the diseases arising from fatigue and disappointment, in the 59th year of his age.

Q. What Spanish leaders extended the dominions of their sovereign in South America ?

A. Balboa made a settlement on the isthmus of Darien, and first discovered the Pacific Ocean ; Velasquez subdued the island of Cuba ; the extensive kingdom of Mexico was conquered by Cortez ; Peru was subdued by Pizaro, and Chili by Almagro, one of his companions ?

Q. How were the native inhabitants treated by the Spaniards ?

A. With the most unparalleled cruelty ; since the world was created, never were such barbarous murders, and such extensive massacres perpetrated as by the Spaniards in South America. The countries, when discovered, were inhabited by a numerous and happy people ; in a very few years they were almost totally depopulated.

Q. How did the Spaniards endeavour to supply the deficiency ?

A. They began to import negroes from the coast of Africa, and thus commenced the infamous slave-trade, which was so long the disgrace of Europe, and of Christianity.

Q. Did the Spaniards gain much additional power by their acquisitions in America ?

A. At first the world believed that they did, but subsequent experience has shown that this extensive empire was a great cause of the present degradation of Spain.

Q. How did this happen ?

A. the best and most vigorous Spaniards emigrated to the New World in search of gold ; the improvement of the mother country was neglected, and the commercial restrictions imposed by shortsighted avarice, prevented the improvement of trade, both in Spain and the colonies.

Q. By whom was the passage round the Cape of Good Hope discovered ?

A. By Vasco di Gama, a Portuguese admiral. Columbus undertook his voyage to America, in hopes of discovering a passage to India, and actually mistook the new continent for a portion of that country ; the Portuguese had been long prosecuting their discoveries along the coast of Africa, and became convinced of the practicability of sailing round that continent about the time of Columbus's first voyage.

Q. What circumstance first led them to believe that Africa could be circumnavigated ?

A. Notwithstanding that the Phœnicians had sailed round the continent in the reign of Pharaoh Necho, king of Egypt, the Greek geographers obstinately maintained that the land stretched westwards, near the equator, and formed an impassable barrier to a southern voyage. But when the Portuguese navigators had doubled Cape Verd, they clearly saw that the land trended eastwards, and thus learned to distrust the Greek writers on geography.

Q. Did the Portuguese found any colonies in the east ?

A. Yes ; under the guidance of Albuquerque they made commercial establishments in several of the most favourable parts of the Indian Ocean, and soon monopolized all the commerce of the east.

Q. Was this change injurious to any European state ?

A. The republic of Venice, which had previously possessed the entire commerce between India and Europe, in consequence of their alliance with the Turks in Egypt, was deprived of all its trade, and sunk gradually into insignificance.

Q. How did the Portuguese differ in their conduct from the Spaniards ?

A. They never exhibited any ingratitude to those whose discoveries had enlarged their dominions, and they treated the natives of every country that they visited with the greatest kindness and generosity.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THE REFORMATION.

Q. WHAT was the next great event that produced an important revolution in the European states ?

A. The Reformation ; the power of the Romish church was opposed by Martin Luther, a German monk ; in a very short time he obtained a number of partizans, and permanently established a new religious system.

Q. Was this change effected without bloodshed ?

A. No, the emperor of Germany, Charles V., attempted to check the progress of the protestants, as the followers of Luther were called, and at the same time to make himself absolute in Germany ; at first all his measures were crowned with success, but finally the German princes resolved to secure their civil and religious liberty, and forced the emperor to grant them favourable terms.

Q. Did any state recover its independence about the same time ?

A. Sweden, which had been united to Denmark since the treaty of Calmar, became weary of the intolerable tyranny practised by Christian, king of Denmark ; Gustavus Vasa, a young Swedish nobleman, incited his countrymen to take up arms, and under his guidance the liberty of Sweden was established.

Q. Were any civil wars excited by the opponents of the Reformation ?

A. Yes ; the sovereigns who professed the catholic religion, endeavoured to check the progress of the Reformation, by persecuting those whom they suspected of attachment to protestant principles. Persecution at length provoked resistance, and fierce civil wars were kindled in France, Germany, and Holland.

Q. Who was the sovereign of Holland at the time of the Reformation ?

A. Holland and the Netherlands were then subject to Philip, king of Spain, son of Charles V. He was one of the most virulent and bloody persecutors that ever lived, and his deputy, the duke of Alva, was a worthy representative of his cruel master. The Dutch at length were unable to endure such

tyranny, and broke out into open rebellion. After a long and protracted struggle they succeeded in gaining their independence.

Q. Did Philip meet with any other misfortune in his wars against the protestants ?

A. He had prepared a large fleet to dethrone Queen Elizabeth, and re-establish the Romish religion in England ; but his designs were frustrated by the gallantry of the English sailors, and by the violent storms which completed the destruction of the armament after it had been defeated by the British navy.

Q. Did Spain meet with any other misfortune soon after ?

A. Portugal, which had been united to the Spanish monarchy after the unfortunate termination of king Sebastian's invasion of Africa, asserted its independence, and having chosen John Duke of Braganza for its sovereign, threw off the yoke of Spain.

Q. Is there not something very extraordinary in the account given of Sebastian ?

A. Yes ; he was supposed to have perished in his unfortunate battle against the Moors, but as his dead body was never discovered some doubts were entertained of his death. About twenty years after this battle, a stranger appeared in Venice, who called himself Don Sebastian, and possessed the most extraordinary resemblance to that monarch. He gave a very plausible account of the reasons that detained him so long in exile, and in proof of his identity, exhibited the scars of the wounds which Sebastian was known to have received.

Q. What became of this person ?

A. He was arrested by some Spanish emissaries,

and confined in Naples, thence he was sent to Spain and never afterwards heard of.

Q. Was he the real Don Sebastian, or an impostor ?

A. The question is very difficult to be resolved ; the Spaniards themselves unwilling to acknowledge his identity, and unable to explain his knowledge of state secrets, declared that he was a magician ; and this absurd explanation has induced many to believe in his identity with the king of Portugal.

Q. What was the war in Germany called ?

A. From the length of time that it lasted, it was denominated the "Thirty Years' War."

Q. Who was the most celebrated leader of the protestants during this war ?

A. Gustavus Adolphus, king of Sweden ; after a brilliant career of victory, in which his mercy and moderation were fully as conspicuous as his valour, he unfortunately fell, in the moment of triumph, at the battle of Lutzen.

Q. How was this war terminated ?

A. By the treaties of Munster and Westphalia, which secured the free exercise of the protestant religion, and the independence of the German princes.

Q. Did any remarkable crime distinguish the French civil war ?

A. Yes, the horrible massacre on St. Bartholomew's day.

Q. How did this happen ?

A. Charles, king of France, at the instigation of his mother, the infamous Cathrine de Medicis, pretended to be reconciled to the protestants, and invited them to assemble at Paris and celebrate the peace. When they were thus in his power, he

sent soldiers to their houses, who murdered the greater part of them without any distinction of rank, sex, or age.

Q. Were the French protestants crushed by this blow ?

A. No ; they renewed the war with more violence than ever, and under the guidance of the young king of Navarre obtained so many advantages that the French king was obliged to grant them favourable terms of peace.

Q. How were the civil wars of France terminated ?

A. Henry of Navarre having succeeded to the throne on the failure of the former king's heirs, granted full toleration to the protestants, by the celebrated edict of Nantz. Henry had originally professed the reformed religion himself, but on his accession to the throne he conformed to the Roman catholic church.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE WARS OF THE AGE OF LOUIS XIV.

Q. WHO succeeded to the English crown on the death of Elizabeth ?

A. James, king of Scotland ; by his accession, the entire island of Great Britain was united under a single sovereign.

Q. Did the posterity of James long continue to enjoy the throne of England ?

A. No ; there was scarcely ever a family more unfortunate. Charles I., the son and successor of James, was dethroned and beheaded ; his son, Charles II., was long a miserable exile, while Cromwell, under the title of Lord Protector, usurped the sovereignty of England ; finally, James II., the last monarch of the family, was expelled by his subjects, and William prince of Orange elected in his stead.

Q. After the termination of the religious wars, what was the next thing that disturbed the tranquility of Europe ?

A. The ambition of the French king, Louis XIV. He invaded Holland, and almost subjugated the entire country ; but by the prudence and valour of William, prince of Orange, his victories were rendered useless, and the peace of Europe was restored by the treaty of Ryswick.

Q. Did this peace long continue ?

A. No, it was soon interrupted by the war of the Spanish succession. Charles II., king of Spain, had no children, and had the mortification to find that his heirs were making arrangements for the division of his dominions before his death. Irritated at this insult, he made a will in favour of Philip, duke of Anjou, grandson of his eldest sister, and of Louis XIV. He died soon after, and the French prince immediately took possession of the throne.

Q. What nations took up arms to prevent this arrangement ?

A. The Austrians, English, and Dutch, alarmed at the great increase of the French power, entered into a strict alliance. A fierce war ensued, in which the allies, under the command of the duke of Marlborough and prince Eugene, obtained several glorious victories.

Q. How was the war terminated ?

A. Louis XIV. was reduced to the greatest distress, and would have been forced to purchase peace at any price, but fortunately for him, the English Ministry of the day eagerly hastened to conclude the treaty of Utrecht.

Q. What was the most important part of this treaty ?

A. The crown of Spain was solemnly confirmed to the Duke of Anjou, and has ever since remained in the possession of the Bourbon family.

A. During this war, did any state, previously little known, begin to acquire importance ?

A. Russia, which had been long in a state of semi-barbarism, and was scarcely known to the rest of Europe, under the prudent government of Peter the Great, became one of the greatest European states.

Q. What was the condition of Russia when Peter the Great ascended the throne ?

A. We have already mentioned that the inhabitants were almost totally destitute of civilization ; to this it must be added, that the clergy, taking advantage of the popular ignorance, had usurped a great share of the administration ; and that a body of soldiers, called Strelitzes, like the Janizaries in Turkey, frequently claimed the disposal of the empire.

Q. To what dangers was Peter exposed in his youth ?

A. His sister Sophia, an artful and ambitious woman, attempted his life ; in his own defence he was forced to raise some troops and march against her ; she was defeated and made prisoner, and Peter from thenceforward became the sole sovereign of Russia.

Q. How did Peter prepare himself for the great work of reformation which he contemplated ?

A. He set out on his travels through Europe, sometimes in his public character as sovereign visiting kings, frequently disguised as a mechanic mingling with artizans. In order to acquire an accurate knowledge of ship-building, he hired himself as a carpenter in the dock-yard of Saardam, near Amsterdam, and worked like the rest, in the forges, the rope-walks, and the mills

Q. Did he visit any other countries besides Holland ?

A. Yes ; he came over to England, and there completed himself in the knowledge of ship-building, from thence he passed into France, and returned home with a company of six or seven hundred ingenious men, distinguished by their eminence in various arts and professions, by whose assistance he hoped to instruct and civilize his subjects.

Q. Did he succeed in his beneficial projects ?

A. There never was a monarch who effected so much good in so short a space of time. To detail all the benefits that he conferred on his country would fill volumes. Suffice it to say that Russia, which before had been the seat of ignorance and barbarity, was by his exertions raised to the highest pitch of greatness and glory.

Q. Who was the great opponent and rival of Peter the Great ?

A. Charles the Twelfth, King of Sweden ; he was in every respect unlike the Emperor of Russia ; rash, violent, and impetuous, he desired nothing so much as military glory, and to attain this shadow he exhausted his country by ruinous and expensive wars.

Q. Did he obtain any great victories ?

A. He gained some of the most astonishing victories that have been recorded in history. On his accession to the throne, his dominions were invaded by the Russians and Danes, who little expected to find a vigorous opponent in such a youth ; but he soon forced them to retire, and made them tremble for the safety of their own territories.

Q. How did he subdue the Danes ?

A. In the depth of winter he passed over the Baltic sea on the ice at the head of his army, and dictated the conditions of peace under the walls of Copenhagen.

Q. What great victory did he obtain over the Russians ?

A. With only eight thousand men he attacked a Russian army of more than eighty thousand at Narva, and completely defeated them.

Q. What was his next exploit ?

A. He dethroned Augustus, King of Poland, and placed his friend Stanislaus on the throne.

Q. Where at last was his career checked ?

A. Having invaded Russia, he incautiously advanced it to the heart of the country, where his troops were worn down by hunger and fatigue, and harrassed by constant assaults of the enemy. At length Peter came up with an overwhelming force, and attacked the Swedes at Pultowa, and almost annihilated the invading army.

Q. Did Charles escape from the fatal field ?

A. Yes ; accompanied by a few faithful followers, he fled to Bender, a Turkish town in Moldavia, and there vainly endeavoured to prevail on the Turks to arm in his favour.

Q. What strange event occurred at Bender ?

A. The Turks being unwilling to renew their wars with the Russians, resolved to remove Charles from Bender ; but he obstinately determined to remain, and having fortified his house, actually fought an entire Turkish army with only his personal servants.

Q. Did Charles return from Turkey ?

A. Yes ; after remaining there for ten months, he at length returned home to his own dominions with only a single attendant, and immediately began to meditate new projects, of which the most important was the invasion of England, in order to dethrone George I., and place the pretender on the throne.

Q. How were his plans frustrated ?

A. Having invaded Norway, he was killed at the siege of Frederichshall, a petty fortress in that country, by a cannon shot ;

And left a name at which the world grew pale,
To point a moral or adorn a tale.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES

THE RISE OF THE PRUSSIAN MONARCHY.

Q. WHAT change took place in the government of England soon after the peace of Utrecht ?

A. On the death of Queen Anne, the elector of Hanover, George I., ascended the throne of England pursuant to the act of settlement.

Q. What was the act of settlement ?

A. It was an act passed by the British Parliament after the abdication of James II. excluding his son from the throne, and requiring that every future sovereign of England should profess the protestant religion. In case that Queen Mary, the wife of William III., and Queen Anne, died without issue, it was settled that the descendants of the Princess Sophia should be the next heirs to the crown.

Q. Did this change produce any effect on the general state of Europe ?

A. It led to several wars between England and France, for the French embraced the cause of the pretenders, as the male descendants of James II. were called. It also involved England in continental politics, for the two first Hanoverian Princes were greatly attached to their hereditary dominions.

Q. What was the cause of the next great general war in Europe ?

A. The death of Charles VI., Emperor of Germany ; before his death he had prepared an instrument, called the Pragmatic Sanction, securing the Austrian dominions to his daughter, the archduchess Maria Theresa, which was guaranteed by the states of the empire, and by all the great powers of Europe ; but no sooner was the Emperor dead, than the treaty was openly and unblushingly violated.

Q. What state now began for the first time to take a lead in the affairs of Europe ?

A. The kingdom of Prussia, which had been previously looked on as one of the minor German states, became, under the guidance of its young sovereign,

Frederic II., commonly called the Great, one of the most important and influential of the European nations.

Q. How did he commence his career ?

A. Frederic, taking advantage of the distressed state of Maria Theresa, revived some old claims of his family to the provinces of Upper and Lower Asia, and relying more on the goodness of his troops than the justice of his cause, took military possession of the country.

Q. By what other enemies was Maria Theresa assailed ?

A. The elector of Bavaria, aided by the French, was proclaimed Emperor of Germany, and immediately invaded the hereditary dominions of the house of Austria. His successes were so rapid, that he would probably have captured Vienna, and put a glorious end to the war, had he not turned aside to invade Bohemia.

Q. How did Maria Theresa act in these difficulties ?

A. More like a hero than a woman. She appeared before the states of Hungary, with her infant son in her arms, and in a spirited harangue explained the difficulties of her situation. The Hungarian nobles were fired with enthusiasm, and exclaimed with one accord, "Let us die for *our king, Maria Theresa.*"

Q. How was the contest decided ?

A. The unfortunate Bavarian prince was soon stripped, not merely of his conquests, but even of his hereditary dominions, and died of a broken heart. The English and French, who engaged in the war as auxiliaries, but very soon became prin-

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cipals, wasted each other's strength by furious engagements in every part of the world, and at length wearied out, concluded a peace at Aix-la-Chapelle, ten times more absurd than the war which it terminated.

Q. Why do you give such a character to the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle?

A. Because every object which the several combatants proposed to themselves was passed over almost without notice in the treaty, and all the matters in dispute between the English and French courts were more unsettled than ever.

Q. What was the consequence of this error?

A. What every rational being might have expected, a new war more fierce and bloody than the preceding. The allies, however, had changed sides, England being now joined to Prussia, and France having entered into alliance with Austria, after having been opposed to that power for nearly a century.

Q. What was this war called?

A. From the length of time that it lasted, it has been usually called "The Seven Years' War."

Q. What were the most remarkable features in this war?

A. The English were at first very unsuccessful, but soon after, under the administration of the Earl of Chatham, they became triumphant in every part of the world, and stripped the French of almost all their colonies; the King of Prussia, attacked by the united forces of Russia, Austria, and France, seemed on the very brink of ruin, but he extricated himself from all his difficulties, and secured all his conquests.

Q. What effect did this war produce on the European nations ?

A. Prussia from thenceforward became one of the leading European states ; Russia, which had hitherto taken little share in the concerns of its neighbours, assumed the right of interfering in the politics of the continent ; France, by the loss of her possessions in India and North America, ceased to contend for naval superiority ; and England obtained undisputed maritime and commercial supremacy.

CHAPTER XX.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

Q. AFTER the conclusion of the Seven Years' War, what were the next most important changes in the nations of Europe ?

A. The annexation of Corsica to France, the conquest of the Northern provinces of Turkey by the Russians, and the partition of Poland.

Q. What led to the war in Corsica ?

A. The Genoese, to whom the island had been long subject, treated the inhabitants with great cruelty, and finally drove them into open rebellion. The Corsicans elected Paoli as their general, and under his guidance expelled their oppressors from the island.

Q. How did the Genoese then act ?

A. They ceded the island to the king of France, transferring to him the sovereignty of a free people, with as little scruple as if they were selling an estate.

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Q. What was the result ?

A. After a gallant but ineffectual resistance to the overwhelming forces of France, the Corsicans were at length forced to yield, and Paoli took refuge in England.

Q. Under whose government did Russia extend her territories at the expense of the Turks ?

A. Under that of Catherine II. ; she subdued the peninsula of Crim Tartary, and obtained possession of several important naval stations on the Black Sea.

Q. Why did not some other European states endeavour to prevent the aggrandizement of Russia ?

A. Austria interfered for that purpose, but that power was bribed by a promise of part of Poland to withdraw all opposition. For it has been always the short-sighted policy of the Austrian government to accept a bribe from any power by which it may be offered.

Q. What was the first cause that led to the partition of Poland ?

A. The religious dissensions of the inhabitants, and the unwise persecution of the protestants and christians of the Greek religion by the catholics, who were the prevailing party.

Q. How did this produce irremediable evil ?

A. The Russian government took the *Dissidents*, as the united protestants and Greeks were called, under its protection, and marched a powerful army into Poland, to enforce the restoration of their political rights. Having once assumed the right of interference in the affairs of Poland, the Russians continued to keep an army in the country to maintain their party.

Q. In what manner did these proceedings terminate?

A. The Russians, Prussians, and Austrians divided the greater part of the Polish territories, leaving the unfortunate king Stanislaus little more than the shadow of a kingdom. After a few years even this was taken away, and Poland blotted from the list of nations.

Q. What was the next important revolution?

A. The British colonies in North America threw off their allegiance to the mother country, and declared themselves free and independent states.

Q. What was the cause of this revolution?

A. The British parliament at that time claimed a right to levy taxes on the colonies without the consent of the colonial assemblies; the Americans protested against their being taxed by a parliament in which they were not represented, and finding their protestations disregarded, had recourse to arms.

Q. What were the most remarkable events of this war?

A. In the first campaign, the English army, under general Burgoyne, was forced to surrender at Saratoga: this induced the French, still smarting under the losses of the "Seven Years' War," to embrace the American cause, and they sent out a large army, which, united with that of the Americans, established the independence of the new states.

Q. By what event was the war brought to a conclusion?

A. By the surrender of the Marquis Cornwallis with his army, to the united American and French forces, commanded by General Washington and the Marquis De la Fayette.

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Q. What was the consequence of this event ?

A. The English ministry was changed, and those who succeeded to the administration signed a treaty of peace, acknowledging the independence of the colonies, which thenceforward have constituted a new nation, under the name of the United States of America.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

Q. What great revolution took place in Europe at the close of the last century ?

A. The French revolution ; far the greatest that ever took place, and whose effects are felt at the present day.

Q. What were the principal causes of this great event ?

A. So many circumstances combined to bring about this great event, that it is very difficult to determine which produced the greatest influence. The exhaustion of the finances at the close of the American war, the oppression of the peasantry by the nobles, and the taste for liberty, which had been acquired during the war in defence of the freedom of America, were probably the principal causes.

Q. Was the revolution attended with violence ?

A. Yes ; the obstinacy of the nobles, and the indecision of the court equally provoked the hostility and contempt of the people. At length the

mob of Paris stormed the Bastile, and a constitution, republican in every thing but name, was established.

Q. How were these proceedings viewed by the other European states ?

A. With the greatest jealousy. Austria, Prussia, and several other states, combined to restore the absolute power of the monarch ; but a sanguinary proclamation, issued by the Duke of Brunswick, provoked the hostility of the French people to such a height, that they put their unfortunate sovereign to death.

Q. Did the English join in this war ?

A. Yes ; the French republicans having published a declaration of their readiness to assist any people that desired a change in its form of government, the different monarchs of Europe looked on this as an act of hostility, and combined against the new republic. The English joined in the league, and by their naval superiority destroyed the foreign commerce of France.

Q. How did the Revolution proceed in France ?

A. The different parties engaged in it were animated with the most ferocious hostility towards each other. The government committed every imaginable atrocity. Religion was abolished ; its emblems and its ornaments profaned. The rich, the nobles, the men of merit were exterminated ; virtuous and moderate persons condemned to perish on the scaffold. In short, all France presented but one unvarying scene of prisons and executioners.

Q. Did any civil war break out ?

A. Yes ; the royalists took up arms in La Vendée, but not being supported in time by foreign aid,

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they were quelled after a gallant struggle, and massacred without mercy. Some towns which had resisted the convention, were also subdued, and the inhabitants, but more especially the people of Lyons, subjected to the most horrible persecutions.

Q. How was the foreign war conducted ?

A. Notwithstanding their internal dissensions, the French were victorious over the allied forces in every part of the continent, and not only repelled the invaders, but subdued Holland and Italy.

Q. What remarkable person was at the head of the French armies in the Italian campaigns ?

A. Napoleon Buonaparte ; at an early age he found himself placed at the head of the republican forces, and gained several of the most splendid victories that have been recorded. The Austrians were so terrified at his rapid progress that they solicited peace, and a treaty was concluded at Campo Formio on terms very advantageous to the French.

Q. What were the next most important enterprises undertaken by the French ?

A. They resolved to attempt the invasion of Great Britain and Ireland, in which latter country a fierce insurrection of the peasantry broke out ; but on account of the naval superiority of England they were obliged to desist from this attempt, and they directed their forces against Egypt.

Q. What success had the French expedition to Egypt ?

A. Buonaparte at first subdued the greater part of the country, but the French fleet having been totally destroyed by Admiral Nelson at the mouth of the Nile, he thought fit to return to France. An English army being sent to Egypt in the following year,

defeated the French at the battle of Alexandria and forced them to surrender.

Q. How was this war terminated ?

A. By the peace of Amiens, which was, after all but a temporary suspension of arms.

Q. What effect did the French Revolution produce on the condition of the European states ?

A. The change which it introduced into the constitution and tactics of the French armies, made them for some time superior to those of any other European nation ; the principles of freedom, which in the early part of the revolution were beginning to spread over the continent, were checked and destroyed by the disgust which the horrors and cruelties of the republicans had inspired ; but still there was a desire of change which showed that some great alterations were at hand.

CHAPTER XXII.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

THE AMBITIOUS CAREER OF NAPOLEON.

Q. WHAT caused a breach of the peace of Amiens ?

A. The mutual jealousy of the French and British governments. The war nominally commenced about the possession of the island of Malta, but was really caused by the desire of Buonaparte to overthrow the commercial supremacy of England, and the anxiety of the British to prevent the further extension of the French power.

Q. Did any change take place at this time in the government of France ?

A. On the 3rd of May 1804, the republic, which had been established at the expense of so much blood, was subverted, and Buonaparte proclaimed emperor of the French and king of Italy.

Q. Was any formidable coalition formed against France ?

A. In the year 1805, the emperors of Austria and Russia united with the British government to restrain the ambition of Buonaparte.

Q. What was the success of this coalition.

A. The allied armies, after a series of reverses, caused, in some degree, by the treachery and incapacity of their generals, were totally defeated at Austerlitz, and obliged to accept peace on terms which virtually subjected the entire continent of Europe to the French emperor.

Q. Did the French meet with no defeat at this time ?

A. Their fleet, combined with that of Spain, was entirely defeated by admiral Nelson near Trafalgar, and the English, during the remainder of the war, held the dominion of the sea without any interruption.

Q. What new enemy appeared against the French after the conquest of the Austrians ?

A. The Prussians ; but they were overthrown at the battle of Jena, and the war was concluded in the space of a single campaign.

Q. What was the next enterprise of the French ?

A. Buonaparte proclaimed that the house of Braganza had ceased to reign, and sent an overwhelming army into Portugal. In consequence, the Por-

tuguese royal family embarked on board the English fleet, and sailed to Brazil, in south America.

Q. Did Napoleon rest satisfied with these acquisitions ?

A. No ; he was resolved to make himself supreme monarch of Europe, and in pursuance of this design, he compelled the royal family of Spain to abdicate the crown of that kingdom, which he conferred on his brother, Joseph Buonaparte.

Q. What was the consequence of this usurpation ?

A. A general insurrection took place throughout Spain ; and the French, though every where victorious in the field, were exposed to murderous attacks from armed bands of peasantry, who slaughtered all their detached parties.

Q. Did England take any share in this contest ?

A. Yes ; and the army sent out under Sir Arthur Wellesley, after having effected the liberation of Portugal, finally succeeded in driving the French from the Peninsula. But this was not effected until after four years of hard fighting.

Q. Did Austria make any new effort against the French emperor ?

A. The Austrians took advantage of the removal of the French troops from Germany to Spain to renew the war ; but they were again crushed in a single campaign, and but for certain personal reasons, that ancient empire would have been blotted from the list of nations.

Q. What were these reasons ?

A. Buonaparte wished to marry the archduchess Maria Louisa, after divorcing his wife Josephine, and he did so in the following year.

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Q. Did any remarkable revolution take place at this time in the north of Europe ?

A. Gustavus, king of Sweden, having shewn himself unfit to govern, was dethroned by his subjects, and his uncle chosen king in his place. Soon after, in consequence of the sudden death of the crown prince of Sweden, Charles John Bernadotte, a celebrated French general, was elected heir of that kingdom, which he now actually possesses.

Q. After the complete subjugation of Austria, against whom did Buonaparte next turn his arms ?

A. He resolved to invade Russia, and punish the emperor Alexander for having dared to violate his edicts. For this purpose he assembled one of the largest armies ever collected in Europe, amounting to about half a million of men, and entered the Russian territories in the summer of 1812.

Q. What was the result of this invasion ?

A. The French were at first uniformly successful, and after the sanguinary battle of Borodino, took possession of Moscow, the ancient capital of the Russian empire. But here their success terminated ; the peasantry would not bring provisions to the invading armies, and the Cossacks intercepted the convoys, and cut off all stragglers. Under these circumstances the French were forced to make a most disastrous retreat.

Q. Did the French army suffer much in their retreat from Russia ?

A. There never was any army exposed to equal calamities ; a severe winter set in, and they were frozen to death by thousands ; the miserable survivors were broken down by hunger and fatigue, and at the same time exposed to the murderous attacks

of the Cossacks, who scarcely gave them a moment's respite. Scarcely a tenth of the mighty host that invaded Russia escaped across the frontiers.

Q. What was the consequence of this event ?

A. In the following year the continental nations resolved to free themselves from the servitude in which they had been kept by the French, and after the battle of Leipzig, Buonaparte was forced to make a retreat through Germany, nearly as disastrous as that of the preceding campaign.

Q. What followed ?

A. In the middle of January 1814, the allies entered France on the northern frontier, while the English, under the duke of Wellington, were already established in the southern provinces. After a series of operations, in which Napoleon exhibited all his usual abilities, the allies at length became masters of Paris, the emperor abdicated the crown, and the Bourbons, after a long and tedious exile, were restored to the throne of their ancestors.

Q. What became of Buonaparte ?

A. He was given the island of Elba, with the title of Emperor, and pensions were settled on him and the members of his family.

Q. Did this peace long continue ?

A. No ; Buonaparte returned from Elba, the army every where declared in his favour, and he became again master of France in a few weeks, without firing a shot.

Q. How did the other states of Europe act on this occasion ?

A. They unanimously declared war against Napoleon as an usurper, and at the decisive battle of Waterloo he was completely overthrown, and France again subjected to the sway of the Bourbons.

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Q. What was the end of Buonaparte's career?

A. He surrendered himself to the English, and was sent as a prisoner to the little island of St. Helena, where he died in exile.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE REVOLUTIONS IN NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

IMPORTANT CHANGES SINCE THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

Q. WHAT political arrangements were made in Europe after the overthrow of Buonaparte?

A. Norway was separated from Denmark, and united to Sweden; Holland and Flanders were formed into the Kingdom of the Netherlands, of which the prince of Orange became the sovereign; Prussia was enlarged at the expense of Saxony; the principalities of Hanover, Saxony, Bavaria, and Wirtemburgh were recognised as kingdoms; and the greater part of northern Italy united to the Austrian dominions.

Q. Have any important revolutions taken place in South America?

A. The Spanish Colonies have thrown off their allegiance to the Mother Country, and are now independent states. Brazil is separated from Portugal, and now forms a new empire, of which the son of Don Pedro, a prince of the house of Braganza, is emperor.

Q. Have any new states been lately formed in Europe?

A. Yes ; the Greeks in 1821 threw off the yoke of Turkey, and are an acknowledged European people. Otho, a son of the King of Bavaria, is King of Greece.

Q. Did any remarkable event take place in England in the year 1830 ?

A. His Majesty George IV. died, after a long and painful illness, and was succeeded by his brother, the Duke of Clarence, by the title of William the Fourth.

Q. Was not France the theatre of a sudden and extraordinary revolution ?

A. Yes ; Charles X., by the advice of his ministers, published three ordinances on the 25th of July, 1830, by which the charter granted to the French people was virtually annulled.

Q. What was the consequence ?

A. The people of Paris took up arms, and after a severe contest of three days, drove their monarch and his followers from Paris. In the meantime, the members of the Chamber of Deputies assembled and appointed a provisional government.

Q. To whom was the chief power entrusted ?

A. To the Duke of Orleans, a remote branch of the royal family ; he was first appointed Lieutenant General, and immediately after King, by a great majority of the chambers both of deputies and peers.

Q. What title has he taken ?

A. That of Philippe I., King of the French.

Q. Is he the first French king of the name of Philippe ?

A. No, he is the seventh of the name, but as he was chosen by the people out of the regular order of succession, he is named Philippe the First, and styled *King of the French*, instead of *King of France*.

Q. For what is this revolution principally remarkable?

A. For the moderation shewn by the people in the moments of highest excitement, and for the respect shewn to private property.

Q. Did Charles X. make any effort to preserve his crown?

A. At the first commencement of the insurrection, he ordered the troops out against the citizens of Paris; but when the soldiers were defeated by the insurgents and weakened by numerous desertions, the unfortunate monarch fled from his capital. He then resigned the throne in favour of his grandson, the Duke of Bourdeaux.

Q. How was his resignation treated?

A. The act of abdication was registered, but no notice was taken of the implied conditions.

Q. What change have the French made in the national flag?

A. Instead of the white flag, the emblem of royalty, they have adopted the tri-colour flag, which was their old republican standard.

Q. Have any important changes taken place in the condition of Holland and Belgium since 1830?

A. Yes; they are again disunited, and form separate kingdoms. Leopold the First was elected King of Belgium.

Q. What is the most important event that took place during the reign of King William the Fourth.

A. The Imperial Parliament in 1832 passed the act commonly called the Reform Act, by which the right of voting for members to serve in the House of Commons was extended to a much more numerous class of the people than had previously enjoyed that privilege.

Q. Are you acquainted with any other important event that occurred during the same reign.

A. Yes ; Parliament in the year 1834 gave liberty to all the slaves in the West India Islands, paying a sum of £20,000,000 sterling by way of indemnity to their former masters.

Q. When did Her Majesty Queen Victoria ascend the throne, and what are the principal incidents in her personal history ?

A. Her Majesty ascended the throne on the 20th of June, 1837, on the death of her uncle, King William the Fourth. On the 10th of February, 1840, her Majesty was married to his Royal Highness Prince Albert. On the 21st of November, of the same year the Princess Royal was born, and on the 9th of November, 1841, the Prince of Wales was born.

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