

**THE LIFE OF KING JOHN
SOBIESKI, JOHN THE THIRD OF
POLAND; A CHRISTIAN KNIGHT,
THE SAVIOR OF CHRISTENDOM**

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The life of King John Sobieski, John the Third of Poland; a Christian knight, the savior of Christendom by John Sobieski

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JOHN SOBIESKI

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JOHN SOBIESKI OR JOHN III
KING OF POLAND

THE LIFE OF KING JOHN SOBIESKI

John the Third of Poland

A CHRISTIAN KNIGHT
THE SAVIOR OF CHRISTENDOM

BY

COUNT JOHN SOBIESKI

*Author of A Soldier of Freedom, The Adventures of a
Polish Nobleman While Fighting Under the
Flag of Two Republics, and The
Life of President Juarez.*



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To

THE NOBLE POLISH PATRIOTS

who for more than a Century have struggled,
suffered and died in their endeavor to regain
their lost nation and restore to Poland what She
was in the days of the Casimers, and the Sobie-
skis, and to those Noble Patriots who will finally
succeed in their patriotic design of placing

Poland where she justly belongs
this book is dedicated.



INTRODUCTION

THE seventeenth century was one of the great centuries of the world along all lines of human activities. In art, in science and in religious thought there was more advancement than there had been for centuries before. The Reformation had obtained such dimensions that the Roman Catholic Hierarchy had become acutely aware that it must, henceforth, fight for its existence. The Thirty Years' War is a proof of this statement.

Gustavus Adolphus, the Snow King, of Sweden, had made the Catholic Powers tremble by his wonderful victories and had he not met his death so early, on the field of battle, in all probability the reformed religion would have advanced to the front immediately and have become the dominant faith of the Continent; but while the Catholic and Protestant chiefs were fighting terrific battles for supremacy, there suddenly appeared a mutual enemy which threatened to destroy Christendom itself, for it had been the dream of each successor of the great Mohammed that the Mohammedan religion should become the world's universal faith. And so, in compliance with the military spirit of that religion, this

desire began to manifest itself very early, and so, after becoming firmly established upon the Asiatic Continent, the Mohammedans entered Europe, winning victory after victory until they were finally checked by Charles Martel at Tours, France, in the eighth century; but they were only checked, for they gathered their forces and were not long in conquering the fairest portion of Europe.

In the year 1453, the Greek, or Byzantine, Empire fell before the Mohammedans and they captured Constantinople, making it the capital of their Turkish or Ottoman Empire, but all their attempts to push farther West had failed.

But the seventeenth century seemed to be their opportunity, for the Christian nations had become hopelessly divided into bitter antagonisms between the followers of the Pope of Rome and the followers of Martin Luther, the reformed monk, who were fighting bloody battles to destroy each other.

The Sultan of Turkey recognized in this condition of affairs in Europe a long cherished opportunity and began making preparations, at once, for the invasion of western Europe. It was then that the eastern hordes were met by the Grand Marshal of Poland and he exhibited such military genius as had never been equalled, nor since surpassed, in the world's history. Though largely outnumbered in every battle, Sobieski's victories were overwhelming