

**SCENES OF THE CIVIL WAR IN  
HUNGARY, IN 1848 AND 1849;  
WITH THE PERSONAL ADVENTURES  
OF AN AUSTRIAN OFFICER IN THE  
ARMY OF THE BAN OF CROATIA**

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Scenes of the civil war in Hungary, in 1848 and 1849; with the personal adventures of an Austrian officer in the army of the Ban of Croatia by Anonymous

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SCENES  
OF THE  
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UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

W. Bacon  
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AN AUSTRIAN OFFICER

*of the emperor*

IN

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## PREFACE.

BY THE TRANSLATOR.

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The late Civil War in Hungary will assuredly form a prominent subject in the history of the world for the last two years.

Whether it originated in a spark communicated by the revolutionary explosion in France; whether it arose from discontent excited by ambitious demagogues in the inflammable minds of a portion of the population of Hungary; or whether the inhabitants of that country had any real grievances, any oppressive acts of their government, to complain of, appears to me to be a question which yet remains to be

solved. So much, however, is certain, that this insurrection furnishes additional evidence, if any were needed, of the invariably sanguinary spirit of mob-rule, as manifested in the great prototype of succeeding revolutions—the first French Revolution; in the rising of the Spaniards against a foreign usurper: and in recent events at Frankfurt and Vienna.

The people of Hungary are composed of descendants from a greater number of races than any other nation of Europe, and each of these races keeps itself remarkably distinct. Of these, the descendants of the Magyar and of the Slavonian, or Slowack, races are by far the most numerous. The latter occupy almost exclusively the mountainous tracts; the former the extensive plains, which are more favourable to their peculiar pursuits — agriculture and the breeding of cattle, particularly of horses.

According to the earliest accounts, the



Magyars were settled, for several centuries after the Christian era, in the countries to the northward of the Caspian Sea. Some authors derive their origin from the Parthians; but, according to Fessler, the historian of Hungary, they belong to the great Turkish clan.

About the end of the seventh century, they removed into Europe, and took possession of the countries between the Dnieper and the Don, where they remained for two hundred years; till, thrust out by the migration of another Asiatic horde, they pushed on into Dacia and Pannonia; and there founded, in the latter half of the ninth century, a kingdom since called Hungary. To this tribe the late outbreak—let us call it at once by its proper name, rebellion—seems to have been exclusively confined.

Of the general character and sentiments of the Magyars, the Letters contained in the following sheets present abundant illus-

trations; and the enthusiastic patriotism of them all, from the highest to the lowest, would be entitled to warm admiration, had it been exerted in a better cause. This feeling, indeed, had the effect of thinning considerably the ranks of the Austrian army, and of proportionably strengthening those of the insurgent force with its best troops.

It would appear that the insurgents themselves knew not for what object they were hazarding their lives, and making large sacrifices of property in voluntary contributions. We find in these Letters that, on one occasion, when the Writer reproached some of the soldiers who had formerly been under his command with having deserted their sovereign, they replied that they still acknowledged the Emperor Ferdinand to be their King, and had no desire to change him; but that they could not tamely suffer the Austrian Generals to come into Hun-

gary, and to divide the land among whomsoever they pleased. Kossuth, they argued, said that this was the case; and whatever Kossuth said was true.

If it was upon representations so utterly groundless that a large portion of the Hungarian population could be induced to rise in arms against the legitimate government, it must be admitted that much sympathy has been thrown away in this country upon an unworthy cause.

There is, however, in Hungary an object that prefers irresistible claims to the interposition of the British Government and of this generous nation—I allude to the state of our unfortunate fellow-Protestants in that kingdom. The doctrines of the Reformation, promulgated by the disciples of Huss, who was burned as a heretic by the decree of the Popish council of Constance, in 1415, found such extensive acceptance in Hungary, that, on the foundation of the Pro-