

**THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF THE EMPEROR
CHARLES V**

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The Autobiography of the Emperor Charles V by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V & Leonard Francis Simpson

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HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR CHARLES V & LEONARD FRANCIS SIMPSON

**THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF THE EMPEROR
CHARLES V**

C. E.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF
THE EMPEROR CHARLES V.

RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN THE PORTUGUESE
LANGUAGE BY BARON KERVYN DE LETTENHOVE, MEMBER
OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF BELGIUM,

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY

LEONARD FRANCIS SIMPSON,
M.R.S.L.

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THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES V.

OR

SUMMARY OF THE VOYAGES AND EXPEDITIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE EMPEROR CHARLES V. SINCE HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE STATES OF FLANDERS (WHERE HE WAS BORN ON FEBRUARY 24, 1500, ACCORDING TO ROMAN STYLE, AND WHERE HE WAS EDUCATED), AFTER THE DEATH OF KING PHILIP HIS FATHER, WHOM GOD HAVE IN HIS GLORY! WHICH HAPPENED
IN THE YEAR 1516.

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INTRODUCTION

BY

BARON KERVYN DE LETTENHOVE.

FOR some years the attention of the most eminent minds has been earnestly directed to the study of the history of the sixteenth century, and Charles V., who occupies the first place in that history, is indebted to a greater impartiality, as well as to the revelations of a great number of unpublished documents, for a tardy justice to his memory. Where it had been agreed to accuse him of ambition, sincere convictions have been recognised, which neither numerous obstacles nor long sufferings could alter; and his abdication itself, by showing him superior to all the grandeurs he had traversed, has shed a calm and serene halo upon the last years of his life, of which there are few examples in the agitated career of the rulers of the world.