

**HIGHER EDUCATION IN
RUSSIAN, AUSTRIAN, AND
PRUSSIAN POLAND, PP.
713-792**

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VARIOUS

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UNITED STATES BUREAU OF EDUCATION.
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HIGHER EDUCATION

IN

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CHAPTER XV.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN RUSSIAN, AUSTRIAN, AND PRUSSIAN POLAND.

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TOPICAL OUTLINE.—*General summary of education.—Plan and arrangement.—Extent of Poland.—The Poles and the dismemberment.—Language.—Its structure. Sketch of the higher education in Poland during her independence: Ancient foundation of the University of Cracow; its early history.—Polish schools at the time of the Reformation.—Revival of higher education and downfall of Poland. Higher education in Russian Poland: The New University of Warsaw.—Constitution of the University of Warsaw.—Latest statistics of the University of Warsaw.—Report of the rector.—The four faculties.—Institute of veterinary surgery.—University library.—Archives.—Secondary education in Warsaw.—Musical education in Warsaw.—Secondary education in the country at large.—Wilno.—Archives of Wilno. Witebsk. Higher education in Austrian Poland: New University of Cracow.—Imperial Academy of Sciences.—The four faculties.—University library.—State archives.—University of Lemberg.—University library; Ossoliński library; Archives.—Imperial School of Technology in Lemberg; secondary schools.—Secondary schools in Galicia. Education in the ancient Polish provinces of Prussia: Polish origin of the University of Königsberg.—Lyceum Hosianum; secondary schools in Prussia; libraries.—Province of Posen, libraries.*

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The Kingdom, or rather Republic, of Poland¹ (*Rzeczpospolita Polska*) disappeared from the commonwealth of nations, after an existence of eight hundred years, at the end of the last century. The dismemberment of the Republic, which in the sixteenth century was the greatest power of eastern Europe and had for centuries served as a bulwark

¹ "Poland," says Lelewel, one of her greatest historians, "is a veritable and pure Republic, only invested with the forms of a constitutional monarchy." The principal character in the constitution of the Polish Government was a very decided separation between the executive power intrusted to the King, and the legislative power, superior to the former and exercised by the nation, i. e., the representatives of those citizens who alone enjoyed political rights, the nobility and the clergy. These deputies, *nuntii*, about 200 before the partition, and the senators, elected by the King, could assemble either separately or combined, thus forming but one Chamber, the Diet (*Seym*), *generale omnium terrarum conventum*.

against the destructive invasions into Europe of the Mongolian, Tartar, and Turkish hordes,¹ was accomplished by Russia, Austria, and Prussia in three partitions (1772, 1793, 1795). The parts which once constituted the Republic of Poland are still integral parts of the three countries respectively. According to Morfill's words, "Its limbs, although distorted, are still instinct with life;" its language is still spoken by upwards of ten millions; its literature is the oldest Slavonic literature next to Bohemian, and surpasses in importance and scope all the other Slavonic literatures taken together, i. e., Bohemian, Servian, Croatian, Slavonian, Russian, Bulgarian.² Its institutions and laws have perished, some of them fortunately for the broad masses of the Polish people who had nothing but the patrimony of the disinherited, serfdom. Austria at once introduced into Galicia the Austrian civil code; in the Prussian Polish provinces the Prussian Landrecht prevails. Russia alone permitted to the Kingdom (tsarstvo) of Poland a shadow of self-government and many privileges. Alexander I conferred great privileges upon the University of Wilno, confirmed the Lithuanian statutes in the western and southwestern governments and the code of Napoleon in Poland proper from the year 1807. But all this was changed into Russian law by a ukase of June 25, 1840. Yet in spite of the difficulties and restrictions under which the dismembered country labors, there are several very active centers of Polish literature, culture, and education, foremost among them Cracow and Lemberg, thoroughly Polish, excellent universities in Austrian Galicia. The work of the Academy of Cracow, founded in 1872, is of such a high standard of excellence, its editions of the Polish authors of the golden age (1541-1606) are so valuable, the many learned reviews that appear in Polish, equal to the best in other civilized countries, present so much original research and material that it is only a question of time when Polish literature and culture as well as that of the other Slavonic countries will constitute an essential part of instruction in our universities to supplement the Germanic and Romance languages and literatures.

¹In the reign of Boleslas V (1227-1279) the frightful Mongolian invasion took place (1241). Although gaining a Pyrrhus victory at the battle of Lignica (Liegnitz) in Silesia, they were diverted into Hungary after their force had been broken. Nothing since the battle on the Catalaunian fields can be compared with that carnage. In the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries, the Poles went forth the champions of Christendom and rolled back the tide of Moslem conquest from Europe. Justly, therefore, Melancthon, speaking on this subject, says: "The magnanimity of this nation is especially displayed in their continual wars against the Tartars for the tranquillity of all Europe. For centuries she has protected Europe against the Tartars and the neighborhood of savage Asia. Let us never forget these obligations to Poland, and let us recollect who are the people, and in what regions of the earth they were made instruments of Providence, and by protecting Europe, enabled her to preserve within her bosom humanity, religion, and those arts and sciences so beneficial to society."

²According to Estreicher (*Bibliographia Polonica*, Cracow, 1870), it represents two-thirds of the entire Slavonic literature.

The University of Warsaw, although Russified to a great extent since the late insurrection, is still rich in national Polish spirit, learning, and culture. The Polish press of Warsaw still turns out many valuable books, magazines, and reviews in all branches of literature and science.

Prussia has best succeeded in Germanizing her Polish possessions, slowly eliminating or weakening the Polish element, "carefully avoiding any of those reprisals which would cause a European scandal." But "*der neue Kurs*," under the enlightened young Emperor William II, has thoroughly reversed the old theory, if not the old practice. Coercion has been reduced to a minimum, yet the German language makes more rapid strides than ever and does not suffer under the fact that Polish is cultivated in family and school, especially in the religious education of the people, who are mostly Roman Catholics. It seems as if the idea had won ground in the highest authoritative circles of Prussia that a people with an almost equally old western civilization, abundantly rich literature, language, and history, can not be weaned and severed from it by persuasion, force or police measures. Thus, while the provinces of Posen, Upper Silesia, and old Prussia have a by far greater German population and more completely Germanized Slavs under the admirable Prussian school system, the educational influence of three years' military training,¹ and the general high standard of Prussia's judiciary and administrative institutions, yet the Polish language and literature are extensively cultivated among the people by the Catholic Church, in the public schools by Polish teachers during the limited time that is allotted to their language, and in the higher schools for their intrinsic value and because it is a fundamental necessity for understanding the historical origin and development of all the provinces between the Elbe, or at least the Oder, and the Vistula. Indeed, the colonization by the German element of all that land is nothing but a protracted struggle, beginning as early as Charlemagne's time and not finished yet by far, to subject, to absorb, or to annihilate the Slavonic, principally Polish, population that has expanded over the territory vacated by the German tribes during the first migrations of peoples. For Leopold von Ranke's statement, "*Es sind zwei Völkerwanderungen, durch die der Umkreis der deutschen Gebiete aus dem inneren Germanien her bestimmt worden: die eine war nach dem Westen, die andere nach dem Osten gerichtet*," is absolutely correct. But while the Germanic tribes had pushed themselves forward toward the west and south in powerful streams and in a comparatively short period of time, the backward

¹ I venture this statement, which may seem paradoxical to those who are wont to consider the German military service as a waste of time and energy, removing hundreds of thousands of men from temporary production. But any military instructor who, like myself, has had an opportunity of observing many Polish recruits who come to the army as analphabets and leave it with a good equipment of German education, an enlarged horizon and excellent training, will surely agree with me.

flood toward the east against the natural course of Slavonic immigration occurred slowly, gradually, through many centuries, often interrupted by long pauses, historically not determined. While during the first migration Teutonic pagans pushed beyond the boundaries of Germania, it was Catholic Christianity, the victorious Roman Church, the monks, who accompanied the progress of the Germans; later on it was the Reformation which led thousands and thousands toward the East. It is, of course, not to be forgotten that a second main incentive was the craving for material wealth and worldly power which made such invasions very bloody, cruel, and unjust, full of epic battles and adventures so graphically described in Mickiewicz's *Konrad Wallenrod*, concerning the struggle between the Lithuanians and the Teutonic knights.

There is no Polish university in these Prussian provinces it is true, but Posen and Bromberg (Bydgoszcz), Danzig and Thorn, even Breslau, the capital of Silesia, and all the Upper Silesian towns, not to speak of its mostly Polish villages, have still very strong Polish traits and traces. The concessions made to Polish education especially and Slavonic languages and literatures generally, the importance attributed to these branches in Prussia appear from the strong Slavonic departments not only at the eastern universities of Breslau and Königsberg, but also at the University of Berlin. It is a very characteristic fact that for the first time, so far as I know, a scholar in Slavonic languages, the famous Wladyslaw Nehring, has become rector magnificus of the University of Breslau (1893-94).

Prof. Karl Brugman, of Leipzig, in *Die Deutschen Universitäten*, edited by W. Lexis, says in regard to Slavonic philology in Germany: "Slavonic philology, that bloomed up in the countries of the Austrian Crown and is about as old as Germanic and Romance philology, can naturally not have such a broad ground in Germany as its sister disciplines. It has at present three full professorships, in Breslau, Leipzig, Berlin, occupied by Nehring, A. Leskien, whose principal merits lie in the domain of Slavonic grammar, and A. Brückner.¹ Besides the great successor of Miklosich (d. 1891), V. Jagić, who, besides an extraordinary many-sidedness in literary production, has done an exceedingly meritorious work in grammar as well as in editing revised texts and investigating topics of literary history, was at the University of Berlin for several years (1874-1880). The latter is the founder of the *Archiv für slav. Philologie* (founded in 1875), the central organ of that science."

As for the important rôle that the Slavonic element has been destined to play in German life, it appears from the history and literature of Germany, which are quite permeated with its influence, German historians never grow tired of showing the contrast of the two national characters; German poets and authors compare and contrast their

¹ In the research of the Baltic-Slavonic languages, the works of Leskien, A. Bezzenberger (Göttingue, Königsberg), and A. Brückner (Berlin) are foremost.

traits and peculiarities, their ideals of education and culture. No one has done it better from a German point of view than Gustav Freytag, himself born on the frontier of Upper Silesia and Russian Poland, at Kreuzburg, in his *Soll und Haben*, and especially in his classical historical novels *Die Ahnen* and *Bilder aus der deutschen Vergangenheit*.

PLAN AND ARRANGEMENT.

It is my particular task to give a report on the higher education in the different parts of Poland, and with special reference to the shaping of the methods of instruction and organization on the part of the three Governments, Russia, Austria, and Prussia, with a view to assimilating the Slavonic population to the Government policies, social traditions, and civilization of the three nations respectively.¹

For this undertaking it is necessary, first, to define more accurately the limits of the Kingdom of Poland at the time of her prosperity and of her decadence, while yet independent among the European nations; second, to give a sketch of the development of her educational facilities in the way of higher institutions of learning and universities during the period of her independence. Only from a comparison of her educational conditions while independent can we ascertain and realize her progress or retrogression in higher education after her partition, the changes wrought for good or for evil, the assimilation to or reaction against foreign influences, the transmutation of political and social ideals, the participation of the different classes in an education which is partly not their own, inoculated with ideals conceived by her conquerors in order to bring her children to a gradual mental and intellectual as well as physical subjection.

EXTENT OF POLAND.

At the period of her greatest prosperity under the later Jagiellos, Sigismund I, Sigismund II Augustus (1507-1572), the short interregnum and the brief nominal reign of Henry of Valois (1575), and the valiant Stephen Batory (1576-1586), Poland extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea, touching it at Akerman; from Bohemia, Moravia, Austria proper, Hungary, and the Danubian principalities to Russia beyond the Dnieper. The greatest length of the country from north to south was 713 English miles, and from east to west 693 miles. It embraced an area of about 282,000 English square miles, and this area in 1880 had a population of 24,000,000.

For our investigation, however, which concerns Polish soil and

¹ The present monograph is a summary of a more extensive work on Higher Education in Poland now in course of preparation, and to be published later through the regular channels of trade. The author begs to acknowledge assistance from Senator Michael Kruszk, of Milwaukee, on Galician secondary schools, and receipt of valuable printed material from the pedagogical and geographical societies of Lemberg.

Polish people proper, we must exclude all the country which was not Polish in spirit and nationality, though at certain times it belonged to the republic by conquest. Thus that part of Kijowska which lies beyond the Dnieper, including the famous old city of Kief, one of the cradles of Russia, was ceded by the Crown to the latter country by the treaty of Andruszowo, 1667, and was never gotten back. Kief is consequently a purely Russian university, which will find no place in our treatise on higher education in Poland.¹

Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu, in his unsurpassed work, *The Empire of the Tsars and the Russians*, has best expressed this idea, saying: "Separated from Great Russia at the time of the Tartar invasion, Little Russia was through five centuries subject to Poland and Lithuania, not to much purpose. Only the polished surface—the nobility of Kief, Volhynia, Podolia—became Polonized. It is owing preeminently to the Greek orthodox rite that the bulk of the people, the immense majority of the inhabitants of Kief and Ukraina, have turned out quite as Russian as the people of Moscow." Leroy-Beaulieu's clever translator, Zénaïde A. Ragozin, shows in a footnote (I, p. 118) that the statistician, Tshubinsky, who has published some very detailed statistical tables on this very subject, has found out that the Poles could not muster 100,000 strong in the above three governments put together. Even making allowance for some exaggeration in the Russian documents, still so much remains that the figure of the genuinely Polish population is extremely low. In those three governments the number of Catholics, among whom there certainly are non-Polonized Little Russians, amounted to scarcely 400,000, or less than a seventh of the entire population (16.94 per cent). In these same three governments the number of Israelites rose to over 750,000. Unfortunately, Mme. Ragozin extends this calculation also to Lithuania and White Russia, i. e., to all the provinces annexed in one of the three divisions of Poland, without any statistical proof.

Smolenska also, with the important city of Smolensk, an object of strife between Lithuania, Poland, on one hand and Russia on the other, was transferred to Russia forever by the treaty of Andruszowo. Nor was Inflanka, or Livonia, with the old Hanseatic city of Riga, though acquired by Poland in 1561, ever Polish in spirit, or sympathy, or civilization.

Poland, in the strict sense of the term, also called the Crown of Poland (Korona), consisting of Great Poland (Wielkopolska) with the principal cities of Posen (Poznań), dating from the earliest period of the Republic, and Warsaw (Warszawa), which became the capital of the country as late as the reign of Sigismund III, and of Little Poland (Małopolska) with the famous old capital Cracow (Kraków), was united with Lithuania (Litwa) by the marriage of Jadwiga, the Polish

¹ We shall, however, learn later that this university, after the suppression of Warsaw, was the greatest resort of Polish students.