

PREFACE.

FACTS seem the thing most needed now in regard to Hungary. In my journey through the country, I had unusual advantages for observing thoroughly the condition and feelings of the *masses* of the Hungarian people; and, as no English or American traveller has mingled much in their social life since PAGET in 1835, it is hoped the experiences here given will be of the more value. The effect of my observations upon myself, has been to call forth from my heart of hearts, a sympathy for this heroic and unfortunate People. I find all, which as a Republican, I had longed to see in Europe—a nation educated practically for freedom, passionately loving it, ready to peril all to gain it—a nation, too, of singularly generous and manly character.

Still I do not forget, that on this Hungarian question, as on every other, good and true men may differ in opinion. And I have thought I could not better help on the cause of Truth and Justice, than by simply presenting

facts, whether they told against one side or the other. I think the book will not be found to have a *partisan* air.

Of course, after a man has been imprisoned for thirty days in a filthy dungeon, on a frivolous pretext, and has been badgered and worried for three weeks after, as if he were an escaped highwayman, it is not to be expected he should look at that subject, at least, as a purely abstract and philosophical question. Yet, neither here nor elsewhere, do I think I have misstated facts.

In reference to names of persons, and of smaller villages and estates within the country, I have been obliged to be very careful, for fear of evil consequences to my friends and acquaintances, from our intercourse.

Just before putting the work to press, I have to acknowledge the receipt, from friends in Vienna, of some valuable tables of the latest statistics of Hungary. They will be found in the Appendix.

This book makes no claim to any very elaborate, or historical character. The author will be abundantly satisfied, if this passing picture of Hungary Enslaved form the material for the historian, who shall write some day of HUNGARY DELIVERED.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.—Vienna—Its lively Appearance—Reforms in Education—Conversation with Chief of Police—His Dilemma.....	11
CHAPTER II.—Journey on the Danube—Anticipations—The "Austrian Lloyd"—Steamboats—English Engineers—Scenery—Lobau—Gate to Hungary—Presburg—Mill-boats.....	17
CHAPTER III.—Gonyo—Komorn—Sacked Villages—Fortifications of Komorn—Its weak Points—Gran—Visegrad—The Blocksberg—First Impressions of Pesth.....	24
CHAPTER IV.—Pesth—Beggars—Marks of Bombardment—Lifeless Appearance—Diminution of Population—Siege of Ofen—Fault in Strategy—Different Accounts—The Result—The Night-scene in the Bombardment—Present Aspect.....	29
CHAPTER V.—Society in Pesth—Talkativeness—Wit—Natural Eloquence—Chat with a Workman—With a "Conservative"—Their feeling for their Country—A Saddler—A Clerk—Jokes—Hit at Paper Money—At the Finance Minister—Espionage—Oppression.....	34
CHAPTER VI.—Comforts of Pesth—Tiger Hotel—Austrian Military Works—The Neugebäude—The Town Hall—Injuries in the Houses—Madame Maderspach—"Running the Gauntlet"—Suicide of her Husband.....	34

	PAGE
CHAPTER VII.—Kossuth—Opinions of him—Of his Faults—Conservatives' view of his Character—His Influence—Eloquence—Instance of the People's Affection for him in Hungary—Another in Vienna—Description of his Oratory—Grand Effort in Parliament—His Mistakes—His present Course.....	46
CHAPTER VIII.—Gorgey—Contrast to Kossuth—His striking Character—Reply to Kossuth's Offer—His coldness of Manner—Anecdote of Lady—Pride—His last military Operations—Retreat—Treachery—Scene near Debreczin—His Speech—Motives of his Conduct—His Reward—Anecdote of two Honveds—Hatred toward him.....	56
CHAPTER IX.—Rail-road to Szolnok—Roads of Hungary—Projected Rail-roads—Austrian "Improvements"—Effects from bad Roads—Causes—Scenery on this Road—First sight of a Village—Houses—Fences—Peasants—Their Costume—Szolnok in the War.....	65
CHAPTER X.—The Theiss—Its Importance—The Channel—Canals—Scenery—Talk with a Farmer—The Robot—Love for Kossuth—Feelings towards Austria—Farm-machines—Hungarian "Swells"—Landing—Welcome.....	74
CHAPTER XI.—A Village—"Tracks"—Dogs—Character of People—Hospitality—Fine Appearance—The Women—Incident—Ujhazy—The Exiles—Affection for them.....	83
CHAPTER XII.—The Puszta—Permits for Shooting—A Ride—The Wagon and Horses—Indian Corn—"Johnny-Cakes"—Lucerne—Chamomile—Rape-seed—Melons—Prairie—White Cattle—Buffaloes—The Csikos—Kossuth's Influence on them—Hungarian Horses—Hogs—Arrival—Supper—Smoking.....	89
CHAPTER XIII.—A Hungarian Horse—Deficiencies—The Farm—Dung Fuel—Under-ground Granaries—Knowledge of America—"Kossuth-notes"—The Crops—Fruits—Similarity to American Productions—The Vine—The Tokay—Its Preparation—The Wine Trade—Resemblance to America in Climate—Causes.....	100
CHAPTER XIV.—A Peasant—Characteristic Remark—His Cottage—The Rooms—Furniture—Wardrobe—Sheep-skin Robes—His Wages and general Condition—Effect of Manumission.....	111

	PAGE
CHAPTER XV.—A Gentleman—His Comforts—A Dinner—The Courses—"Yankee Fritters"—Popped Corns—Table Talk—The Battles—Ride again—Sleep—Musquitoes—A Preventive—The Musquito-root.....	117
CHAPTER XVI.—An Aristocrat—Conversation—Freedom from feudal Burdens—Leasing—Opinion of Kossuth—Discontent—My Journey—Generous Hospitality—Primitive Village—The Clergyman—Condition of Peasants—Their Elections—Effects of agricultural life on Health, Manliness, &c.—Hungarian Diet—Temperance—The Meals—Drinks—Smoking—A Drive—Visits—Talk with Farmers—Supper with Peasants—Speeches—Toasts.....	123
CHAPTER XVII.—The hopes for Freedom—The Jazygos and Cumanians—Their Origin—History—Number—Religion—Political Position—Democracy—Government—Elections for Officers—All Equal—Privileges—Burdens.....	136
CHAPTER XVIII.—Haidnek-tribe—Clergyman—Vine Garden—Conversation—Accounts of Kossuth—Superstitions about him—A Martial Population—Kindness of an old Woman—Russians—Feelings towards them—Incident—Talk between a Russian Officer and the Clergyman—Haynau—His Farm.....	141
CHAPTER XIX.—Haidnucks—Church Service—Religious Character of the Nation—"The Magyar God"—Incident near Debreczin—Bibles—English Mission—Jews—Origin of Haidnucks—Their Political Rights—Government—Right of "Veto"—Effects—Their Soldiers—The Number.....	147
CHAPTER XX.—The Peasants—Relation of Hungary to Austria—Feudalism—Serfdom—Number of Peasants—Size of Farms—Feudal Rents—Burdens—Taxes—Tithe—Effects on the Peasants—Their Privileges—Rights—Wallach-Bauer.....	156
CHAPTER XXI.—The Peasants—Of the Magyars—Serfdom in Siebenburgen—Effects there of Manumission—Value of Feudal Labor in Hungary—Efforts of "Emancipation Party"—Obstacles—Bill passed in Session of 1832—Privileges of the Peasant—Act of Parliament in 1843.....	164
CHAPTER XXII.—An Attention—A Village Belle—Appearance of Ladies—Wallach Villages—Physique of Wallachs—Costume—Origin—Religion—Superstition—Number—Wallachs of Transylvania—Contests with Hungarians—Act of Parliament in July—Speech of Szemere—"Nationality Question"—Language—Their present feeling towards Austria—German Villages—Number—Colonizing.....	174

	PAGE
CHAPTER XXIII.—Ride on the Pusztá—Grandeur of Scenery—Monotony—Influence on National Character—Exaggerated Feeling—Monotheism—Nomad Tendencies—Cattle Drivers—Robbers—Their Daring—Cattle—Hogs—Sheep—Export of Wool—Mirage.....	185
CHAPTER XXIV.—DEBRECZIN—Wide Streets—Classic Vases—Crypt Architecture—Prosperity of People—Agrarianism—Socialism—Manners—Greetings—Courtesy— <i>Outre</i> Habits—Dresses—Bracelets—Intensity of Feeling—Insanity—Scene at a Dinner Party.....	194
CHAPTER XXV.—PROTESTANT CHURCH—Interview with Clergyman—History—Treaty of 1606—Treaty of Linz—Persecutions in 1670—Generosity of Catholics—Attack of Haynau—Constitution of Church—Superintendents—Lay Members.....	203
CHAPTER XXVI.—Edict of Haynau—Objects of it—Dangers to the Church—Appeal to Christians in America.....	211
CHAPTER XXVII.—DEBRECZIN AND NEIGHBORHOOD—Weak Austrian Garrison—Reason—Visit to a "Conservative"—To a Landlord—His Feudal Rents—Ride to a Village—Mud—The Judge—A Peasant's House-keeping—Clothing—Talk about Kossuth and Austria—Ideas of America—Legends about Kossuth—Anecdote of the Tobacco Law.....	213
CHAPTER XXVIII.—NOBLES OF HUNGARY—Noble Stone Cutters—Freemen—Their Rights and Privileges—Injustice—Effects—On Roads—On Business, &c.—Counterbalancing Advantages—Number—"Free Communities"—Corporations—Burdens on Freemen—My experience of the Effects—Feelings of the People towards them—Kossuth's Party.....	228
CHAPTER XXIX.—Debreczin University—Students—"Soldier Professors"—Buildings—Hall of Independence—Unexpected Welcome—Concert—National Songs—Feeling—The Atras—Unmeaning Words—Analysis of Hats—Clergy—Harshness to them—Contrivances—A Walk in the City—"Crown Keeper"—An English Note—Interview with a Lady—Magyar Language—Protestant Bishop.....	235
CHAPTER XXX.—CITIZENS IN HUNGARY—Talk with a Merchant—Number of Cities—Of Market Towns—Rights of a Citizen—Common Council—"Rotten Boroughs"—Influence of Crown—Burdens of a City—Reform in 1848.....	246

	PAGE
CHAPTER XXXI.—HUNGARIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT—"State Rights"—Local Governments—Rights of each State (Comitat)—Power of <i>Veto</i> —Governor—States Legislature—Its Powers—Its Independence—Extra Legislation—State's Election—District Government—Parish Government—Village Officers—Salaries—Effects of the System—Evils—Reforms.....	251
CHAPTER XXXII.—A GENTLEMAN'S ESTATE—Ride—Introduction—The Family—A sad Story—Their passionate Conversation—The Dinner—The Park—Gardening—Crops—Supper—Tone of Voice—Singing—Reflections—Dramatic Air—Adieux.....	261
CHAPTER XXXIII.—GROS WARDEIN—Gipsies—Mr. Borrow—Hall Storm—Sufferings of the Catholic Clergy—Their noble Conduct—Revenues of Clergy—The City—Manufacturing—Visits—Conversation—Gloominess—Call upon General G.—A Dinner—An important Event—Unpleasant Interview.....	269
CHAPTER XXXIV.—THE ARREST—Dinner—Interruption—Ride with Gens d'Arme—Search of Baggage—The Castle—The Call—Keyhole Talk—"Night Thoughts"—Trial—Examination—Badgering—Dangerous Aspects—Cross Questions—Conspiracy—Proofs—Defence.....	276
CHAPTER XXXV.—THE PRISON—The Night—Reflections—Talk with Prisoners—Appearance of Cell—Chances for Escape—A French Major—Diet—Wine—Efforts for Escape—Letters—Kindness of fellow Prisoner—A generous Catholic Priest—Second Examination—Another Dialogue—Prison Life—My fellow Prisoners—The Young Countess—Her Trial.....	290
CHAPTER XXXVI.—PRISON LIFE—Plain Words to the Judge—Journal—My Wallach Comrade—Austrian Policy—Window Views—Lecture on Democracy—The old Hussar—Arrival—"Running the Gauntlet"—Peasants—Prison Rooms—The Castle—The imprisoned Clergyman—Tricks—Inquisition—Accusation—Defence—Czet.....	304
CHAPTER XXXVII.—PRISON LIFE—Now Comrade—Cigars—The Croat Lawyer—Last Trial—"Confession of Faith"—Letter from Mr. McCurdy—Post Office Management—Birth-day—Dinner—Quarrels—A droll Priest—Release—Good-byes.....	320
CHAPTER XXXVIII.—FREEDOM—First Emotions—My Escort—Conversation—His weak Point—Night Ride—Bearing of the Peasants—Lucky <i>Rencontre</i> —Locomotive—The Spy—English Welcome—Hotel in Pesth—Diplomatic Hospitality—Causes of Arrest—Visit to the Missionary—A Dinner—Spies again—Journey to Vienna.....	335

- CHAPTER XXXIX.—VIENNESE POLICE—Mr. M'Curdy—His manly Proceedings—
Interview with Police Director—Sentence—My Acquaintances—Talk with a
"Liberal"—American "Democracy"—Last meeting with the Director—His Polite-
ness—Attentions in Linz—Diplomatic Lying—Farewell to Austria!..... 357
- CHAPTER XL.—THE ADMINISTRATION SINCE THE REVOLUTION—Difficulties—How
met—Scourgings—Executions—Falseness—Attacks on old Institutions—On the
Church—Police Regulations—Taxes—Old Taxation—Kossuth Notes—Tobacco Law
—Effects 358
- CHAPTER XLI.—AUSTRIAN ADMINISTRATION—Tax on Wine—Improvements of
Roads—Oppression of Croats—Census Returns—Number of Magyars—Cause—Ill-
Treatment of Peasants—Neglect of Magnates—Exactions upon the Jews—Colonizing
—Motives—Effects of the Administration 371
- CHAPTER XLII.—KOSSUTH'S ADMINISTRATION—Kossuth, Minister of Finance—
Difficulties—In Taxation—In levying Forces—Measures—National Bank—Issue of
Paper Money—His plan for Militia—The Articles—Establishment of Manufactories
—Kossuth "Prime Minister"—"Committee of Defence"—Kossuth "Governor"—
Declaration of Independence—His Difficulties with the Generals—Defeat of Temes-
var—Effects—Facts of the Resignation—Address—His Title of "Governor"—Late
Attacks upon him—His Explanation—Condition of the Armies—His Motives—The
Administration 382
- CHAPTER XLIII.—DELIVERANCE OF HUNGARY—Union of the People—Number of
able-bodied Men—Reason—Soldiers in Austrian Armies—Spirit of the Nation—The
Future—Difficulties—Want of Arms—Russians—Hopes for Hungary..... 400