

## P R E F A C E.

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BEFORE proceeding with this Work, there are one or two matters which I may as well explain to the reader. Such a mark of my confidence will, I trust, incline him not only to treat me more leniently, but enable him also to judge of me more fairly, and so accuse me only of those faults of which I am really guilty.

I would not willingly deceive him in anything. I am deeply interested in the welfare of Hungary, and I have thought that one great means of promoting it would be to extend the knowledge of that country in the west of Europe, and more especially in England. But although I naturally wish that others should partake of the interest which I feel, I have not thought it either just or wise to conceal, or to gloss over, faults existing either in the country, its institutions, or its

inhabitants. I know there are those who think, that "to write up a country," a traveller should describe everything in its most favourable light; I am not of that opinion,—I do not believe that a false impression can ever effect any lasting good.

On the other hand, I must guard my Hungarian friends against the suspicion that I have "set down aught in malice." I know that many of them will feel sufficiently sore at seeing national defects held up to the gaze of foreigners; but I think the wiser of them will easily forgive me, when they reflect that others would have been sure to find out these defects if I had not, and might perhaps have discussed them with less charity. I do not anticipate that my opinions will find favour in the eyes of any party or any sect, but they have been independently formed and honestly expressed: if correct, they may be of some use; if erroneous, they will pass away and be forgotten without doing much harm. To one merit I may safely lay claim—I have not in a single instance betrayed a private confidence, nor, as far as I am aware, written a line which can give just cause of pain to any private individual. I have been

admitted into a great number of houses, I have observed the habits and customs of many families; but if any obnoxious remark was to be made, I have always removed it so far from the real scene of action as to render it impossible, even for the most malicious, to trace it to its source. That I have attacked parties and sects, that I have criticised bodies of men and national institutions, and that I have spoken freely of public characters, is true; but, in having done so, I consider myself responsible to no one; such matters are public property, and fair subjects for public animadversion.

That I have fallen into many errors I feel certain—not that I have spared either time or trouble to avoid them; but seeing how many other travellers have committed, which I can detect, I cannot hope that I shall be able to escape clear from their scrutiny. Instead of asking them to spare me, I invite them to correct me. I may smart under the lash, but my object, the elucidation of truth, will be advanced, and if their remarks are made in a fair spirit I shall not complain.

With respect to the means I enjoyed for acquiring information, I may state that I have visited

Hungary on several occasions, that in all I have spent about a year and a half in the country, and that, during that time, I travelled over the greater part of it. Without being able to speak any of the three or four languages properly indigenous to Hungary, I was sufficiently master of German, which is spoken by every one above the rank of the peasantry, and often by them too, to enable me to converse with the Hungarians without difficulty or restraint. From many of them I received the greatest marks of confidence and friendship, and to them I owe it, that I have been able to enter so fully into the present position of Hungarian affairs. That I do not acknowledge these favours more particularly by naming those to whom I am obliged, the reader must not suppose the result of ingratitude on my part, as I am silent solely from a wish not to involve any one in the disagreeable consequences which might spring from his supposed agreement with the opinions which I have expressed.

As I have always felt that written descriptions of the physical characteristics of a country and people convey, after all, but imperfect notions

of them, I thought myself very fortunate when Mr. Hering agreed to accompany me for the purpose of illustrating whatever might be distinctive, or curious, or beautiful. On my return to England, circumstances occurred which rendered it so doubtful when I should be enabled to complete my work that, anxious that Mr. Hering should have an opportunity to make known his talents, and willing in any way to spread an acquaintance with Hungary among the English, I placed the sketch-book at his disposal, and requested him to make use of it in any way he saw fit. The result has been the beautiful volume of "Sketches on the Danube, in Hungary and Transylvania." I have thought myself justified, in three or four instances, in reproducing the sketches already published by Mr. Hering; and, twice I have borrowed from the productions of native artists (in the Pest races and Fiume); but, with these exceptions, the illustrations here given are quite new. The reader must not accuse me of plagiarism if he finds strong marks of similarity between some passages of these volumes, and the introductory pages of the "Sketches." At Mr. Hering's request, I wrote for him those

short notices of the subjects of his engravings; and I have preferred repeating them here, to breaking the thread of the narrative by referring the reader to another work.

The map is coloured somewhat in imitation of that of Csaplovics, to whom any merit it may possess is due; and, although I am aware that it is not strictly accurate, yet it is a sufficiently near approximation to the truth, to give a clear idea of one of the greatest national questions in Hungary,—the division of its population into several distinct races, for the most part inhabiting different districts.

To save the trouble of quoting in the body of the Work the authors from whom I have derived information, and to indicate to such as are desirous of a further acquaintance with Hungary, the means by which they may acquire it, I add a list of those Authors, with the titles of their books, in this place.

Geschichte des Ungarischen Reichs, von Johann Christian von Engel, 5 vols. 8vo. 1834.—Die Geschichte Ungarns, von Dr. J. F. Schneller, 12mo. 1829.—Gemälde von Ungarn, von Johann von Csaplovics, 2 vols. 8vo. 1829.—Neuste statistisch-

geographische Beschreibung des Königreichs Ungarn, Croatien, Slavonien und der Ungarischen Militär-grenze, 1 vol. 8vo. 1832.—Erläuterungen der Grundgesetze für die Militär-gränze, von Mathias Stopfer, k. k. Gränz-Werwaltungs-Oberlieutenant, 1 vol. 8vo. 1831.—Ungarns gesetzgebende Körper auf dem Reichstage zu Pressburg im Jahr 1830, von Joseph Orosz, 2 vols. 8vo. 1831.—Terra Incognita, Notizen über Ungarn, von J. Orosz, 1 vol. 8vo. 1835.—Ueber den Credit, vom Grafen Stephan Széchenyi; aus dem Ungarischen übersetzt von Joseph Vojdisek; 2nd. ed. 1 vol. 8vo. 1830.—Malerische Reise auf dem Waagflusse, von Freyherrn von Mednyánsky, 1 vol. 4to. 1826.—Erzählungen, Sagen, und Legenden aus Ungarns Vorzeit, von Freyherrn, von Mednyánsky, 1 vol. 8vo. 1829. As guide-book I always used Rudolph von Jenny's Handbuch für Reisende in dem österreichischen Kaiserstaate, Zweite Auflage, von Adolf Schmidl, 1835. The second volume treats of Hungary, and is a work of great labour and wonderful accuracy. To the English traveller down the Danube, especially if he does not read German, Mr. Murray's "Handbook for Southern Germany" will be found exceedingly useful.

To the artists and engravers who have been employed in this Work, I have to return my best thanks for the manner in which they have executed their several duties, and particularly to Mr. Alexander Fussel, who has transferred Mr. Hering's sketches to the wood, and to Mr. Orrin Smith, who has cut them. Nor can I in justice refuse my printer his share in these thanks, for the success of wood-cuts depends almost as much on the skill and attention of the printer as on those of the artist and engraver.

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