The development of Hungarian constitutional liberty

Andrássy Gyula
Title: The development of Hungarian constitutional liberty

Author: Andrassy Gyula

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The Development of Hungarian Constitutional Liberty.

BY

COUNT JULIUS ANDRÁSSY.

Translated from the Hungarian by C. ARTHUR AND ILONA GINEVER.

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**THE CREATION OF THE HUNGARIAN STATE.**

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HE present volume is only part of the book projected by the author, dealing with the reasons for the preservation and development of Hungarian constitutional liberty. It treats of the period from the entry of the Hungarians into the country now known as Hungary, down to the end of the reign of Matthias II., that is to say, from 896 to 1619 A.D.

As English readers may not be altogether familiar with the course of Hungarian history, we have compiled a short list of dates of the most important events. It may also be desirable to say a few words about the noble class in Hungary, as that class differed greatly from the English nobility. In Hungary all the members of the clans that took part in the Conquest, and their descendants, were styled nemes, noble, and their class alone was endowed with full political rights. In course of time others, who had displayed great military or other talents, might also rise to the ranks of the nobility. Politically speaking the nobles were the nation. At first all the nobles were equal, and attempts were frequently made to maintain this equality. No distinguishing titles were used by the
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nobles (with two exceptions) until after 1526, their family name being their sole distinction. All had the right to attend the Diet, which was at first merely a mass meeting of all who were endowed with full political rights. In time, however, differences arose; some nobles grew more wealthy and powerful than others, and the noble class became divided into the class of the greater nobles or magnates (barones et magnates), and that of the lesser nobles or gentry (nobiles). In addition there were the prelates of the church (domini praelati). The use of titles became customary in the time of the Habsburgs. As the law of primogeniture has never prevailed in Hungary, the rights of a noble (including his title) descended to all his sons.

Our best thanks are due to Sir Courtenay Ilbert, K.C.S.I., for kindly reading through the M.S. and checking any references to English constitutional history.

C. ARTHUR AND ILONA GINEVER.
LIST OF DATES.

889.—Árpád elected leader by the tribes.
896.—The Hungarians settle in their present home.
1001.—St. Stephen embraces Christianity and is crowned king.
1222.—The charter known as the Golden Bull issued.
1241-2.—Invasion of the Tartars.
1301.—Extinction of the Árpád dynasty.
1308.—Ascent of the Angevins.
1342.—Coronation of Louis the Great (died 1382).
1366.—First war against the Turks.
1428-56.—Hunyadi’s wars against the Turks.
1458.—Election of Matthias Corvinus.
1478.—Peace of Olmütz.
1490.—Death of Matthias Corvinus.
1490-1516.—The Jagello dynasty.
1526.—Disastrous battle of Mohács.
1527.—Ferdinand Habsburg crowned and the country split into two parts.
1538.—Peace of Nagyvárad.
1540.—Death of John, the last national king of Hungary.
1551.—Death of Martinuzzi.
1571.—Stephen Báthory elected Duke of Transylvania.
1605.—Bocskay elected Duke of Transylvania.
1608.—Coronation of Matthias II. (died 1619).
1613.—Gabriel Bethlen elected Duke of Transylvania (died 1629).
PART I.

The Creation of the Hungarian State.