

C H A P. V.

POPULATION AND INHABITANTS—REVENUE—COMMERCE—
AND MILITARY FORCE.

ON what principles the population of Hungary was formerly calculated, I know not; but on the *conscription* under Joseph II. in 1785; the common estimates were found to be much too low. Windish, an Hungarian, in his *Geography of Hungary*, published in 1780, says, "The population, according to a new accurate examination, is, 3,170,000, excluding Transylvania, Sclavonia, and Dalmatia." And the celebrated Busching says, the population of Hungary in 1776 was 3,170,000; and of Transylvania, Sclavonia, and Croatia, 2,000,000: this gives only 5,170,000. Mr. Zimmermann, in 1787, in his *Present State of Europe*, probably follows the same calculations as Mr. Windish, as he states Hungary alone at 3,170,000, and Illyria at 620,000, which is 3,790,000; and with Transylvania, which he estimates at 1,250,000 only, 5,040,000. In a geographical work, and the most common one in our island, printed in 1792, it is said, "Both Hungaries at present, exclusive of Transylvania and Croatia, are thought to contain about two millions and a half of inhabitants."

But

But the committee appointed by the Diet of 1791, to enquire into things of this nature, some of whose notes I have had in my hands, estimate the population of Hungary in its greatest extent, but always excluding Transylvania, at about eight millions, which they add is 1777 souls per square mile*: no doubt this estimate is founded on the conscription of 1785. The only detailed accounts yet made public, founded upon the same data, as far as my knowledge extends, are in Mr. Slötzer's *Staats Anzeigen*; and in No. 61 of this work there is this table, which gives a population in round numbers of seven millions and a half.

3,625,617	Persons under twelve years old:	{	1,894,309 females.
			1,831,308 males.
3,218,039	Persons above twelve years old,	{	1,620,234 females.
	married and unmarried:		1,581,805 males.
140,340	Widowers,	}	not included in the preceding articles.
167,132	Widows,		
19,103	Spiritual persons - - -	{	14,240 males.
			4,863 females.
34,790	Nobility of both sexes.		
17,213	Public officers and gentlemen (<i>Baamte & Honoratiore</i> s):		
96,533	Absent for an unlimited time:	{	63,120 males.
			33,413 females.
79,371	Absent upon public business for a limited time, only males.		
25,377	Jews; forming 4375 families.		
<u>7,417,415</u>	Total population.		

* German mile ?

These

These live in towns and in the country, in houses and cottages, and have

1,403,120 Fire hearths.

Of this total population there are

442,411 Citizens and mechanics: $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 304,106 \text{ in towns.} \\ 137,305 \text{ in the country.} \end{array} \right.$

892,134 House-holders, peasants, &c. (*Hausväter, Bauren, und Halb-Bauren*) occupied in agriculture.

4,210 Estates and *prædia*.

But another table in No. 47 of the same work makes it only 7,008,574, though supposed to be taken from the same source. As this table specifies some articles not mentioned in the other, I lay it likewise before my readers, and hope in an Appendix to be able to assign the reason of these differences.

99 Cities.

548 Market towns (*Mark-flecken*).

10,776 Villages.

1,200 *Prædia*.

1,053,353 Houses.

1,314,362 Families: $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1,299,141 \text{ Christian.} \\ 15,221 \text{ Jewish!} \end{array} \right.$

7,008,574 Total population: of which $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 6,933,485 \text{ Christians.} \\ 75,089 \text{ Jews.} \end{array} \right.$
there are - - -

13,802 Spiritual persons, male sex.

162,974 Nobility, male sex.

4,387

the articles, and be inclined to think them sufficient to invalidate the whole.

In the first table the nobility of <i>both sexes</i> is given at	34,790
In the second, the <i>male sex alone</i>	at 162,974
Officers and gentlemen in the first	at 17,213
In the second	at 4,387
The Jews in the first at 4,375 families	25,377
In the second at 15,221 do.	75,089

However these tables differ, they agree in this, that the population of Hungary is above seven millions; and we have already said, that the committee appointed to enquire into this subject, who had no doubt the conscription lists before them, and access to the best sources of information, estimated in their report the population at near eight millions, which is about double the common estimate.

Mr. De Luca mentions * a third table, which he says was laid before the Emperor Joseph II. on the termination of the *conscription* in 1786, by the Hungarian chancery, which gives the population at 7,001,153; which is thus detailed:

Christian families	—	—	—	1,299,301
Jewish ditto	—	—	—	15,208
				<hr/>
			Number of families	1,314,509

* Geographisches Handbuch, vol. iv. p. 189.

STATISTICS.

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Spiritual persons					13,728
Nobility					162,495
Public officers and gentlemen					4,396
Citizens, and tradesmen in the country					8,656
Peasants					584,226
Heirs and successors of the citizens, &c.					511,561
<i>Häuslers</i> (occupiers of houses?), gardeners, and day labourers					788,014
Absent					
Unknown					4,125
On public business					183,830
Children from one to twelve years old					983,175
Ditto from thirteen to seventeen					266,853
The female sex					3,414,366
				Total of Christians	6,926,025
				Jews	75,128
					7,001,153
Of which there are					
			{ married		1,398,705
			unmarried, and widowers		2,113,784
Abroad					95,892
Unknown (where)					3,842
Strangers (from) within the <i>conscripted</i> countries					17,165
from the hereditary Austrian dominions				{ males	106,557
				females	14,104
					120,661
from other states				{ males	51,147
				females	813
					51,960

Mr. De Luca then makes the observation, that conscription tables generally fall short of the real population, rather than exceed; and concludes by saying, that we may fix, notwithstanding the differences of the tables, the population of Hungary, including the *military borders*, and Transylvania, at about nine millions. From which if we deduct one million and a half, his estimate for the population of Transylvania, seven millions and a half will remain as *his* estimate of the population of Hungary; giving 6,974,000 to Hungary in the most limited sense of the word, and 2,500 inhabitants for each German square mile; 259,000 to Sclavonia, with 700 per square mile; and 267,000 to Croatia, with 500 per square mile.

These inhabitants are of various distinct nations. The proximity of this country to the storehouse of human kind, from whence proceeded the immense swarms which over-ran the greatest part of Europe for several centuries about the Christian æra, must have rendered it one of the first sufferers amongst European nations on these emigrations westward. When the Roman arms made their way into Pannonia and Dacia, these countries were inhabited by a Sclavonian race; these were the original inhabitants of Hungary. But all the great eastern swarms have made it their residence in their march westward. The Vandals, the Goths, the Huns, the Gepedes, and again the Goths, the Longobards, the Avars, and lastly the Magyars, the fathers of the present race of Hungarians. Even in more modern times, of which history has given us a pretty
distinct

distinct account, upon wars and dissensions amongst the more eastern nations, large bodies have emigrated hither to form settlements; as the Cumanians in the twelfth century: and the irruption of the Tartars in the thirteenth was the ruin of Hungary for a long time. To these emigrations we may in part attribute the variety of distinct people we at this day find in this kingdom; for the Hungarians, who seem to be an Asiatic swarm, and probably of Kalmuck origin rather than Finnish, who took possession of this country in the ninth century; and who were probably a tribe of that people who, several centuries before, had ravaged a great part of Europe under Attila, do not form above one-third of the inhabitants of Hungary*.

The Slavonians, who are the *Aborigines*, are the most numerous, and may be divided into different races or tribes: as the Croats, Illyrians, Ruffians, Vandals, and Bohemians.

The Germans form, according to Mr. Slötzer's *Staats Anzeigen*, a ninth of the inhabitants. It has been much controverted, whether these are the remains of some of the ancient emigrating swarms, or whether they are, though old, yet more modern colonies from Germany. It is too intricate an enquiry for me to involve myself

* Mr. De Luca says, in his *Statistical Tables*, published in 1793, that the Hungarians are the least numerous of the three nations. This I think is an erroneous and partial statement.

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in ; yet so far is pretty clear, that a part of them has been invited hither, by different Hungarian sovereigns, from various parts of Germany, to form settlements, with the view of increasing the population of the kingdom, diminished by its frequent wars ; and of civilising its inhabitants by the introduction of arts. That many Germans, on the invitation of Geysa II. settled themselves in Transylvania, in the twelfth century, and obtained from him great privileges, is well authenticated ; and many German colonies have been founded here in this very century : those planted by the Empress Theresa were principally from Swabia, Frankonia, and the Palatinate.

These different people do not live promiscuously together, but separate ; and in one district the traveller only meets with Hungarians, and in another district only with Slavonians ; it is likewise so with the Germans and Wallachians, as may be seen in the map that accompanies this work.

Besides these there are Jews, Greeks, Armenians, and zigeuners or gypsies, scattered about the kingdom.

Seven or eight millions of men, on a fertile soil, ought to make a respectable figure on the theatre of continental politics ; and Hungary has had its day, when the most powerful princes of Europe sought its alliance. In the fourteenth century, under Lewis the Great of Hungary, a greater man than Lewis the Great of France,

its

Var. b. of the Syst. Natur. If I had examined it more carefully, I believe I should have ventured to say it was a distinct species from the *Natrix vulgaris*: it not only varied in the characters mentioned by Laurentius, but the eyes were quite different. Near the baths I saw some rocks of compact limestone.

This county is endeavouring to promote the cultivation of silk-worms. Last year it produced five hundred pounds worth of silk; and some ribband-weavers have been enticed from Vienna to work it up. Attempts are likewise making to purify the native Natron, which is found in such great abundance in this part of Hungary. Some samples given me were very good; but I could not learn the price: and on this in commerce all depends.

I visited the prisons, and I found them but too full. The Wallachians are the most uncultivated and ferocious people of Hungary, and justice is obliged to be administered to them in all its horrors. In 1785 they rebelled in Transylvania, and with great cruelty murdered many of the nobility. Their priests, whom they call *Popes*, are uncommonly brutish, and it is calculated that in twenty executions there is always a *Pope*. Now, or till within a few years, the most frightful punishments were inflicted upon them, flaying, empaling, &c. &c. But the most shocking punishments I have read of, were those which were inflicted on the leaders of the peasants' war in the beginning of the sixteenth century in the Banat. They are too
frightful

frightful to detail. The chief, as king, was set upon a red hot iron throne, and an iron crown was put on his head, and a sceptre of the same in his hand, both red hot. In this state, half roasted, nine of his principal accomplices, nearly starved to death with hunger, were let loose upon him, with threats of instant death, if they did not fly upon and eat their pretended king. Six obeyed, and fell upon him and ate him. Three others who would not, were immediately cut to pieces. Yet under all this torment the unfortunate man never murmured!!

I know not if ever an English traveller was at Gros Wardein before; but I was here made as much of as though I had been a very great personage. I had invitations from all quarters; and the *Vicecomes*, or lieutenant of the county, was so kind as to offer me every assistance I could want; if I would take the trouble to examine the mountains towards Transylvania: but my time, unfortunately, would not permit me to extend my journey further, and I fixed my departure for next morning. The morning came, but not my horses; the Judge, or his substitute, got drunk, and forgot to give notice to the peasants; and it was ten o'clock before I set out. I took the same road I came, and returned to Debretzin. I stopped at the lake near Kis-maria, where the Natron is collected and purified; but there was nothing in the process worth relating. The *Székso* is collected on the sides of the lake, and in some other places: in dry weather,

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