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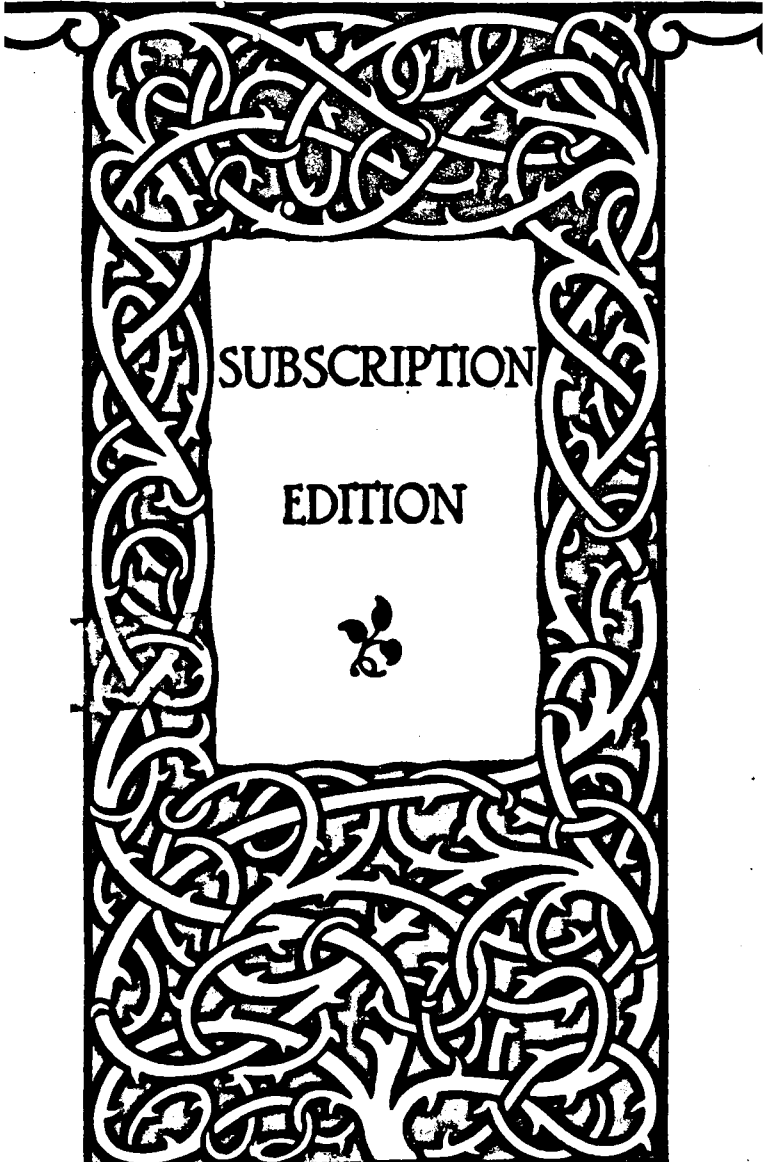
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# THE STORY OF THE NATIONS



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*Frontispiece.*

SALLY FROM FORTRESS OF SZIGETVÁR. (See p. 317.)

# HUNGARY

IN ANCIENT, MEDIÆVAL, AND  
MODERN TIMES

BY

ARMINIUS VAMBÉRY

PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BUDA-PESTH

WITH THE COLLABORATION OF

LOUIS HEILPRIN

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## PREFACE.

---

IN complying with the request of the publisher of the *Nations* Series to write the Story of Hungary, I undertook a task which was out of the range of my previous literary undertakings, which had for the most part been devoted to the geography, history, and philology of Central Asia. The principal reason which induced me to enter upon what is for me a new literary field, was my desire to make English readers acquainted with the record of my native country, and to present the various phases of the history of Hungary in the light best suited to attract the attention of the citizens of England, to whose opinion we Hungarians are by no means indifferent.

My willingness to prepare the present volume was further due to the fact, that it was not the *History*, but the *Story* of Hungary, I was asked to write; an undertaking in which I had simply to deal with the salient events, the most noteworthy personalities, and the most thrilling episodes in a narrative which covered nearly a thousand years, and was not called upon to consider the philosophical side of the history, or to discuss the deeper-lying motives or the less significant details of national action.



For a task such as that presented to me, I concluded that the knowledge and the ideas of a Hungarian man of letters were not inadequate; I have, nevertheless, had recourse, in certain instances, to the assistance of writers who had given special attention to our national history, with the idea of making as accurate as possible this *the first Story of Hungary written in English*.

The proof-reading has been entrusted to the care of Mr. Louis Heilprin, a gentleman who is evidently thoroughly familiar with the subject, and to whom I desire to express my obligations not only for the care he has taken with the proof reading, but also for his attention in securing in my English text the most accurate and most effective forms of expression.

I take this opportunity of expressing, also, my thanks for the kind co-operation of my countrymen, Messrs. Sebestyén, Csánki, Acsády, and Vargha.

A. V.



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