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A SHORT  
HISTORY OF SWITZERLAND

“Les Suisses sont assez sages pour n'avoir pas l'esprit de conquérans, qui est ordinairement l'esprit d'injustice.”

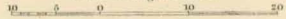
\* \* \* \* \*

“Les Suisses ont deux Religions dans leur País; c'est ce qui les divise quelquefois: mais ils n'ont qu'une liberté, qu'ils aiment souverainement; c'est ce qui les réunit toujours, et qui les réunira éternellement.”

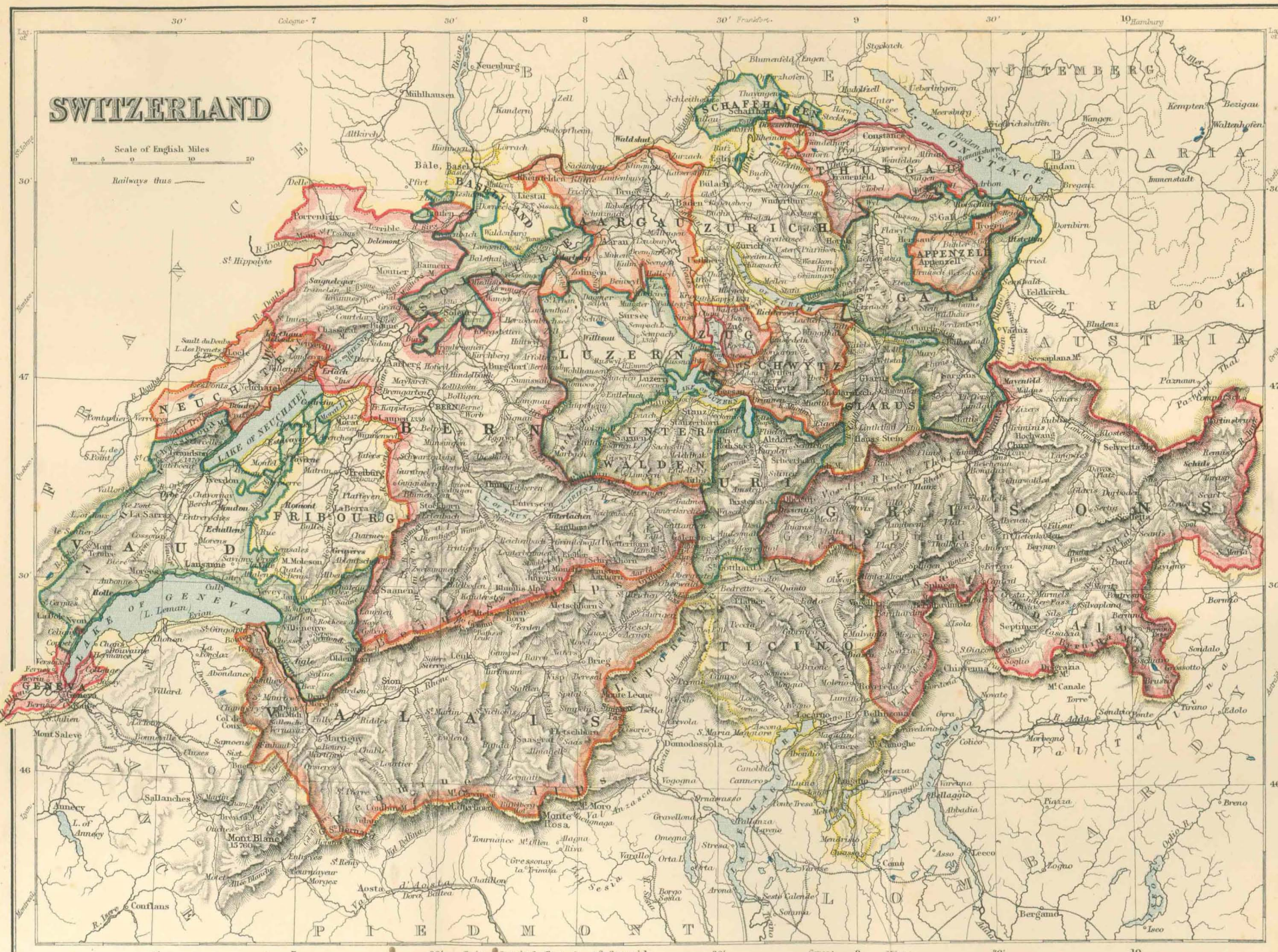
Extract from State Papers, Switzerland. No. 8. 15 Nov., 1690.

# SWITZERLAND

Scale of English Miles



Railways thus ———



Longitude East 8 of Greenwich

Swiss, Sonnenschein & Co. L<sup>ds</sup> London.

W. & A. Johnston Edinburgh and London.

A  
SHORT HISTORY  
OF  
SWITZERLAND

BY  
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TRANSLATED BY  
E. SALISBURY

WITH TWO COLOURED MAPS



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## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

HAVING been for some years engaged upon the Swiss State Papers preserved among the archives of the Public Record Office, it occurred to me that it would be of great interest to me in connection with that work, and possibly of some general use, to make an English translation of a thoroughly good and trustworthy history of Switzerland. Finding that Dr. Dändliker had published a short history of that country, as well as the larger one in three volumes, I decided (with the author's consent) to use the smaller work for the purpose, and have now completed the translation of the second edition, especially revised and annotated by Dr. Dändliker. I trust that it may help to arouse more interest among English readers in the past of the little land whose beauties are a never-failing source of pleasure to English travellers. The translation has been made in the spare moments of a busy life, and my only regret is that my knowledge of the subject has, I fear, been too limited to admit of my doing full justice to Dr. Dändliker's very excellent work.

My warmest thanks are due to the author for his hearty co-operation and helpful suggestions, especially in the matter of the Chronological Table (an abridged translation of that appended to the earlier edition), to M. Charles D. Bourcart, the Swiss Minister in London, for much valuable assistance in explaining knotty points, and to Mr. Hubert Hall of the

*Translator's Preface.*

Public Record Office, Secretary of the Royal Historical Society, through whose introduction I first undertook the work I have been doing for the Swiss Government, and without whose kindly counsel and encouragement the present translation would never have been attempted.

E. SALISBURY.

STREATHAM.

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

FOR some time past my *Manual of the History of the Swiss People* has been practically out of print. But the completion of a greater undertaking, a history of Switzerland in three volumes, prevented both author and publisher from taking in hand the publication of a new edition. Meanwhile, the experience and practical observations necessary for the elaboration of this extensive work furnished welcome suggestions and new lights for a useful remodelling of the smaller book.

Author and publisher were agreed that certain radical alterations must be made. As a matter of fact, it has been in many parts entirely re-written. Many portions of less importance or less interest have been abridged to make room for the fuller treatment of the more valuable sections. The description of the conditions and constitutional position of the Middle Ages, in particular (§ 13), the tradition of the origin of the Confederation (§ 17), where the stories in the Chronicle of the White Book are given in full, the description of constitutional conditions in the fourteenth century (§ 23), and the history of the fifteenth century, have been essentially enlarged. The last-mentioned portion, in accordance with the larger work, is so arranged that the section containing the "First Advances beyond the Alps" is separated from the history of the Milanese expeditions at the commencement of the sixteenth century, and treated in a separate section (§ 27) in chronological sequence; the conquest of the Aargau is described in a special

paragraph (§ 28), and the political movements in the interior at the time of the Covenant of Stans and of Hans Waldmann are similarly placed in chronological order (§ 33). Moreover the causes of the old Zurich War (§ 29), and those of the Burgundian Wars (§ 32), are described in more detail according to the latest researches. The history of the fifteenth, and also that of the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries have been almost re-cast on the model of the larger work, and the last section (§ 78) in particular has been completely remodelled.

Moreover, it was desired to make the representation more life-like and vivid than was the case with the first edition, and this without losing the original character of the little book which depended upon its concise form, a strict adherence to leading ideas and scientific arrangement of material, as well as a close interweaving of the history of politics with that of civilization. For this reason, for instance, care has been taken to describe our great battles of freedom, and also the struggle of the old Zurich War and of Milan, and the events of political wars in modern history, in detail. Here and there, especially in the history of the nineteenth century, one-sided judgments are modified and calmer consideration applied than in the larger work. Further, we aimed as far as possible at simplicity. Many useless quotations are therefore omitted, as well as the former tables,<sup>1</sup> and also the table of contents, unnecessary in a book of so small compass. The chronology seemed to us superfluous for the use of the work as a school-book; it is of more value if the pupil construct such a table for himself. On the other hand, a review of Federal affairs is given which may serve to illustrate these matters considerably. The references given in foot-notes to specially important or popular literature seemed to us desirable for the teacher and those desiring to pursue the subject; hence these are not shortened.

<sup>1</sup> An abridged chronological table has been added to the English translation.

*Author's Preface.*

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but on the contrary increased in number where possible. Finally, the publisher has endeavoured to give the little book a better setting, and has fulfilled modern requirements by the use of Roman type and the new orthography.

Thus, although the framework as a whole remains the same, in detail the book is to a great extent new, and so justifies the new title desired by the publisher.

My special thanks are due to Professor Dr. Gerold Meyer, of Knonau, who has been kind enough to allow me the use of his own copy of the first edition, corrected by himself for educational purposes. Although I only received it after my manuscript had gone to press, and when some sheets were already in print, I was nevertheless able to utilize many of the corrections.

Let this little book, then, in its new garment, go forth among our schools and the public, and throw in its mite towards bringing home the history of the Fatherland to the hearts of both children and older folk!

THE AUTHOR.

## INTRODUCTION.

SWITZERLAND unites within a limited area such a multitude of different natural forms, that it might be called the "Land of Contrasts." This is equally true of the Swiss people. The German, French and Italian nationalities occupy the territory between the Alps, the Jura and the Rhine; and among the Alpine valleys of the Grisons the last remains of the Rhæto-Romance race has survived. The astonished traveller often meets with German villages in the midst of Romance districts, or places which are half German and half Romance in origin. Every valley, almost every place, differs in dialect, character, customs and mode of life. Moreover, there are great contrasts between the states—the untrammelled native of the Alps side by side with the accomplished citizen, the artisan by the refined merchant, the toil-worn peasant by the thoughtful man of letters!

But the peculiarity of Switzerland lies not only in these contrasts, not only in this manifold diversity of country and people; these are, after all, not so very much greater or more marked than we find in other mountainous countries. Rather is it the unity which binds these contrasts together which forms the distinctive character of Switzerland. The Romance people live peaceably with their German brother-confederates, who, as pioneers of freedom, preponderating in numbers, more easily susceptible to the elements of foreign culture, form the connecting link which binds the nationalities of Switzerland into one harmonious whole. The citizens of all the states, too, labour unanimously towards the solution of problems affecting the Fatherland.

It is the common possession of quite peculiar political and

social institutions which forms the indissoluble cement uniting these otherwise heterogeneous elements. The French of western Switzerland, the Germans of eastern Switzerland, the Italians and the Romance people of Rætia, all these hold in common the principles of the democratic state, which are nowhere else in Europe carried so perfectly and so uniformly into execution: the sovereignty of the people, popular legislation (in one form or another), a free communal system, political equality, the liberty of the press, of trade and manufacture, and of religious creed. Hence a common national feeling inspires and unites the Swiss of every state and of every nationality. The Frenchman of the Vaud, who was under the dominion of Berne until the beginning of the present century, feels himself no less a "*Suisse*" than the inhabitant of the original cantons feels himself a "*Schweizer*"; and oppressed as the dweller in Ticino formerly was under the bailiffs of the original cantons and of the Confederation, since 1798 he, nevertheless, as a good "*Svizzeri*," utters a hearty "*Evviva*" (hurrah!) to the "*Confederazione*" (Confederation).<sup>1</sup>

This unity of the Swiss people, amidst striking differences, is the product of centuries of living together and learning mutual toleration—the result of a common development; hence the deep significance which Swiss history has for the Swiss people. For that history shows the conditions which created this harmonious unity out of plurality, and the events which led first to the budding of liberty, then to the formation of the political league, and finally to the development of the Federal State, whose institutions make Switzerland the envy of many, by nature, richly endowed nations. For this reason Swiss history strengthens Swiss feeling; it not only has, like every other history, a scientific interest from the fact that it explains what already exists, but it warms every Swiss heart with enthusiasm for the interests and rights of the people, for the tasks and concerns of the whole Confederation.

<sup>1</sup> BERLEFSCH, *Schweizerkunde*, p. 524.

## LITERATURE AND BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

For fuller information reference may be had throughout to the author's *Geschichte der Schweiz*, 3 vols., Zurich, F. Schulthess, 1884-1888. Further to the following works: Dierauer, *Geschichte der schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft*, vol. i. (down to 1415), Gotha, Perthes, 1887. Vulliemin, *Histoire de la Confédération Suisse*, 2 vols., 1877; also in two German editions by J. Keller, 1882. Dagnet, A., *Histoire de la Confédération Suisse*, 2 vols., 7th edition, 1879-1880; also in German by Hagnauer after the 6th edition of 1867. O. Henne-Amrhyn, *Geschichte des Schweizervolkes*, 3 vols., Leipzig, 1865. Of older works the following may still be partially used: Müscheler, *Geschichte des Schweizerlandes*, 1842, 2 vols. (down to 1516). L. Meyer von Knonau, *Handbuch der Geschichte der schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft*, 2 vols., 1829; and Vögelin and Escher, *Geschichte der schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft*, 4 vols.; as also Joh. v. Müller's *Schweizergeschichte mit ihren Fortsetzungen*. Shorter epitomes: Stiefel, *Pragmatische Geschichte der schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft*, 1858; and Sal. Vögelin, *Lehrbuch der Schweizergeschichte*, 1872. Dr. Strickler, *Lehrbuch der Schweizergeschichte für höhere Schulen*, Zurich, Orell, Füssli & Co., 1874. Dr. W. Oechsli, *Lehrbuch für den Geschichtsunterricht (Vaterländische Geschichte mit 8 Karten)*, Zurich, 1885. Dr. B. Hibder, *Schweizergeschichte für Schule und Volk*, and many others. Of separate narratives and biographies containing Swiss history we have Geilfuss, *Helvetia*, and the excellent modern works, *Galérie Suisse*, *Biographies Nationales*, published by E. Secrétan, Lausanne, 1874. For a clear description of remarkable events based upon original sources, the following are to be recommended: Dr. W. Oechsli, *Quellenbuch zur Schweizergeschichte, für Haus und Schule*, Zurich, F. Schulthess, 1886. For geographical illustration the Historical Geographical Atlas of Switzerland, by J. C. Vögelin, G. v. Wyss and G. Meyer von Knonau (F. Schulthess), is indispensable. An excellent chronological aid is found in the *Chronologische Übersicht der Schweizergeschichte*, by J. K. Zellweger, in four editions, newly elaborated by Dr. J. Strickler, Zurich, Meyer & Zeller, 1887.



[Rapid and unparalleled development of industries. Improvement in the educational system.]

- A.D. 1856, 1857 . Settlement of the dispute about Neuchâtel.
- A.D. 1862 . . The Dappenthal divided between Switzerland and France.
- A.D. 1866 . . Attempted Federal revision.
- A.D. 1870, 1871 . Preservation of neutrality during the Franco - Prussian War. Struggle against Ultramontaniam in regard to papal infallibility.
- A.D. 1872 . . Alabama Arbitration Commission in Geneva.
- A.D. 1874, April 1 . Brilliant victory of Federal revision.

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  - A.D. 1878. Death of James Fazy (statesman.)
  - A.D. 1881. Legislation concerning bank-notes.
  - A.D. 1882. Opening of the St. Gotthard railway.
  - A.D. 1883. National Exhibition at Zurich.
  - A.D. 1884. International conference held at Berne for the protection of copyright.
  - A.D. 1886. The Federal Government assumes the monopoly of alcohol.
  - A.D. 1888. Law passed for protection of patents.
  - A.D. 1889-1891. International Catholic university established in Fribourg.
  - A.D. 1890. Invalid and accident Insurance undertaken by the Federal Government.
  - A.D. 1891. The Federal Government assumes the monopoly of bank-notes. Six hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Confederation celebrated in Schwyz. Popular initiative introduced into the Constitution.
  - A.D. 1893. Killing of animals in Jewish fashion prohibited.
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