

The Political Evolution
of the
Hungarian Nation

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BY

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IN TWO VOLUMES
VOL. I

LONDON
THE NATIONAL REVIEW OFFICE

23 RYDER STREET, ST. JAMES'S

1908

TO
AN 'AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN'
MY WIFE

PREFACE

THIS book in no sense claims to be a history. Within the compass of two volumes it is hardly possible to do more than give a general view of the gradual development of a nation which can boast a thousand years of constitutional existence. The greater part of the first volume should be regarded merely as an introduction to the succeeding pages which deal with Hungary's political *renaissance*, with the events of 1848, with the juridical relations of Hungary to Austria, and with the circumstances which attended the creation of the dualism of to-day. The last two chapters are intended to facilitate the comprehension of certain problems which are of more than local interest. If, as I hope will soon be the case, one of the historical authorities of Hungary (my indebtedness to whose works has been inadequately acknowledged in the limited space available for foot-notes) finds time to write an exhaustive history of his country for the special benefit of English readers, my labours will be sufficiently rewarded if the present work receives mention as a serious attempt to lift a corner of the veil which ignorance of the Hungarian language necessarily interposes between the British public and the only reliable sources of information as to the growth and nature of the political institutions of the Magyars.

C. M. K.-H.

Hungaria . . . cum Partibus adnexis Regnum liberum, et relate ad totam legalem Regiminis formam (huc intellectis quibusvis Dicasteriis suis) independens, id est nulli alteri Regno aut populo obnoxium, sed propriam habens Consistentiam et Constitutionem, proinde a legitime coronato haereditario Rege suo, adeoque etiam a Sua Majestate Sacratissima, successoribusque ejus Hungariae Regibus, propriis Legibus et Consuetudinibus, non vero ad normam aliarum Provinciarum . . . regendum et gubernandum.—LAW x. 1790-91.

Rex habet superiorem, Deum. Item Legem per quam factus est Rex. Item Curiam suam.—BRACTON.