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GOVERNMENT IN SWITZERLAND

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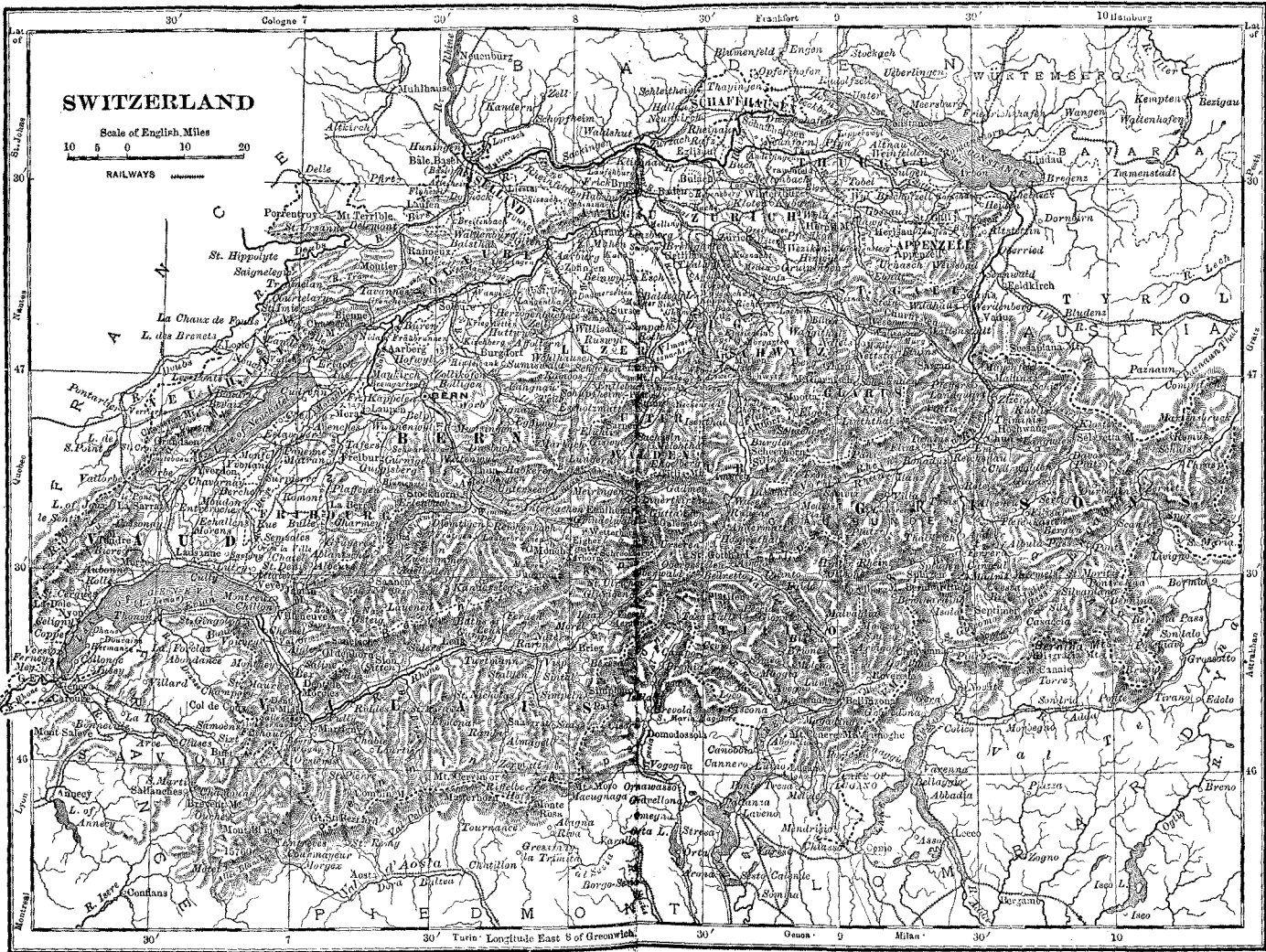
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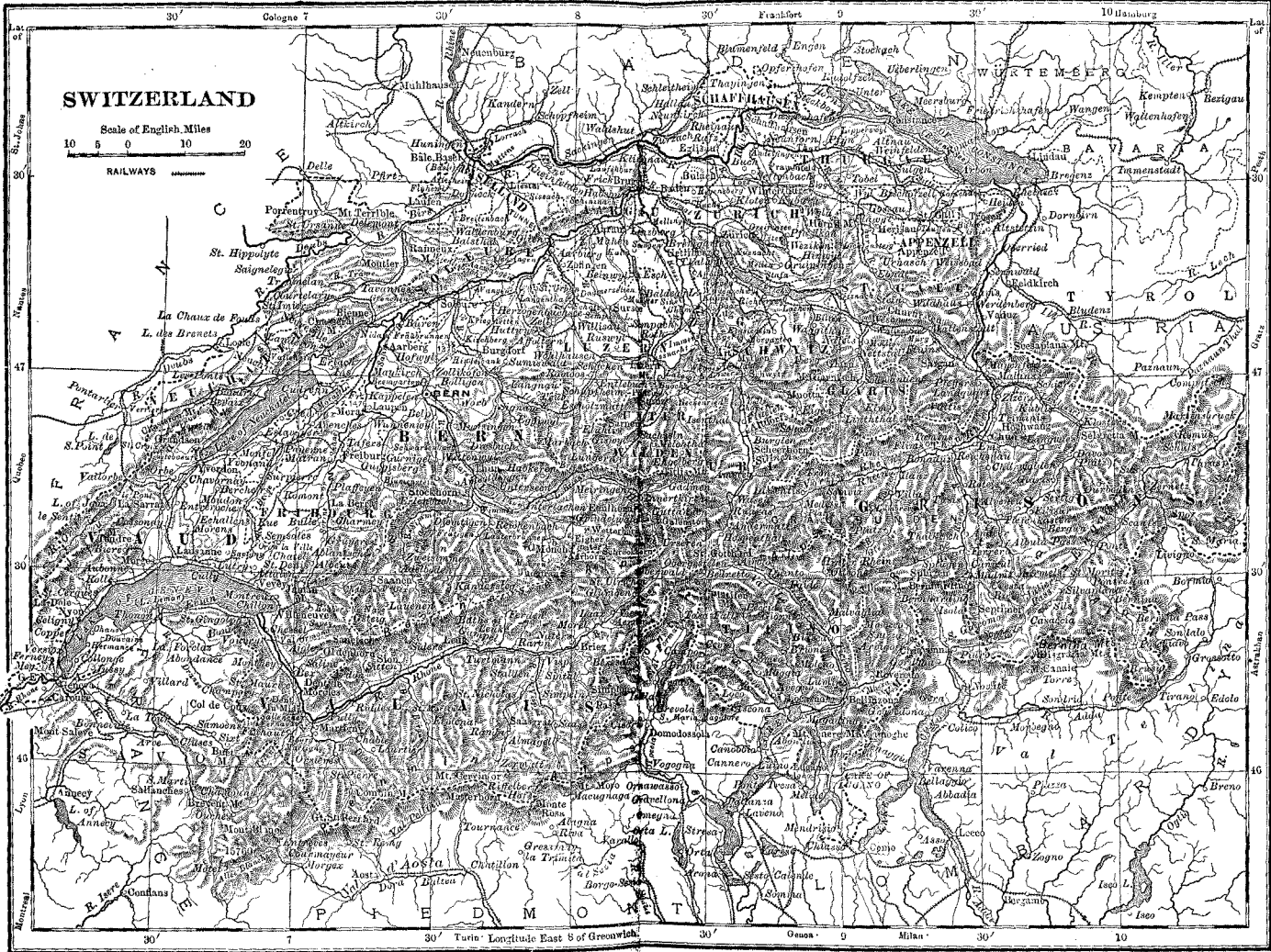
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Government in Switzerland

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New York

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Norwood Press
J. S. Cushing & Co. — Berwick & Smith
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To my friend
CHARLES BORGEAUD
EXPOSITOR OF DEMOCRACY
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

PREFACE

SWITZERLAND continues to be a perennial source of attraction. More than ever, travellers seek its mountains for scenery and recreation. The most inaccessible peaks of other days are now scaled by cable roads, and the remotest cañons have become the sporting grounds of the nations.

Almost equally attractive are the peculiar institutions of the country. To a romantic interest in the dramatic portions of its history, there has succeeded a deeper curiosity regarding the political experience of this mountain republic. Intelligent observers have been making known one or another phase of civic life, until a widespread interest in Switzerland has become distinctly discernible in newspapers and political discussion.

To the American reader the subject is replete with comparisons. The federation of governments is like the union under which he lives. The rights of cantons are the rights for which the states have jealously contended; yet the problems of nation, state, and city have been so differently answered by the Swiss that the closer view is exceedingly instructive.

To reflecting citizens of all countries Switzerland has a word to say on territorial expansion, on direct legislation by the people, on the nationalization of railways and industries, on the accumulation of wealth, and on other social and economic questions of the day. Hence this book.

Some years ago the writer published an essay on Swiss government, which was so well received as to encourage him to continue his studies. Since that time many important changes have taken place in state and nation. In order to take note of these and to make the picture more complete, the earlier volume has been subjected to extensive alterations. The order of treatment has been changed, large portions have been rewritten, and much new matter has been added, in the hope that the work will prove useful both to specialist and general reader.

To the many friends who have lent me their counsel and assistance I am deeply grateful. These favors have come from both sides of the Atlantic, and have extended over many years. Libraries and public authorities in Switzerland have been gracious without exception.

To the Editor of this series I am particularly indebted for a generous fund of thoughtful suggestions.

J. M. V.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,
September, 1900.

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