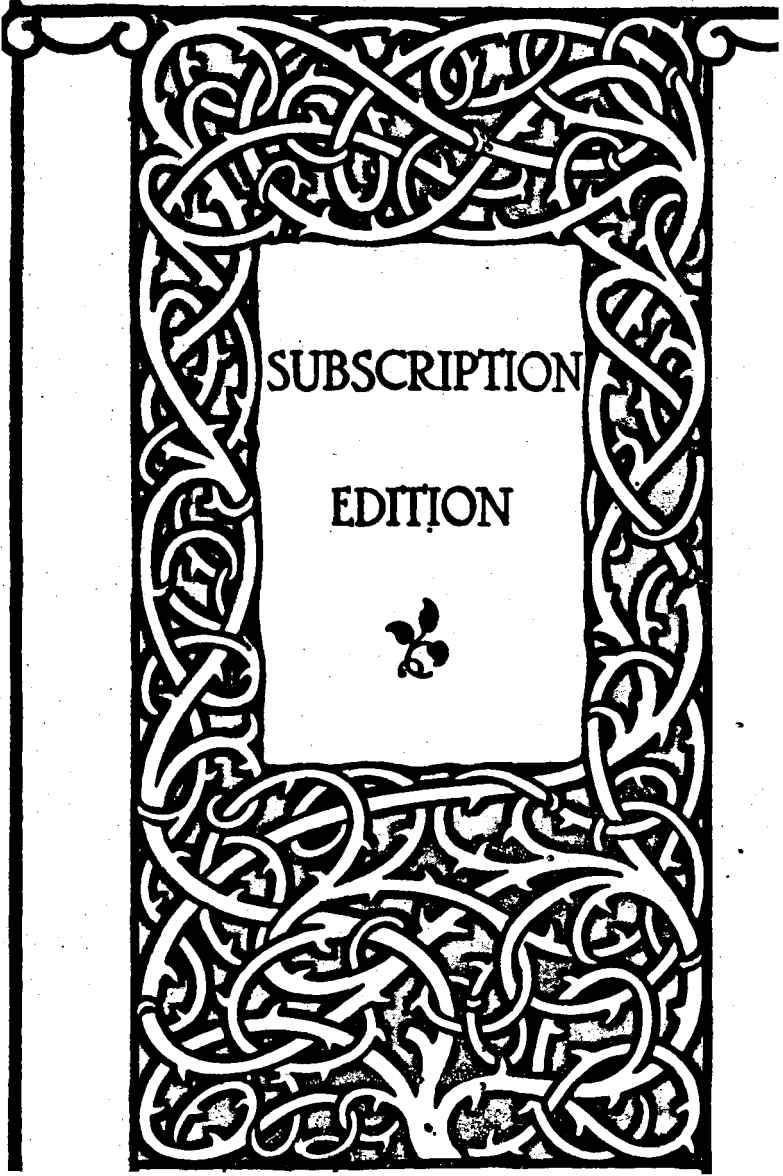


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JOHN SOBIESKI.

POLAND

BY

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PREFACE.

I HAVE written this little book on Poland on the same lines as my previous work on Russia in this series. The plan of the work is to give a readable history of the country by bringing into prominence the more stirring episodes and salient characteristics, and putting in the background the details which must prove less interesting. At the same time, the thread of the history is never intentionally lost sight of. It is but fair to add that the work is based entirely upon original and native authorities, and no mere compilations have been employed.

An attempt has been made to give in detail the chief ethnological elements of the population; and for those who wish to study Polish history more minutely a list has been added of the most important works on the subject.

My book has no political bias: it is not *tendenzios*, as the Germans say. I have told the tale of Poland—a very mournful one—and have never intentionally perverted or concealed the truth. I have given what I think were the causes of the fall of this once powerful kingdom; but, while

endeavouring to discharge the duty of an honest writer of history, I have been unwilling to perform merely a cold-blooded dissection of the unfortunate country ; its limbs, although distorted, are still instinct with life. But the writer of history is not required to be a political advocate ; the less he attempts anything of the kind the better his history will probably be. I hope my chapter on the literature may be serviceable in awakening an interest in the Polish language, still spoken by upwards of ten millions. No one can read the literature of Poland without feeling a warm sympathy with this interesting people.

It only remains that I should thank my friend, Dr. George. Birkbeck Hill, the editor of Boswell, for kindly looking through the proof sheets and aiding me with many valuable suggestions.

W. R. MORFILL.





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(*Explanation of the Letters in the Picture:—A, The King; B, The Ten Officers of the Crown; C, The Archbishop of Gnesen; D, The other Ecclesiastical Senators; E, Foreign Ambassadors admitted to the Diet; F, The Palatines and Castellans; G, The Deputies; H, The Speaker of the Deputies; I, Vacant Seats for others sometimes admitted. 1, The Arms of Poland; 2, The Arms of Lithuania.*)

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(Those portraits which are not reproduced from prints in the British Museum are taken from Schiemann's "Russland, Polen, und Livland bis ins 17 Jahrhundert," and Forster's "La Pologne." The coins are copied from Lelewel's "Antiquités de Pologne" and Schiemann. Other illustrations are taken from Coxe's "Travels" and Connor's "Poland.")

THE following rules for the pronunciation of some of the Polish letters will be useful :

ą is the French *on* in *bon*.

c is the English *ts*.

ch is the German (guttural) *ch*.

cz is the English *ch* in *church*.

ę is the French *in* in *fin*.

g is always hard.

j is the English *y*.

ó is the French *ou*.

rz is the French *j* in *jour*.

sz is the English *sh*.

w is the English *v*.

szcz is *shch* in *Ashchurch*.

The accent (stress) is nearly always on the penultimate.



LIST OF POLISH KINGS.

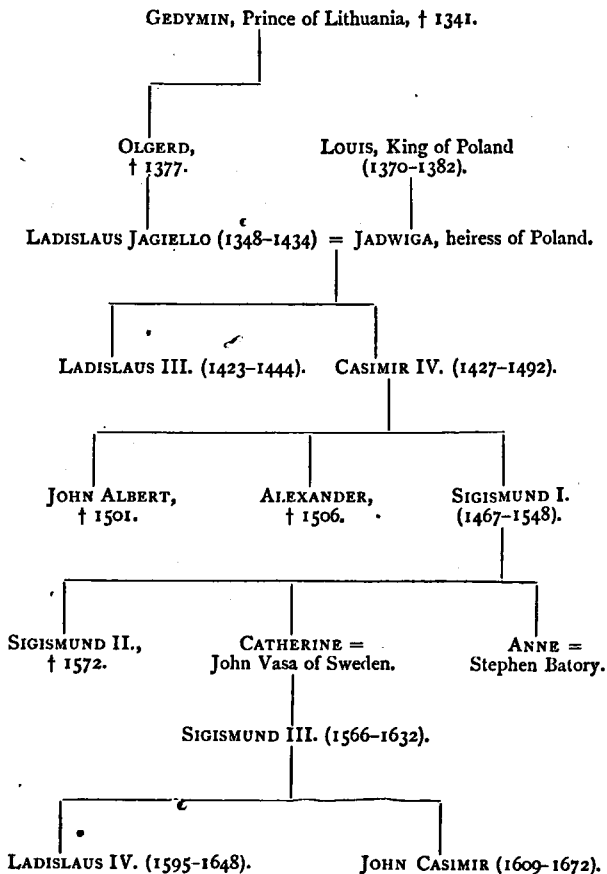
(CHIEFLY FROM THE *Historia Polska* OF BALINSKI, WARSAW,
1844.)

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Przemyslaw I., Prince of Posen and Pomerania	1295-1296
Ladislaus IV., the Short, a second time	1297-1299
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Ladislaus the Short, a third time	1306-1333
Casimir III., the Great	1333-1370

Louis, King of Hungary	...	...	...	...	1370-1382
Jadwiga ...	...	...	...	...	1384-1389
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Ladislaus III., surnamed Warnenczyk, King of Poland and Hungary	...	...	...	...	1434-1444
Casimir IV.	...	...	...	...	1447-1492
John Albert	...	...	...	...	1492-1501
Alexander	...	...	...	...	1501-1506
Sigismund I.	...	...	...	...	1507-1548
Sigismund II., Augustus	...	...	...	...	1548-1572
Henry of Valois	...	...	...	...	1574-1575
Stephen Batory	...	...	...	...	1576-1586
Sigismund III., Vasa	...	...	...	...	1587-1632
Ladislaus IV.	...	...	...	...	1632-1648
John Casimir	...	...	...	...	1648-1668
Michael Korybut	...	...	...	...	1669-1673
John III., Sobieski	...	...	...	...	1674-1696
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Stanislaus Leszczyński	...	...	...	...	1706-1709
Augustus II., a second time	...	...	...	...	1709-1733
Stanislaus Leszczyński, a second time	...	...	...	...	1733-1734
Augustus III., Elector of Saxony	...	...	...	...	1734-1763
Stanislaus Poniatowski	...	...	...	...	1764-1795

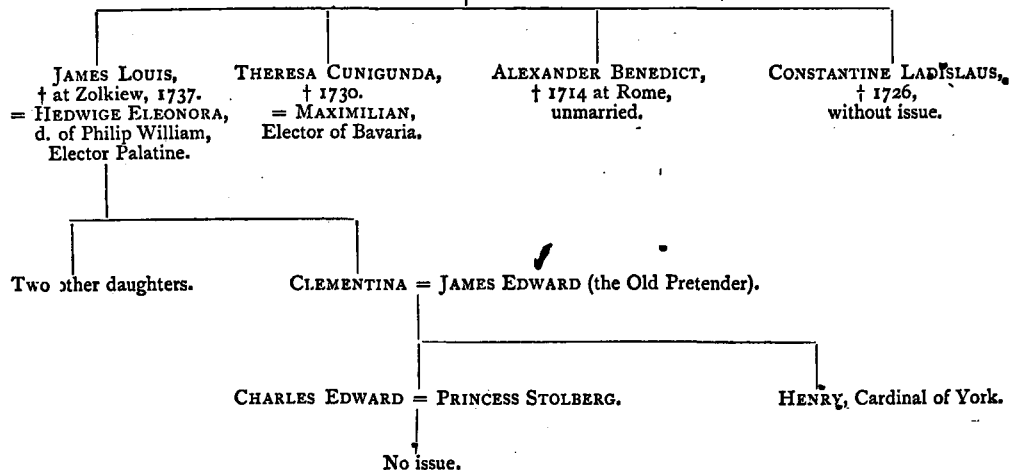
It will be observed that some of the sovereigns in this list only ruled for a short time during periods of anarchy. Ladislaus Jagiello is called by Polish historians the second of the name, perhaps on account of the new family which then ascended the throne.

GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF THE JAGIELLOS.



GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF THE FAMILY OF JOHN SOBIESKI,
(Chiefly from COXE.)

JOHN SOBIESKI, † 1696 = MARIE DE LA GRANGE, † 1716.





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