HISTORY OF EUROPE

FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE

FRENCH REVOLUTION

IN 1789,

TO THE RESTORATION OF THE BOURBONS

IN 1815.

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IN FOUR VOLUMES.

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1842.
Since the expulsion of the French from the island, St. Domingo has been nominally independent; but slavery has not as yet been abolished, and the condition of the people anything but ameliorated by the change. Nominally free, the blacks have remained really enslaved. Compelled to labour, by the terrors of military discipline, for a small part of the produce of the soil, they have retained the severity, without the advantages of servitude, of the industrial system which the islanders have disappeared; the surplus wealth, the agricultural opulence of the fields, have ceased; from being the greatest exporting island in the West Indies, it has ceased to raise any sugar; and the inhabitants, reduced to half their former amount, and bitterly galled by their Republican task-masters, have relapsed into the idleness and inactivity of savage state.†

† Mackenzie's St. Domingo, i., passim.

‡ The revolution of St. Domingo has demonstrated that the negroes can occasionally exert all the vigour, energy, and heroism which distinguish the European character; but there is, as yet, no reason to suppose that they are capable of the same efforts when the passions of their mental faculties have been discovered and abused by the nations of the temperate zone. Sixty thousand blacks are annually emancipated in American colonies, but they emigrate, in chains, never to return to their native country; and this constant emigration, which, in the space of two centuries, might have furnished armies to overrun the globe, accrosses the guilt of Europe and the weakness of Africa. If the negroes are not inferior, either in vigour, courage, or intelligence, to the Europeans, how has it happened that, for six thousand years, they have remained in the savage state? What has prevented mighty empires arising on the banks of the Niger, the Quare, or the Congo, in the same way as on the Nile and the Ganges? Heat of climate, intricacy of forests, extent of desert, will not solve the difficulty, for they exist to as great an extent in tropical America and Mexico as in Central Africa. It is in vain to say the Europeans, by maintaining the Africans in that degraded condition, by their violence, injustice, and the slave-trade. How has it happened that the inhabitants of that vast and fruitful region have not risen to the government of the globe, and inflicted on the savages of Europe the evils now set forth as the cause of their deprevation? Did not all nations start a prejudice in the career of infant improvement? and was not Egypt, the cradle of civilization, nearer to Central Africa than the shores of Britain? The earliest representations of nations in existence are the paintings on the walls of the Tombs of the Kings of Egypt, the distinct races of the Assyi, the Jews, the Hottentots, the Europeans are clearly marked; but the blue-eyed and jet-hairioned sons of God are represented in cowhides, with the hair turned outward, in the pristine state of pastoral life, while the Hottentots are already clothed in the garments of a civilized existence, and since has given some mightly an impulse to European civilization, and remained in a stationary or declining state the immediate source of impress the Egyptians and Carthaginian greatness? It is impossible to arrive at any conclusion but that, in the qualities requisite to create and perpetuate civilization, the African is decidedly inferior to the European race; and if any doubt could exist on this subject, it would be removed by the subsequent history and present state of the Haytian Republic. See Mackenzie's St. Domingo, vol. ii., 300, 301.

3 The following table contains the produce, and trade of St. Domingo, before 1790, and in 1832, after forty years of nominal freedom.

St. Domingo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Sugar exported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1790</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1832</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N. B.—Gibbon, i. xvii. vol. ii. 311.

† But it was not only in the southern hemisphere that the vast designs of the ambitious de
First Consul were manifested. Eu-
regions of vige-
rope met with a
ibution; and the preliminaries of
Amiens were hardly signed, when his conduct gave unequivocal proof that he was resolved to be fettered by no treaties, and that to those who did not choose to submit to his authority, no alternative remained but the sword.

By the 11th article of the treaty of Lunéville, it had been provided that 'the contracting par-
ties shall mutually guarantee the independence of the Batavian, Helvetic, Cisalpine, and Ligu-
rian republics, and the right to the people who inhabit them to adopt whatever form of govern-
ment they think fit.' The allies, of course, under-
stood by this clause real independence; in
other words, a liberation of these republics from the influence of France; but it soon appeared that Napoleon affected a very different meaning to it, and that what he intended was the establish-
ment of constitutions in them all which
should absolutely subject them to his power.

Holland was the first of the affiliated republics
which underwent the change conse-
quently on the establishment of the
Holland is again
revolutionized.
A consul in Paris, for this purpose, the French ambassador, Schimmel-
pennick, repaired to the Hague, to prepare a re-
volution which should assimilate the government of the Batavian to that of the French Republic. So devoted was the Directory at the Hague to his will, that they voluntarily became the instru-
ments of their own destruction. On the 17th of September, the French ambassa-
dor sent the Constitu-
ent to the Legislative Body, with the intimation that they had nothing to do but affix to it the seal of their approbation, as it had already received the sanction of the people. In fact, on the same day it was published to the nation, and the Directory took for granted that it would be approved. The Dutch Legislature, however, were not prepared for this degradation, and the latter under the sanction of the people—was dissolved. The chambers; their doors were closed by French bayonets, the guards absolved from their oaths, and all the functions of the empire were transferred to the government dismissed. Shortly after, the new
Convention was published by the Directory, alike without the knowledge or concurrence of the people—but it was a nearer approximation to the habits and wishes of the respectable classes than the Democratic institutions which had preceded it—a Legislative Body, composed of five-and-twenty members, in a single session, re-
called the recollection of the old States-General.

The division of provinces was the same as in the United States; but the Council of State, of twelve members, with a president changing every three months, was possessed of much more absolute power than ever belonged to the stockholder, while the frequent change of the president prevented any one of them from acquiring such a preponderance as might render him formidable