

POLAND:

ITS HISTORY, CONSTITUTION, LITERATURE, MANNERS, CUSTOMS, &c.

BY COUNT VALERIAN KRASINSKI.

1844
* * TO BE COMPLETED IN ~~SIX~~ PARTS.

The following are a few of the Critical Notices of this work which have already appeared:—

Athenæum.—(*First Notice.*)

"The object of Count Krasinski's book is twofold: to show that the past of Poland was not shameful, and that her future is not destroyed. As far as he has yet written, he displays the spirit of an historian, and brings his countrymen to judgment freely; but, with no disposition to convert history into advocacy, he lays open the annals of a brave, free, and liberal people, exhibiting in their rasher prowess that indomitable courage which is the soul of patriotism, and which, in their prostration, forbids them, like the Roman and the Venetian, to despair of their commonwealth."

Athenæum.—(*Second Notice.*)

"Count Krasinski is chiefly solicitous to preserve the tone of severe impartiality which distinguished the earlier chapters of his work. A Pole, and full of the warmest hopes of Poland, he never conceals his country's errors, but reviews them, and judges strictly of their consequences. We have not yet seen the story of that gallant nation so philosophically told. . . . As a refutation of the vulgar version of Polish history, which has commonly been accepted in England, we are inclined to think that this book will be as useful as it is meritorious."

Caledonian Mercury.

"The favourable opinion we formerly pronounced of this work, somewhat by anticipation, seeing that we had only the first instalment before us, is justified by the two parts now on our table. They comprise the sunniest period in the history of a noble people, and when we say that the recorder of the brilliant events which then transpired is Count Krasinski, we need add little else. He writes with an idiomatic grace not always to be found in the style of native authors, and his management of the narrative is singularly judicious and able."

Glasgow Constitutional.

"We hail the appearance of this work with no ordinary interest. It appears at a time critical beyond any other period within the last forty years, and charged with momentous results in the fate of nations and the independence of kingdoms. . . . Count Krasinski is already well and most favourably known to the public by means of various publications. . . . Of his competency, therefore, to undertake a work of this description we can have no doubt. . . . From our examination of

these pages, we are satisfied not only of the ability of the author, but of the painstaking assiduity with which he has laboured to present us with a reliable account of Poland in all its relationships, political, religious, and literary. The work discovers that the materials employed in its construction have not been hastily collected, but drawn with care and discrimination from authentic sources. Count Krasinski writes in a clear, forcible, and pointed style. To all who wish for information on a subject so engrossing, we cannot do better than recommend this work."

Elgin Courier.

"Those interested in the past history and present condition of Poland will be furnished with ample information on both in the new work by Count Krasinski, now in course of publication. The Count is already familiar to many by his historical and other writings; and on matters relating to his native country, he is everywhere received as the highest authority we have."

News of the Churches.

"The matter of this work is well indicated by its title: it contains much solid and interesting information about a country which, although in the meantime it is politically dead, or at least stunned and lifeless, is of very great importance in the present war, on account of the effectual barrier which, if independent, it would present against the aggressive spirit of Russia. . . . We do not pretend to such an acquaintance with Polish history and manners as might enable us to speak confidently of the accuracy of his statements, but for this his talents and character may safely be taken as the vouchers. The clear, interesting, manly English style in which the work is written does great credit to Count Krasinski's scholarship, and the deep breathing of patriotism which pervades it, adds to history an unwonted liveliness, without taking away any of its dignity."

Londonderry Standard.

"The first number of a history of Poland by one of the most accomplished scholars amongst the Polish exiles in Britain, and one, moreover, whose previous publications place him in the upper ranks of living authorship."

Edinburgh Advertiser.

"The former works of Count Krasinski have established for him a literary reputation of which he may be proud, and which suffices to secure a welcome for any work which he may give to the public. In his new work on Poland the author has a subject thoroughly congenial to his taste and sympathies, and also one upon which almost nothing has yet been written in this country, and very little in any other. To the treatment of a subject so favourable, the Count brings a great store of information, and historical powers of no ordinary kind; and the result is a work which, in the present times, is possessed of great interest and no little usefulness."

Edinburgh Guardian.

"We are glad to find that the great learning and ability of Count Krasinski are being made available for diffusing, among British readers, a knowledge of the history of his native country. No other living man, we believe, is so qualified for the task."