

EMPIRE OF AUSTRIA.

1. AUSTRIA is one of the most important states in Europe; it comprises about one-third of Germany, with Hungary, Galicia, Dalmatia, and the kingdom of Lombardy and Venice.

2. The inhabitants are mostly Catholics; but there are some Protestants, as well as members of the Greek church; all sects being tolerated. The liberty of the press, and the freedom of debate, are, however, much restricted.

3. Austria has but a small extent of sea-coast, and a limited commerce. It has no colonies; but the Duchies of Tuscany, Parma, and Modena, in Italy, are dependent states. Gold, copper, iron, mercury, and salt, abound; the mines of Wieliczka in Galicia have been worked for 600 years, and still furnish salt. Grain and wine are the chief products.

4. The Emperor of Austria is absolute in all parts of his dominions, except in Hungary and some other districts. In the former he is styled king only, and his authority is limited by a diet or assembly of the nobles and clergy. The inhabitants comprise Germans, Poles, Italians, Magyars or Hungarians, Jews, and Gypsies. Seventeen different languages are spoken in the Empire.

5. The Austrian army amounts to upwards of 270,000 men, and is thought to be more efficient than formerly. The Empire possesses few advantages for a navy; yet a force of about 30 vessels, 8 of which are ships of the line, has been organized on the Gulf of Venice.

6. Vienna, the capital of the Austrian Empire, is one of the finest cities in Europe. It contains a number of palaces, churches, and other public buildings, some of which are splendid structures. The citizens are described as a good-natured, hospitable people, much devoted to pleasure and luxurious living.

7. Some of the dwelling-houses in Vienna are immense structures, and are occupied by a number of different families. No city in Europe has so many resident nobility, and none, except London, so many wealthy citizens. It is on the Danube, 1100 miles from its mouth.

8. Prague, Gratz, Presburg, and Lemberg, are all places of note. Buda and Pesth, situated on opposite sides of the Danube, are joined together by a beautiful suspension bridge. These towns united, form

Austria. Q.—1. What is Austria? What does it comprise?
2. What is said of the inhabitants? 3. The sea-coast and commerce? Of gold, &c.? 4. The Emperor? The inhabitants? Languages?
5. What is said of the army? Navy? 6. Describe Vienna.
7. What is said of its dwelling-houses, &c.? 8. Prague, &c.? Trieste?