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LIECHTENSTEIN.

The Principality of Liechtenstein, lying between the Austrian crownland of Vorarlberg and the Swiss cantons of St. Gallen and Graubünden, is a sovereign state consisting of Schellenberg and Vaduz (formerly immediate fiefs of the Roman Empire). The former in 1699 and the latter in 1712 came into the possession of the house of Liechtenstein and, by diploma of January 23, 1719, granted by the Emperor Karl VI., the two lordships were constituted as the Principality of Liechtenstein. After the break-up of the Empire in 1806 the Principality was incorporated in the Rhine Confederation; from 1815 to 1866 it formed part of the German Confederation, since the break-up of which it has joined no similar union.

The Reigning Prince is **John II.**, born October 5, 1840; succeeded his father, November 12, 1858. The reigning family originated in the twelfth century, and traces its descent through free barons who in 1608 became princes of Liechtenstein. The monarchy is hereditary in the male line. The constitution provides for a Diet of 15 members appointed for four years (3 by the Prince, and 12 by indirect vote). The capital and seat of Government is Vaduz (pop. 1,206). But the appeal court sits in Vienna, and the court of control (financial) at Butschowitz in Moravia; here too are kept the accounts of the Prince's private property. The directorate of the Prince's private forests is at Olmütz; but the affairs of the reigning house and its private property are managed by the Chancellery at Vienna. The Principality is by treaties connected in many ways with the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Since 1852 it has belonged to the Austrian Customs Union. The annual payments in fact amount to over 100,000 crowns. The postal, telegraph, and telephone affairs of the principality are managed by the Austrian authorities, according to an agreement made in 1911.

Area, 65 square miles; population, of German origin and nearly all Catholic, 1909, 9,854 (4,814 males and 5,040 females). In 1911 the revenue amounted to 767,707 crowns; expenditure, 781,296 crowns. There is no public debt. The Prince has estates in Austria and elsewhere yielding over 100,000*l.* sterling per annum. The inhabitants of Liechtenstein since 1867 have not been liable to military service. The population is in great part agricultural, the chief products of the country being corn, wine, fruit, and timber. The rearing of cattle for which the fine Alpine pastures are well suited is highly developed. The industries of the Principality, especially the textile industries, are not unimportant.

Book of Reference.

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