

ALBA IULIA IN THE DAYS OF THE GREAT 1918 UNION

SUMMARY

The present study is concerned with one of the most significant episodes of our history — the achievement of the national unity of the Romanian people in 1918. This study completes the long series of historical works written to this day on this momentous event. As an eye-witness and an active participant to the actions that led to the realization of the great national ideal, I insisted particularly on the aspects which are less familiar to our historiography and which were less studied.

This work treats especially of the events which took place in the town of the Union — Alba Iulia and its surroundings — in the decisive days of the 30th of november and of the 1st of december 1918. It is supported by a great amount of mostly unpublished documentary material, including the recollections of some 1918 veterans. The first part describes some dramatic aspects of the sufferings of the Transylvanian Romanians during the First World War and their increased efforts to free themselves from the Austro-Hungarian domination. I assigned an important place to the events that took place in the Alba Iulia area during the troubled days of the collapse of the former domination and the constitution of the Romanian revolutionary bodies (the National Councils and guards) at the end of october and especially in the first part of november 1918. I attempted to follow step by step the events that took place and whose supreme end was the accomplishment of the centuries' old dream of Great Romania; I stressed the unanimity of will and feelings of our whole nation, that was brilliantly assessed during the days that preceded the Great National Assembly of Alba Iulia.

I insisted on the preliminary session of the Great National Council that was held in Alba Iulia on the 30th of november when the document proclaiming the union of Transylvania to Romania acquired its final form. I stressed the democratic character of the decisions taken by the national representatives, which rose out of the specific objects of the present and future aims of the Romanian people. In order to compensate for a part of the blanks in the historiography of the Union, I have insisted on the enthusiastic and elevated spirit of the meeting, on the throngs of people going towards Alba Iulia and on the proceedings of the Great National Assembly. I particularly stressed the festive character of the historical act of the 1st of december 1918, the admirable, disciplined and dignified behaviour of the enormous mass of Romanian peasants, workers and scholars assembled in Alba Iulia in the soul-uplifting days of the realization of the most ardent national aspiration.

The solemnity of the moment our people lived during the days of the Union, the conscious and decisive contribution of the Romanian masses to the creation of the complete national unity, stand out in the whole content of the present work.