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PRICE TWOPENCE.

*Extract from the Protest of the Crown of Poland, against the first Partition of the Country.*

"But the present proceedings of the three Courts, giving the most serious subject of complaint to the King, (Stanislas Augustus Poniatowski,) and the duties of his crown not permitting him to be silent on this occasion, he declares in the most solemn manner, that he looks upon the actual seizure of the Provinces of Poland by the Courts of Vienna, Petersburg, and Berlin, as unjust, violent, and contrary to his lawful rights; he appeals to the treaties, and Powers guarantees of his Kingdom and its appurtenances. And lastly, full of confidence in the justice of the Almighty, he lays his rights at the feet of the Eternal Throne; and puts his cause into the hands of the King of Kings, the supreme Judge of nations: and in the full assurance of His succour, HE PROTESTS SOLEMNLY, AND BEFORE THE WHOLE UNIVERSE, against every step taken, or to be taken, towards the dismembering of Poland. Given at Warsaw, October 17th, 1772."

*Signed by the High Chancellors of Poland and Lithuania.*

ON THE UTILITY OF POLISH LITERARY SOCIETIES.

"La gelia, e 'l sonno, e Poziose piume  
Hanno del nondo ogni virtu sb. ndita."

PETRARCH.

THE genius of Christianity is universal benevolence, or in the simple language of the scriptures, "peace and good will towards men;" but how seldom are human actions regulated by this divine principle! The great, generally speaking, have too much love for themselves to care much for the concerns of others; a sordid thirst for gain, and the anxious cares inseparable perhaps from social life, engender selfishness in the middle orders; it is amongst the poor that the free play of the benevolent feelings is most strikingly manifested. But unhappily, from the effects of a contracted education, this class of society is out of the reach of an appeal like the present; an appeal to their sympathies in behalf of the ever unfortunate and always heroic Poles. To the majority these will be unpalatable truths; but on an occasion like the present, the truth must be spoken. Such being a faithful picture of mankind, it has not surprised us to hear the *Hull Polish Literary Society* frequently sneered at, and

its utility questioned and denied. Is then despotism doomed to be eternal, and are the nations for ever to remain bound down by a cruel necessity, of which the tender mercies, once racks and tortures, are now a merciless exile, the dungeon, or the scaffold? Ignorant of the moral laws which regulate mankind, we seem to be equally blind to the lessons of experience. Britain, after a protracted struggle for ages, at length is free. By one brave bound America obtained all the liberty she desired, and but for a succession of errors, the liberties of Europe would long ago have been secured. When the first French Revolution burst forth like the sun from behind a thunder cloud, the excitement was truly wonderful. The feelings of mankind, frozen for ages, were loosened as it were by a sudden thaw, but the torrent of public opinion overflowed its bounds, and they who undertook to direct its course, when the ebbing waters were returning to their natural channels, gave it a false direction. France fell into the hands of a despot, who for his own aggrandizement, aimed at nothing short of universal empire. England, governed by an oligarchy interested in upholding despotism and its abuses, was cheated of reform by an appeal to its national weakness, the love of military glory. Deceived by her princes, who promised

her free institutions on the downfall of Napoleon, Germany tamely submitted her neck to the yoke, and the fetters of the southern states of Europe, were rendered heavier and more closely riveted. A still more disastrous fate awaited already thrice-partitioned Poland. By the treaty of Vienna, she was delivered up like a victim, bound hand and foot, to territory-grasping Russia; retaining indeed, as if in mockery of her misfortunes and her glories, "a local habitation and a name." Her subsequent calamities, the heroism and devotion of her people, and her final extinction as a nation, are matters of general notoriety; and are, of all genuine philanthropists, the regret and indignation.

Such of our readers as are unacquainted with the wrongs of unhappy Poland, we refer to the "head and front" of our Record, in which will be read, with no slight emotion, the solemn and affecting protest of the Poles, against the first partition of their beloved country (1772), "with its antecedent, its accompanying, and its consequent atrocities." By the second partition of this devoted land (1793), a territory comprehending, a century ago, 200,000 square miles, was reduced to the pitiful dimensions of 48,000 miles; a space that was scarcely "tomb and continent enough to hide the slain;" for it is needless to add, that this cowardly act of spoliation was bravely resisted by a people always remarkable "for their inextinguishable love of independence." The third partition (1795), necessarily blotted Poland from the list of nations. Such were the three first acts of this great political drama. Of the principal performers we may speak hereafter. Their names are enrolled in the annals of crime, with the history of their nefarious deeds, to be handed down to the execration of posterity. The partial restoration of Poland and surrender to Russia (1815), "to be possessed," as is stated in the treaty of Vienna, "by his Majesty, the Emperor of all the Russias, his heirs and successors in perpetuity," has been already mentioned; but the galling tyranny of Constantine, their ideot-king, which for fifteen years the Poles endured with a patience that has become proverbial; and the successive violations of the charter of their liberties, "not one of the provisions of which has been respected;" and which may be regarded as the proximate cause of their recent insurrection, are not generally known or justly appreciated. And could such a consummation as the final extinction of Poland—the last act of the bloodiest tragedy ever enacted in the world—be calmly permitted by the nations of Europe, who seem to have looked on, as if the dreadful reality before their eyes, was a mere scenic representation, without rendering assistance of any description? Well may the indignant Bard exclaim—"The brand of burning shame is on them all, all, all!" So long, however, as a pen can be wielded in her cause, so long as the names of Sobieski and Kosciuszko, are remembered as the watchwords of every thing virtuous and heroic, Poland shall never be forgotten. Already we perceive in the institution of Polish Literary Societies, the first glimmerings of the twilight of the morn that will dawn upon her uprise from the dust, when her restoration will be effected without blood or tears, by a power sharper than the sword,—the force of public opinion.

The worst of this cold-blooded selfishness, this indifference to every thing noble and elevated, is, that it blinds the understanding to the most obvious truths. No one is ignorant that the great changes in public opinion, by which the aspect of society has, from time to time, been

entirely altered, have had their origin in *small beginnings*. It is a trite remark that small things have their value, and although for blundering on this theme, boys are sometimes whipped at school, the disregard of the important lesson it conveys is considered, in after life, as little short of absolute folly. It cannot be necessary to remind our readers, that to the writings of an obscure monk, we are indebted for the great religious revolution which is called the Reformation. A similar sort of agitation procured the abolition of the slave trade, and its continuance threatens the immediate extinction of negro slavery. The French Revolution is ascribed to the writings of the French philosophers; with what degree of justice we will not stop to enquire. It is true that in all these examples, by the progress of evil and its continued aggression,—for evil never stands still, but goes blindly onward until, agreeably to the laws by which the moral world is governed, it is productive of good,—the public mind was prepared for the change. It was ready to receive the slightest impulse, just as a breath of the softest air, nay, the atmospheric agitation produced by the sound of the human voice, propels the loosened avalanche, which, accumulating bulk and force in its descent, carries wide-spreading desolation in its thundering track. Away then with the stale pretext that the doom of Poland is for ever sealed. The pen has ever proved itself a deadlier weapon than the sword. "*Cedant arma togæ.*" By reiterated appeals made to the public mind, by the frequent relation of horrors,—and, in the case of unhappy Poland, of this description of material there is no lack,—the public mind will be at length awakened. The electric impulse will be spread from man to man; and, as in the case of slavery, and the slave trade, the astonishment at last will be, not that such things are, but that they have been endured so long. A feeling of this description once excited, never dies; it may give rise to ill-timed and irregular manifestations of popular violence, and be repressed for a time, but it goes on like a consuming fire, smouldering underneath, only to break out again with redoubled ardour.

"For freedom's battle once begun,  
Bequeathed by bleeding sire to son,  
Tho' baffled oft, is ever won."

In this manner the sympathies of England will be awakened in behalf of Poland; the echoes of its expression in the chapel of St. Stephen, like the mutterings of distant thunder, will reverberate through the forests of Germany, and make the iron-hearted Muscovite tremble on his throne.

That such will be the result of literary agitation on the subject of Poland, who can doubt, who in addition to the consideration already adduced, believes in the moral government of mankind, and is willing to admit, that nothing is permanent, which is founded in evil? As has been observed already, evil is permitted that good may come. The unbridled sway of the lower feelings, is to man's moral nature what thorns and thistles are to his physical. Without such a stimulus for exertion, the higher principles of our nature would be inactive and barren. The same lust of empire which induced Russia, in violation of reason and humanity, to compel the first partition of Poland, withheld her hand, when by the treaty of Vienna, it was in her power to make restitution, and compel her ambitious neighbours, Prussia and Austria, to follow so holy an example. What she omitted doing, and what she has done, we have already recorded; and

that record will rise up in judgment against her, when the hour of retribution arrives. By her unprincipled conduct she obtained the everlasting hatred of the Poles. The fire burnt, though unseen. By the recent French revolution, and the sudden inspiration of her hopes, it was fanned into a flame, which burst forth in a blaze of heroism that astonished the rest of Europe. But her hopes were ill founded. France, by her revolution, only substituted one Bourbon for another. "She has a King who buys and sells." The national enthusiasm in favour of Poland was carefully repressed, and the Citizen-King, amidst the Bulls and the Bears of the Stock-Exchange, reminding us of the indifference of the Roman Emperor when his capital was in flames, calmly looked on, and heard the piercing shrieks of expiring Poland without emotion. Had the new government of France been sincere in their professions of love for national liberty,—had they suited the action to the word,—Poland would have now been free. This heartless conduct, however, of Louis Philippe, has sown the seeds of another revolution, by which unhappy Poland will one day be avenged and restored. Consistently with her national character, it might have been expected that England would have bared her arm in this righteous cause. The only excuse for her apparent apathy is, that she has wasted her resources in a useless struggle of thirty years' duration, in which her energies have been grievously misdirected. But another opportunity may yet arrive, when she may stretch forth her hand.

"Parcere subjectis et debellare superbos."

Or in the words of Campbell,

"To call the nations up, and cast their tyrants down."

In the meantime the duty of her free and unshackled press is obvious. If she cannot throw her sword into the scale, England is yet powerful, nay omnipotent to save. Let her foster Polish Literary Societies, and leave the event to those laws, which under the superintendence of Providence, are sure in their eventual operation.

And cannot the heartless objectors to this conclusion perceive that Poland has a powerful ally in that very selfishness, the abuse of which has been so strongly reprobated? Is nothing to be expected from those favourable events which are called accidents, but which are all obedient to natural laws, and are the happy instruments by which the great designs of providence are accomplished? In the present condition of Europe, there is assuredly more room for hope than despair. There is nothing criminal in the selfish feelings, when they are under the controul of reason and the higher sentiments. On the contrary, they are necessary as well for the conservation of individuals, as of societies. An honest regard for self, in reference to the affairs of nations, assumes the name of *Policy*; and trying the question by this criterion, it will be seen that the changes are decidedly in favour of the restoration of Poland. Overgrown by her former territorial acquisitions, and her more recent aggrandisement by her conquests in Turkey and Poland, Russia has rendered herself an object of jealousy and well founded alarm to the other European nations. With a territory more than twice the size of the rest of Europe, having the command of two seas, the Baltic and the Euxine, (to say nothing of the White Sea and the Pacific Ocean,) a population of 60 millions, and a standing army of a million of men, which in thirty years, it is calculated, will become sixfold greater, Russia cannot be an

object of indifference to the surrounding nations. The Germans being her nearest neighbours, can have no affection for such a grasping rapacious rival, and are now conscious that by the sacrifice of Poland, their territories are deprived of a wall of living valor. All will be ready to take up arms when the first blow is struck by regenerated France. The people of Germany were asleep at the demolition of Poland, but they are awaking at last. The Frankfort decrees have not been thrown away. Deceived by their Princes, whom they aided in the overthrow of Napoleon, of which the promised reward was free institutions, the insult offered to them by these memorable decrees, has sunk deep into their hearts. There let it rankle until the hour arrives, when the deceivers will be undeceived, the smitter smitten, and the desolator overthrown. Meanwhile the efforts of the Polish Societies will not be wanting to keep alive the sacred flame of freedom, of which the fuel will be, the exile of nobles, the deportation of children, 5000 of whom have been already torn from their parents; the conscription of all classes to serve in the armies of Russia, and the general translocation of the Poles; it being the avowed intention of the imperial Herod "to make a Poland of Siberia, and a Siberia of Poland." But, no! it cannot be that this noble, this devoted people should be exterminated and forgotten! There is a pride that goeth before destruction; and in this savage declaration who does not read the humiliation of Russia, and the restoration of Poland? Such are our reasons for giving these Societies our support, a support that will never be withheld until it is demonstrated that brute force, and not moral power, is intended by the author of nature to rule supreme, and regulate the destinies of mankind.

Beverley, September 17, 1832.

T. S.

[For the following excellent Communication we are indebted to an anonymous contributor in the neighbourhood.]

## POLAND.

"But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison-houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore." ISAIAH, c. xlii. v. 22.

WHENCE comes it to pass, that the feelings of the English nation are so easily roused upon some subjects, and upon others precisely similar, are so obstinately torpid? Are we liable to the imputation which foreigners have frequently brought against our national character, of being a strange mixture, full of inconsistency, at once refractory and capricious, and chiefly distinguishable from others, by having no marked and general characteristic? Or does the charge alluded to, when well examined, happen to be unfounded in fact, and the inconsistency only apparent? The wrongs of Africa, the oppressions of Spain, the sufferings and subsequent liberation of Holland, occupied in their day, every tongue; while not a whisper was heard in behalf of Poland!

It will not be sufficient to say, that in those cases which excited most interest, our own concerns were involved. There is no doubt that when the slave-trade was denounced, a crime was held up to detestation which we ourselves committed, and this might awaken some feelings of a peculiar nature. But the sensation chiefly excited by a disclosure of the horrid details of that subject, was pure compassion for the Africans; and we may safely assert,

to the honor of the nation, that no feeling ever pervaded a country more thoroughly, or with less interested motives. The general anxiety for the success of the Spanish cause was a sentiment not quite so extensive, nor founded upon so accurate a knowledge of facts. In truth, however iniquitous the conduct of France had been, the spirit of resistance, shewn by the Spaniards, was the principal ground for the sympathy excited in this country; for had the people submitted to the usurpation, it would not have made their lot worse, and we should only have felt shocked at a new instance of Napoleon's perfidy in his transactions with his neighbours. But the gallant resolution displayed by the Spaniards, not to be transferred, like herds of cattle, by the craft or violence of one court operating on the weakness or perfidy of another; their determination to be an independent people, and to have a government of their own, without any calculation of the precise value of the object,—indeed, without reference at all to what is vulgarly called their interest,—gave their cause an importance in the eyes of the English public, which, though ultimately connected with just views of policy, was certainly in the first instance, only ascertained by feelings of sympathy. Even the counter-revolution in Holland, though undoubtedly much more nearly related to ideas of gain, was in all probability hailed at first with a joy wholly free from calculation, and only recognized as really advantageous, some time after it had ceased to be highly interesting. Whence, then, the almost complete indifference with which we have hitherto regarded the sufferings and the exertions of the Poles? We shall in vain endeavour to answer this question, by attempting to discover any difference in the degree either of those sufferings, or of those exertions:—the difference is all in their favour. If the cause of this apathy cannot be found in any quality belonging to the subject, perhaps we must seek it in something relating to ourselves. We are willing to throw it upon the ignorance, generally prevailing, of every thing regarding Poland; but,—there is another ingredient in the soporific mixture, which has so strangely lulled the feelings of Englishmen:—it is a *tenderness towards our allies*. In the grand arrangements made after the battle of Waterloo, we forgot to ask by what right Prussia, Austria, and Russia, were the *owners* of Poland, and must have their *shares* in it restored as a matter of course; and this, too, when these powers were actively engaged in restoring Holland to independence, and its former Sovereign! But, it may be said, they had had longer possession of Poland:—of a part of it, certainly, but not of the whole. It did so happen, indeed, that their last partition of Poland was effected the *very month* that Holland was over-run by the French troops! Here, then, we find ourselves in the very midst of the question:—it was not equity but interest, which assisted in that grand arrangement,—not right but might! And it is most true, that the weakness of false delicacy caused us to slumber over the great flaw in the title of “Regenerators of Europe,” which the allied sovereigns had assumed.

The liberties of Poland have been progressively narrowed by the closing in of surrounding nations, like the dungeon which contracted on all sides, day by day, till its prisoner was buried alive within it! The English, who blame the Poles for having joined the French in their wars against Russia, must remember how great the temptation; and the fact that Poland was over-run by an immense force, before the option was given her whether she would

arm for her tyrants in possession, or for her conquerors in expectancy, pretending to be their avengers. Surely no one can pharisaically insinuate, that England would have carried herself differently; for who is there amongst us who would not have grasped at any chance, even the forlorn hope of French protection, to save his sinking country? Bitterly, indeed, has Poland been undeceived! And how much does it become England, who can have no interest except the future independence and happiness of her neighbours, and who can feel no resentment for the past, to exert her powerful intercession in favour of a gallant people, second only to her own children in love of liberty, equal even to them in devoted, enthusiastic, attachment to their native land,—nay, let us acknowledge it, *superior* to ourselves in patriotism, because far more heavy sacrifices have been demanded by their unhappy country, than ever entered the mind of an Englishman that patriotism could require. Let us fancy to ourselves this fair island, which we love instinctively because it is our country, and rationally for the blessings we enjoy in it, seized by lawless hands, its venerable establishments despitely overthrown, its countless riches pillaged, its citizens massacred, or dragged away into foreign slavery, or perhaps condemned to the more unbearable suffering of perpetual indignities, near the homes of which they had been dispossessed. A few years of such misery would not, surely, efface from our memories what England once had been. It may be doubted, whether the excess of present misfortune would not make the remembrance of the lost enjoyment more sweet, and concentrate every thought, feeling, desire, passion of the soul, in the single determination to regain it.—So is it now with the Poles.

The estates of great proprietors are become the currency in which every baseness of the conqueror, every treachery of the native, is paid. The inhabitants are insulted, tortured, driven away in thousands to serve abroad, or expiate by banishment from their country, the generous virtue which made them risk every earthly possession in its defence. Life has become indifferent or burdensome upon such terms;—no man cares for *himself*; all other ideas are absorbed in the wish, not of blind revenge, but of restoring the lost country of his forefathers.

Except as a matter of curiosity, it is useless to enquire whence arises that singular affection for their country by which the Poles are distinguished. Some persons may ascribe it, perhaps, to the natural vivacity of their character, and their imperfect state of refinement;—the anarchy to which they have so long been accustomed, by calling forth in one way or other, almost every man's exertions, has undoubtedly contributed much to it: and the dreadful sufferings which have united them in a wish for restoration, and an antipathy towards their masters, have materially operated in the same direction. But the fact is certain, whatever be its explanation,—and we might safely appeal to any one who has had intercourse with them, to say whether he has ever met a single Pole who appeared to feel like the common run of men in questions regarding his country.

These sentiments are, with this people, not occasional, but constant and habitual;—they never cease to prey upon their minds; they are perpetually present with persons of every age, and both sexes,—thus calling for a tenfold sympathy with their distress. It is a noble cause, that takes both heart and soul by storm!

## A FEW MORE EXAMPLES

OF THAT TYRANNY WHICH, (IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER,) IRRITATED THE POLES TO RESISTANCE.

[We gave, in our preceding number, several instances of capricious tyranny on the part of Constantine towards unoffending citizens, noblemen, officers, soldiers, students, printers and publishers, besides an *exposé* of the nefarious spy-system, and the practice of arbitrary taxation. The following facts constitute additional evidence of the exasperating and oppressive conduct of the Grand Duke. They are taken principally from Harro Haring, and "La Grande Semaine des Polonais."]

### CONSTANTINE'S TREATMENT OF WOMEN.

SHAVING the heads of females who displeased him, was a common occurrence! On one occasion, four soldiers were severely punished because they abstained from carrying such an order into effect, as they found it impossible to do so without using personal violence. Tarring and feathering the shaved heads of the offenders was also a favorite recreation of the Commander-in-Chief, whose delight it was to witness these barbarities. The women were also subjected to the torture of having cords twisted round so tender and sensitive a part as their bosom.

### TREATMENT OF COUNTRY GENTLEMEN AND CITIZENS.

A Nobleman, his lady, and their coachman, from the country, were, one day, all three condemned to "hurl the wheelbarrow" (among the convicts) for having passed the droszki of the Grand-Duke without observing any mark of respect, though they knew not the equipage of His Highness!

Any Russian officer who might meet a hackney droszki in the streets of Warsaw, would turn a Pole out of it, if he wanted to ride himself, and no other droszki was near. Examples of this sort of insolent conduct (says Harro Haring) I have often seen. "*Ya Obyvatel Varszavski!*" "I am a citizen of Warsaw!" is a declaration which little avails. The *Obyvatel* must get out without arguing the point. The most prudent thing he can do is to submit promptly and patiently to his fate.

### TREATMENT OF THE MILITARY.

Constantine having learned that several officers were taking lessons in the *English* language, ordered them to relinquish that dangerous study, and, in its stead, to employ themselves in learning the *regulations* of the service. The Grand Duke was a rigid supervisor of button-holes, buttons, gloves, and collars. Every thing was required to be "according to regulation." He was called the "Regulation-Duke," from his martinet-strictness in this particular. If a button happened to be left out of its hole, or the coat were not closely buttoned from the neck downwards, even in the hottest weather,—if the shirt collar appeared above the stock a straw's breadth higher than the "regulation," or if the seams of a glove were sewed on the *outside* instead of the *inside*,—the officer or soldier so offending was arrested, and often flogged! "Fanfaron!" was the word, "In the name of all the devils what do you mean by this? Would you introduce innovations here? Off to the guard-house!"

### THE OFFICER OF THE LANCER GUARD, AND THE PYRAMID OF BAYONETS.

One day an officer of the lancer guard was going through his exercise before the Grand-Duke. He had

performed all the usual evolutions in the most satisfactory way until, when at full gallop, he was suddenly ordered to turn,—his horse proved restive, and refused to obey either bridle or spur. The command was repeated in a thundering voice, and the officer renewed his efforts to make the horse obey it, but without effect, for the fiery animal continued to prance about in defiance of his rider, who was nevertheless an excellent horseman. The rage of the Grand Duke had vented itself in furious imprecations, and all present trembled for the consequences. "Halt!" he exclaimed, and ordered a pyramid of twelve muskets with fixed bayonets to be erected. The order was instantly obeyed. The officer who had, by this time, subdued the restiveness of his horse, was ordered to leap the pyramid—and the spirited horse bore his rider safely over it. Without an interval of delay, the officer was commanded to repeat the fearful leap, and to the amazement of all present, the noble horse and his brave rider stood in safety on the other side of the pyramid. The Grand Duke, exasperated at finding himself thus thwarted in his barbarous purpose, repeated the order for the third time. A general, who happened to be present, now stepped forward and interceded for the pardon of the officer; observing that the horse was exhausted, and that the enforcement of the order would be to doom both horse and rider to a horrible death. This humane remonstrance was not only disregarded, but was punished by the immediate arrest of the general who had thus presumed to rebel.

The word of command was given, and horse and rider for the third time cleared the glittering bayonets.

Rendered furious by these repeated disappointments, the Grand Duke exclaimed for the fourth time:—"To the left about!—Forward!"—The command was obeyed, and for the fourth time the horse leaped the pyramid, and then with his rider dropped down exhausted. The officer extricated himself from the saddle and rose unhurt, but the horse had both his fore-legs broken. The countenance of the officer was deadly pale, his eyes stared wildly, and his knees shook under him. A death-like silence prevailed as he advanced to the Grand Duke, and laying his sword at his Highness's feet, he thanked him in a faltering voice for the honour he had enjoyed in the Emperor's service.—"I take back your sword," said the Grand-Duke gloomily, "and are you not aware of what may be the consequence of this *undutiful conduct* towards me?"

The officer was sent to the guard-house. He subsequently *disappeared*, and no trace of him could be discovered! This scene took place at St. Petersburg, and the facts are proved by the evidence of credible eyewitnesses.

### "THE ABSENCE OF HOPE CREATES DESPAIR."

Such is the motto which surmounts the portico of the Military School at Warsaw. The individuals composing it, though they have a right to be considered gentlemen, are subject to all the oppressive discipline of common soldiers, and must bear it without daring to complain.

Harro Haring.

Orders were given to torment the military students by severe drills, in order to enervate their physical strength, and diminish their moral force. But instead of subduing their vigour, these rigorous measures aroused the energy and courage of the youth. Sarmatians in name and in heart, they awaited impatiently the hour for their country's regeneration.—*La Grande Semaine des Polonais.*

The most disgraceful punishments, persecutions which knew no bounds, every description of outrage, were pursued by the Commander-in-chief, under the pretext of maintaining discipline, but with the covert object of destroying that high principle of honour, that national spirit, which characterised the troops. The slightest faults, the mere suspicion of neglect, were held to be crimes against military discipline; and, by the arbitrary influence exercised by the Commander-in-chief over the awards of courts-martial, not the life only, but the honour of every soldier was at his absolute command.—*Manifesto of the Polish Diet, 20th December, 1830.*

The plan of study in the military schools was extremely confined and pedantic, and the Czarowitch himself caused the most rigorous discipline to be enforced, often with corporal chastisement. If the young man entered the troops of the line, the service was opposed to every manifestation of free-will, and extremely burdensome, in consequence of the passionate disposition of the Grand Duke, often showing itself in acts of violence, which even the superior officers could not escape. What wonder, then, if the seeds of concealed hatred were sown in the minds of the youth? Besides this, the promotion from the school of subaltern officers was often marked by arbitrary favour and aversion. If the students, therefore, took arms at the breaking out of the insurrection, they did not want the example of the Polytechnic School at Paris.—*German Papers.*

#### EXCITING CAUSE OF THE REVOLUTION.

It was about seven o'clock in the evening of the 29th of November, 1830, that the insurrection was first commenced by the under-ensigns. Harro Harring says that the particular act of tyranny which roused the Poles to resistance is not accurately known; but it has been stated elsewhere, that the revolution was excited by the abhorrence with which the military youths had witnessed the ignominious deaths of some fellow-students, who had been sentenced by a Court Martial to be shot, for having sung the Marseillois hymn.\* Others were also threatened with the degrading punishment of flogging. At the hour above-mentioned, a young officer hastened to the quarters of his comrades at the School, crying "To arms, brethren! the hour of liberty has arrived!" The pupils, to the number of from 500 to 600, immediately joined him, and, crossing the bridge of Sobieski, towards the Belvedere palace, disarmed the piquets, seized their horses, attacked the barracks, and drove the Russian cavalry beyond the walls. Constantine escaped from the Belvedere by means of his valet-de-chambre; but his favorite, General Gendre, fell pierced by two balls,—and the cruel Prefect of Police, Lubowski, the first victim, was killed by a bayonet-thrust. By ten o'clock the Poles had taken possession of the arsenal, containing about 50,000 stand of arms, which were distributed among the people. Their force was also augmented by many pieces of cannon; and they were joined by thousands of the native troops.

*In twelve hours the Revolution was begun and completed!* The sun rose, as it was fondly believed, on the regeneration of Poland. By eight o'clock in the morning, all the Polish troops, with the exception of one regiment of chasseurs and a few companies who held for Constantine, and remained with him outside the suburbs, had joined

\* Whatever is obscure on this point, will, doubtless, be elucidated in authentic works now in course of publication.

the insurgents. Nearly 30,000 armed citizens swelled their dense ranks; and many armed females were seen bearing their share in the dangers of the crisis. In vain did the Grand Duke meditate the recovery of the entrenchments and fortifications. His isolated, though desperate, efforts to re-enter the city, were repulsed with serious loss; and when he became acquainted with the number of his antagonists, he wisely desisted from his purpose.

FIRST PERIOD.—FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT ON THE 29th NOVEMBER, 1830, TO THE BATTLE OF GROCHOW, 25th FEBRUARY, 1831.—In the middle of the memorable night of the 29th November, Prince Xavier Lubecki (pronounced *Loobetzkee*) Minister of Finance, convoked the administrative Council of the kingdom, in order to form a Provisional Government. To this body were added Prince Adam Czartoryski, Prince Michael Radziwill, Michael Kochanowski (Senator), General Pac, (*Patz*) General Chlopicki (*Hlopitzkee*) and Julian Niemcewicz, the poet, as Secretary of State, all distinguished for their talents, character, or services. The first act of the administrative Council, in the spirit of the Revolution, was to make a solemn entry into the palace of the Finance Minister, on the 30th November. At the head of the procession was General Pac, in national costume, followed by the palatines, Count Sobolewski and Prince Czartoryski, the ministers Lubecki and Mostowski, the castellan, Kochanowski, and M. Niemcewicz, as well as General Rautenstrauch, a member of the council. The crowd accompanied them, shouting for joy. After the cortège had entered the palace, the venerable Niemcewicz appeared at the balcony and addressed the people, stating that the Administrative Council felt the importance of their duties, and would use every effort to give satisfaction to their confiding countrymen. He concluded by recommending union and order. A desire was then expressed to hear Chlopicki, but his absence prevented the wishes of the people from being gratified. General Pac then presented himself, and declared, that, acceding to the desire of the Council, he took upon himself the command of the Polish troops, which charge he should, on the first opportunity, transfer to General Chlopicki. On the 1st December, the news of Chlopicki's appointment to the chief command, excited universal joy. The talents and merits of this General were duly appreciated; his services to his country, the esteem even of his enemies, and his European reputation, seemed to guarantee the success of the Polish cause. The Administrative Council, at first, evidently entertained no intention of throwing off their allegiance to the Czar; all their proclamations were in his name, and all their claims bounded to a due execution of the charter. An executive Committee was formed, which deputed Prince Adam Czartoryski, Prince Xavier Lubecki, Count Ladislas Ostrowski, and the learned historian, Joachim Lelewel, to convey to Constantine the wishes of the Polish nation; viz. to possess the Constitution as it had been given, and to have the promises of Alexander realized as respected the Polish provinces incorporated with Russia. The reply was vague and unsatisfactory, and destroyed all hope of concession.

*Warlike preparations.*—The government now redoubled its activity, and commenced the organization of the army and the National Guard. A levy *en masse* was ordered, not only through modern Poland, but throughout the kingdom as it existed at the death of Sobieski: the *Pos-*

*polite*, or militia, was called out; and the country-gentlemen were authorised to organize troops in the interior of their provinces. On the 4th December, all the Polish troops which had accompanied Constantine, returned, (with scarcely an exception) to Warsaw, and gave in their resignation to the Provisional Government. The next day (5th December) Chlopicki, the generalissimo, was appointed Dictator, and invested with plenary power, both civil and military, after the example of the ancient Romans in similar emergencies. *La Grande Semaine des Polonais*, or the memorable week of the Polish Revolution, finishes with this appointment.—(See p. 43 of the French pamphlet.)

*Negotiations with the Emperor Nicholas.*—Chlopicki, as a General, stands deservedly high, but, as a Statesman, he was, to say the least, unfortunate. He is accused of a want of penetration as well as promptitude. Neither comprehending the revolution, nor the character of the autocrat, he let slip the propitious moment for the re-establishment of Poland, and wasted two months in ineffectual negotiations. Appeals and remonstrances against the constant and galling violations of the charter had, prior to the revolution, been wholly disregarded: Nicholas declared he should not *interfere*; so that instead of the Poles throwing off their allegiance to the Sovereign, he renounced his protection of them. It was not to be supposed that a Monarch so imperious and overbearing, and imagining himself autocrat of Poland as well as Russia, should condescend to treat with a people whom he had been in the habit of trampling upon with impunity.—Almost every other Pole was aware of this, and Chlopicki was compelled to resign the dictatorship. It is supposed that this General meant well, but that he was softened, if not subdued by the wily insinuations of the Russian Cabinet. His conduct, however, in the field, soon afterwards proved him an *honorable* and brave patriot. The Diet was again in full power. As nothing less than unconditional submission would satisfy the Czar, and as the Poles preferred to perish rather than make it, they now fully and irrevocably embarked in the portentous contest. Towards the end of January, Prince Michael Radziwill (now in *Siberia*), was elected Commander-in-Chief. The bold but just measure declaring Nicholas to have forfeited the throne, was proposed in the diet by Count Roman Soltyk, a distinguished deputy, (who afterwards headed a company of scythe-bearers.) At the close of the sitting, the cry of "To Lithuania! To Lithuania!" resounded through the Hall. General Diebitsch meantime was marching towards Warsaw, and issuing vapouring proclamations in which he expressed confidence in the aid of Almighty God!—eulogised the clemency and magnanimity of his Imperial Master,—and, unintentionally satirised his Sovereign, by commending the conduct of those Poles who had been FAITHFUL TO THEIR OATHS! *Count Diebitsch even confirmed by his own expressions to a Polish beaver of dispatches, the suspicion that the Russian army was ready to march to the Rhine to overawe or overwhelm France.\** Towards the end of January,

\* Nor was the Emperor a whit more reserved in his language to the deputation from the Provisional Government. Deaf to every reasonable proposition, opposed to all concession, bent upon extinguishing Poland, and big with ambitious projects, he replied, "Nothing can stop my advance towards the Rhine. I shall subdue Poland in my progress thither."

"The fact ought to be universally known, that France is at this moment indebted to Poland for not being invaded by Russia. When the Duke Constantine fled from Warsaw, he

Prince Czartoryski was elected President of the National Government. In his address to the diet, he declared that he had once cherished the belief that a union between Russia and Poland might be attended with advantage to each. But every thought of that kind was now at an end. "At present," said he, "all our hope is in the sword. Let us not allow even the bitterest reverses to bend our spirits, but may our enemies find upon the last span of Polish ground, defenders, whose cry shall be victory or death."—Associated with the President in the government were Vincent Niemoyewski, Joachim Lelewel, Theophilus Morawski, and Adam Barzykowski. The Secretary was Adam Plichta. Energetic measures were taken for the defence of the territory, and Prince Radziwill actively prosecuted his duties as Commander-in-Chief. Early in February the Russians entered Poland at five several points.

## SKETCH OF THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION.\*

*Battle of Grochow.*—This terrible battle was fought on the 25th February, and forms the first memorable event of the campaign. Previously, however, to this brilliant affair, the indefatigable and intrepid Dwernicki (*Dwernitzkee*), had gained in rapid succession, decisive advantages over Geismar and Kreutz. Prince Radziwill held the chief command at this period; and Chlopicki, so lately the dictator, voluntarily fought under him, and afforded the greatest assistance. He exposed himself in every way, and was often in imminent danger. Two horses were killed under him, and he himself was wounded in the foot by a cannon ball. General Zymirski was mortally wounded. The scythe-bearers fought most desperately. Prince Albert's regiment of *Invincibles* was cut to pieces. The little wood of Grochow, (which is in the vicinity of Praga,) was taken and re-taken several times by the Poles, being as obstinately contested as the orchard of Hougomont, below the plains of Waterloo. Upon this occasion, the gallant Skrzynecki (pronounced *Skrizjenezkee*), particularly distinguished himself.—Result of the battle:—the retreat of the Russian army, and the concentration of the Polish forces upon Warsaw; nearly 5000 Russians killed and wounded; and about half that number of Poles.†

left papers behind him proving that the Russians, after the Parisian events in July, meant to have marched towards Paris, if the Polish insurrection had not prevented them."—*Metro-politan*, &c.

That the design of removing the Polish army towards the French frontiers had been seriously entertained, was proved by documentary evidence in the French Chamber of Deputies, on the 18th March last, when General Lafayette read letters to this effect from M. Ignatius Turkut and Count Grabowski, Ministers of Nicholas, to Prince Lubecki, the Polish Minister of Finance.

\* This *coup-d'œil*, or concise sketch, of the campaign, is compiled principally from some notices left in our hands by Count Ladislas Plater, during his late visit in Hull.

† The first public manifestation of sympathy in England, for the Poles, took place after the news of this sanguinary engagement. A meeting was held at the Crown and Anchor, to receive the Marquis Wielopolski; (then on a diplomatic mission to the English Court,) and to celebrate the heroic efforts of his countrymen. Mr. T. Campbell, on that occasion, addressed the assemblage with his usual boldness and fervour.

[Grochow is pronounced *Grockoff*, the *ch* having a guttural sound.]

SECOND PERIOD.—FROM THE BATTLE OF GROCHOW TO THE BATTLE OF DEMBIE-WIELKE, ON THE 1ST APRIL.—*Skrzynecki* appointed *General-in-Chief*.—Prince Radziwill, on being invested with the command, had made it a condition of his elevation, that he should only retain it until he should discover a real military genius capable of conducting Poland to victorious independence; and, with a magnanimity which recalls the best age of the Roman republic, he surrendered his power into the hands of the chivalrous John Skrzynecki.

The Russian army remained for some time in the neighbourhood of Warsaw, without making any demonstration. The Poles, on the contrary, continued their warlike preparations with great vigour and activity. The expeditions of General Dwernicki took place in the month of March. This enterprising officer was despatched into Volhynia with 5000 men, and gained all his brilliant victories against forces which often out-numbered his in the proportion of four or five to one. He is particularly distinguished for the number of cannon which he took from the enemy. But his successful career was cut short by the Machiavelian, though weak, policy of Austria.—Dwernicki having crossed the frontiers and passed into Galicia, opposed to forces eight times more numerous than his own, was compelled to give up his arms and cannon, *which were sent to the Russians*. The Polish troops had been previously fired upon! This was a most flagitious violation of the principle of neutrality, and a scandalous infraction of international law.

The other operations during this period, consisted in organizing the Revolution throughout Lithuania.

The 25th of March is memorable for the breaking out of the Lithuanian Revolution. Each district, in which the insurrection appeared had its chief who organized this patriotic movement. Over them all was appointed a Commander-in-Chief, whose name was Medard Koncza. (pronounced *Kontchak*)\* The province of Samogitia † has the merit of being the first to organize a system of resistance in Lithuania. It was here that M. Parzewski armed many hundreds of the peasantry, and made those exertions and sacrifices which have doomed him to exile, and bereaved him of the tenderest of friends. Marshal Antony Przewiczewski, another Samogitian Chief, was equally active, we are informed, with our friend Parzewski. The district of Wilkomir was organized by Count Cæsar Plater, ‡ and the Countess Emily Plater. Prince Gabriel Oginski distinguished himself as a Chief in the neighbourhood of Wilna; and his wife (the aunt of Counts Cæsar and Ladislas Plater,) inspired the peasantry with determination and courage. The Lithuanian Revolution was successful in checking the Russian army from getting to Warsaw,—in intercepting the communication with St. Petersburg,—and in taking magazines of corn and ammunition,—although the insurgents were imperfectly armed with scythes, pistols and common fowling-pieces. This was a partisan warfare, as Lithuania had no regular army.

\* He was afterwards taken by the Russians, and sent to the mines of Siberia.

† In an early attempt upon Polangen, the Samogitian peasantry were dispersed by the Russians, but they soon nobly retrieved this little disaster.

‡ Who was afterwards placed at the head of the Central Government established in the ancient Polish provinces.

On the 31st March the advanced guard of the Polish troops under General Lubieski gained signal success over the corps of General Geismar at Wawr. The brilliant victory over General Rosen, at Dembie-Weilke, was achieved the following day, the 1st of April. The Russians were completely routed and retired to Siedlce. Whole regiments threw down their arms! Many thousand prisoners were taken, besides a considerable number of carriages, caissons of ammunition, and articles of luxury belonging to the Russian Generals. The intrepid Skrzynecki fixed his head quarters at Dembie-Wielkie after the battle, on this day, after having been 20 hours on horseback. From hence he issued his official bulletin.

This month (April) was the month of victories. General Uminski worsted his adversary, General Sacken, in several daring skirmishes. General Pac and Sierawski were driving the enemy before them, until the latter met with a repulse from General Kreutz. Another victory was obtained at Siedlce. But the most celebrated battle of this auspicious month was that of Iganie, achieved by the Poles. On this occasion General Romarino (a French officer) distinguished himself. Unacquainted with the Polish language he cried out, as he cast his cap into the air, "Vivent les Polonais!" and led on the Polish infantry with bayonet in hand. General Prondzynski also took a bayonet, and on foot, rushed to the charge, as an example to his troops. This accomplished and gallant officer was appointed by the generalissimo, quarter-master-general to the army, and discharged that most responsible office with distinguished zeal and ability. During the successive battles for the six weeks subsequent to the 1st of April, at least 11,000 prisoners were taken. Early in that month General Rybinski took 3000.

The cause was prospering in Lithuania, where General Chlapowski had been sent with about 5000 troops to support the revolution; and General Chrzanowski, who replaced Dwernicki, was victorious in his advances upon Lublin and Zamosc. Praga was covered at this time by 12,000 men under the command of Uminski.

The Polish diet had commissioned General Kniaiewicz (the father-in-law of Prince Radziwill) and Count Plater to call upon the French government to acknowledge the independence of Poland. In the same month (May) an official communication is said to have been received by the British government, for the first time, asking for a recognition of independence.

[To be concluded in our next.]

## LIVES OF POLISH HEROES AND PATRIOTS.

"I fill my mind with the sublime images of the best and greatest men, by attention to history and biography; and if I contract any blemish or ill custom from other company which I am unavoidably engaged in, I correct and expel them, by calmly and dispassionately turning my thoughts to these excellent examples.—It is like living and conversing with these illustrious men, when I write as it were, and receive them, one after another, under my roof; when I consider how great and wonderful they were, and select from their actions the most memorable and glorious."  
PLUTARCH.

PRINCE ADAM GEORGE CZARTORYSKI.—This prince is descended from the royal house of Jagellon, the ancient sovereigns of Lithuania. His father was one of the most remarkable men of his day for accomplishment, political talent, knowledge of languages, and influence among his countrymen. The present Prince (now in Paris or in



London) is also distinguished for his acquirements, but ranks most highly as a publicist, having devoted much attention to international law. He has served as first Minister for Foreign Affairs, under the Emperor Alexander, at that time his personal friend; but such was the sterling integrity of the Polish Prince, that he was never suspected of indifference to the interests of Poland. After returning to reside in his native land, he was appointed Curator of the Universities; but was eventually replaced by Count Novoziltzoff, a man to whose brutality allusion has been already made. In his superb castle at Pulawy, (near Warsaw) the Prince, after his retirement from public life, spent the principal part of his time, occupied with domestic endearments, the improvement of the country, and the promotion of literature. His mother, a venerable lady of 92 years of age (now an exile); his sister, the Princess of Wirtemberg; his wife, of the illustrious house of Sapieha; and two fine children (boys), formed his family. He was drawn from his peaceful retirement by the despotic proceedings of the Emperor Nicholas against the members of the Patriotic Association (to which Major Lukasinski belonged). He then declared openly against the Court, and placed himself at the head of the opposition. At the revolution he was appointed President of the Provisional Government. He subscribed great sums of money to the public treasury, in support of the warlike preparations. His immense possessions are now chiefly in the hands of the Russians, who pillaged the palace, and perpetrated the greatest atrocities at Pulawy. The library of the Princess Czartoryska was used for fuel by these barbarians, the works of art defaced or destroyed, and the whole of this noble retreat, with its magnificent garden, made a scene of frightful desolation.

**GENERAL JOSEPH CHLOPICKI, THE DICTATOR.**—This distinguished character is descended from a noble, though not an opulent family, in the Ukraine. He is celebrated as a "Legionist" in Italy, under Bonaparte. So early as the days of Kosciuszko, he developed great military talents, and, after the fall of his gallant leader, he refused to serve any of the *partitioning* powers. His merits, however, were known; and, on the romantic formation (January, 1797) of General Dombrowski's legion in Italy, he was one of those selected and sent by the patriots of Poland to that country.\* Marshal Suchet's Memoirs bear honourable testimony to the merits of this Polish chieftain. When Alexander conceived the idea of becoming King of Poland, he was singularly desirous of propitiating this officer, and gave unlimited pledges of realizing all that Napoleon had ever promised: but in no one instance was the pledge redeemed. Thus injured, he became the object of persecution; but his nobility of character protected him from petty persecution, until one day on parade, the Grand Duke not being very decorous in his language, Chlopicki tendered his resignation, and remained for three years in his house, until it was

\* The victory of Hohenlinden, on the 3rd December, 1800, celebrated by Campbell in some of the most splendid poetry in our language, is attributed, in a great measure, to the gallantry of "the Polish Legion of the Danube." We recal, with delight, that vivid picture—

"On Linden, when the sun was low,  
All bloodless lay the untrodden snow,  
And dark as winter was the flow

Of Iser, rolling rapidly:  
But Linden saw another sight,  
When the drums beat at dead of night,  
Commanding fires of death to light

The darkness of her scenery," &c.

accepted. He then visited Italy; and on his return home lived in perfect retirement, until the bursting out of the Revolution.\*

[To be continued.]

## FEMALE PATRIOTISM.

DURING the fifteen years which elapsed from the partial or pretended restoration of Poland in 1815, to the revolution in 1830, the Polish ladies invariably rejected from their society every Russian Officer even of the highest ranks.

At the commencement of 1831, societies were formed by the ladies for the collection of their plate and their jewels, even to their wedding rings, which were melted down into ducats.

The women emulated one another zealously in their devotion to the national cause. They made cockades, and cartridges, and busied themselves in preparing lint.

They excited the courage of their husbands, brothers, and sons, and cheered the citizens and military in the midst of danger. Some were seen encouraging the men with bayonet in hand. Several perished like common soldiers. Others went about to dress the wounded, and to secure and bury the dead. They followed the army; established and superintended temporary hospitals under the fire of the enemy; and were lavish of their aid, their care, and consolations.

**COUNTESS CLAUDINE POTOCKA.**†—This lady proved herself an eminent *Samaritan*. She is the daughter of the Senator Palatine Count Xavier Dzialynski; was born in 1808, and married in 1824, to Count Bernard Potocki. The Grand Duchy of Posen was the country of her nativity, and her residence. She could not withstand the appeal of her countrymen, and, unmindful of the menaces of Prussia and Muscovy, she escaped with her husband, accompanied by thousands of young and courageous citizens. The hospitals at Warsaw were the scene of the Countess's heroic devotion; there, surrounded by wounded warriors, and those stricken with malignant cholera, she sacrificed every thing to the duties she had undertaken. Seated by the couches of the sick, during seven successive months, she was constantly occupied in dressing their wounds and alleviating their sufferings. Neither the sight of hideous gashes, nor the fear of contagion deterred her from her course of persevering charity. Such modest and unostentatious devotion is as truly heroic, and perhaps more profound, than that displayed in the field of battle. The Countess accompanied the Polish army in its retreat to Modlin; and when, in the midst of general confusion, she once with great difficulty procured a truss of straw, on which to repose her wearied head, but relinquished it, like a female Sidney, in favour of a sick officer who accidentally caught her eye. She is now in Dresden, where she continues to watch over the fate of unfortunate refugees, to relieve whose destitution she devotes the remains of her fortune, and even the produce of her needlework.

**EMILY SZCZANIECKA.**‡—This young lady gave up the whole of her fortune to her country, and joined the Sisters of Charity. She is the intimate friend of the Countess Potocka; and, disguised as a waiting-maid, ac-

\* We had notices of Generals Pac, Dwernicki, and others, in type, but are compelled to omit them in this number. Biographies of Jagellon, Sobieski, and Kosciuszko, are also postponed.

† Pronounced *Pototska*.

‡ *Shtchahnge-etzka*.

accompanied her in her dangerous journey through Prussia, when she undertook the safe conduct of several patriots deeply compromised during the revolution. Having, as a female, more facility in obtaining a passport, the Countess availed herself of it for the purpose of saving, at great risk and peril, the friends above-mentioned. Disguised as her domestics they traversed the country undiscovered.

THE COUNTESS EMILY PLATER.—A deep interest attaches itself to the fate of this noble and heroic girl.—Previously to the breaking out of the revolution in Lithuania, she had led an elegant and retired life, and had never even been on horseback. She was, subsequently, almost constantly on horseback, and was present at almost every battle in Lithuania. This young Countess organised the peasantry upon her own estates, armed them with scythes, pitch-forks, and fowling-pieces, and led them against the Russian troops. In all her expeditions she was accompanied by a lady, for the benefit and consolation of her society. On one occasion she succeeded in getting close to the fortress of Dyneburg, which was in possession of the enemy, and drawing a plan of it. This was an undertaking of considerable difficulty and peril, and could not have been achieved by a man.

A Russian Colonel once saved her life, when her detachment was attacked by a very superior force. Emily afterwards assumed a peasant's dress, with the view of accompanying Count Cæsar Plater to Warsaw. The Count wore a peasant's habit also, and succeeded, after many 'hair-breadth 'scapes' in reaching that city. Emily was stopped by the way, and after encountering numerous perils, undergoing the most cruel privations, and enduring hardships calculated to undermine a more robust frame than hers, heart-sick and worn out with anxiety and suffering she died, but a few months ago, at a little obscure village in the Woiwodship of Augustowa.

CONSTANTIA RASZANOWICZ was the companion in arms and perils of the Countess Emily Plater. She contributed by her spirit, her exertions, and her fortune to defend her country (Lithuania) against the Russian invasion.

The *Czartoryskas*, the *Sapiehas*, the *Zamoyskas*, the *Oginskas*, the *Prondzynskas*, and others, who devoted their treasure or their blood to the cause of their beloved country, might be added to this catalogue; but we are compelled to postpone further notices to a future opportunity.

### THE ATROCIOUS MEASURES FOR DENATIONALISING POLAND.

And must they fall? The young, the proud, the brave,  
To swell one bloated Chief's unwholesome reign?  
No step between submission and a grave?

And doth the power that man adores ordain  
Their doom, nor heed the suppliant's appeal?  
Is all that desperate valor acts, in vain?

And counsel sage, and patriotic zeal,  
The veteran's skill, youth's fire, and manhood's heart of steel?

Is it for this the *Polish* Maid aroused,  
Hung on the willow her unstrung guitar,  
And, all unsex'd, the anlace had espoused,  
Sung the loud song, and dared the deed of war?  
And she, whom once the semblance of a scar  
Appall'd, an owl's larum chill'd with dread;  
Then view'd the column-scattering bay'net jar,  
The falcion flash, and o'er the yet warm dead  
Stalk'd with Minerva's step, where Mars might quake to tread,  
*Childe Harold.*

NOTWITHSTANDING that the Emperor Nicholas, before his triumph over the unhappy Poles, gave to surrounding nations the hope that he would use his victory with moderation and clemency:—notwithstanding that he

promised peace and forgiveness:—an ukase was afterwards issued, compelling all those who were pardoned to enter the Russian military service—if the name of service can be given to an exile worse than death. Numbers who had returned, misled by this fallacious amnesty, have avoided its terrible effects by escaping in a state of utter destitution.

In contempt of the amnesty granted, in contempt of the solemn promises formerly given that they should never be removed beyond the frontiers of Europe—the Poles are shamefully transported in whole masses into Asia, under the pretext of Russian military service; they are also deprived of their names, and numbered as cattle! Their heads are shaved; and, chained to long iron bars, they are driven barefooted to the pestiferous mines of Siberia, or to the icy regions of Kamschatka: on their passage to these desolate lands they cannot receive any trifling charity for their relief; a recent order rigorously forbids giving them anything! This is the treatment of persons of the highest rank and character. Some are consigned to Russian dungeons, to pass the remainder of their lives in the most abject state of misery. *This is not all*:—the worst remains behind.

The autocrat "out-herod's Herod."—Under the mask of taking orphans under his guardianship, he tears the CHILDREN from the bosoms of their shrieking mothers; for fear they should imbibe, besides the love of their country, also the sentiments of one day avenging it. Bent on exterminating Polish spirit, he is preparing infants to *suck the shame of despotism*. They are kidnaped in the open streets, as if the executioners of this infamy, were in pursuit of dogs. Mothers have been driven to commit suicide, and even infanticide before their suicide, in order to snatch themselves and their offspring from a fate far more terrible than death.—THERE IS A BOARD OF POLICE ESTABLISHED AT WARSAW, PURPOSELY FOR WATCHING THE CHILDREN, SEIZING THEM, AND TEARING THEM FROM THE HEARTS AND HOMES OF THEIR PARENTS.—Incredible as this may seem, it has received too many confirmations, to leave room for the shadow of a doubt.—Whilst these fiendish deeds are being enacted, God is called upon to witness the justice and clemency of the Arch-criminal! Murder is perpetrated with a smile; and insidious courtesies are employed to make the European Powers overlook the enormities which a gilded serpent, or a sleek and crafty tiger can commit, when the victim is under his fangs. Yet the Emperor Nicholas is said to be not only a mirror of courtesy, but a model of urbanity. But if he possess ORIENTAL politesse, he has also a truly oriental indifference to human suffering. It would be *mauvais ton* to evince any emotions of sympathy. Like the pirate of the Grecian Archipelago—

—"He is the mildest manner'd man  
That ever scuttled ship or cut a throat;"

or like the amiable Ali Pacha, so gentle, fair, and fat,—

"That in his lineaments ye cannot trace  
The deeds that lurk beneath, and stain him with disgrace."

Dr. Holland has aptly characterized that chieftain's power of *fascinating*, by an open and even gentle exterior, as the "fire of a stove, burning fiercely under a smooth and polished surface." If the same description do not apply to the Autocrat personally—but if he be really the good and gracious personage which some people represent him,—why does he adopt the demon-like advice of his boyars, ministers, and myrmidons?

"Some Italian brain does in your duller *Russia* operate."

## CORROBORATIVE PROOFS

## OF THE UNPARALLELED CRUELITIES OF NICHOLAS.

1.—“The address of the states of Galicia to the Emperor of Austria,” on behalf of their Polish brethren under the Russian yoke, signed by nearly 300 members, all of them men of consequence and credit. This most important and irrefragable document confirms the accounts of the barbarous mode of transporting the Polish heroes to Siberia, &c., as well as the inhuman exterminating policy, which “tears from the arms of their mothers, infants requiring all their tender care;” besides the attempts to close their churches and chapels, the determination to shut up their schools, despoil their universities, and to outrage the feelings of the people in every conceivable way that the most malignant ingenuity can devise. This state paper is of itself abundantly sufficient evidence, and should strike the sceptic dumb; but we will heap proof on proof, until there shall not be a hinge or loop to hang a doubt upon.

2.—(From the *Courrier Belge*,” June 10.) *Various accounts from the frontiers of Poland, agree in this, that the condition of this ill-fated country is every day becoming more and more deplorable. By a recent order of Prince Paskewitch, all the children of respectable families, are to be transported to the interior of Russia, and upwards of 5,000 children have already been carried off. The lady of General Rozycki, not having been successful in her petition to the Emperor, in favour of her two sons, killed them with her own hand, and herself, on their corpses!\**

3.—A British gentleman, who was in Warsaw in June and July last, writes to the London Polish Society thus:—“I perceive by the English papers, that accounts have not failed to arrive, describing the unparalleled conduct of the Russians, and I affirm that the whole published can be accredited, and NOTHING IS EXAGGERATED during the time that I remained at Warsaw.” &c. &c.\*

4.—A nuncio to the late Diet of Poland, wrote from Warsaw, in June, to the following effect, after detailing the most shocking particulars:—“If you will have a picture of our situation—the continued tearing away of sons, fathers, and husbands, from the bosoms of their families—I must declare to you, that I have no longer the power of describing it to you: that which is written with blood, cannot be brought upon paper. Do tell this to the friends of liberty; and if the inhabitants of Europe will not believe us, tell them they will perhaps repent their incredulity one day, in the same manner as we did, when we thought the cries of our unfortunate brethren in the old Provinces, under the Russian yoke, to have been overcoloured.”\*

5.—Letters from Berlin, 3rd July, state, that—“The accounts of the deplorable state of Poland, which at first appeared to be exaggerated, prove to be literally true. The overbearance of the Russians in Warsaw, is intolerable. Paskewitch is another Constantine; he imitates the wild severities of his predecessor, even in the foolish notion of requiring the people to pull off their hats when he is passing in the streets. Will it be believed, that ladies also who may happen to be sitting at the windows, are obliged to stand up?—a humiliation which Constantine himself did not pretend to; and to avoid which, they now prefer inhabiting the back rooms of their houses. The families of German merchants, who, being foreigners, were known to be adverse to the revolution, in consideration of the risks their fortune was exposed to, do the same, and find

\* “Polonia; or Monthly Reports on Polish Affairs.”—No. I, (August.)

the present state of things beyond endurance. The flower of the Polish nation is sent away to people the deserts of Russia, or fill up the ranks of the army in the Caucasus, where they have to fight with barbarous tribes.” &c.\*

6. *From the frontiers of Poland, in July.*—“The atrocious system of vengeance adopted by the Russians, has no limits in Poland. She is in every quarter the *object of decimation*: up to this moment, the estates of the refugees alone were sequestered, their wives enjoying the use of their property; but according to an Ukase recently issued, the sequestrations of the estates of the refugees, including those of their wives, in the eight palatinates of the kingdom, are henceforth to be converted into so many CONFISCATIONS.”\*

7. A gentleman from Vienna, writing respecting the address of the Gallician states, and eulogising the Governor of Galicia, (Prince Lobkowitz) remarks—“How different is his conduct from that of the Russians, who, by their barbarities, evince their Tartarian, their barbarous, descent! I happened to meet one of the members of the Deputation sent from Warsaw to Petersburg. He said that Nicholas had not been sparing of the sweetest, sugar-like (cukrowe) words, particularly when in private interview. STILL IN POLAND MATTERS ARE GOING ON AS THEY WERE—EVEN WORSE AND WORSE; NOT A TRACE OF HIS BOASTED BENIGNITY, NOT EVEN OF HUMANITY, IS SEEN; HIS DEEDS GIVE THE LIE TO HIS WORDS. The country will ultimately lose its population, only old men remain, for even children are taken. Almost all the manufactories have ceased to exist. Warsaw bears the appearance of a city in a state of siege,” &c.\*

8. *From Poland, in August.*—“We are assured that, according to a late Ukase, the estates of all the Poles who have not re-entered Poland before the first of September, are to be confiscated.”†

9. *Later Intelligence.*—The estates of Prince Adam Czartoryski in Volhynia and Lithuania, and the beautiful Pulawy, in the mock kingdom, are all confiscated. The same is done with the extensive Dospuda of General Pac, and his splendid palace at Warsaw. Pilica, the property of the Princess of Wurtemberg (a Princess Czartoryska by birth) and her extensive possessions in Podolia, are confiscated, while she is yet alive, for the benefit of Prince Wurtemberg, her worthless and faithless son, who ordered, during the last war, his barbarous hordes to shoot at the windows of the palace, where his mother, and aged grandmother, were living, and where many noble Polish ladies fled to, at that moment, for an asylum.†

10. *From Bromberg (Grand Duchy of Posen), August.*—“As for Russia, every account that has been given you of the atrocities committed in Poland is but too true. Russian civil functionaries, who, in their zeal for extermination, can furnish twenty Polish children for the transports to Russia, are decorated with the Order of St. Stanislas of the fourth class, as a reward. An immense number of the Polish population is on its way to the remotest parts of Russia and Siberia; even houses of ill fame have been ransacked for tributes to that disgusting Minotaur. In Lithuania, a commission is appointed, which, in its atrocious attributes, is to out-do the *ci-devant* French “Comité du Salut Public.” It is designated by the name of the *Commission of Transplantation*—Human beings are then, in Russia, not considered even as beasts and cattle that may be translocated, but as trees and plants that must be transplanted!”†

\* “Polonia,” No. II. (September.)—† “Polonia,” No. III. (October.)

11. *Foreign Correspondence in Court Journal, for 22nd September last.*—We have received from a gentleman who left Warsaw on the eighth of August, the following picture of that capital:—"Scarcely a Pole is to be seen in the principal streets and public places, but which, on the other hand, swarm with Russians and Jews. The number of *cafés* have doubled, as it is the only resort of the Russian officers, who are excluded from good Polish Society. THE LADIES OF WARSAW STUDIOUSLY AVOID ALL INTERCOURSE WITH THOSE OF RUSSIA, AND SO FEARFUL ARE THEY OF BEING CONFOUNDED WITH THEM, THAT THEY HAVE ACTUALLY ADOPTED A DISTINCTIVE BADGE. In order to replace the numerous recruits that are continually marching from Poland into the interior of Russia, and to the Caucasian regions, fresh hordes of barbarians, many of them from the confines of Tartary, are continually arriving; and Warsaw, the miniature Paris, is fast assuming the external features of Asiatic barbarism. The proconsul Paskewitsch is still in the capital; he is rarely seen. His presence is only known by his acts of tyranny and oppression. The extent of Poland's misfortunes has imparted to her gallant people a sublime resignation that is yet preparing great events. As they wander forth to the land of their exile, surrounded by their Cossack guards, they solace their dreary route by singing their national airs, and feel convinced that they shall be instrumental in planting freedom in the very heart of the Russian dominions. In spite of the vigilance of the police, a copy of Mr. Fergusson's motion on Poland was circulating from hand to hand in Warsaw; and a thousand blessings were invoked on the head of the noble advocate of Poland's wrongs."

#### FURTHER ILLUSTRATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

1. As soon as a prince attacks the Constitution of the State, he breaks the contract which bound the people to him: *the people become free by the act of the sovereign*, and can no longer view him but as an usurper who would load them with oppression. If he become the scourge of the state, he is no better than a PUBLIC ENEMY, against whom the nation may and ought to defend itself.—*Vattel*, Bk. I. c. 4. § 51.

2. Some have dared to advance this monstrous principle:—that the conqueror is absolute master of his conquest—that he may dispose of it as his property—that he may treat it as he pleases:—but, disregarding such writers, who reduce men to the state of transferable goods, or beasts of burden, let us argue on principles countenanced by reason, and conformable to humanity; which determine, that if the conquered country is to be really subject to the conqueror, he must rule it according to the ends for which government has been established.—*Vattel*, Bk. III. c. 13. § 201.

3. If a prince by violating the fundamental laws, gives his subjects a legal right to resist him—if tyranny becoming insupportable, obliges the nation to rise in their own defence; *every foreign power has a right to succour an oppressed people who implore their assistance*, (as in the case of James the Second of England, &c.)—*Vattel*, Bk. II. c. 4. § 56.

4. If by her constant maxims, and by the whole tenor of her conduct, a nation proves herself to be actuated by a disposition to trample justice under foot,—if she regard no right as sacred—the safety of the human race requires that she be repressed: the interests of society would au-

thorise all the other nations to FORM A CONFEDERACY IN ORDER TO HUMBLE AND CHASTISE THE DELINQUENTS.\*—*Vattel*, Bk. II. c. 6. § 70.

#### DESIRE OF THE POLES TO AMELIORATE THEIR INSTITUTIONS.

MANY calumnies and misrepresentations are industriously circulated on this subject, to the prejudice of the upper ranks of the Polish nation. We shall make a point of disabusing the public mind on this head, in future articles. Meanwhile we offer the following facts to candid attention:—

1.—The Serfs have been emancipated by the constitutions of 1791, 1807, and 1815.

2.—In 1780, the patriotic Chancellor Zamoyski, laid a new code before the Diet, in which he recommended the abolition of those two fatal privileges, the *liberum veto*, and election of the Monarch; another equally important scheme was the emancipation of the Serfs; the trading classes also were to be raised to a share in the Government; commerce was to be encouraged; &c. but Russian policy opposed this liberal and wise design.—(*Fletcher*.)

3.—By the celebrated Constitution of the 3rd of May, 1791, the towns were admitted to the elective franchise; the *liberum veto* was abrogated, (unanimity in the diets being no longer required,)—the throne was to be no longer elective, but hereditary, and other salutary changes were proposed. The politicians in England were enthusiastic in their admiration of the new constitution. "It is a work," said Fox, "in which every friend to reasonable liberty must be sincerely interested."—"Humanity," exclaimed Burke, "must rejoice and glory, when it considers the change in Poland!"—And in 1793, Mr. Grey, (the present Earl Grey,) observed in the House of Commons, "When Poland was beginning to recover from the long calamities of anarchy, combined with oppression; after she had established an hereditary and limited monarchy like our own, and was peaceably employed in settling her internal government, his Majesty's ministers, with apparent indifference and unconcern, have seen her become the victim of the most unprovoked and unprincipled invasion; her territory overrun, her free constitution subverted, her national independence annihilated, and the general principles of the security of nations wounded through her side." (*See Parliamentary debates*.) Yes, this was done by Russia: "her troops entered the kingdom, and restored the ancient chains; the perfidious Prussian followed the example, and began his second career of spoliation (2nd dismemberment) by the reduction of Dantzic." The Constitution of 1815, was given only to make its real the more galling. It was like the mockery of demoniac malice; the cup of Tantalus, no sooner presented to the eager lip, than dashed away again.—What has followed, and is now in progress, make all former spoliations look venal in the comparison! But the original sin must yet be atoned.†

\* The following is curious as an illustration of Muscovite policy. Under the conscription now going on in Poland, an oath is presented to the Polish subalterns and soldiers, by which every one becomes bound to "*augment the Imperial army, THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE !!! and the number of its subjects.*" Is any comment necessary?

† We have been under the necessity of omitting our article "On the Power and Weakness of Russia," in the present impression.

## Poetry.

## THE POLISH FUGITIVES,

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE "CORN LAW RHYMES."

*(Written for the Hull Polish Record.)*

The day went down in fire,  
The burning ocean o'er;  
A son, and grey-hair'd sire,  
Walk'd, silent, on the shore.

They walk'd, worn gaunt with cares,  
Where land and billow meet—  
And of that land was theirs  
The dust upon their feet.

Yet they, erewhile, had lands  
Which plenteous harvests bore;  
But spoil'd by Russian hands,  
Their own was theirs no more.

They came, to cross the foam,  
And seek, beyond the deep,  
A happier, safer home,  
A land where sowers reap.

Yet, while the playful gold  
Laugh'd into purple green,  
The crimson clouds that roll'd  
The sea and sky between,

The youth his brow uprais'd  
From thoughts of deepest woe,  
And on the ocean gaz'd,  
Like one who fronts a foe.

The sire was calm and mild,  
And brightly shone his eye,  
While, like a stately child,  
He look'd on sea and sky.

But on his son's lean cheek,  
And in his hands, grasp'd hard,  
A heart, that scorn'd to break,  
With dreadful feelings warr'd;

For he had left behind  
A wife, who dungeon'd lay;  
And loath'd the mournful wind,  
That sobb'd—Away, away!

Five boys and girls had he:  
In fetters pin'd they all;  
And when he saw the sea,  
On him he heard them call.

Oh, fiercely he dash'd down  
The tear—that came, at length!—  
Then, almost with a frown,  
He pray'd to God for strength.

'Hold up!' the father cried,  
'If Poland cannot thrive,  
'The mother o'er the tide,  
'May follow with her five.'

'But Poland yet shall fling  
'Dismay on Poland's foes,  
'As when the Wizard King \*  
'Aveng'd her ancient woes;

'For soon her cause will be  
'Rous'd Europe's battle cry;  
'To perish, or be free!  
'"To conquer, or to die!"'

His hands clasp'd o'er his head,  
The son look'd up for aid;  
'So be it, Lord!' he said,  
And still look'd up, and pray'd,

Till from his eyes, like rain  
When first the black clouds growl,  
The agony of pain,  
In tears, gush'd from his soul.

\* The name which the Turks, in their superstitious dread, gave to the great Sobieski.

## FROM "THE LEGIONIST."

*By Casimir Brodzinski,**(Who has translated "The Lay of the Last Minstrel" into the Polish Language.)**Dr. Bowring's Anthology.*

THE POLE.

—But we are not fallen;—We  
Scour the wide earth, invoking Liberty.

THE ITALIAN.

One sun illumines all the globe. Where'er  
We love and are beloved, our country's there.  
Come, exile! fix thee here. The orange-tree,  
The olive and the vine, shall bloom for thee;  
Lay down thy wearying arms. Near ruin'd Rome  
Sure 'tis unmeet to mourn thy land,—thy home.

THE POLE.

For us the sun is clouded,—no perfume  
Of the sweet orange fills our plains; no bloom  
Of vines is in our valleys. Yet the breeze  
On Carpath's sides is sweeter far than these,  
The corn-fields waving like a wind-rock'd sea  
'Neath heaven's blue temple, bending gracefully.  
Our mountains bear within their granite breast  
The war-repelling iron. O how blest  
In their green dells to dwell!—compared to this,  
All other bliss were but a worthless bliss.

THE ITALIAN.

Yet still the spirit's higher, holier part  
Seeks more refined enjoyments—music's art,—  
That brings enchantment from the realms of song:  
The wizard spirit bears the soul along  
To the bright age of gods and fable. Time  
Spares in his flight the great and the sublime.

THE POLE.

We own,—we feel sweet art's bewitching spells;  
Without it, life in narrower limits dwells.  
Yet to my heart the voice of song is dumb;  
That heart lies buried in my mother's tomb,\*  
Beneath her heavy grave-stone. Nought to me  
But the harsh clarion's clang is harmony;  
That only can awake my mother's sleep:  
That let me hear when sinking in the deep  
Dull cave of long forgetfulness. If e'er  
Age should call back the blighted wanderer  
To his own home; how sweet beneath the shade  
Of the pale lime-tree—on the green turf laid—  
To mingle with my country's sorrow, thought  
Of triumphs by her exiled children bought.  
Our cities are in ashes;—from the block  
Our youths ne'er chisel'd gods; yet on the rock  
By the way-side our heroes' tombs we see,  
Uttering their deeds to time and history.

THE ITALIAN.

Thou fair-hair'd youth! these tones, so sad and stern,  
Become not life's gay spring. Let old men mourn,  
But thou, be joyful. Let thy country be  
In God's high hand—the King of kings is he;  
But thou, the black-eyed, sweet-voiced maiden take,  
Forget thy griefs, thy gloomy thoughts forsake:  
Round her thy children and thy home shall bloom,  
For all the world is love and virtue's home.

THE POLE.

Nay! I have shed hot tears for her I love;  
Nought but my country could our hearts remove.  
Whene'er I close my pilgrimage, I'll bear  
To my old sire my sword—my heart to her.  
One common land has bound us;—this our vow,—  
"Freedom and unchanged faith,"—I swear it now.

He spoke,—the Ukrainian *Dumas*† met his ear;  
On the dark hills the Polish ranks appear;  
And like an arrow with his steed he sped,  
While Rome's old burgher wondering bent his head.

\* By *Mother* is meant here the native land. The superior attachment of the Poles to their country made these terms synonymous.  
† Ballads.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[We cannot abstain from giving publicity to a letter which we have received from a fair anonymous correspondent, not only as a testimony of sympathy in the cause of Poland, but as a proof of a cultivated mind combined with the most estimable dispositions.]

*To the President and Members of the Polish Society.*

GENTLEMEN,

Finding from the report of the proceedings at your last meeting, that you paid the Ladies of this town and neighbourhood the great compliment of voting them permission to become members of your Society, I beg to present my individual acknowledgments; but as it is quite out of my power to be an efficient member, I give you my very sincere wishes for the success of your philanthropic intentions, accompanied by the humble donation of half a sovereign.

The utility of your Society is self-evident; for although I cannot balance the *pour et contre* with political judgment, I feel the full force of truth in such observations as the following:—"It must afford all readers of exalted taste and generous sentiment," says Bishop Newton, in his admirable Dissertations on the Prophecies, "all friends and lovers of liberty, a very sensible pleasure to find the prophets exulting over such tyrants and oppressors as the Kings of Assyria. In the fourteenth chapter of Isaiah, there is a triumphant Ode upon the fall of Babylon: it represents the infernal mansions as moved, and the ghosts of deceased tyrants as rising to meet the King of Babylon, and congratulate his coming among them. It is really admirable for the severest strokes of irony, as well as for the sublimest strains of poetry: indeed, the whole tone of the Scriptures is calculated to promote the civil as well as the religious liberty of mankind."—Allowing myself, therefore, to take the question only as a simple point of justice, I shall give my little support most cordially to whatever tends to the re-establishment of Poland, and the relief of her suffering people. "Success," says Moore, "too often throws a charm round injustice—like the dazzle of the necromancer's shield in Ariosto—before which, every one falls,

"Con gli occhi abbacinati—e senza mente."

Gentlemen, I am, with great respect,

Oct. 10, 1832.

A LADY OF HULL.

[The above seems to us a suitable companion to the communication addressed to Mr. Campbell, from "An English-woman," inserted at page 46 of the first number of "Polonia," which is justly characterised as "a model of pure and virtuous feeling for a suffering nation." The London Society has also received letters from several parts of the country, which prove that the *industrious and working classes of England are heartily with us*. The writers say, that "OUT OF THE HARD EARNINGS OF THE SWEAT OF THEIR BROWS THEY ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF POLAND, and that they speak the sentiments of multitudes around them in making these declarations."]

## MEETINGS AND PETITIONS

## ON BEHALF OF POLAND.

SINCE the publication of our first number, towards the end of August last, there have been many powerful manifestations of public feeling in favour of the re-establishment of Poland. In York, on the 29th August, an unprecedentedly large meeting was held in the York

Tavern. George Meynell, Esq., took the chair. Mr. Sheriff Hargrove introduced Count Ladislas Plater, in an impressive speech. The Noble Count followed in an able and touching address, in the English language, which he speaks with remarkable fluency and propriety. Mr. Meek, the Rev. Mr. Hincks, Mr. Wood, Mr. Sheriff Hanson, and other gentlemen, addressed the meeting, in terms which did honor both to their talents and feelings.

At Hull, on the following Friday, August 31, a public meeting was held in the Guild-Hall, convened by the Mayor (Robert Raikes, jun. Esq.,) in compliance with a requisition very numerous and respectably signed, without distinction of parties. The resolutions were respectively moved and seconded by the following gentlemen, viz.—the Rev. George Lee, and Mr. T. J. Buckton; Mr. W. H. Holdsworth, and Matthew Davenport Hill, Esq.; Rev. E. Higginson, and Mr. Faulkner Boyes; Dr. Chalmers, and Dr. Longstaff; Mr. J. Hitchins, and J. K. Picard, Esq.; Mr. W. H. Bell, and Mr. P. Bruce.—The speech of Count Ladislas Plater was listened to with the most thrilling interest. We are unable for want of space, to give more than a few sentences of this appeal. The Count began thus:—"It is with very great satisfaction and still greater hope of success for my country, that I attend this meeting, devoted to the glorious cause of justice and humanity.—We are assembled, gentlemen, not for a party question,—not for a question of inferior importance, but for an object involving the welfare of 20 millions of people,—the happiness of a nation;—for the purpose of alleviating the unexampled miseries of a brave but oppressed people." The Count then adverted to the former state of Poland; he, afterwards, gave a detail of her present sufferings; and then stated her claims upon Great Britain for protection and intervention. Poland, he observed, had never yet been conquered. She had formerly been one of the most influential European powers.—She had always been the advanced guard of civilized Europe,—and the strongest barrier against northern despotism. Russia was as *greedy* of aggrandisement as Poland was eager after liberty. What the Muscovite could not effect by fair means, he accomplished by perfidy, bribery, and the most disgusting intrigues. Thus the dismemberment and robbery of Poland was perpetrated: and France and Britain offered no opposition. Since the delusive hopes held out by Bonaparte, 92,000 Poles had shed their blood for France,—"but, alas! Poland had been cruelly deceived in her hopes, and the sympathy of the French *People* rendered ineffectual."—The Constitution, granted to the kingdom of Poland in 1815, had been outraged in every article. "During the long space of fifteen years, Poland had the heroic patience to wait for the enjoyment of her Constitution; but individual liberty and the freedom of the press were destroyed,—venality and *espionage* introduced,—military tribunals established,—the prisons crowded with the best patriots,—national customs abolished,—and the progress of civilization arrested.—Would any one believe the Poles to be the aggressors? Who is the aggressor, the persecutor or the persecuted? It was only after having exhausted all pacific measures, and lost all hope of recovering their liberty by longer submission, that they took up arms to vindicate their rights. The movement was spontaneous and unanimous. Even the women and the children joined the liberating army."—After a brief account of their heroic struggle, the Count described the horrid policy pursued by the conqueror since the fall of Warsaw. "The deserted villages are occupied by Russian peasantry who enjoy considerable privileges;—and the atrocities now being perpetrated are *shocking* to describe;—the language,

religion, nationality, are destroyed;—the ministers of religion are treated like slaves, and subjected to the horrible corporal punishment of the *knout*,—the places of education shut up,—fortunes confiscated,—and tortures in the interrogatories introduced.—“This,” continued the speaker, “is the deplorable, the wretched state of Poland:—this is the way in which is observed the constitution of Poland; and the institutions and representation guaranteed by treaty.—What *right* has Russia to govern Poland—to destroy her existence, in so shameful and inhuman a way, *after having taken away herself the conditions by which the country was attached to her dominions?*—Will Great Britain approve such a violation of a treaty which she has signed?—Is not the conduct of Russia a humiliation to Great Britain? Is she not bound to preserve the existence of Poland? Yes, Gentlemen, she is bound; and I hope she will do the best to save Poland,—because she has a wise and liberal government,—because this government is supported by the people,—and because the moral power of more than 30 millions of free people is stronger than the numerous body of Muscovite barbarians.”—The Count then alluded to the mission of Lord Durham. He had no confidence in the pacific disposition of Russia. “Her friendly reception,” said he, “of a British minister, is not a reception, it looks rather like a *deception*, and a diplomatic farce.”—British liberty, he believed to be connected with the future liberty of Poland. We ought to be on our guard against any further incursions into Persia on the part of the Czar. The noble exile concluded his address by expressing his conviction of the utility of Polish associations, and spoke highly of “Polonia,” and the “Hull Polish Record.” By such means and such organs, combined with the energetic expression of public feeling in addresses and petitions, he hoped the sympathy of the nation (united with France) would prove effectual, and that his wishes would be accomplished. “For Poland is not lost, but still exists in the hearts of Englishmen; and I believe, therefore, that this powerful expression of your feelings will hasten the happy day of the triumph of European liberty, and of the restoration and independence of Poland.”\*—The address to His Majesty in Council obtained, in a few days, a vast number of signatures.

At *Sheffield*, on the 10th September last, Count Plater attended a meeting, held in the Music-Hall. Thomas Dunn, Esq. (the Master Cutler) in the chair. The principal speakers were Hugh Parker, Samuel Shore, Samuel Bailey, John Parker, J. S. Buckingham, Eneas Macdonnell, Esquires, Dr. Phillips, Dr. Holland, Mr. Bramley, and Mr. Palfreyman. The most intense interest was manifested, and the address was signed by 4,000 inhabitants.

At *Nottingham*, a public meeting was held on the 19th September, at which J. H. Barber, Esq., the mayor, presided. The resolutions were moved and seconded by the following gentlemen, viz.—Thomas Wakefield, F. O. Martin, Thomas Bailey, W. P. Smith, M. H. Barker, Esquires, Col. Cooper Gardiner, the Rev. Benj. Carpenter, and Mr. Alderman Oldknow.

\* The eloquent speech of Mr Hill, the barrister, a Candidate for the representation of Hull in Parliament, riveted the attention of the audience.—This meeting was, upon the whole, one of the most remarkable that ever took place in Hull, whether we regard the numbers present, the unanimity that prevailed, or the powerful sympathy that was evinced on the occasion.—We are, at present, unable to give a detailed report of the proceedings, but copies of the resolutions, the address, and a list of the requisitors will be found in the third No. of “Polonia,” (for *October*.)

*Derby and Belper*.—Petitions, numerously signed, have been transmitted from both these towns.

In our next, we expect to record a splendid meeting at Birmingham, in this great cause.

## POLISH LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS.

SINCE the establishment of the HULL POLISH SOCIETY, the Parent Association in London has gained several new branches. It appears by the “Scottish Guardian” of the 5th inst. that *Glasgow* has given birth to an auxiliary institution; and that, at a recent meeting, a resolution was passed,—“That a correspondence be opened between the Glasgow Association and others throughout the land.” It was further resolved—“That as the chief objects of the Glasgow Polish Association are, to acquire and disseminate intelligence regarding the state and prospects of Poland, a *Monthly Magazine*, devoted to the affairs of Poland, general liberty, and literature, be started by the Association so soon as their funds will permit.”

Other branch Societies are also said to be in process of formation, or have actually been formed, in Warwick, Nottingham, and Sheffield. We expect to hear from them so soon as they shall have been organized.

A circular has been received from a member of “The Hungarian Polish Association,” which contains an Address to Englishmen, but we are unable to find a place for it at present.

In France, several Polish Associations have been formed. There are four in Paris alone. From these we may expect many valuable works to issue. One object of these Societies is to diffuse a knowledge of Polish literature, by translations. They also contemplate the re-publication of standard works, and the compilation of an authentic history of recent events.

## THE LONDON LITERARY POLISH SOCIETY, AND THEIR PERIODICAL.

WE acknowledge with gratitude the prompt attention and liberal assistance we continue to receive from the Metropolitan Establishment. Their monthly reports on Polish affairs, entitled “Polonia,” has now reached its third number, and, though the price remains the same, it contains nearly twice as much matter as the first. Its contents must challenge the attention of statesmen, and be deeply interesting to all persons who are awake to the importance of Polish independence. The truckling policy of Prussia is exposed, and laid bare to the cautions of public scorn. An account is given of the murder of a number of unarmed Polish soldiers, at Fischau, by order of General Krafft. The writer of the article, intimating that Prussian subserviency may pave the way to a subjugation not unlike that which has overtaken Poland, observes—“Probably our children will hear, one day, of a Prince *Berlinski* as well as a Prince *Warszawski*.”—Under the head of “Home Intelligence” will be found reports of the public meetings at Manchester, Hull, Sheffield, and Nottingham; and in their “Foreign Intelligence” are many important but revolting facts, relative to the treatment which Poland’s children continue to endure.—The last few pages are devoted to Poetry.—It has been observed, that if “Polonia” were estimated by the importance of its articles, it would take precedence of all other magazines.

TRANSACTIONS, &c.  
OF THE HULL POLISH SOCIETY.

SINCE the first ordinary general Meeting, on the 18th July, two special meetings have been held; one on the 17th August, the other on the 10th September, for electing members, making communications, &c.—The Society now consists of nearly 70 ordinary, and 15 honorary members; the latter are foreigners of distinction. Several subscriptions have been obtained for M. Barre's bronze medal. The Society takes one copy of the folio edition of M. Straszewicz's Biographic Gallery of Polish Patriots; and another has been ordered by one of the members.

The Second Ordinary General Meeting took place, in the Philosophical Hall, on Wednesday, the 3rd October instant. There was a good attendance of ladies. Dr. CHALMERS, the President, took the chair soon after seven o'clock. After the proposal and election of members, &c. Mr. EDW. BUCKTON, the Secretary, announced a present from Count Ladislas Plater, of four French pamphlets, and then read several interesting communications. The routine business being ended, the President delivered the following brief Address:—

Homines hominum causa generati fuerunt ut ipsi inter se, aliis alii prodesse possent.—Cic.

"THE question is often put to us: "What good can your Society do to the cause of Poland?" To this question, we do not hesitate to give the following answer:—

"Literature and the fine arts not only enlighten the mind and soften the manners, but they touch the heart, give rise to generous feelings, and direct them towards a laudable and noble end. A literary association which effectually recommends pure morals, manly virtues, and the culture of the intellectual powers, both by precept and example, not only serves the cause of learning and morality, but effects political good, of a species the most permanent and substantial. Its labours tend to advance the members of society towards all the perfection of which humanity is susceptible. They enlighten the understanding, that they may see the great and solid objects of public good; and they embolden their hearts to pursue it like men—like men, not such as grovel on the earth in many parts of Europe and Asia, but—such as opposed "a Xerxes in the Straits of Thermopylæ, waged war with a Philip, or put an end to the ambition of a Tarquin and a Cæsar."—In short, Liberty, without which we might almost venture to repine at our existence as a useless and a baneful gift of God, cannot be understood or valued, and consequently will not be duly supported, without a competent share of improvement moral and intellectual.

"A despot hates the freedom of philosophical discussion: he dreads much less the scimitar of a slave than the pen of a philosopher;—and why? Because, with a single nod, he can rid himself of the one, but the other eludes his power. To check the progress of civilization when its beneficial seeds have once been sown in a country, is beyond the power of man;—and the despot well knows that if the light of knowledge begin to break and dawn over his barbarians, they will soon dash him to the ground: just as it happens with the heathen, who, the moment that the veil which conceals the truth from his eyes is withdrawn, and he perceives the idol he so much feared and adored as a terrible god, is nothing but a mere mould of clay, or an inanimate figure of wood or of stone, breaks it into a thousand pieces, and tramples the fragments under foot, ashamed and disgraced at his past credulity, ignorance, and superstition. Knowledge, then, is to be considered not only the kind nurse of the mind,

but the mirror through which truth is to be perceived in all its purity, as well as the powerful stimulus which is to brace the nerves and sinews of the body politic, and enable it to lift the arm with irresistible vigour:—in short, moral and intellectual improvement are essential to the existence of civil liberty, and to the continuance of national prosperity.


"However little certain *pseudo-critics* may be inclined to concede to us, they cannot deny that our Society, whose task is to collect and disseminate, with industrious and persevering hand, every historical fact and literary document calculated to shew in a true light the virtues and sufferings of magnanimous Poland, is apt not only to instruct our own countrymen in an important lesson, as regards their own national prosperity, but to raise and preserve in their bosoms a deep and general feeling of sympathy and admiration for that glorious but ill-fated country. This is the chief object of our Association; and as the cause we have undertaken to patronize is that of justice and humanity, we have no fear of being disappointed in our expectations;—for where is the British heart that can look on the bloody pages of Polish history, without emotion? Can the British people sit down and quietly look on at a tyrant feeding, with the ferocity of a wolf, on the innocent blood of thousands, without raising their unanimous voices against the deed? To suppose this, would be outrageous to the honor and the humanity of Englishmen, whose chief characteristics have ever been a love of liberty, and an abhorrence of tyranny.

"That this moral unanimity amongst our fellow-countrymen may, in progress of time, be productive of the happiest consequences to unfortunate Poland, cannot be doubted. History tells us that the most powerful tyrants have sunk to the dust before the moral energy of nations;—and shall it be otherwise in the present instance? No. Let the voice of the British people be heard on the shores of the Baltic, and the Giant of the North will tremble like another Sardanapalus, and give back his ill-gotten plunder!"

THOS. SANDWICH, Esq. of Beverley, followed, with the admirable paper which forms the first article in the present number. The Secretary afterwards read an anonymous contribution to the Record, with which the meeting seemed highly gratified. It constitutes our second article. A vote of thanks to the writer was moved by Dr. Chalmers, and seconded by Mr. P. Bruce. A motion to the effect that *Ladies be admitted subscribers* to the Association, was proposed by the Secretary, seconded by Mr. W. H. Bell, and carried unanimously. The meeting then assumed the character of a *Conversazione*, and did not separate until nearly ten o'clock. The books, papers, prints, &c. belonging to the Society, were spread on the table for inspection.

DONATIONS RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST.

From Mrs. D. Sykes, Raywell.....	£1 1 0
„ A Lady of Hull.....	0 10 0
„ Count Ladislas Plater, four French Brochures.	
„ M. Pietkiewicz, "La Lithuanie, etsa dernière Insurrection."	
„ Mr. A. D. English, a Map of Poland.	

 All Communications to be addressed to the Secretary.

To Correspondents.—We return our best thanks to our Contributors; and shall at all times be happy to receive Communications and Suggestions from the well-wishers of Poland.

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