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[ARTICLE]

**Poland and European War.**

The condition of Europe is such that a general war would probably result in great advantage to the masses of the people, and perhaps restore to Poland and Hungary their nationality, which has been swallowed up by the voracious governments of Austria, Prussia and Russia. The history of Poland for nearly a century past has been a history of the oppression of these empires, particularly of Russia. Poland, though now expunged from the list of nations, and in reality only a power that was, yet her history goes far back into the past, and has a brilliancy and glory that well might inspire the sons of her soil with feelings of pride, and a desire, nay, with a determination to struggle for her restoration into the family of nations. For more than 800 years Poland was the seat of an independent and powerful empire. Liberty, refinement, learning and religious freedom found in Poland a friend, advocate and protector. For centuries the Polish monarchy formed the chief bulwark of christendom, against the bigotry, intolerance and invasion of the Turkish empire. To her the cross looked not in vain for an advocate or defender. The same generous impulses and aspirations for political and religious freedom characterizes her scattered children in different nations at this day, that inspired lofty action for the good of others in days long since passed away.

Though Poland has now no existence only in

name, still she claims to be considered as a separate and distinct people. In all her physical aspects, in her social habits, language, feelings and prejudices, the inhabitants, from the Baltic sea on the North, to Waldavia on the South, and from the Martha river on the West to the Dnieper on the East, being 700 miles long by 680 broad—over this immense territory, the people, we repeat, are, as formerly, in thought, habits, language and feelings, Poles. They recount the days of her grandeur with emotions of pride, and cherish her history with all the fondness of a fond mother for a long lost and beloved son. This vast extent of territory embraces an area of 284,000 square miles, and has a population of over 22,000,000. A general revolution, such as must at no very distant period shake Europe to the very center—a revolution that will topple thrones, carve and divide, as did the great Napoleon, will awaken in these sons of Polish soil a desire, and will, for the restoration of their nationality, too strong to be resisted.

The first form of the Polish government was despotic. The power of the sovereign was almost absolute, yet the people advanced rapidly under this dynasty. In the 14th century there was a union of Poland with Lithuania. A national legislature declared the government a limited monarchy. The nobles and clergy elected the sovereign, and the laws of the legislature were proclaimed in the name of the kingdom and the republic of Poland. Through the administration of this united monarchy, Poland attained to an elevated position among the nations of Europe. Occasional acts of despotism on the part of the Polish government are recorded, but these were the results of temporary political derangement, not frequent or contin-

ued. Feelings of national pride and veneration for the customs, and usages, and laws, and institutions of Poland, was a prominent feature in the Polish character. Stanislaus was the last monarch elected to the throne of Poland. This transpired in 1764. The tri-party plunderers of Poland conceived the idea about 1772, under a false and assumed pretence, of seizing upon the Polish territory, and dividing the spoils between them. The history of the connivings, frauds, double trickeries and oppressions, these empires resorted to for the attainment of their infamous purposes, should bring eternal disgrace upon their names.

While these powers in 1791 were extending their influence by briberies, by hostile armies, by besieging cities, by efforts to create internal discord and national jealousies — we say, while these combined powers were struggling to crush the republic, the government made an appeal to all the people of the nation to unite, defend, preserve its oneness and integrity. They felt the necessity of a strong arm to lead, and of a political head that should survive the monarch—they had experienced the evils and dangers attending the election of sovereigns, and the power of party and danger of factions. They wanted a stronger government—a government that was permanent; one that did not feel the necessity of catering to the prejudices of the people, with the view of electing a monarch—a government whose ministers and executive officers could have no aspirations for the throne. The result was, the throne was declared to be hereditary. This, like the election of Louis Napoleon to the throne, by the French, gave general satisfaction to the people. The rights of all classes—nobles, citizens, peasants, were consulted. There was union and strength, adequate for the trium.

phant resistance of either of the three powers, single handed and alone, but not equal to overcome them combined.

These powers in 1792 made the first division, which embraced a large slice from the Northern and Eastern part of the Republic. The multiplied aggressions of the three powers—their efforts to cut off another slice for division, aroused the nation to desperation, which made a gallant resistance. Under the lead of the noble and gallant Kosciusko, they made almost superhuman efforts to maintain their independence, and, for a time, were successful. At times the victory would be on their side, and at another on that of their combined enemies. Victory, for a time, oscillated between them, as if in doubt on whom to bestow the heroic land; but superior forces finally proved more than a match for Polish heroism, and another portion of Poland was divided between the three powers. In 1795, when the King was deposed, the last remnant of the territory, once sacred to religious and political freedom, was devoured between the voracious bear of the North and his inhuman allies, and poor Poland had no longer a national existence. The patriotic Poles were treated by the victorious parties with the greatest cruelties. Many who escaped the sabre, the dungeon or Siberia, joined the army of the French, and, in 1797 and '99, formed the Polish Legion, which became a powerful body, rendered immense service to the French, and aided that nation to secure some of its most brilliant victories.

In 1812, about the time Napoleon projected his Russian campaign, knowing the heroism and undaunted courage of the Poles, he resolved to avail himself of their peculiar condition to secure their services. He accordingly offered to

restore to Poland her nationality, but after gaining their services, he left, to his shame, the Poles very nearly in the same condition he found them, with perhaps a slight amelioration of their condition, secured by his influence with other powers. Subsequently, about one sixth

of the ancient monarchy was raised into a separate State, which bore the name of Poland.

The Russian Emperor was declared King. The rights of the House of Deputies possessed but little more of real power than the present legislature of the Emperor Napoleon the Third. But at this time the subdued and despised Poles were desirous of maintaining the semblance of Polish nationality, and acceded to this as the best thing they could obtain. But the despotism of the Czar became intolerably oppressive. The galling chains of the Russian Autocrat for years chafed the Poles to that extent, that in 1830 the citizens of Warsaw, deeming death preferable to its continuance, rose in rebellion to Russian rule. They proclaimed their grievances to the people of the nation, and they were soon in arms. The din of battle was heard in town and city. Never did a noble people make a more gallant resistance to foreign invaders. Warsaw led off with a spirit, enthusiasm, liberality and heroism that inspired the nation with the feeling that it was better to die in resisting lawless oppression, than endure the intolerable despotism of Russia. Their gallant stand awakened feelings of admiration and sympathy among the people of the United States, England and France, but particularly in this country. Struggle followed defeat, till finally the weaker was forced to succumb to the stronger, and all that remained of Poland was absorbed in the Empire of Russia. The scaffold, dungeon and Siberia, as in the early days

of the revolution, received hosts of unwilling victims. Many of the patriots fled to France, England, the United States, and other countries. With us they were received with marked considerations of respect.

The day for Poland is yet to come. She will yet have an existence. Millions still live who anxiously await the arrival of that day when they can strike for their nationality. Russia is aware of the existence of this sentiment—Austria and Prussia are not insensible of its extent or power. These nations desire not a general war. France knows full well what influence a general European war would produce upon the Polish mind. None of these powers covet war, because they know the democratic sentiment is too strong for them to control the elements, if once set in motion. But this feeling will not be confined to the Poles. The Greeks have wrongs to avenge. Hungary, with her fourteen millions, have the corpse of a nation into whose nostrils they desire to breathe the breath of life. France, Italy, the Germanic and other States, are resting as it were, upon the craters of slumbering volcanos. The fires of revolution once lighted up, will burn with an intensity that will defy all the opposing engineering of despotism. The outraged and oppressed revolutionists of 1848, throughout Europe will remember their wrongs, which will be as fuel to the general conflagration, and impart an intensity to the general movement, that may cause the oppressors, in the language of holy writings, “to call for the rocks and mountains to fall upon them to hide them from the face” of the outraged multitudes. Who can predict the ultimate results that would follow in the wake of a European revolution?

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CLIPPER BARK MERMAID.—This swift and