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MEETING OF POLANDERS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

[From the San Francisco Bulletin of April 17th.]

A numerous gathering of the natives of Poland took place last evening in the Russ House, to express their sympathy with the late efforts made by their countrymen to free themselves from Russian authority. Captain H. Bielawski opened the proceedings by stating that he was happy to see so many friends present. The object for which the meeting was called was that measures should be taken here to assist Poland to regain her national independence, and take her position among other independent republican powers. He then introduced Piotrowski, who, he said, would give them a brief address.

CAPTAIN KORWIN PIOTROWSKI.

The speaker appreciated the honor conferred by calling upon him for an address, but he had to state that he was a soldier, not an orator; and had never made a public address even in his native language. He would endeavor, however, in a simple and homely way, to make some explanations, and in regard to the manner of his speech he trusted to their kind indulgence. Their object was the noble cause of Poland; Poland was in arms; her sons had struck another blow for freedom, and God grant this time a bountiful harvest of liberty. [Applause.] They, Poles in California who had fled from a despots chain, deeply sympathized with the efforts now being made by their countrymen, and their hearts beat high for the cause of their noble brethren at home. Tears filled their eyes, and their hearts throbbled with intensity of emotion, and they felt like spilling the last drop of blood for the cause of Poland. [Applause.] There were great obstacles to surmount, but while the Poles fought at home, could they not do something here? He thought they could. Where did they stand? On Liberty's soil, among millions of freemen who were the natural born enemies of tyranny [applause]; whose duty should be to help and encourage those who were struggling for liberty, and if it were possible that the sympathy of Americans for their cause could reach Europe, it would freeze the hearts of the despots and add firmness and strength to the hands of their brethren. Let them go to work. He had lived seventeen years in America, and he assured them that the American interest was with them. It could

not be otherwise. Had not the blood of Poland's sons been spilled on her soil in aid of her struggles for independence? and would the freemen of this land repulse their cause? No, never! The blood of Poland's heroes was as fresh in their memories as when they first fell, and they could never forget them. The name of Kosciusko was dear to the hearts of American soldiers. He believed in the justice of their cause, and hoped that so long as Polanders lived and breathed, no matter in what quarter of the earth they should be, that they never would forget it, and would be ready at all times to do their duty, and 30,000,000 of Americans would bless them in their efforts. Thousands of their countrymen in their native land were now stretching out their arms to them for help and sympathy, and he believed that the sons of Washington and Jefferson never could resist such an appeal. God could not permit them to pass it unheeded. [Great applause.]

J. C. Zabriskie, who was present, was then called upon for a speech.

J. C. ZABRISKIE

J. C. ZABRISKIE.

The speaker confessed that he felt somewhat embarrassed to address them, as his thoughts had not been especially directed with reference to the objects of the meeting, but the topic was copious enough for almost any person to say something, and he would proceed without reference to formalities. Attachment to country was a natural instinct of humanity, and it was also one of the noblest motives of patriotism, and when their countrymen assembled at the call of their country's hour of need, there was everything calculated to make the proceeding highly honorable. There was a vast amount of ignorance in regard to the past history of Poland. During her nationality she had made great progress in the arts and sciences, and at one period stood in the front rank of civilization. The University of Cracow was a noble institute of learning. It was there the great Copernicus received his education. The very downfall of Poland was caused by too ardent attachment to liberty, not only national but individual. The despotic powers around her concentrated their hate in consequence upon her, until they eventually blotted her out from the list of living nationalities. People generally had not a true estimate of her former power and extent. Her territory once embraced 390,000 square miles, on which were the homes of twenty millions of people, and she has been partitioned from time to time until now all that there is of Polish nationality is the hearts of her people alone. [Applause.] He bore a name that indicated his nationality, and he felt proud to say that the Polish feeling still predominated. [Applause.] The Hunga-

rians were another nation who had been treated very much after the manner of the Polanders, and if there were any representatives of Hungary at that meeting, they might be sure of their sympathy, for the same power of despotism that crushed Poland kept Hungary in chains. The real object of that meeting need have no relation to country or land. They had met to encourage efforts for liberty; for liberty so justly cherished wherever known. [Applause.] It was always expedient to do right, and that was the time. Could there be any question in regard to their duties that night? Talk about Americans! Every man was an American who feels that patriotism and love of liberty is beating in his heart. [Applause.] Emigrants of exalted character had come over here from the various nationalities and races of Europe to benefit American posterity. Here was established the great laboratory of the principles connected with human liberty, and their experience should induce all who had come here smarting under oppression to strike a blow for freedom wherever tyranny exists. [Applause.] When a young man had left his home in Poland and had lived in America, he was enabled, after a due sojourn, to give his relatives at home a faithful account of the blessings and enjoyments of our Government, which they would know to be reliable testimony coming from an honest heart. And it was such home intercourse across the broad ocean that gave an impetus to European emigration. They brought their stores of knowledge with them and their physical peculiarities, and he contended that this country was indebted to-day in regard to advancement in her mental and physical qualifications by the admixture of what has come from abroad. [Applause.] The European emigration had recuperated their degenerate tendency, and it would continue to infuse new vigor for centuries to come. [Applause.] It might be asked if it was prudent at the present time to take an active interest in regard to the objects of that meeting. The country was then engaged in a tremendous struggle for national existence. They had come here from Poland to enjoy the protection which was accorded here, and they could appreciate it. There were desperate struggles and conflicts for victory now in the East, and the shock of arms and the tumults of the war were but little felt in California, and ought they not, from that very circumstance, to be more susceptible to sympathy with the Polish cause? He considered it his duty to sympathize with those who were then struggling for their liberty. During the national history of the past the country had so sympathized. There was the Grecian struggle for independence from 1820 to 1827. There was great feeling upon the subject all over America at that time, and the people not only expressed their

sympathy but contributed money, clothing, etc., to the Greeks. So now he considered it their duty to aid Poland, and he felt assured that all American hearts would sympathize with and assist her in her present struggles. England had been generally favorable to the Polish cause, and yet there could be no doubt that her heart's desire was that the rebellion here should be successful. Louis Napoleon, though he was a professed champion of freedom, yet there could be no question that he too would be glad to give the South a helping hand, and would gladly second any such attempt on the part of England; but the great mass of the people both of England and France were inclined to sustain the principles of liberty. The former revolutionary wars of France were fought upon the principle that all men were brothers, and that it was their duty to aid them to throw off the incubus that had bound them down by despotic rulers. [Applause.] The Italians had just had a struggle for a nationality, and he doubted not that Hungary and Poland would yet successfully overthrow their despots, and rise to freedom and a name. [Great applause.] It had been said that Russia was the friend of the United States, and he would admit that she

the United States, and he would admit that she had generally manifested kindness to us, but she could well afford to do so. She was an absolute Power, and it was her intent to promote commercial intercourse with us. She had recently liberated her serfs, for which the cause of humanity was justly grateful; but while he approved of whatever she had done that was just and proper, he would never cease to condemn and execrate her barbarity toward Poland. [Applause.] Like the traitor who had once fought for freedom and was taken prisoner, when he asked what his sentence would be, was told that his leg that was wounded in the cause of liberty would be cut off and buried with the honors of war, but the rest of his body should be hung on the gibbet—just so with Russia. What she has done that is right, we will praise; and her wrong doings we will forever execrate. [Applause.] Your worthy President (Bielawski) had acted wisely and patriotically in inaugurating this movement, and he had no doubt the citizens here would respond, and aid them in their noble struggles whenever they should have an opportunity. [Great applause.]

Zabriskie having concluded his remarks as

above, the President, Bielawski, then arose, and, after stating that he should be glad to hear further remarks from any others who felt disposed to favor them, and there being no response, said he thanked the persons present for their attendance, and hoped that the voice of the free American people would reach the Poles, bring joy and hope to their hearts, and

lead them to exclaim: "The cause of Poland is not yet lost!" The meeting then adjourned.

The natives of Poland, in this city, have an organized association, of which the following are officers: President, Kaznier Bielawski; Vice Presidents, Francis Woycieehowski, Leon Czajkowski and Rev. Max Wolf; Secretary, J. W. Andrzejowski; Acting Agent on Communications, Rudolf Corvin.

BOILER EXPLOSION.—The boiler of the steam tug D. E. Crarey, of New York, exploded on Tuesday, March 24th, as she was leaving pier No. 44, North river, on her morning trip to Sandy Hook. Five of the crew were killed, four are missing, and two were severely scalded. The report was heard throughout the city. The concussion was such as to shake the walls of all the buildings in the neighborhood, and many of the inmates, fearing a crash, fled in their night clothes to the streets. As the steamer sank almost immediately after the explosion, it cannot be known until she is raised whether the missing men went down in her, or were thrown into the stream and there drowned. Two of the deck hands, who were thrown across the pier, were found on the deck of a ship in pier No. 33. A piece of the boiler, weighing about a ton, was sent crashing through the sides of an oyster boat lying in an adjoining dock, and another piece, weighing five hundred pounds, was thrown fifty feet upward into a ship's rigging, where it lodged. Fragments of the shattered vessel were thrown three hundred yards from the scene of disaster. Captain Anthony, of the Crarey, was thrown many rods out into the stream, but swam ashore. He was not seriously injured.

LEG BROKEN.—A miner named Hoar, working in the claims of Jacobs & Co., at Quaker Hill, Nevada county, had his right leg broken on Thursday, April 16th, and was otherwise seriously injured by a bank caving upon him.

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