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A VINDICATION OF POLAND.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8, 1867.
 !!EDITORS ALTA: The *Bulletin* of Tuesday published an editorial article which contained the following passage:

"For a time we had Thaddens of Warsaw and Polish exiles on the brain, and to question the most absurd conspiracy of the Poles was the next thing to treason. The truth is, the struggle of the Poles never was founded on any just conception of liberty. Caste, pride and hatred were at the bottom of all their insurrections. The haughty insolence of the upper classes never could brook any such dogma as equal rights. Serfdom was clung to with all the tenacity of the old feudal spirit. Nothing could be forgotten and nothing could be learned. Thus, when the Czar, inspired for one of the grandest movements of the age, initiated plans for the liberation of the millions of serfs, he nowhere met so much of the mean spirit of caste and dangerous hostility as in Poland. There was little of the magnanimity of a generous people loving liberty everywhere, and not less among the lowly and oppressed. Poland lost the sympathy and opened the eyes of America when her insurrectionists opposed themselves to impartial freedom. But the serfs were enfranchised, and Poland, which had so little sympathy with the movement, lost the last vestige of national distinction. The proud were abased and the lowly were exalted."

That article implies that all the sympathy of free nations with Poland and of the Poles with the friends of freedom is without reason and absurd; but it is written in utter ignorance of the facts. The first Polish revolution began in 1791, with a declaration that all men were equal before the law. In 1807, the code Napoleon, a code of freedom, was established. The Revolutionary Polish Congress of 1848 proposed to grant to the peasantry all the land which they occupied, and the measure would have become a law if the revolution had not been suppressed so soon that there was no time. In 1853 the Polish Agricultural Society, including 4,000 land owners among its members, under the presidency of Count Zamoyski, the richest landholder of the country, recommended a grant to the peasants of the lands which they occupied, provided that they should pay the usual rent for a period of twenty-eight years. The Czar abolished the Society, sent Zamoyski to Siberia, and otherwise showed that he disliked the plan. Finally, on the 22d January, 1863, the Polish revolutionists, following up the policy of all the revolutionists before them, granted the land to the peasants in occupation; and after it was done the Czar did not dare to undo it. The decree abolishing serfdom bears date March 24, 1861. It is scarcely necessary to say, that if the Polish Revolutions had any such character as is ascribed to them by the *Bulletin*, Poland would not have gone frantic with joy when she saw the standard of popular freedom hoisted in France in 1789, in 1830, and in 1848. There was a Polish nobility, and the common people were poor; and the same may be said to a considerable extent of England, the nobles and people of which nevertheless form a free nation. I know what I am writing about, for I am a Republican Polish Revolutionist. Americans who wish to read a fuller statement of the main facts will find it in the *Westminster Review* for January, 1865. POLK.

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