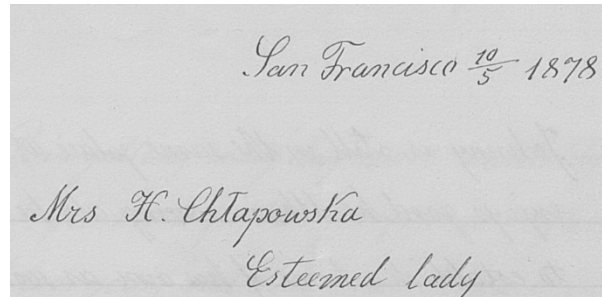


Letter (written in English) to Helena Chłapowska (Helena Modjeska)¹
from Captain Casimir Bielawski²

San Francisco 5 October 1878



Mrs. H. Chłapowska
Esteemed lady

Your letter of 29th April gave us much pleasure by informing us that you are enjoying excellent health, and conquering admiring crowds wherever you appear, and that amidst so many laurels won you still remember the quiet home in San Francisco, where you began your first studies of the English tongue and scene.

It certainly must be a lasting source of satisfaction to you, that by your own energy and genius you mastered in so short a time the difficulties of a highly cultivated foreign language, and penetrated into the spirit of a people so strange in its peculiarities to our own. May well-merited success follow you farther on; but among all the triumphs you are yet going to obtain, let me beg of you never to lose sight of the most valuable one, which is independence.

Johnny³ is still in the same place at Darwin;⁴ he enjoys good health, is saving all he can, in order to establish a home of his own as soon as possible, and

¹ Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska); see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helena_Modjeska

² Captain Kazimierz (Casimir) Bielawski; see <http://www.PolishClubSF.org/Bielawski.pdf>

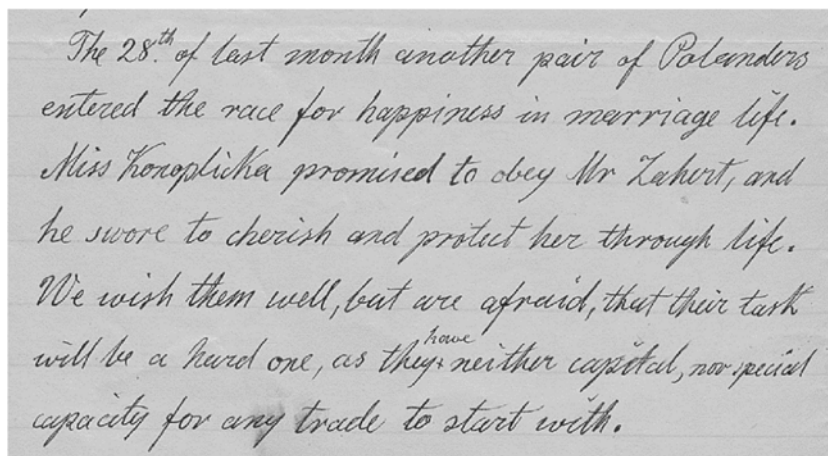
³ Unknown; John Stafford, John Russell, John Rawlings, John Reilly, etc., etc. were living in Darwin, Inyo County, in 1878

⁴ Darwin is a census-designated place in Inyo County, California, 22 miles southeast of Keeler, at an elevation of 4,790 feet

will certainly be delighted with your kind wishes, which I shall not forget to communicate to him.

Mrs. Emily D...ska⁵ has to pass through severe trials just now. One of her twins, the girl, died last week,⁶ and the boy is also not expected to live. She herself, worn out through constant care, and want of every kind of comfort, looks like a shadow, and her husband has also suffered much by night watches and overwork.

The 28th of last month⁷ another pair of Polanders entered the race for happiness in marriage [sic] life. Miss Konoplicka promised to obey Mr. Zachert,⁸



The 28th of last month another pair of Polanders entered the race for happiness in marriage life. Miss Konoplicka promised to obey Mr Zachert, and he swore to cherish and protect her through life. We wish them well, but are afraid, that their task will be a hard one, as they ^{have} neither capital, nor special capacity for any trade to start with.

and he swore to cherish and protect her through life. We wish them well, but are afraid that their task will be a hard one, as they have neither capital, nor special capacity for any trade to start with.

Captain P.⁹ is getting every day more unwieldy. H. [Horain ?]¹⁰ has not yet made farther [sic] progress in English above the "I love you," and Bed. [Bednawski ?],¹¹ poor fellow, is still unsuccessful in finding some permanent occupation.

⁵ Possibly Emilia Degórska, wife of Jan; see: <http://www.PolishClubSF.org/Degorski.pdf>

⁶ Infant twins born to Jan and Emilia Degórski died in 1878 but not in September

⁷ 28 September 1878

⁸ Konoplicka and Zachert; see: <http://www.PolishClubSF.org/Zachert.pdf>

⁹ Rudolf Korwin Piotrowski; see:

<http://www.polishclubsf.org/Piotrowski%20in%20City%20Directories.pdf>

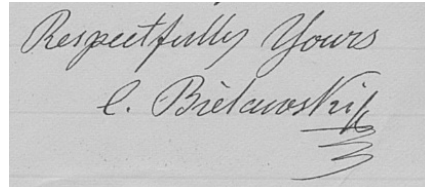
¹⁰ See: <http://www.polishclubsf.org/Horain.pdf>

¹¹ Aleksander Bednawski: See: <http://www.polishclubsf.org/Bednawski%20addresses.pdf>

My wife¹² sends you many kisses, and requests you to write to her a few lines from England, as she desires very much to find what impressions her native country made on you.¹³

Please to give our best regards to Mr. Chłapowski [Karol Bo[d]zenta (sic) Chłapowski] and Rudolph,¹⁴ and allow me to kiss your hands and sign myself

Respectfully yours,
C. [Casimir/Kazimierz] Bielawski

A photograph of a handwritten note on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and reads "Respectfully Yours" followed by "C. Bielawski" and a flourish.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Letter generously retrieved by **Roman Włodek** from Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland

Edited by **Maureen Mroczek Morris** (San Francisco) with **Roman Włodek** (Kraków) and **Lynn Ludlow** (San Francisco)

¹² Maria Clark (maiden name unknown); born in England; see

<http://www.PolishClubSF.org/Bielawski.pdf>

¹³ Modjeska visited Ireland, England, France and Poland (Kraków and Wrocław) in 1878

¹⁴ Ralph Modjeska, son of Helena Modjeska and Karol Bodzenta Chłapowski