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NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS

It, however, excited the bitterest jealousy among the neighbours of Poland. Russia feared that Poland would become too powerful for her ambition, and that she would be a thorn in her side by the example she would set to an enslaved and degraded people. The pretext for interference was that the Poles were a restless people, and unable to govern themselves; and no means of casting a stigma upon the Polish character were spared. The constitution, he contended, was a complete answer to all these invidious insinuations. The Poles had a right to look to Prussia for assistance, under a treaty entered into through the mediation of Great Britain and Holland; but when that assistance was claimed, the King of Prussia found it more convenient to side with Russia. This was an act of treachery so enormous that no parallel to it could be found in the history of man. The Poles were left to themselves, and the constitution was put down. In 1795 Poland took up arms to defend her national existence. The struggle was of short duration; but it was a memorable one, and it resulted in the dismemberment of Poland, in 1796. The portion then taken by Prussia and Austria was insignificant compared with that taken by Russia. Napoleon committed one of the greatest political blunders that ever was committed in neglecting to restore Poland in 1812; but if he was guilty of forgetfulness, England and France, in 1814, at the congress of Vienna, manifested the strongest anxiety as to Poland being restored to her former dignity and independence. Austria was favourable to it; and it was stipulated that a small portion should be made an independent kingdom, and that the other provinces should be governed by the national representatives and national laws. But it was never intended that this should be realised; and in the ancient provinces, Polish institutions were superseded by ukases, and the people subjected to absolute slavery. They were not allowed to think for themselves, for Russia's was such a paternal government that it thought for all. (Laughter.) The kingdom established by the congress began to be alarmed when subjected to the arbitrary will of Russia, and a spirit of discontent being manifested, the Poles, in 1820, presented a petition, through the diet, to their constitutional king (the Emperor). He took offence, dissolved the parliament as revolutionist, and threw the members into prison. Then the Poles discovered that there was no course left to them but, either to betray the cause of freedom confided to them by Europe and to crouch at the feet of their master; or, true to their sacred duty towards humanity and towards their country, to strike a blow at the despot, even if they were to fall. And in 1830 and 1831, they vindicated in the face of Europe the principles which they were now cherishing and which they were willing to support. Since then great numbers of them had been continually emigrating, simply because they could not maintain the principles of freedom in their own country. With regard to the present condition of Poland he would make but one remark, and that was—although unrelenting severities had been entailed upon her ever since her fall, although she was disarmed and bleeding, her spirit struck terror into the mind of her oppressor. He was certain that if Nicholas could have had his own way he would have liked very much to have seen all Europe prostrate in sickness that he might administer drugs of his own mixing. (Laughter.) But the fate of Poland and the description given by him to Turkey had aroused the attention of both England and France, and they had resolved not to entrust the interests of humanity to the tender cares of such a physician. (Laughter.) However, there was one higher duty fell upon them; and that was in some way to cripple Russia that she should not be able in future to disturb the tranquillity and happiness of Europe. (Loud applause.) But this great end would never be accomplished so long as Russia was allowed to retain her threatening position among the states of Europe. Where could they find a barrier strong enough to keep back the ponderous weight of Russia? The re-establishment of Poland only could be accepted as a "material guarantee," to take a hint from the Emperor Nicholas himself. (Loud applause.) If Russia were confined to her proper boundaries, she would still have 40 millions of inhabitants; and he imagined that, if the Emperor were inclined to do good, the 40 millions would engage his attention for a long time. (Applause.) If Poland were restored, Russia could not remain stationary and be degraded by slavery. Looking at the question from mere selfish motives, they could not but discover that the restoration of Poland would be very much benefited by the re-establishment of Poland. If they could only enter into direct communication, upon the principles of free trade, with every nation, they would put an end to the evils of war and accomplish all philanthropic intentions; and there would then be no necessity for the Peace Society. Mr. Zaba concluded his lecture amidst loud and prolonged applause.

POLAND: ITS SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITION.

Mr. N. F. Zaba, a Polish gentleman, delivered a lecture on the social and political condition of Poland, and its history with regard to its relations with Russia, in the large room of the Town Hall, on Friday evening last. The room was well filled with a very attentive audience, which comprised many foreigners.—B. NICHOLS, Esq. the mayor, who presided, commenced the proceedings by stating that Mr. Zaba had been introduced to him by his esteemed friend the mayor of Liverpool, and that he visited Manchester for the purpose of giving some information, by means of a lecture, respecting the history of his native country. He had pleasure in acceding to Mr. Zaba's request that he should preside, because he was anxious, in his official capacity, to show to a stranger and a foreigner all the courtesy in his power. (Applause.) At the same time he would say, in justice to Mr. Zaba and all classes of his fellow citizens, that he should not wish to participate in any proceedings which, under the form of a lecture, might assume a political aspect.—Mr. ZABA, who was received with applause, opened his address by expressing his obligations to the mayor for the kindness he had shown him, who, after being for 23 years a stranger and an exile in this hospitable land, came forward with a heart beating stronger than ever, under the influences of hope, to plead the cause of his country. Truth was so elevating that, although it might be disregarded or even trampled upon, or to all appearance consigned to oblivion, by its own energy and vitality it perceptibly rose, and, as the rising sun shed its broad light, forced itself again upon the attention of the people. Such was the case with unfortunate Poland. The recollection of her misfortunes, although sustained by the most generous sympathies, had seemed to grow fainter and fainter as time rolled on, until a sudden combination of important circumstances had multiplied the difficulties of Europe, and Poland had again risen to importance. Even the timid and vacillating were now struck with the idea that nothing but her restoration could put an end to existing troubles and secure a durable peace. Surely, then, such an important question should be brought prominently before the British public. At a meeting in London on the 19th of June, Lord Harrowby said—"This is a time when everybody should be acquainted with the history of Poland;" and they should be so, because the British public formed the only tribunal to which all nations hastened to represent their grievances and their wrongs. Ancient Poland was nearly five times as large as the United Kingdom. It contained many navigable rivers and was adapted for the development of commerce; but its riches were dormant as yet. The people, strictly speaking, were agriculturists, and peculiar circumstances had hindered a proper development of their agricultural energies, for they had been engaged in a series of wars the object of which was the preservation of their own national independence. Had Poland been independent, it would have been impossible for Russia now to have been engaged in war with Europe. She could not have annoyed Turkey except through Poland, nor could she have been easily master of the Black Sea. The history of Poland might be divided into four periods. The first was that of absolute monarchy, commencing with the ninth and ending with the fourteenth centuries. It was remarkable for warlike genius. Yet, during this period, in the tenth century, Christianity was introduced from the west, and thus early was Poland identified with the sentiments, aspirations, and tendencies of western European civilisation. Christianity was at the same time introduced into Russia; but it was through the agency of the east: hence that antagonism of Russian and Polish principles which had continued down to the present time. In the twelfth century, Poland gave shelter to the then persecuted and ill-treated Jews; and, in the fourteenth century, the King, Casimir the Great, invited their settlement and built a town for them. It was about that time that the spirit of Russian aggression began to manifest itself; and from that time Poland was constantly engaged in war with Russia. Her difficulties were multiplied in consequence, and her internal improvement and development retarded. The very first parliament that assembled left a noble monument of laws, in the formation of which every social relation seemed to have been regarded. There were then two classes in Polish society—the equestrian order or nobility, and the agriculturists. Nobility was accessible to all—even to the poorest peasant—as it was the reward of merit. Its privileges were enjoyed by the families of those on whom it was conferred, and were handed down to posterity as a common legacy. The nobility might be compared to our electors; for at that time they numbered 800,000, all of whom had a right to vote upon all questions concerning them. Hence the nation possessed a great deal of political life. Though, from the custom of paying the landlord by labour, the peasant, ignorant and unable to assert his rights, had gradually become attached to the soil, yet absolute slavery never existed, as it did at the present day in Russia. The second period of Poland's history, embracing the constitutional monarchy, extended from the middle of the fourteenth to the middle of the sixteenth centuries, and included the final triumph of Christianity in the union of the Duke of Lithuania with the Queen of Poland, in 1386, when heathenism, which had resisted successfully for two hundred years the efforts of the Teutonic knights, yielded to the dictates of affection. Referring to the intellectual position of the Poles, the lecturer said that every branch of learning received attention, and was sustained by able and talented men; and he mentioned the name of Copernicus, whose father finished his education at the University of Cracow, which was established in the fourteenth century. The same spirit of intelligence had identified itself with their legislative enactments. Shelter was given to persecuted protestants at the time of the reformation; in 1525, the last grand master of the Teutonic Knights was secularised, and thus was laid the foundation of the protestant electorate of Brandenburg, the present kingdom of Prussia, under the protection of Poland; in 1552, civil and religious liberty was the law of the land; and in 1563 it was enacted that, though the ecclesiastical courts had power to take cognisance of the new opinions, and condemn them as being unsound, still their condemnation should not affect individual liberty. Thus the spirit of persecution was nipped in its very bud. Had not the Poles strong reason to feel a noble pride in such a legacy left them by their history? (Applause.) With these advantages Poland entered on the third period of her history, which embraced the elective monarchy, and extended from the middle of the 16th century almost to the end of the 18th century. The sensibility of national danger and anxiety to free the country from foreign influence, led to the confederation of 1768. Russia, who had been perfectly aware, even since the time of Peter I. that she never could rise to political importance in Europe so long as Poland was an independent state, had watched carefully for every opportunity to foment the spirit of discontent, and thus to weaken the internal energies of the country, and pave the way for constant interference. As soon as the confederation was formed, she turned it to advantage, and claimed to be guardian of the interests of protestants and dissenters. At all times Russia had professed to have at heart the interests of justice and religion. (Laughter.) They would be surprised, on comparing the documents of 1768-9 with those of the last few years, to find in both exactly the same sentiments—the same protestations that Russia did not wish to be aggressive, and that she had not anything bad at heart. This was precisely the manner in which Russian interference in Poland commenced.—But Poland had neither England nor France to support her. She was less fortunate than Turkey in our day. He made this observation without any particular jealousy, being glad that England and France were now alive to the principles of justice. (Loud applause.) Although Poland was left to herself, and surrounded by ill-disposed neighbours, still the confederation kept its ground for four years. As soon as Russia found an accomplice in Austria, their united forces entered Poland, and, when the struggling people had been put down, she power, in order to reward itself for the services rendered to Poland, took a small portion of the country, and thus effected the partition of 1772. Poland was more than ever aroused, and the memorable parliament of 1788 was called together. That gave a new constitution in 1791, rendering the monarchy hereditary, the ministers responsible to the diet and to the nation at large, abolishing all kinds of slavery, and enacting that every 25 years an extraordinary parliament should be called together, in order to make such amendments and improvements as the spirit and wants of the times might call for. The lecturer read extracts, showing the admirable spirit of this constitution, which, he said, met with the approval of Fox and Burke and of almost all the great men of the day.

Mr. ABSALOM WATKIN moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding. Dr. VAUGHAN (being called for) seconded the motion. He said that it afforded him high gratification to see the Mayor occupying such a position in connection with a meeting so thoroughly a manly description. The sentiments to which they had listened would be long and profitably retained by not a few of them. He agreed most decidedly in the great substance of the statements and the reasonings that had been submitted to them. He believed that the grand security wanted for Europe, the "material guarantee"—"I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word"—(laughter)—was a great military bar to go across from the two seas again. He believed that the further partition of Poland was one of the greatest blunders that great states ever combined to perpetrate. It had been, for all parties, fraught with the most mischievous results. As Russell said at the time it took place, "Poland has been swallowed, but not digested." She had been swallowed, but she was not digested yet. It was the giving to Russia the facilities for coming down upon Turkey, which her possession of Poland had afforded, that had made her to be the dangerous power she now was, and that had raised up against her France and England, and would raise more than France and England before the work was done. Prussia was becoming the creature of Russia, and had been continually less assured of her existence from the hour of her treachery to the present. These were terrible retributions with which God visited the wrong of nations. Though individuals might be responsible hereafter, if a nation did wrong as a nation, as such it would suffer. (Applause.) The vote of thanks having been carried by acclamation, the MAYOR briefly responded.—Mr. ZABA then returned thanks, in the name of his countrymen, for the kind feeling which had been manifested; announcing that he should be glad to meet with, in every town, two or three individuals who would keep up a communication with a central committee in London, at the head of which is Lord Dudley Stuart.—Three cheers were given for Poland, and three for the Queen, and the proceedings then terminated.

THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER.

LAST NIGHTS OF MR. BARRY SULLIVAN & MRS. VICKERY. THIS EVENING (Wednesday), August 2d, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

On THURSDAY, PIZARRO, and the Drama of THE ROBBER'S WIFE.

On FRIDAY, for the BENEFIT of Mr. BARRY SULLIVAN, Bani's Play of DAMON AND PYTHIAS, and the Drama of DON CESAR DE BAZAN.

On SATURDAY, HAMLET.

On MONDAY NEXT, Mr. DAVENPORT and Miss FANNY VINING will commence a RE-ENGAGEMENT of SIX NIGHTS ONLY, immediately prior to their embarkation for America.

THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, from Covent Garden, London.—The Subscriptions for the Series of SIX ITALIAN OPERAS, commencing on Saturday, August 26, are now being received at the Box-office, from eleven till two daily.

THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER.

MR. BARRY SULLIVAN has the honour to announce to the Patrons of the Drama, that his BENEFIT is fixed for FRIDAY NEXT, August 4, and respectfully solicits the honour of their presence.

DAMON AND PYTHIAS, and DON CESAR.

Damon, and Don Cesar, by Mr. Barry Sullivan, in which he was so triumphantly successful in London.

EDGE, Gun Maker, REMOVED to RUSSELL-STREET, Streetford Road.

PIANO FORTES for SALE and HIRE.—T. MOLINEUX, 37, John Dalton-street. Established 1830.

PIANO FORTES, HARMONIUMS, HARPS, &c. for SALE and HIRE.—HIME & ADDISON, 19, St. Ann's Square.

JAMES SALKELD and his SONS ATTEND EVENING or other PARTIES, with piano, cornopean, harmonicon, violin, &c. No charge for use of piano.—10, Gartside-street.

DAWSON & BROWN, Railway Key and Charcoal Manufacturers, Ford Saw Mills, near Sunderland.—N.B. Agents for Elliott and Brown's Patent Rivets, for iron shipbuilding and boilers.

PURE WATER.—The Board of Health recommends all water to be Filtered. LIPSCOMBE'S FILTERS are well known to be the best that are made: 82, Market-street, Manchester.—Beware of spurious imitations.

TO WHOLESALE HOUSES & SHIPPERS. J. & F. E. MOLLADY, Felt and Silk Hat Manufacturers, Wearwell, and Denton, near Manchester.—A Large Assortment of HATS, and of the various descriptions of FELTS, suitable for Export, is always kept on hand.—Zephyr Silk Hats, for hot climates.

PHOTOGRAPHIC Amateurs will save a great deal of trouble by using CASARTELLI'S COLLODION and SOLUTIONS, the pictures produced by which are unrivalled for beauty and strength of tone. J. Casartelli has also on hand well-selected Lenses, Camera, Passe-partouts, &c.—43, Market-street, opposite Fall Hall, Manchester.

LOST, on the Evening of the 27th ult. from the person of a Gentleman, while passing from Oldham Road to Deansgate, a Small Black Leather TRAVELLING BAG, containing a sum of money, in Bank of England notes and cheques, numbers of which are known and payment stopped; also, Two Leather Pocket Books, containing memorandums, &c. of no use to any one but the owner.—Any person having found the above property shall, on its restoration, be handsomely rewarded, on application to Mr. JAMES SAWLEY, superintendent of police, A Division, Town Hall, Cross-street, Manchester; or at any of the police stations in the city. Town Hall, King-street, Manchester, August 1, 1854.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

TUESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 1.

JOSAPHAT & CO'S CONTINENTAL TELEGRAPH. PARIS, AUGUST 1.—The funds slightly improved in the course of the forenoon, the closing prices being as under. Railway shares were also a little firmer:—Four-and-a-Half per Cent Rentes, 98.25; Three per Cent Rentes, 70.90; Bank Shares, 2895; Northern of France, 817; Paris and Strasburg, 707; Paris and Lyons, 942.

VIENNA, AUGUST 1.—No change since yesterday. Five per Cent Metalliques, 83; Exchange on London, 12.7.

BERLIN, JULY 30.—It is apparent, from the changed tone of the semi-official press, that Prussia is doing her utmost to further a peaceable solution. It is wrong to suppose that the Prussian warlike preparations are tantamount to a hostile demonstration. On the contrary, the most friendly assurances have again been given to the Emperor Nicholas by the King of Prussia. Frederic William is anxious to play the part of mediator.

VIENNA, MONDAY.—M. de Bour-rueny had a conference with Count Buol, during which the French ambassador declared, in the name of the western powers, that, as Austria was occupying the Principalities, the auxiliary troops would not advance further than Bucharest; and if any part of the allied army were on their march into Wallachia, they had actually orders to re-cross the Danube. The Austrian minister for foreign affairs expressed his satisfaction with this declaration; and told M. de Bourrueny that if such an intimation had not been given by the western powers, Austria herself would have been under the necessity to request England and France not to advance any further in the Principalities.—An English surgeon writes from Varna:—"The state of health of our troops is anything but satisfactory; the days are intensely hot, and the nights cool."

BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

HOUSE OF LORDS, THIS DAY.

Their lordships met at five o'clock.

THE RIFF PIRATES.—The Earl of HARDWICKE asked Lord Clarendon what steps had been taken for the security of trade against the Riff pirates.—The Earl of CLARENDON said that the attention of government was directed to the subject, and at this moment a vessel at Gibraltar was specially charged with the duty of watching these pirates.

On the motion for going into committee on the Medical Graduates University of London Bill, an amendment was moved by Lord WYNFORD, that the bill be committed this day three months; but on a division the original motion was carried by a majority of 2.

In committee, the Duke of ARGYLL said he should not press the introduction of the Scotch University Bill, because the whole subject of medical reform would be considered next session.—The clauses were agreed to, with amendments.

The Duke also moved the Metropolitan Bill, and the Parochial

The Militia Bill was considered, and the various clauses discussed.

The third reading of the Militia (Scotland) Bill and of the Militia (Ireland) Bill.

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