

# THE POLISH BALL, AT GUILDHALL,

ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH, 1847.

LAST night the City celebrities, Gog and Magog, looked down upon as brilliant, gay, animated, and cheering a scene as can well have been enacted for many, many years, within London's chief Festive Hall. It was on the occasion of the Annual Grand Dress and Fancy Ball and Concert there given in aid of the Funds of the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland. In that term, "Friends of Poland," all lovers of liberty and national freedom — all haters of oppression, tyranny, and irresponsible despotism, must be classed. It is, therefore, most gratifying, but by no means surprising, that the leading Authorities and Merchants, and the honourable and honoured Members of the Corporation of London's far-famed City, should heartily and constantly enlist themselves among the generous, noble hearted, and deeply-sympathising "Friends of Poland"—a nation whose exiled Sons have so long been unhappily forced to appeal to the aiding hands and condoling breasts of those more fortunate countries, which have, themselves, escaped such sufferings, but still can, nevertheless, deeply feel for brethren whose lot has been cast in less privileged lands. Last year the Polish Ball was signally successful; but, on the present occasion, we are happy to record, the annual celebration of



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England's sympathy with the oppressed exiles was still more gratifying and triumphant in its character. At the Ball of 1846 there were present, we believe, about 1,600 persons; and the Guildhall and other chambers set apart for the company then collected, were completely, and, at times, even inconveniently crowded. On this occasion, however, there were, it was calculated, no fewer than 1,800 individuals gathered together to aid the generous and estimable friends of the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland. By the admirable and judicious arrangements, however, which were made by the Managing Committee, and, indeed, by the untiring exertions of all who had any share in the superintendence of the entertainment, this increased attendance led, not only to no increased inconvenience or pressure, but all were accommodated in a much more comfortable and commodious manner than on the previous celebration just alluded to. The Guildhall and adjoining apartments were illuminated, adorned, and decorated in exactly the same style as on Lord Mayor's-day, when the various preparations were so strikingly effective, and elicited such universal admiration. Never, certainly, was better use made of the several chambers near the Hall itself. Each one had some attraction, some novelty, some charm to demand the attention of, and please the visitor. The result, consequently, was that the great pressure in the Guildhall was diminished, and numbers were gratified in other parts, by the tasteful and costly ornaments, illuminations, &c., prepared in the neighbouring chambers. The beautiful representation or model of the Gorge and Gallery of Gondo, with the waterfall of the Frascinodi, on the Italian side of the Simplon, was especially attractive. This striking and magnificent portion of the Val Dovia—so splendid an example of a true Alpine pass—was, however, not only admirably and ably displayed in miniature here, but it likewise served



as a charming and really romantic lounge for wearied dancers; and was, further, a most welcome mode of moderating the surrounding atmosphere. The mimic fall was absolutely refreshing, merely to gaze upon, while those who approached it were perfectly re-animated and re-invigorated for the dance by the welcome and cooling breezes which it scattered around. In this and every other instance conspicuous and most effective taste was displayed in the arrangements, while the judgment which accompanied and dictated all was striking, and worthy of all eulogy. The company, on the present occasion, did not assemble until a late hour; but, to compensate, they did not, on the other hand, separate until a late hour. Thus a long and delightful evening was secured to all; and all seemed to enjoy it to the uttermost. With the spirited and irresistible aid of Adams's band, the dancing was maintained with unflagging zeal until morning was far advanced. Quadrilles, polkas, waltzes, Spanish dances, the Cellarius, &c., followed each other in rapid and well-varied succession; and in all, the company seemed to enter with equal heartiness and enjoyment. With such music to dance to, such fair ladies to dance with, and such a gay, brilliant hall to dance in, a different result would have been impossible. Among the company present, we observed the following:—The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and family; the late Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Sir George and Lady Carroll); Mr. Sheriff Cubitt, M.P., and Lady; Mr. Sheriff Hill and Lady; Alderman Farebrother, Alderman Wilson, Alderman Hughes Hughes, Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P., the Countess Poulett, Lady Hamilton Chichester, Lady G. Stuart, Lady Caroline Dawson Damer, Lady Louisa Dawson Damer, the Hon. Mrs. Abbott, the Hon. Mrs. Murray, Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, His Excellency James Brook, Rajah of Sarawak; Sir Robert Brownrigg, Bart.; Mrs. Milner Gibson, Mrs. Horace Twiss,



Hon. Spencer Cowper, Captain Townshend, R.N.; Captain King, R.N., Captain Munday, R.N.; the Hon. C. Howard, J. A. Smith, Esq., M.P.; John Williams, Esq., M.P.; Captain and Mrs. Robertson, Earl of Munster, Lord Suffield, Lord and Lady Beaumont, Sir James Duke, M.P., W. Pinney, Esq., M.P., T. C. Anstey, Esq., M.P., His Excellency Captain Fitzgerald, R.N., Governor of South Australia, William LL. Birkbeck, Esq. and Miss Birkbeck, Baron Paravicini, Captain Ferguson, R.N., &c., &c., &c. We may remark, before concluding, that the general (and especially the heraldic) decorations of the Hall, were particularly excellent. Under the able care and arrangement of Messrs. G. and C. Bishop, they were managed in such a manner as to be as effective as possible; and, indeed, to all those who shared in the superintendence of the entertainments, great praise is due. Among the distinguished Artistes who generously gave their assistance for the Concert, were Mrs. Weiss, Miss Bassano, Miss Ransford, the Misses Williams, and Miss Dolby; Signor Brizzi, Mr. James Bennett, Signor Burdini, Mr. F. Bodda, and Mr. John Parry. The Conductors were Messrs. Lindsay Sloper, and S. Noble. The efforts of these several Vocalists were attended by the utmost success; and the Concert passed off with great *éclat*. Indeed, we may repeat in conclusion, that the entire evening's proceedings were of the most gratifying character, and such, we trust and believe, as at once amply to satisfy the most sanguine of the "Friends of Poland," and to reward them for the great and generous efforts they had made on the occasion.

(Extracted from the "*Morning Advertiser*" of Nov. 18th, 1847.)

