

Europe has at length a topic of interest sufficiently absorbing to divert attention from American affairs. The revolt of the Poles has not only awakened the sympathies of the liberals of England and throughout the continent, but raised diplomatic questions which may lead Great Powers into the arena of sanguinary strife. The Western Powers are outspoken in favor of the cause of Poland, not because they desire to encourage the development of free institutions, but for the reason that they are seeking the ways and means of crippling the threatening growth of the Russian Empire. The King of Prussia, who has recently manifested autocratic inclinations, is anxious to aid in suppressing the rebellion, but the majority of the Chambers is violently hostile to such a policy, and imperial France promptly signifies her determined opposition to Prussian interference. Austria, also, would like to take a hand against the Poles, but dreads a rising in Hungary, and a contest with France, during which the Italians would certainly recover Venetia. The longer the insurgents can maintain the conflict the more critical will the European situation become. It is generally supposed that the Poles must be speedily crushed, on account of a deficiency of resources and the superior numbers of the Russians. But the brilliant success of the Hungarians, under nearly similar circumstances, would show this to be a hasty conclusion. The liberals of Europe have become desperate, and desire another opportunity to break the monotony of settled absolutism. The rising in Poland offers a rallying point for the enthusiastic young men of the party. The Hungarian Generals captured what they did not

General Louis Mieroslawski, the leader in this Polish revolt, is no ordinary man. He has passed through the fire of several bloody contests for the freedom of his countrymen, and has a Garibaldian hold upon the popular heart. He is at once the historian, the statesman and the General of the Poles. Courage, enthusiasm, devoted patriotism, learning and military skill are the qualities for which he is distinguished. Mieroslawski was born at Nemours, France, in 1813, being the son of a Polish officer—who served bravely in the army of the Duchy of Warsaw and under Davoust—by a French lady. The circumstances of his birth and his long residence in Paris combine to arouse the sympathies of the French nation in his behalf. Having received a military education at Kalisz, Mieroslawski joined the revolutionists in 1830, served with distinction in several campaigns, and after the fall of Warsaw retired to Paris. There he devoted attention to literature, and published a number of works, which gained him a reputation as a writer on military subjects. He became the idol of the Polish emigrants, and was finally selected by the democratic organization of Paris as the principal leader for the next rising in Poland. This occurred in 1846, and failed. Mieroslawski was arrested in Prussian Poland, tried at Berlin, and sentenced to death. But in March, 1848, a revolution occurred in the Prussian capital, and among the first acts of the insurgents was the restoration of Mieroslawski and his friends to liberty. Hastening to the Duchy of Posen, Mieroslawski put himself at the head of the peasantry. The new Prussian Ministry, after making liberal promises to the Poles, adopted a

In considering the probability of a general war in Europe as a result of the rising in Poland, it must not be forgotten that in case the insurgents are not soon suppressed the movement will extend to the Polish provinces of Austria and Prussia. And then, notwithstanding diplomatic promises, the armies of those powers will be found virtually acting in concert with those of Russia against the Poles, which France will not tolerate. The explosive elements are abundant in Europe, and the more dangerous because they have had no proper vent since the stormy period of 1848. Another generation has grown to maturity since absolutism recovered its ascendancy on that continent. Kings have been trusted again, and have proved faithless as of old. The aspirations of the nationalities, which were grandly manifested in 1848, have not been satisfied. Italy is as volcanic as the earth around Vesuvius. Hungary, no longer troubled by divisions between the aristocracy and the people, cherishes a fierce hatred of the power she so nearly humbled thirteen years ago. Discontent is growing rankly in France, and the foreign policy of the Emperor, opening vistas of waste and ruin, swell the ranks of the Opposition. The autocratic tendencies of the King of Prussia have incensed the people of that kingdom, and the legislative body has become intractable. The indications of a general

intractable. The indications of a general convulsion are numerous, and the Polish rebellion may yet prove to be but the prelude of the thunder storm. The gain to the United States and Mexico from the growing complication of affairs in Europe is so obvious and important that we may be pardoned for praying that the brave Poles may continue to be successful.

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