

**EDITOR DICKENS.**—According to information in your columns, there has been a so-called mass meeting of sympathizers with the Polish revolution, and said sympathizers have, through their influence, endeavored to collect in their favor, the best talent, orators and learning of the State, and these have cited from history all they could in favor of Poland and the present Polish revolution, and have tried thus to turn away the hearts of the Americans from their best and sincerest friends, the Russians, of whom there are at the present time very few in California. You will therefore kindly permit at least one of them to say a few words through the same channel. As the English language has been only lately acquired by me, I cannot express my own thoughts or feelings as some of these gentlemen have done, who though their names show Polish descent, have been brought up in American schools and academies, and consequently have more power in speech or writing; and thus leaving out eloquence and show, I will only state a few facts, and openly say that not all said on one side is to be accepted, without hearing the other party. I am exceedingly sorry that no better pen can take up this matter to show that the above mentioned meeting has done great injustice to Russia.

That the Poles or Polanders wish to be free and to have their own government is natural, but this can only, according to human reason and the opinion of men who know Russia and Poland, be done by the free consent of the former, and not by a revolution forced by some hot-headed men, who have not the happiness of Poland at heart, but whose only object is their own fame, to bring their names in all the newspapers over the world, though they slaughter thousands of their own unhappy countrymen. First, there is no hope that the Poles will succeed, because they could not free themselves in the years of 1830-31, when they had a standing army of about 80,000 soldiers, and probably the best cavalry in Europe (their lancers being famous). Secondly, Prussia must go with Russia in case of necessity, because she would not and could not afford to lose Posen, Danzig, Memel and Königsberg, where she has built the most magnificent and strongest forts, and expended millions of thalers, and where her trade is in a most flourishing condition. Thirdly, Austria, though she plays always a doubtful policy, hardly could permit the Poles to be independent, because there would never be peace, as it is well known from history that Poland has given no peace to her neighbors when independent. The Poles have been in Moscow, and have constantly troubled neighboring nations, till they were from necessity and self-preservation bound to divide her.

Though the Poles are a very valiant and heroic people, they are also a very quarrelsome one. It is only necessary to take a view of their former Seims (councils) where there never was unity—a thing which has given the most advantages to her conquerors. Even now there have been two Dictators, Mickulawsky and Langtewitz, each of them claiming to be the head of the nation, seeking for self aggrandizement and not for the happiness of the nation. If the leaders of that revolution had been statesmen, and taken into consideration the weakness of Poland and the impossibility of gaining her independence at the present time, they would have waited with a little more patience, till Providence had shown a clearer and better way. Again, nations are made free and put in bondage according to the will of an All-wise Providence, for their own good in future ages, or to sweep them from the face of the earth, if no good is to come from them. By revolutions very little has been done, except as a means of punishment, permitted by Providence, for the stupidity of nations. History shows this everywhere. France and other nations are the best authority for this.

In consequence of the frequent revolutionary movements in Poland, Russia was obliged to keep a strong government there, and the Poles—I mean the masses, the peasantry of Poland and Lithuania—have not suffered so much from Russia as from their own nobility. Even the so-called Shagitch have ruled with an iron rod far more severe than that of Russia.

The remarks made by the speaker at the meeting alluded to, as to crushing out religion, are hardly worth notice. The priesthood in Poland and Lithuania is in the highest degree ignorant and fanatical, and is probably a great power in the revolutionary movement. That there are also learned and high-minded men among them is not to be disputed, but as to the multitude, my proposition is correct. I will cite only one case. There are places or convents—especially one, the name of which I cannot at the present give, but the facts are well known to travelers—where the ignorant classes go to pray, and where they have to roll themselves down from high hills, over stones, in which and other ways they lose their limbs, and are crippled for life; and in consequence you will find in those places a great many beggars. All this is done and ordered by ignorant priests, to propitiate the Virgin. It is possible that sometimes the Government has prohibited such things, though I doubt it, because it seldom interferes with other sects, to all of whom is given freedom, and even the Mahomedans have their mosques in Russia.

England and France have, through the newspapers, also raised the cry of "justice to the Poles," and so forth, as if Russia alone were the great sinner and they themselves altogether holy and just. Let us look this question right in the face. Poland was conquered and divided about a hundred years ago, when nations still thought and acted under the pressure of great darkness, so to speak; but what do these leaders of civilization do to-day, and yet nobody says a word for fear of displeasing them? The first had better give up Malta, Gibraltar, Heligoland, etc., and ask herself the question how she put down the rebellion in India, not by justice, but with a terrible arm of vengeance. As for France, why does she not give up Algiers, and cease conquering an independent nation before the doors of our friends—the Americans? Ah, you Americans, you forget that the fire not only rages in your own houses, but also in your neighbors' and still you run to put the torch to the homes of your far distant true friends, who are doing and have done all in the power to protect American trade, and exclusively given employment to your mechanics and engineers in preference to those of other nations, on account of friendly feeling, as also all can testify who have had commercial relations with Russia.

That a Republican government probably will be the best for the human race, every philanthropist hopes; but that such a government is, at the present moment, the most practical and beneficial for all nations, is yet doubtful. Nations must grow slowly to maturity; otherwise, if they grow too fast and unnaturally, an early death must be the consequence. Why, then, hurry other nations to an early grave? Give them a little more time. The Almighty himself has given time to everything, and we also suffer, so to speak, in outrunning Providence. But I have already taken too much time and space, and will only remark, that you, our friends, you Americans of that meeting, have also done great injustice to Russia, inflicting such a painful wound at the present.

As to our brethren, the Poles, I can only say there is no harsh feeling in any Russian breast; but the honor of Russia demands that she should not be forced into conditions which she could not accept. You will live to see that the difficulties between Russia and Poland will melt away to the satisfaction of both; and Europe and the world will probably also see that the Mussulman must give way before the Slavonic race, and the Cross will be by them replanted in Constantinople. By that time Israel will probably be in Jerusalem, and then the mission of Russia may be over—not before. Though all gather now around the Lion of the North, so as to have their pleasure in tearing him to pieces, yet please remember that the Lion is not yet dead. From the North shall come a mighty prince.

A RUSSIAN.