

THE LATE CAPTAIN PIOTROWSKI.

Death of a California Pioneer and Veteran of the Polish Wars.

Mr. Alexander Bednawski, a veteran of the Polish war of 1831 and Secretary of the Polish Society of California, furnishes the ALTA with the following sketch of the late Captain Piotrowski:

By many friends and acquaintances will be sorrowfully received the news of the demise of that well-known and generally-respected old Californian pioneer, Captain B. K. Piotrowski, at the age of nearly 70. He was born in Poland in 1814. While a youth he fought bravely for the independence of his down-trodden country in that memorable struggle of Poland against Russia in 1831. Notwithstanding his youth he was promoted on the field to the rank of Sub-Lieutenant and decorated with the Golden Cross, "Virtuti Militari"—the highest distinction then in the Polish army. He came to California about 1844 and at the very start engaged in the mining business. Soon afterward he bought a large tract of land on the Sacramento river, where, in company with one of his old fellows-at-arms, he founded a colony called Sebastopol—a little, thriving place. He was really identified with the growth, prosperity and politics of this State. At the time of the Civil War he espoused warmly the cause of the Union, and he was always a staunch Republican, supporting with zeal his party to the very last, for which he was rewarded by Governor Pacheco with an appointment as Commissioner of Immigration. That office he filled up to the expiration of his term, to the highest satisfaction of his superiors and all parties concerned. Although in retirement, he never missed an opportunity to do his duty as a good citizen. He was also one of the founders of the Polish Society of California and an active member. Unfortunately, of late he has been afflicted with soreness of his eyes, and submitted to a painful operation in this city, which proved unsuccessful. This threw him into utter despondency, which preyed upon his health, already enfeebled by advanced age and many vicissitudes. About a year ago he left San Francisco for New York, and thence sailed directly to France, seeking restoration from the eminent physicians at Paris. Some time afterward he went to the country to a small place called Saintes, in the Department of Charente Inferieure, where, after a short illness, he breathed his last peacefully on the 21st of February last, in the arms of his only daughter, living there and married to a very respectable party. Peace to his ashes.

A COMRADE.