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Daily Alta California, Volume 17, Number 5680, 24 September 1865 — Affairs in Russia. [ARTICLE]

## Affairs in Russia.

[Translated for the ALTA CALIFORNIA, from "The Fatherland," a  
Swiss Journal, of July 29, 1865.]

STOCKHOLM, June 22, 1865.

In my former communication I announced to you the happy escape from Russian chains of Iarostaw Dombrowski, while on his road to Siberia. He has just arrived, with his young and noble wife, among us, and was warmly greeted by the patriots of Scandinavia. This event having created so great a stir, and caused so much trouble to the hangman, Muravief, and the Russian police, I will give some particulars about it.

Iarostaw Dombrowski, Captain of the General Staff, was Quartermaster of the Army of Warsaw, in Poland. In consequence of numerous suspicions, and spies' denunciations, he was arrested on the 13th of September, 1861, accused of being one of the revolutionary chiefs of the city, the general originator of an armed insurrection in the Kingdom of Poland, and an active member of the Russian and Polish Revolutionary Committee. He was tried by a Court Martial. His presence of mind, his able defence and logic, and, may be, the leniency of his old comrades and his judges, helped him out. He was acquitted for want of proof. Such a verdict did not please General Berg. He refused to receive it, squashed the proceedings of the Court, and suspending the case, incarcerated Dombrowski in the strictest confinement in the citadel of Warsaw, where he remained thirteen months.

When the revolution of Poland was on the de-

cline, and the patriotic spirit of her sons nearly broken, an insurgent officer was taken in Lithuania by the police of Muravief, in September, 1861. This man, unable to withstand torture, confessed that I. Dombrowski, during his stay in Petersburg, was chief Agent of the National Central Committee; that he was the author and promoter of the military association to prepare the officers of the army for National service; and that at the end of 1861 he was called by the Polish Committee to organize an armed insurrection of that Nation. Accordingly he asked and obtained his transfer from the St. Petersburg garrison, to the Second Army Corps, located in Warsaw, as Quartermaster. That Dombrowski, having become a member of the National Central Committee, by his talents, energy, and personal influence, formed and headed a conspiracy having for its object the seizure of the stronghold of Modlin, and of the citadel of Warsaw itself. This scheme, however, failed by the untimely arrest and execution of his accomplices, Arnhold, Slivicki, Kaplinski, Rostkowaki and others, who, martyrs of freedom, died without betraying their

chie.

General Muravief, the famous hangman of Lithuania, armed with such a document, made a requisition on Gen. de Berg for the extradition of Dombrowski, to be immediately executed. General de Berg, not a great friend of his, refused this pleasure, ordering, however, Dombrowski to be tried by a new court-martial, which this time condemned him to death. General de Berg commuted the sentence to fifteen years of hard labor in Siberia, the loss of nobility, rank, decorations and the confiscation of all property. This decision was approved, and on the 18th of November, 1864, Dombrowski, with one hundred others, was sent to Siberia. Meanwhile General Muravief, in the black holes of Wilna, torturing another prisoner, obtained a confirmation of the first accusation against Dombrowski from a wretch half dead, physically and morally. He immediately sent a courier after the already condemned prisoner, with an order to put him to death forthwith. But, thanks to God, in vain. Dombrowski, on the road, found means to elude the vigilance of his guards, and dressed in woman's clothes, he escaped three days before the arrival of his death-warrant. Now, strange to say, and hard to believe, nevertheless literally true, Dombrowski, after his escape, was hid, befriended and every way helped by the members of the Young Russian Society, who work actively to liberate their country from the yoke of the Germano-Tartar race, which rules, oppresses and treads upon them. Neither the proverbial Russian police, nor the most strenuous exertions of Muravief, who sent seven of his own bloodhounds from Wilna to recapture the prisoner, availed them. Dombrowski was perfectly safe with his Russian friends during a stay with them of six months. Undaunted by the danger, fearless of the rope, Dombrowski would not leave the soil of Russia without fulfilling his sacred duty as a Poleander, as a friend and trusty soldier of Liberty. Invited to the meeting of Duembrist's, commemorating the memory of the martyrs of 1824, he appeared in the midst of their large reunion, and then and there aroused their flagging energies; fought victoriously the prejudices and calumnies against his brethren of Poland, so cunningly devised and so industriously spread and fostered in Russia by the government, renewed with them the ancient bond of friendship and cooperation, and fired their souls with the mighty flame for a new and vigorous action, proving to them that soon the justice of God and of their cause must crown their hearty efforts with success and glory. Capt. Dombrowski, while in Warsaw, married a noble and a true daughter of Poland, Miss P. Piotrowski. This happiness did not last long. Berg and Trepow did only permit the wedding in view of refining his sufferings by immediate separation. The young and dear bride was torn from his bosom, and with two of her aunts (true stock, also,) was carried to Ardatow, in the far-off Russia. The bereaved husband was sent to Siberia. You know with what result. Dombrowski once free would not quit Russia without his noble and beloved wife. His duties toward his country and his fellow men finished, he collected all the information about Ardatow and its neighborhood, arrived there on a market day, found and carried away his happy wife from amidst her jailors, and after many hairbreadth escapes arrived with her triumphantly in Stockholm, to be hailed by us with open arms.

[The wife of Dombrowski is a sister of Captain Piotrowski, one of our earliest pioneers, and at present an officer of the customs at this port, who is also a member of the Polish Committee of California.—EDS. ALTA.]

#### Letter of Capt. Dombrowski,

After the deliverance of his wife to Gen. Odynevic.

After the deliverance of his wife, to Gen. Odynevic, Governor of Nirny Novgorod, the place of her captivity:

" STOCKHOLM, June 15th, 1865.

" SIR—The escape of my wife from the city of Ardatow, in your Government, will undoubtedly provoke a Commission of Inquiry. What that is in Russia I know quite well, by my own experience. Such inquiries seldom find anything, but they always involve for their own ends and purposes

many innocent victims. To avoid this, and to disarm all false suspicions, and real persecutions from the guiltless, I deem it my duty to give you all the particulars of my wife's flight. In fact, it was not a flight, but an abduction, as the aunts of my wife were totally ignorant of my project, and even herself only knew of it at the very moment of its execution. My plan was very simple and plain. Having settled the affairs which detained me in Russia, provided with all the papers and testimonials satisfactory to the authorities, I repaired to Ardatow, on a market-day, so that, without attracting any notice, I could wait on my wife before her house, meet her, when she came out; deliver to her a note informing her of my intentions and preparations, and two hours after to carry her off to the post chaise in readiness, which in two days brought us safely to St. Petersburg, where all was ready for our leaving the country for a better atmosphere for a freeman's lungs. You will acknowledge, Sir, that all this thing was so natural, so simple, that it did not need any help or accomplices at Ardatow; besides, my past life, known to you, General, is proof that I never asked aid when I could aid myself. Allow me, General, to express here a hope, that inasmuch as this event was unpleasant to you, as Commander and Governor, as a man and a gentleman it should not be so, when you consider that a trifling disappointment to you was the cause of immense happiness to others who had suffered so much already."

M. Kathow is the editor of a reactionary paper in Russia; he was once a liberal and a friend of Herzen and other patriots, but he left them, betrayed them, and is now the standard-bearer of the Russian Government. Captain Dombrowski wrote to him thus:

"Sir:—In a number of the *Moscow News*, announcing my escape, you expressed a hope of my speedy recapture, and the assertion that I could not find a resting place in the whole of broad Russia. Such ignorance of your own country amazed me. I thought at first to dispel your groundless hope by writing to you, but, on reflection, I preferred to prove the impotency of your so much worshipped Government by a fact. Thanks to my education, though a foreigner, I am better acquainted with Russia than you, although born to the soil. I was so little afraid of the public, secret, or real Russian police, not forgetting even your own precious capacities, that I had the fortune to live your neighbor for a long time, and to see and meet you often. A week after my escape I was able to leave Russia and cross the frontier.

It suited me to stay and I remained. Later, circumstances called me to visit several of the principal Russian cities. In my travels I did not find any difficulties or hindrance. Finally, having settled all my affairs, I decided to leave Russia, but with my wife, who was then a prisoner in the hands of your friends. This, also, thank God, I easily accomplished. In a word, during my six months stay in Russia I lived as I desired, did what I wished, and proved clearly to the Russian patriots that with coolness, energy, and some will, one can do as he likes in their country. My desire to prove how groundless are your verdicts, how deceitful your prophecies, forces me to write to a man who tries his best to foment the hatred between two brotherly nations, who blackens for ever his name by advocating revenge, plunder and murder, and who justifies such deeds by lies and calumnies, but having undertaken this disagreeable task, I cannot find words equal to express the scorn and loathing of all honest men, and mine, for yours and such as your untiring efforts to advocate, uphold and defend the darkness and oppression of your own country. It is true that you for a while did succeed in raising the beastly feelings of fanaticism in Russian bosoms, but the cheat and the lie won't last long. The exile of thousands of my brethren to the furthest corners of Russia, carried there the most complete refutation of your doctrine, the most eloquent answer to your aspersions, the most convincing proof of our labors in the holy cause of human rights and freedom. It awakened new feelings in Russian souls which will prove the corner stone in the regeneration and

resurrection of the Russian people, and may they also prove a gnawing worm in your own conscience, if there is any left in your breast after the withering touch of your adored Czar's hand.

**WHAT IS "ONE-HORSE POWER?"**—The use of the term "horse-power" is very common, yet few, except good mechanics and engineers, attach a definite meaning to it, but regard it as indicating loosely about the power which one horse would exert. It is, however, when used in the sense under consideration as definite as possible, and means the power required to lift 33,000 pounds avoirdupois one foot high in one minute.

A horse hitched to the end of a rope, over a pulley one foot in diameter, placed over a deep well, travelling at the rate of about two and a half miles per hour, or 220 feet per minute, will draw up 50 pounds the same distance he travels. The force thus exerted is called in mechanics, a "horse power," it being an approximation to the average amount of continuous power it is fair to demand of a strong horse. If we multiply the weight raised (150 pounds) by the number of feet it was moved per minute (220) the product will be the number of pounds which the same power would raise only one foot high in the same length of time. (33,000).

The dynamometer is an instrument made for measuring power, particularly that exerted in drawing. Those used for testing the draft of agricultural implements are simply very strong spring balances, or spring steelyards, graduated to indicate the power required to raise any weight, within any reasonable limits, at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles per hour. When we apply the dynamometer, in ascertaining the draft of machines, if the index indicates 110 pounds, it is shown that the horse is required to draw just so hard as he would do if raising 150 pounds out of a well, with a rope over a pulley one foot in diameter, at the rate of two and a half miles per hour, and so for other weights.

The velocity at which a team moves is to be considered, as well as the weight to be raised, or the load to be drawn. If a horse travels faster than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles an hour, while raising 150 pounds out of a well, he exerts more than one-horse power. If he walks slower than this, he does not exert a force equal to one horse power.

In ascertaining the draught of a plough or reaper and mower, by driving faster than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles per hour, the dynamometer would indicate more than the correct draught; and by driving slower, the draught would appear to be less than it really is. In testing the draught of machines a team should always move at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles per hour, or 220 feet per minute, which is the universally accepted rate with reference to which dynamometers are graduated, and an easy one to which to approximate in driving with almost any kind of ram.

Many people have supposed that 300 pounds—two-horse power—represented the same force that a team would exert when dragging 300 pounds along on the ground. A horse can haul 300 pounds on the hard ground, with ease; but he could not draw hard enough on the dynamometer to mark more than 250 or 100 pounds, except for a few minutes. The power of a man is estimated at one-fifth of a horse-power.

**A MAN** named Jacob Mensch was burned to death by the fire which occurred in Sacramento on Wednesday morning.

**AN** eight-stamp quartz-mill is to be erected in the Agua Caliente Mining District, Los Angeles county.

**A** granite monument eight feet high has been placed over the remains of the victims by the Pemberton Mill disaster at Lawrence, five years ago, who could not be recognized when they were taken from the ruins.