



Daily Alta California, Volume 30, Number 10222, 6 April 1878 — RUSSIAN ATROCITIES. [article]

## RUSSIAN ATROCITIES.

### Meeting of Polish Residents.

A meeting of the Polish residents of this city was held last evening, at the rooms of the Polish Society, No. 1032 Market street, for the purpose of taking action in relation to the atrocities committed by the Russian military authorities on the Polish inhabitants of Turkey—President Dr. L. Pawlicki in the Chair.

The President stated the object of the meeting, and called upon O. Choyniski and Captain Bielawski, who made a few remarks appropriate to the occasion.

Captain O Bielawski said he was glad to see that so many Polish residents responded to the call of the President, and hoped the action they would take would have effect in stopping any further atrocities by the Russians. He then read the following paper, prepared for the occasion :

The Generals of the Czar, according to the accounts transmitted to us, have, in many cases, ordered the execution of all the Polish residents in Turkey who fell into their hands, whether engaged in the military service or not. In many instances the sufferers never have been subjects of Russia, and were thus butchered through simple hate of the Polish name. These atrocities have been committed both in Europe and Asia, and it is estimated that about 150 of our countrymen have been murdered in cold blood by these self-styled Protectors of Christians. These outrages have attracted the attention of the European Press, and have been made the subject of official inquiries by the Austrian Reichsrath, the Hungarian Diet, the Imperial German Reichstag, and the English House of Commons ; so that they cannot be regarded as idle rumors. In the Vienna Assembly, 33 Galician Deputies presented an energetic representation on the subject to the Government, and the Medical Faculty of that Capital, several of whose members have been among the victims, have unanimously signed a petition calling on the Austrian Government to obtain redress, at least for the outrages inflicted on the Austrian subjects. The *Vienna Tagesblatt*, which cannot be suspected of partiality, in a recent issue, gives the following particulars of some of those atrocities :

#### MURDER OF PHYSICIANS BY THE RUSSIANS.

The town of Sophia being occupied by the Russian soldiers, the Turks left a number of their sick in the hospitals, and the surgeons, in full confidence, remained with their patients, Russia having solemnly accepted the laws laid down at Geneva a few years ago, recognizing the inviolable character

of physicians during war time. In the Sophia hospitals there were five physicians, four of them being Austrian subjects, and simply serving as surgeons in the Turkish Army with the full permission of their own Government, considered, of course, they had no cause for fear. Nevertheless, three of them, whose Polish names attracted attention, were arrested at their posts, in spite of their Austrian passports and diplomas, and the fourth, Dr. Gebhardt, whose name, from its German sound, at first saved him, was afterward, on his Polish nationality being discovered, thrown into prison with them. The fifth surgeon, Dr. Crevwinski, was also a Pole, but before entering the Turkish service, he had secured himself under the protection of the British Embassy, and on the seizure of his colleagues he succeeded in obtaining protection from the British Consul at Sophia. The Russians revenged themselves on his colleagues. Dr. Gebhardt in vain declared himself an Austrian subject, and referred for proof to his brother, who is secretary to the Imperial Supreme Court in Vienna, and proved that he never could have borne arms against Russia in the insurrection of 1863, as he was then only thirteen years old. He and his three colleagues were sentenced to be hanged by the Russian officers. Their execution was witnessed by Dr. Crevwinski, who immediately proceeded to Vienna to communicate to Sigismund Gebhardt, the official already referred to, his brother's last farewell.

The *Tagesblatt* further stated that when General Kobeleff entered Adrianople, he issued a proclamation, in which, among other points, he declared that individuals of Slavonian origin, who have borne arms against Slavonians, deserve hanging. It is in virtue of this proclamation that the Russians perpetrated the crimes we have referred to. A communication has been addressed to the Austrian Government on the subject of these atrocities by thirty-three Polish members of the Vienna Reichsrath, and that a demand for satisfaction for the murder of the Austrian residents, has been addressed to the Government by the medical Faculty of Vienna.

General Krzyranowski then moved that a Committee be appointed by the President to draft resolutions showing their feeling in the matter, and that a copy be sent to the President of the United States, and to the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate. The motion was unanimously carried, and the following gentlemen were appointed: J. Bielawski, O. Choynski, A. Elgass, O. Lessen, and General Krzyranowski.

The Secretary of the Society, A. Elgass, then read extracts from different Polish papers in regard to murders committed by Russians.

The Committee was ordered to report at the next meeting, and the meeting adjourned until Friday, the 19th inst.