

## Commemorative Meeting of the Polish Society of California—Patriotic and Congratulatory Expressions of Sentiment.

On Wednesday, a meeting under the auspices of the "Polish Society of California," established a few years ago in this city, was held at Oak Hall, Market street, to commemorate the struggle for independence of the Polish nation in 1830-31. At precise six o'clock in the evening, all the members of the Society and their invited guests having assembled at the Hall, which had been beautifully decorated with flags, etc., for the occasion, unan- imously elected Messrs Rudolph Corvin Piotrowski, as President of the meeting, and Alexander Bednawski as Vice-President—both gentlemen being the only surviving veterans of that memorable epoch. The President called the meeting to order, and in stating its object, invited all present to sit down to a table spread with choice viands provided by a Special committee of two members, viz: Messrs. Kryzanowski and Captain Lessen.

At dessert the President rose and delivered a very sensibly written speech, in which he dwelt particu- larly upon the glorious past of the Polish nation as compared with the present, pointing at the same time to the very complicated state of political affairs in Europe, which, according to his views, might be considered as the dawning of a bright future, not only for Poland, but to the cause of liberty at large. After him several other orators followed in succession, and made short but spirited speeches, redolent with the warmest patriotic feel- ings, amongst whom the most conspicuous were: Messrs. Uszynski, Julius Horajn, Charles Wilka- nowski, former staff officer in the Turkish army, Laski, Kryzanowski, Engelman, Dr. Szotski, etc., during which time at intervals, several appropriate toasts were drunk, as follows: "To the health and pros- perity of the glorious country we live in, and of which we are free Citizens," by Alexander Bednawski. "To the Patriotic Ladies of Poland," by Charles Wilkanowski. "To the Soldier heroes of that memorable epoch of 1831," and "To the Soldiers of the United States, by whose bravery the Union was saved from destruction;" both the last toasts by the President. In his address, Mr. Alexander Bednawski said: "To speak of the chief aim of the meeting: It is true, Poland has no polit- ical existence. The Poles have no longer a country to fight for or defend—they have lost everything but the honor and faith in retributive justice, which sooner or later, must be triumphant—but at the bottom of the question of Poland's future, there is involved the great cause of public justice and national independence, which is the common cause of all freemen. And certainly, it is the cause of all causes. The Poles, although citizens of this country, and owing allegiance to her alone as freemen, have not only rights, but it is their duty to protest vehe- mently and at all times against the perfidy and vio- lence of the partitioning powers."

The remainder of the evening was spent chiefly in friendly conversation and patriotic songs. The meeting came to a close at 11 P. M., the members dispersing amid cheers and mutual congratulations.