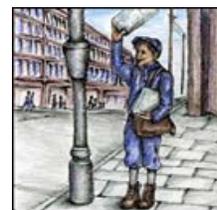




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Daily Alta California, Volume XIV, Number 4355, 22 January 1862 — The Cause of Poland. [ARTICLE]

The Cause of Poland.

The following letter

EDS. ALTA—The following letter, which created lately some sensation in political circles in Europe, will explain graphically the present passive warfare of the Polish nation against the despotic government of Russia, and you would confer an obligation on us by re-publishing the same.

POLANDERS OF CALIFORNIA.

LETTER OF LADISLAUS ZAMOJSKI.

[Translated from the *Echo du Pacifique*.]

PARIS, November 12, 1861.

SIR—All the newspapers of to-day copy from the *Prussian Gazette* a statement that 15,000 muskets have been seized by the Russian authorities on the estate of Count Zamojski.

I beg your permission, sir, to repeat in this instance the words of Mr. Royer Collard: "I do not know it, but I affirm," that this intelligence is a wilful invention. To prove my assertion, it is sufficient to call to mind the conduct of Poland during the last year, through all its parties, without any distinction as to locality, class, condition, religion.

I am not, although his brother, authorized to speak in the name of Count André Zamojski; since 1831 all political relations ceased between us. I emigrated, to continue on foreign soil the contest interrupted by our disasters; he, on the contrary, has dedicated himself to serve his country, but confining himself rigorously within the limits permitted by Russian law. But his whole lifetime, an uninterrupted political career of forty years, proves the falsity of the imputation aimed at him to-day. It is known besides, what the Russian police is, and consequently it is evident that under this system the importation of arms, even in the smallest quantity, is impossible. But what still more prevents the arrival of arms, is the fact, that Poland does not want to use any to defend her rights.

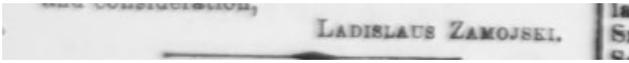
Count Zamojski, mentioned in to-day's statement, is the identical one to whom where addressed, in the month of March, the words famous for ever. The Russian Imperial Governor, disconcerted by a people who continued their prayers while they were being shot down by grape-shot, said to him one day: "Let us fight, I will have arms given to you." The answer was: "We shall not fight, prince ;

you can keep on murdering us as heretofore ; but leave our country, you that are not Poles, and then you shall have peace ; we will forget our grievances and the Emperor can come amongst us to receive our homage."

Since that memorable event, out of four governors that succeeded each other in the last six months, one died tormented to distraction by grief ; another committed suicide, and the two others left precipitately, after having vainly exhausted all the resources of their power. It is because Poland has really invented a new method of warfare. It consists in upholding, without any arms, their rights, which need no longer any affirmation, and for which every new sacrifice becomes a new triumph.

One may ask, perhaps, why this imputation, viz., of having seized the 15,000 muskets, which is as absurd as it is false. A single word will be sufficient to explain the cause : The attitude of "the Moderates," by which appellation even the most audacious envoys of St. Petersburg design that force against which they find themselves powerless to-day in Poland. And why so ? Because they must blush for shame before the world to be powerless against those Moderates, and therefore they try to deprive them of this character. Already the Consistory and half of the clergy of Warsaw are imprisoned, as also all the members of the two successive investigating committees which have had the courage to proclaim and protest against the profanation of churches. Likewise are thrown into prison the two Protestant pastors, the grand rabbi, the two vice-rabbis, the president of the Israelitic consistory, several bankers, the provost of the merchants—all of them evidently for nothing else but for being Moderates.

In the Provinces, in Lithuania, in Wolhynie, old men, of whom several have passed the age of ninety years, such as Mr. Wagner and Count Tarnowski, were transported. And still, since a year, that these terrible trials are in progress, not one soldier or police agent has been touched by a Polander, not a single insult has been offered to the most insignificant representative of imperial authority. On the contrary, insults and violence are received by all with an invincible confidence, inspired by feelings of undeniable right, by the unanimity of a great people, and their unshaken confidence in the justice of God. But the justice of human kind, in so far as it can be represented by the public opinion of civilized nations, is also one of the great forces on which Poland trustfully relies. To lead this public opinion astray, is the incessant object that our enemies are trying to accomplish. I believed that the name of my brother, and the danger which the statement of to-day reveals for him, made it my duty to unmask the true character of the measures which threaten him. You will, therefore, particularly oblige me, sir, in facilitating the accomplishment of this duty. Allow me to express my sentiments of high esteem and consideration.



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