

CAPE-PEAR RECORDER.

"IN PROPORTION AS THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT GIVES FORCE TO PUBLIC OPINION, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD BE ENLIGHTENED."—Washington.

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From the National Intelligencer. ON POLAND.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton:

The late tragical events in a country which appears now almost effaced from the maps and statistical tables, but which will be remembered by geographers as long as any attention is paid to natural and national divisions, and to the fame which the inhabitants of it have formerly enjoyed in history, whose descendants now are struggling for emancipation from an oppressive foreign yoke, are of sufficient interest to the lovers of universal liberty, to induce me to believe that a succinct geographical and historical sketch, showing the means they possess for resistance, collected from some writers on the history of that unfortunate country, and from my personal knowledge of the country, cannot fail to be acceptable to your readers.

Warsaw, which is yet the capital of Poland proper, or that part which was at the treaty of Tilsit in 1807 denominated the Duchy of Warsaw, and at the treaty of Paris in 1815, (with a few additions) the Kingdom of Poland, & placed under the Regency of Russia, with a Viceroy for Governor, is situated on the left bank of the river Vistula, about 300 miles from where this river empties into the Baltic, near the city of Dantzic. As that city is now the principal seat of war, I will give a more enlarged description of it. Warsaw contains about 100,000 inhabitants, but this is probably overrated, and 9,000 houses of a mixed character. There are several fine modern built palaces, the rest are of an ancient Slavonic style, built of wood, some are yet thatched with straw, and the greater part of the streets are narrow and crooked. It is not regularly fortified, having only partial works thrown up, for the defence of particular quarters of the town and those were mostly erected in 1795, by command of General Kosciusko, when the Prussians were besieging the revolted capital, and were repelled. It is connected with a large suburb, called Praga, by a ponton or bridge of boats across the Vistula, on the other side of which, is thrown up a bastion for the defence of the bridge. Praga is mostly inhabited by Jews and the lower order of Poles, and contains now, since the frightful massacre in 1795 by the barbarous hordes of Suwarow, not more than between 3 or 4,000 souls. By the union of Lithuania with Poland, under the Duke Jagellon, Warsaw became the occasional residence of the rulers of that country, and Sigismund III. rendered it permanently so in 1566 by the diet of the two states being convened there. About 89 years after, it was taken by the Swedes, whose king claimed the crown of Poland by an hereditary right. Immense booty was taken, but the hatred of the Poles drove the Swedes out of the kingdom the following year, leaving Pomerania in their possession.—The suburbs which have since that time been built form at present the finest part of the city. The part called the old town, is but one long and narrow street into which the others terminate. The streets of the suburbs, however, are spacious and clean, interspersed with monuments of modern Saxon architecture. The country around Warsaw is a great plain, with a clayey bottom, studded with a number of palaces and gardens belonging to the nobility and gentry. The river Bug takes its rise south-east, in the old province of Galicia, and joins the Narew, which comes from the north-east, in Lithuania, about 20 miles above their confluence with the Vistula, at about the same distance below Warsaw. When these break up in these two rivers, the flat country

which lays between them, and which forms the avenue to the city of Warsaw on the Russian or Lithuanian side, is generally inundated, and renders the approach to it with heavy artillery extremely difficult.

I have not at hand any authority for estimating the number of square miles which this phantom kingdom of Poland comprises. From the Tableau de Pologne, I have collected from the statement of each separate department, including what is called the Republic of Cracow, that it contains about 6,300 square leagues (15 to a degree) and the population is estimated at about 3,315,000—60,000 of which composes the army, and perhaps twice as many able to bear arms.

The other towns in the neighborhood of Warsaw, in the district called Masovia, are inconsiderable; but very valuable and superb estates belonging to the ancient noble families of Czartorinsky, Radzivil, and others, attract the attention of travellers. The town of Kalisz, in the Waiwodat of the same name, on the river Prozna, and to the west of Warsaw, is a handsome little town, containing about 8,000 inhabitants, and a military school, with some woolen and linen manufactories. To the south of Warsaw, is Cracow, famous for the salt and iron mines in the neighborhood, and the former residence of the kings of Poland. It is situated in a delightful, elevated and fertile region, not far from the source of the river Vistula, which here is only navigable for small flat bottomed boats, and contains about 26,000 souls. It has a University, and carries on a great trade in Hungarian wines and manufactured goods. Sendomir and Lublin are also places of some importance to the south-east of Warsaw. The important fortress Modlin, which is sometimes spoken of in the Polish accounts, is situated on the Narew, which is deep and rapid here, not far from its confluence with the Bug, to the north-east of Warsaw, and can at a certain season of the year, be rendered inaccessible to heavy ordnance by overflowing.

The kingdom Galicia and Bukowine, or that part of Poland, which at the partitions of 1772 and 1793 and 1795 fell to the share of Austria, comprises a population of 4,000,000 souls, and the productive salt mines of Wieliczka, in the neighbourhood of Cracow, are a great source of revenue to the Austrian crown. This country is situated to the extreme South of Warsaw, bordering on the Carpathian Mountains, which separate it from Hungary. The soil is fertile producing fine crops of wheat. Lemberg or Leopold, is the capital, a handsome city, containing 50,000 inhabitants, 13,000 of whom are Jews, and as many Arminians and Greeks, all having their separate places of worship, under a religious toleration.

As we descend the Vistula from Warsaw, the country to the left is now called the Grand Duchy of Posen or South Prussia, and that to the right, New East Prussia, a part of Lithuania. Both have a fertile soil, and flourishing towns.—The Wartha is the principal river in Posen which borders on Silesia, and the Narew divides the other from the new kingdom of Poland and Prussian Lithuania. Posen and Gnesen are the principal cities. This part of Poland remained to Prussia in 1815 from the partitions before mentioned, and contains a population of 2,000,000, of whom 250,000, are Germans.

The part which Russia has wrested from the wreck of that unfortunate country in the late partitions consists of the provinces or duchies of Lithuania, Podolia, Volhynia, and the starostics or counties of Bialystock, Wispepsk, Mohilew and Mins, containing together about 7,325 square leagues, (15 to a degree,) and 8,489,000 inhabitants. Wilna is the capital of North Lithuania, otherwise called Samogitia, at the confluence of the Wilia and Wilenka, which empty in the Niemen below, which river flowing by Tilsit and Memel, empties into a bay of the Baltic Sea. This town has

been much embellished by the last king of Poland, Stanislaus Poniatowsky, and contains about 40,000 inhabitants; one eighth of them are Jews. Grodno is lower down on the confines of the Prussian part of Lithuania. Brossie, Bialystock, Minsk, and other towns, contain none over 4,000 inhabitants. The inhabitants speak a different dialect from the Polish, and the greater part of them belong to the Greek church. There are a great many Jews, who carry on the principal trade, and act as stewards or brokers to the nobility.

This country was formerly independent of Poland, and of much greater extent to the north and east than at present, until 1386, Jagellon, one of its Dukes, married the only daughter of King Lewis, of Poland and Hungary, and undertook to convert all his people to christianity, after which, he was crowned King of Poland, and united all his possessions to that kingdom.

The mass of the Polish nation is descended from the ancient Leechi, a Slavonic race, and the several dialects in their tongue are probably owing to the mixture of the Scythian and Sarmatian tribes, which either by conquest or invasion became incorporated with the first settlers. Their government was an elective monarchy—the king was chosen by a diet of nobles and clergy, from which the other classes were excluded, and anarchy and contention were the general concomitants of their deliberations.

In the beginning of the last century, the Poles elected for their king, Augustus, Elector of Saxony, but the king having entered in a secret league with the Czar Peter, for the dismemberment of some of the southern provinces on the Baltic, from the kingdom of Sweden, the young King Charles 12th, with the rapidity of lightning, and before he could obtain succor from his ally, not only deprived him of the throne of Poland, but drove him from his own hereditary possessions, and obliged him to sue for peace. Through his influence, the Polish diet then proceeded to elect for their king, Stanislaus Sesczynsky, a Polish nobleman, whose daughter afterwards married Lewis 15th, King of France.—The loss of the battle of Pultowa in 1709, and the subsequent misfortunes of the adventurous Charles, again placed Augustus on the throne of Poland, and at his death in 1734, the same dissensions took place in the diet—Stanislaus Leszczynsky was again called by a part of the diet, whilst a minority elected the son of the Elector, Augustus 3d, who by force of arms drove Leszczynsky into exile and seized the sceptre.

By the intrigues and powerful influence of Catherine 2d, of Russia, the diet chose after a short interregnum in 1769, Stanislaus Poniatowsky, a Polish nobleman of great merit, and an accomplished scholar. Through him she hoped to gain an entire ascendancy over the destinies of that distracted country, torn to pieces by intestine broils and the refractory spirit of the nobles. A conspiracy was formed to abduce the king, at the head of which were the Count Pulaski and many other high noblemen. Whether it was from patriotism, and under the impression, that in possessing themselves of the person of the king, they would guard against any undue influence of the wily Catharine, over the grateful mind of the gallant monarch; or whether they were actuated by sinister motives, remains yet to be told.—The king, however, after three days fatiguing travel, made his escape; and soon after, at the conference of Pilnitz in 1772, part of Poland was peaceably divided between Catharine II. of Russia, Frederick II. of Prussia, and Joseph II. of Germany. The troubles in Poland did not cease to exist, however, till in the year 1792, the Polish nation, roused to a sense of their danger from continued anarchy, framed a new and more liberal constitution, after the model of the French of 1789, which the king swore to adhere to. Catharine pretended to be alarmed at these innovations, so near to the seat of her power,

and proposed a new coalition for the further dismemberment of Poland, which was quietly effected in 1793, by bringing over a large part of the discontented nobility to her interest, and to overawe more effectually the rest, which still adhered to the new order of things, she threw a large garrison into the capital.

Thus entirely dissolved, this unhappy nation sighed under the yoke of foreign invaders till the spring of 1795, when oppressed to a degree more than they were able to bear, the people of Warsaw rose upon the garrison killed many and expelled the rest. An insurrection spread all over the country, watered by the vistula, up as far as Cracow, and infected even some of the provinces newly acquired by Prussia.—General Kosciusko was called to command an army, which had been assembled in haste and was badly organized. Other able Generals were also raising corps in Upper Poland, and the revolution appeared for a while to wear a prosperous appearance. Kosciusko, with an inferior force, defended Warsaw for three months against an army of 60,000 Prussians, led on in confidence of success by King Frederick William II. and the Crown Prince, (the present King of Prussia;) they were, however, compelled to retreat, to quell an insurrection that had broke out in their rear. Want of union, however, in their counsels, and an immense armament sent against Warsaw, commanded by the sanguinary but able Suwarow, advancing upon them from another quarter, soon obliged them to yield. The brave Kosciusko was wounded and taken prisoner, his army dispersed, Praga burnt, and the inhabitants wretchedly put to the sword.—Warsaw was sacked, although a mock capitulation had been signed. Thus ended this attempt of the Poles to resist. Poland was entirely swept from the map; Warsaw fell to Prussia, Austria had Cracow, and the whole remaining part of Galicia, and Russia kept the whole of Lithuania and Volhynia to the Borders of the Bug.

In the year 1806, after the successful battle of Jena, Napoleon was joined by the again revolted Poles, and at the peace of Tilsit in the following year, a small part of Poland, which Russia and Prussia were obliged to give up, was erected into a Duchy, and was called the Duchy of Warsaw, of which the elector, since King of Saxony, was declared to Duke. At the treaty of Presburg, in 1809, Austria was compelled to add Cracow and its territory to the Duchy. But the downfall of Napoleon in 1815, threw the whole into the power of the northern Autocrat, under the name of the Vice-Kingdom of Poland and the Republic of Cracow. A sort of a constitution was granted to this new province of Russia, with a diet of their own, and the Czarowitz Constantine placed at its head as Viceroy. Their ancient laws were promised to be preserved to the inhabitants, but their pride was once wounded, and their hearts broken, the sparks of revenge have swelled under the embers, till the breath of freedom, that first was drawn, in resuscitated France, fanned them into a blaze; they stand again in an attitude for asserting their rights against their oppressors.—God grant they may not be so easily bowed down as they were in 1795 by their ruthless neighbours. A protracted warfare will give the Poles time to strengthen themselves and to organize the militia, and it will also tend to elevate the courage of the desponding. France cannot long remain an idle spectator; the people will not, though the Automaton King may fear more to displease the holy alliance than his own dissatisfied subjects. Should symptoms of insurrection appear in the rear of the Russian army, with a desperate and yet undismayed enemy in front, and up to the knees in a Champaign soil, it would be a difficult matter for them to obtain provisions or use their heavy ordnances, and the Prince Balkansky (or passer of the Balkan) Marshal Diebitsch, might have another title added to his name that of Deep-Misowsky, and he may be-

were should he persist in remaining longer in the plain, of the fate of the overwhelming army of Napoleon at Moscow. A. W. P. * * * * S.

From Buenos Ayres.—By the arrival of the ship Atticus, from Buenos Ayres, Ayres, we have received papers from 12th Feb. to 2d March. It appears that war between the boundary Provinces and those of the interior had commenced, the issue of which would probably decide the fate of the contending parties. On the 14th Feb. the Governor of Santa Fe issued a proclamation stating that every means had been used, without effect, to establish the peace of the Republic and the liberty of the people &c. Governor Lopez as commander in chief of the confederate army had also issued several proclamations early in Feb. to the citizens and soldiers inviting them no longer to serve under the military chieftains who only sought for power to oppress them.

On 5th February a division of Gov. Lopez's troops, commanded by Col. Pacheco, attacked that of Col. Pedernera and completely routed it, the latter had from 50 to 60 killed, and lost 80 prisoners, &c. The former lost only 5 killed and 4 wounded. Pedernera, it is stated escaped, with only five of his soldiers—the rest having deserted him.

Gov. Lopez is Commander in Chief of the Confederate Army; Gen. Febra L. berra, commands one division to act against Santiago—another is commanded by Gen. Quiroga.

Gen. Lopez on 16th Feb. defeated a party under Col. Plaza—this warfare seems to be thus far on the Guerrilla system, and scarcely worth particular notice.

The British Packet of 26th Feb. says, "The creation of new funds to the amount of six millions of dollars, has greatly depressed the market. The old 6 per cents, which in Jan. last were worth 76, are now 56 a 57.

An estimate of the expenses of the Oriental Republic of the Uruguay from 15th Feb. 1821 to 15th Feb. 1822 is \$699,920.

The temporary prohibition against exporting Bullion of Gold and Silver from Buenos Ayres is rescinded.

A treaty was signed on the 4th January, 1831, between Buenos Ayres, Esteroes and Santa Fe, the particulars of which are published in our latest papers.

This struggle, between the upper and lower Provinces, it was anticipated, would soon be terminated, and the whole become again confederated.

The Market was abundantly supplied with American produce, and few or no articles would realize cost or charges.

Boundary Question.—The St. John. N. B. Gazette of the 30th ultimo thus concludes a notice of the proceedings in the Legislature of Maine upon the decision of the King of the Netherlands on the Boundary Question:—"Were objections and complaints likely to be any avail, the British people, having the greatest cause, might justly indulge in objections and complaints. In this compromise, for it appears to be nothing else than a compromise, the most extensive and also the most valuable part of the territory in dispute has been given to the Americans; and as if this were not enough, Rouse's point, a situation of great importance in a national point of view, is given to them in the bargain. While, however we do not honour the decision of the Umpire, we abstain from arraigning his motives. And although the decision is apparently unsatisfactory to each of the parties, it is perhaps better for both, that it should be settled even so, than that it should stand interminably open."

Two years after the American Revolution, (1785) the military establishment of the United States, was reduced to and fixed at eight hundred men, one regiment of infantry, and two companies of artillery, so jealous were the people of the military power, although the power was in their own hands, that is, the Continental Congress.