

It is even wise to abstain from laws, which, however wise and good in themselves, have the semblance of inequality, which find no response in the heart of the citizen, and which will be evaded with little remorse. The wisdom of legislation is especially seen in granting laws on conscience.

Dr. Channing.

SALISBURY, ROWAN COUNTY, N. C. MONDAY, MAY 2, 1831.

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Foreign News.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.
Bloody commencement of the war in Poland; change of the Ministry in France; progress of reform in England.

New York April 14.

Early this morning, and very unexpectedly, says the New York Commercial Advertiser, we received London papers to the 20th March, inclusive, by the packet ship *Hibernia*, Capt. Maxwell, which has arrived at this port from Liverpool, whence she sailed on the 21st of March. These accounts are nearly a month later than our former advices, and are in all respects of the highest moment. But the wide space which they embrace, and the great number, extent, and variety of the details of news they contain, renders it impossible in a single sheet to dispose of the hall of the interesting matter thrown upon our hands.

From Poland, it will be seen that the Russians have reached the Vistula, and thrown some squadrons of troops and a large corps of Cossacks across the river, after much severe fighting. There appears to have been a succession of battles from the 17th to the 25th of February inclusive, in the neighborhood of Warsaw, and within view of that capital, by the aid of telescopes. The details of these engagements, as they reach us through the German papers, are desultory and inconclusive. Enough, however, has transpired to warrant the statement that the battles were fierce and bloody, and the Poles fought with a degree of courage and perseverance hardly to have been expected under their circumstances. In the early part of these engagements, while contending with the Russian advance, the Poles were evidently successful. It is believed that the victor of the Balkan miscalculated the strength and valor of the foe he was to meet; and forgetting that "a despised foe can sometimes give a bloody battle," found, before he was aware of his situation, that the laurels of the Imperial Legions, flushed with the triumphs of Ottoman conquest, had been somewhat tarnished. But the main battle was fought before Praga, on the 24th and 25th, in which the Russians, after an obstinate and very bloody conflict, were victorious. An account of the engagements of these two days will be found under the Frankfort date of March 9, written, evidently by a Russian. But immediately following that article we have inserted another from the Warsaw *Star* Gazette, under the date of Feb. 28. Taking both accounts in connexion, there can be no doubt that the Poles were routed, if not overthrown. Hostilities were renewed on the 26th ult. on which day, and on the 27th, there was much hard fighting, with considerable loss on both sides. The Poles behaved as gallantly as in the previous affair, but being unequal in number to their adversaries, they were at length compelled to give way. Determined, however, to make their retreat in as good order as possible, they set fire to Praga, in order to interrupt for a time the advance of the Russians. Praga was thus destroyed.

Subsequently to these dates, it is very difficult to ascertain what was the true situation of affairs. Early on the 8th of March, intelligence was received in Paris, by express announcing that on the 28th, the municipal authorities of Warsaw, finding themselves no longer protected by their brave army, and being unable from the nature of the city, to prevent the entry of the Russians, held a meeting, at which it was resolved to surrender at discretion. They waited upon the Russian Commander, to signify their submission; and the Russian troops immediately entered the capital. This event is announced by the celebrated correspondent of the Morning Chronicle, in the following impassioned strain:

Paris, March 8, 1831, 3 o'clock P. M. Warsaw has capitulated! Praga has been destroyed by fire! and the Polish Revolution has been terminated. I had sent you a long letter before I received this intelligence. In that letter I had hoped against hopes, expressed my doubts, and prayed for a success which I almost despaired of. But alas! alas! couriers have since arrived with the afflicting intelligence that Warsaw had capitulated and Praga has been burned by fire. France will hear it with horror. England will learn it with sadness. Liberty is arrested in her march; but the arm which arrests her progress is but impotent. Russian barbarians may burn cities, ravish women, rip up their helpless victims, and plant for a while the standard of despotism on the ruins of independence. But all this will not avail; and, in spite of these momentary triumphs, the Poles shall yet be free!

And yet, notwithstanding the positive terms of these accounts, it would seem that the Polish capital had not fallen, so late as the second of March, and it is added, that Gen. Diebitsch has been obliged to alter his plans; and that he will not again try his fortune by attacking Warsaw, but intends to surround and reduce it by famine. There is moreover, among the somewhat confused German accounts which will be found below, an account of thanksgiving in Warsaw, for the results of their operations, thus far; so that Warsaw clearly had not fallen, although the brave but unfortunate Poles, after their principal officers had fallen at Praga were driven back across the Vistula, and the Russian commander was preparing forthwith to invest the capital.

The Polish official account admits a loss of 9000 men put *hors du combat*, in these engagements, and that the wounded in the different hospitals amount to 3,600. In regard to their preceding battles, the most authentic and trustworthy reports state the casualties of the Poles in the different engagements at Dobrze, Litf, Milosnow, to be about 600 killed, 1400 wounded, 250 missing, and one six pounder. That of the Russians in the same affairs, 800 killed, 1700 wounded, and 300 missing. The temporary advantages gained by General Dwernicki over Gen. Geismar at Plock, and a few days later at Narawie on the left bank, did not prevent the Russians from pursuing their forward movements. They were, in fact, simple affairs of Cossacks, in which these savages lost a considerable number of men, and upon the two occasions seven small cannon of the calibre of one and two pounds.

Most readers will probably be somewhat surprised that Count Diebitsch should have so rapidly advanced upon the Polish capital. But it appears that the troops in the vicinity of the capital have shown a very different spirit from that of the people in the intervening territory. A letter from Frankfort, March 6, says:—

"It is a fact as indisputable as the righteousness of the Polish cause, that the Russians have met with no opposition from the inhabitants in general; that in Augustowa, Podalacia, Lublin, and in other parts where they have established themselves, they have not been molested or harassed by that part of the natives which in a war of this nature was expected to have caused them the greatest mischief. Independent of the large magazines which have fallen into the hands of the Muscovites at Lornis, Stanislaw, Kaluszyn, and other places, they have been readily supplied with provisions and forage by the peasantry, and a remarkable fact may be added, that since the entry of the troops into Augustowa an active commerce in grain has been carried on."

Even the common people of Warsaw were for receiving the Russians, but were overruled and awed into submission by the Nobles.

From the *Journal Des Debates*.

WARSAW, Feb. 21. 11 o'clock, A. M. I must give you news of the fight of my unfortunate country. The war began on the 14th of this month, when in a small affair, Gen. Dwernicki took 11 pieces of cannon, with horses and baggage, and 2500 prisoners. In several skirmishes kind Heaven gave us the victory; but the most essential affair has now occurred; our Commander design edly allowed the enemy to approach within a league of Warsaw, and the battle, which still lasts, began on the 19th, at six o'clock in the morning. During these two days we have been continually advancing; we have already a great number of wounded, but on the other hand the carnage has been terrible; at the same time we are as yet unable to state any thing decisive. We can distinctly see the field of battle from the city, and the continual firing of the cannons. You can easily imagine our feelings at seeing blood flow below our city, for the fate of our unhappy country; but what can we do? To-morrow we shall be lost or saved.

P. S. Noon.—A second report from Gen. Dwernicki has just arrived; we believe there are now no Russians on the right bank of the Vistula.

The postscript here refers to an advantage gained by Gen. Dwernicki over a Russian corps commanded by Geismar, which had passed the Vistula at Pulawy, the march of which inspired serious anxiety at Warsaw.

Feb. 21.—It is now under the walls of Warsaw that our army is every day fighting. General Diebitsch is at the head of the Russian masses; which marched by the routes of Siedler and Wengrow. The Polish army unable to resist these masses, has been concentrated, since the 17th, around Praga. The Russians are strong and established in the forests, situated at a

little distance. They accept partial combats without wishing for a general engagement. The Poles endeavor to draw them into the plain, but then they retire into the woods, where the cavalry cannot pursue them, and where they are besides protected by formidable artillery. In these different battles the advantage is always on the side of the Poles; but it is to be feared that numbers will at last prevail. The loss of the Russians is estimated at 10,000 men. Several hundreds of persons have been brought to the city, along with about 2,000 wounded poles.

The Polish general Dwernicki, who after a brilliant engagement, passed the Vistula at Gora, to stop the march of the Prince of Wurtemberg, has had with him, near Koziennice, a battle, in which he repulsed him, and took several cannon. The Prince is under the orders of another Russian General, named Krutz; but no other is mentioned but himself. He is the horror of Poland, because he was born in Poland, and because he deserted at the insurrection, a brigade of Polish Lancers whom he commanded, although he is the nephew of Prince Adam Czartoriski.

It is impossible to paint the heart rending spectacle which Warsaw presented on the 10th. The anxiety produced by the battles which was seen from all points commanding the Vistula, and the zeal of the inhabitants standing round the wagons of the wounded to offer them assistance.—The work of erecting the interior barricades was interrupted, and it is thought that if the Polish army, yielding to numbers, is finally driven back, this unfortunate city will only attempt a useless resistance, the consequences of which terrify the imagination.

The force of the Russian army before Praga is not exactly known.

The following news from the theatre of war at Warsaw, on the 21st ult:—

NEWS FROM THE THEATRE OF WAR.

The battle which was generally expected began on the 19th, near Groncho at 10 o'clock in the morning, and lasted till 6 o'clock in the evening. The most terrible of the firing took place between two and four o'clock. In the evening, General Chicks published that he had received from head quarters, news that our army fought with the greatest bravery. During the whole of the day it had not lost a single inch of ground, and it killed a great number of the enemy. The field of battle remained in our power. The whole of yesterday was employed in bringing to Warsaw wounded Poles and Russians, as well as Russian prisoners. In the two armies 340 pieces of cannon were in action. It is supposed that the enemy has lost 10,000 men. At 1 o'clock two regiments of Russians, picked men, advanced towards our line. The 4th regiment of the line, and the first of Light Infantry, charged them with the bayonet, and the charge was so terrible and bloody that, of the two Russian regiments, scarcely 20 men escaped. The General has sent to the national Government two stands of colours and two cannon. It would appear that, besides the 2d battalion of Granadiers, which has been dispersed, and some squadrons of the 4th Regiment Chasseurs, we have not suffered much. The enemy for the night to the surrounding woods of Mitosna.

To-day at eight o'clock A. M. the cannonade began, and has continued till seven o'clock in the evening. The results are not yet known. It is certain however, that our soldiers have gained ground in spite of the strong cannonade of the Russians. They have again retired into the woods. To-morrow, the third day, the battle will be renewed.—Extract from the Official Journal.

News from the Left Bank of the Vistula.

A corps of Cossacks, composed of 8,000 men, passed the Vistula, near Puitawa, and had advanced to Radam. General Dwernicki met with the corps of General Krutz, between Koziennice and Cnievosow, and at the commencement of the action, took from them six pieces of cannon, and made 200 prisoners. We do not as yet know the result.

WARSAW, Feb. 21.

The National Government has published the following proclamation:

As the Polish army, in consequence of the engagements which it has had with the enemy, will probably advance to cover the capital, the National Government has thought it its duty to take measures to secure it from a demonstration of the enemy, and to place it in a state to make a vigorous defence. It has therefore decreed:—

1. From this day, the 19th of February, the City of Warsaw is declared in a state of siege.
2. The Governor of the city is invested from this time with all the military powers, as if he commanded in a place of war.
3. The civil and military authorities,

as well as the inhabitants of Warsaw, are held to obey the order of the Governor for the arming on the defence of the city on pain of suffering according to military laws.

4. The persons of the senators, of the Deputies and of Foreign Consuls, the halls of their sittings, and the houses of the above mentioned persons, are placed beyond the power of the Governor.

(Extract of a letter, dated Warsaw, Feb. 17th)—"In the two instances of Russian invaders and the Polish defenders of their liberty having fought, the Poles have conquered. Official accounts of the successful commencement having reached Warsaw, affords universal joy, and enables me to give you the following details:—

Gen. Dwernicki, and the brave Poles under his command attacked General Geismar's corps in the rear, of Scroczyn near Slock on the Vistula.

The Poles fought like lions killed 400 of the enemy, including one Lieutenant-Colonel of the artillery, and one Major, took 230 prisoners, including two Captains, one Lieutenant, two Ensigns; seized many horses, a large supply of ammunition, and took 11 pieces of cannon 3 of which they immediately turned against the enemy. The Polish artillery worked so well, that they soon dismounted five of the enemy's cannon.

The Poles lost one assistant-surgeon, and fifteen men killed, and 18 wounded among whom were Major Rosan and Lieutenant Zalkowski, and 24 Lts. Radzowski, Smolowski, Krzyzanowski, and Raczynski. The Major led the attack on two Regiments and a battery of artillery.

The coolness, intrepidity, and enthusiasm of the young Polish soldiers just formed excite the astonishment, and merit the highest praise; the first fire of the Russian Artillery fell on a battalion of the First Regiment of Polish foot, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Rychlowski, killed several of his men, but did not create the least confusion in the square which they had formed, the places of those who fell in the front were immediately filled up by those in the rear, and all continued to join in the national song of Dembrowski? General Geismar fled and very narrowly escaped being taken prisoner.

The Russian prisoners who were taken say they were assured they were only going to chastise the 4th Polish regiment who had rebelled, then march on to Prussia to meet the French, who were already on the way to attack the Russians.

The Second example of Polish bravery and Polish success is the attack on the avant guard of General Diebitsch, when the Poles took 300 prisoners, including two colonels, six pieces of cannon, and a quantity of arms which they found in the camp. Further particulars respecting this second affair I will give you in my next, when I hope to be able to give you an account of a more general battle near Warsaw which our army is preparing for with the greatest energy."

BERLIN, Feb. 25.

Accounts from Warsaw of the 23d, say that on that day there had not been any action in the army beyond Praga; and that it was the corps of Gen. Pahlen which had fought on the preceding days at Gronchow, which however, had fallen back on the main army.

WARSAW, Feb. 24.

On the 21st and 22d no hostilities took place on the right bank of the Vistula. On the first day some of the outposts came to blows, out a white flag was sent by the Russians, which led to parley between the Russian and Polish Generals, in the course of which an Armistice was agreed upon for the purpose of burying the dead; the armistice still continues and our forepost and those of the enemy pass quietly in front of each other. People here suspect the Russians of intending by this arrangement to gain time to strengthen their position, and to obtain fresh supplies of provisions and ammunition. On the other hand, it is generally thought that if the Russians plunge into the forests they will be likely to be lost in our marshes, which may every day be computed to become less secure, as the spring weather makes itself more and more felt. In the battle of the 20th our artillery behaved extremely well, and inflicted severe loss upon the enemy, many of whose cannons were completely dismounted. From the palatinate of Augustown we learn that Zallwski has originated a guerilla warfare against the Russians.

Hamburg Reporter March 1.

WARSAW, Feb. 28.

Extract from the Warsaw papers which have come direct to Paris.

General Diebitsch offered a reward of 500 ducats to any one who could deliver up to him a student of the university or of the military school, and 2,000 ducats for each member of the Chamber of De-

puties. The National Guards of Warsaw have been employed to collect the arms left by the Russians upon the field of battle, and they picked up sufficient for 6,000 men.

The grand duke Constantine has joined the Russian Army in 2000 service, and is in command of the corps. General Chlopicki was so severely wounded, that in a few hours after he was again on horseback.

Several spies, both Christians and Jews, have been arrested and executed.

According to the opinion of experienced officers, all our troops require a clever General in order to effect a total defeat of the Russians. With such soldiers as the Poles, Napoleon could have already conquered the south extent of Russia. Prince Ranzwill, a brave man, and no one can justly blame him of want of skill; but he has not sufficient experience in the command of a large army. His successor Gen. Skrzynocki, who was only a Colonel at the time of the revolution, is an officer of very distinguished merit. We have every reason to hope that he will be able to make up for the omissions which have occurred.

THE NETHERLANDS

The Belgic Congress, not having been allowed a King of their own choosing, have appointed a Regent to direct the Government provisionally. His first act has been one of great imprudence. We allude to the proclamation below addressed to the people of the Duchy of Luxemburg.—This is a hereditary possession of the House of Nassau, and will not be relinquished by the King. And the Allied Powers have not awarded it to the Belgians. Should the latter persist in their efforts to retain it, the King of Prussia may find employment for some of his troops to assist his Dutch, neighbor and relative. Should hostilities ensue the war would soon become general.

The King of Holland has formerly acceded to the terms of separation, adjusted by the Allied Ministers in London, and a British fleet has been ordered for the Scheldt to enforce the terms agreed to by the General Powers for the settlement of the disputes between Holland and Belgium. The sailing of this armament will very probably involve England in a dispute with France—the last nation with which England ought now to seek a quarrel.

BRUSSELS.

Proclamation of the Regent of Belgium.

Inhabitants of the province of Luxemburg. Fellow-citizens!—I have sworn to maintain the independence and integrity of the Belgic territory. I shall be faithful to my oath. Do not suffer yourselves to be seduced by promises or threats. The Congress has protested against the acts of the Congress at London, which a great power itself considers only as proposals.—The nation which has been able to vanquish the Dutch armies will maintain the protest of its representatives. We began our revolution in spite of the treaties of 1815; we will finish it in spite of the protocols of London.

"Luxemburgers!—You have been for those three centuries Belgians like us, and you have shown yourselves worthy of that name. Ever since the reign of Philip the Good, your efforts, like ours, have had for their object a common nationality. In 1815, you had for the first time chosen connexion with Germany, but you have continued to live under the same institutions as the rest of Belgium. In the grand Duchy, as well as in the other Belgic provinces, King William has broken the social compact which united him to the Belgians, and has released them from their engagements by violating his own. War has decided between him and us; the legitimate authority is that which the national will has founded. You are not strangers to our combats and our victories. You have spontaneously associated yourselves with the Belgic revolution, and the names of your volunteers are inscribed in the history of our days. You already enjoy, as far as circumstances will permit, the benefits of the revolution. The most odious taxes are abolished. You have yourselves resumed your communal authorities and your affairs are administered by men of your own choosing. Your Deputies have concurred in giving to Belgium the Constitution which governs it. You have not forgotten the vexations of which you have been for 15 years the victims. Fear the return of the Dutch system of taxation, which has ruined your manufactures and your agriculture. The men who speak to you of legal order, and who excite among you civil war, are the agents, the accomplices, of the overthrow of the Government; they have lived by all the abuses, and