

Thoreau, Henry David (1817-1862)

In "Life without principle"
about Kossuth

merely

"That excitement about Kossuth, consider how characteristic, but superficial, it was! - only another kind of politics or dancing. Men were making speeches to him all over the country, but each expressed only the thought, or the want of thought, of the multitude. No man stood on truth. They were banded together, as usual one leaning on another, and all together on nothing; as the Hindoos made the world rest on an elephant, the elephant on a tortoise, and the tortoise on a serpent, and had nothing to put under the serpent. For all fruit of that stir we have the Kossuth hat."

(See: W. D. Howells, James:
A Modern Philosopher of
Freedom. Writings on
Liberty by H. D. T.
July 1930 - P. 109)