

Kossuth as English orator

"Imagine a man ab. 5 feet 7 or 8 inches, with a good forehead, scanty black hair, sallow complexion, and a face worn with care or study, or both; long flowing beard and moustachios, and dressed exactly as ~~the~~ Shylock or Tubal are in the play of the Merchant of Venice; that is, with a black surcoat close to the neck, and open hanging sleeves. When this was thrown open, in speaking, a handsome black velvet vest was visible, light up to the throat. He wore white kid gloves, which he took off when he began to speak. I was prepared to hear a first-rate orator, after reading his reported speeches at Southampton. I was disappointed. His voice is indifferent; he sinks it at the conclusion of a sentence, and the reporters have the greatest difficulty to catch the closing periods of his sentences. He speaks slowly, in very good grammatical English. He is a good actor. Sometimes his gestures were very graceful,

especially when he bowed his thanks to the Lord Mayor, and crossed his hands on his breast, martyrs fashion.

His imperfect English lent a charm to his speaking, which, however, was not of course, so effective as that of many of our own orators, inasmuch as he has slips of notes in his hand from which he read continually. Some passages, however, highly effective, especially his appeal to England and the US "that they would not forget H. in their proud security."

His continued refrain "you have the power to help - help!" which he repeated six or seven times at intervals, would have been effective, but from the sinking of his voice, which rendered it impossible for the auditory to hear the last word. So the effect was lost. However, as a speaker, he is impressively a first rate man. Considering it was delivered in a foreign

idiom, his speech kindled a great enthusiasm ... this peroration will, I anticipate, produce a better effect in print than it did in delivery.

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