

P. 212

KOSSUTH.

BY THE EDITOR.

This man is now the meteor upon which the eye of public curiosity is fixed from all quarters of the world. He sprang from the night of obscurity, suddenly, upon the vision—flashed for a brief space toward the zenith, increasing in brilliancy as he moved—was checked in his career, baffled from his orbit, and is now, we fear, through his own impatient and chafing eccentricities, or else through a mistaken estimate of his own power and destiny, fast falling upon the declination of his glory.

Kossuth, in Hungary, presented a sublime spectacle for the contemplation of all men, and especially all freemen. There we beheld him contesting against despotism, for the independent nationality of his people; with a single heart and purpose, all given to his country. His noble employment and earnest devotion commanded our respect, admiration, love. The American heart bent almost convulsively in his behalf, and the prayers of our people went forth in one united strain to the almighty Ruler of nations, supplicating Divine interposition on his side. He was called the Washington of Hungary! He was betrayed. The concentrated powers of despotism were gathered against him, and the meshes of treason encompassed him on every hand—his right arm was paralyzed, and nothing was left of Kossuth but existence. He fled from his native land an

exile. The *Christian* soil of Europe afforded no resting-place for the sole of his foot—the Moslem alone sheltered and protected him from the blood-hounds of oppression!

We gave him our sympathies in his despair, and opened the doors of our nation to receive him. The whole world, beyond his oppressors, sympathized with him and deplored his fate, yet not a Christian nation in Europe dared harbor the outcast, or invite him to their shores. The Turk alone sheltered him, though in semi-captivity. Safe from his hunters, he gave vent to the bitterness of an overcharged anguish and complained even of the hand that protected him from the fury of his foes. America offered him an asylum free from all captivity, and far beyond the malice of his pursuers; he affected to accept the proffered welcome, but mistook the meaning of our generous hospitalities. Our open-hearted sympathies for himself were construed into an encouragement of his measures, even at a time when those measures, if re-attempted, could only be absorbed in disaster. The outpourings of the popular American heart emboldened him to give lessons to the American government, as though the people and the government were distinct. While enjoying the Turkish protection in Asia Minor, he addressed a letter to Mr. Marsh, our representative at Constantinople, defying what he supposed to

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AP2

R356

be the *duty* of the United States in an emergency like his own. He could not refrain from intermeddling in the policy of a government with the principles of which he has shown himself to be utterly ignorant; he calls upon us to cast aside the great conservative basis of our national peace,—the doctrine of *non-interference*,—and urges us to jeopardize our nationality by participating in the numerous broils of European anarchy! The asylum that we offer to his person, is misconstrued—our sympathies are distorted into an alliance, and with an egotism unparalleled, he proceeds to dictate the foreign policy of the United States.

But we forgive him that, attributing it to an over zeal and a wounded spirit, and still extend to him the right-hand of fellowship, and peace; we proffer him protection under our blessed free laws; interpose with the Turk for his release; and having obtained permission to bear him from the Ottoman domain, we send a national vessel to conduct him, under the protection of our flag and our guns, safely to our shores.

Kossuth essays to accept our hospitality: he bids farewell to the Ottoman, mounts the deck of the Mississippi, and thanks God that, under the *prestige* of the Stripes and Stars, he is at last free! The shackles are lifted from his soul—he looks boldly abroad upon the fair sky, the ocean, and the earth—he fears no more the assassin's steel, the traitor's wiles, nor the despot's power, and for the first moment of his life he inhales the refreshing draft of pure, undefiled liberty.

But with liberty comes back the yearning for his old pursuits—*Revolution*. The zeal exhibited in his cause; the sympathies expressed at his decline; and the general admiration of his position as it was at first presented to the world, have inspired him with the idea that he is the appointed of God as the liberator of all Europe; and filled with this fanatical notion, he gives no bounds to his contempt for all existing governments, not even that of the United States, and *threatens* the commander of the vessel that ushered him into freedom, with an appeal to the American people, against the government, because, forsooth, the commander had no authority to convey him to various European ports, where he was desirous of re-kindling the flame of revolution!

Our ship conveys him, on its route homeward to the port of Marseilles, France. The French authorities, fearing a political *emeute*, forbid his landing; but on appeal from the

American Consul, who enters his own recognizances for the good behavior of the refugee, Kossuth and his suite are permitted to enter the city. He next demands permission to cross the French territory towards England. The American Consul communicates his demand to the French Government; it is denied. The Government fears popular excitement within, and offence to neighboring powers, which may involve them in war, and it is not only their right, but their duty, to guard against all contingencies which threaten their national tranquillity. For this the excitable Kossuth creates an embittered issue between the Government and the People of France; abuses and threatens the American Consul, who had much befriended him, and leaving our protection, proceeds by another conveyance to England.

The following letter, written from Marseilles by an ex-Member of the American Congress to the Editor of the *Newark Daily Advertiser*, gives a more comprehensive view of the character and intentions of Kossuth than we have seen elsewhere expressed. We therefore copy it entire:—

MARSEILLES, Oct. 12, 1851.

We reached this place a few days ago, just as Kossuth and his party left it. His appearance here seems to have occasioned considerable excitement, and as everything relating to him is regarded with interest at home, you will, doubtless, be glad to receive some particulars concerning the brief visit, which are not likely to be generally known. When the frigate Mississippi arrived here, Kossuth expressed a desire to leave her, and go to England through France, though he was unprovided with the necessary passports that are required from all passengers or travelers. He nevertheless applied to the U. S. Consul, (John L. Hodge, Esq.,) through Capt. Long of the frigate, to intercede in his behalf; and at his earnest request, Mr. Hodge obtained permission, from the Prefect of the city, for him and all his companions to come ashore—upon making himself personally responsible (for the whole) that there should be no public demonstration or disturbance. Upon this pledge they were permitted to come to the city, and Kossuth's request for permission to travel through the country was communicated by telegraph to Paris, and refused by letter from the Minister of the Interior.

The refusal, and the requirement, through Mr. Hodge, of the pledge not to make any popular excitement, appear to have roused the excitable temper of the Hungarian to the highest pitch; and in a letter to the Consul (who had done everything in his power to serve and oblige him, he complained bitterly, and denounced his conduct and that of Capt. Long—proverbially one of the most mild, conscientious and obliging officers in the Navy, and who, withal, has done everything in his power to make the voyage agreeable to the exiles, placing his best arrangements to the service of their distinguished leader and his

54
INDEX

family. In this letter he says, "I will leave the ship at the first port at which it will stop," which he justly supposes will be Gibraltar. "I will then go," he adds, "by some private conveyance to the United States, and make my excuses for not having profited of the hospitality of your Government vessel, by the publication of this letter, which I have the honor to send you a copy of, and will confidently await the judgment of the public opinion of the United States."

Now, from all the testimony I have been able to collect, after some effort, I am confident that there is no just cause whatever for this extraordinary complaint of the officers of the frigate, or of the Consul; and when the whole history of Kossuth's conduct, since he came under the protection of our flag, comes to be known, it will, I am sure, be found that he has no ground to be dissatisfied, to say nothing more. It may go to show that he never intended to go to the United States, as it is certain that he has repeatedly expressed his desire to go to England and remain there, with a view of perfecting his plans to effect a general revolution in Continental Europe, and give freedom to all people—which he supposes to be his appointed mission. Several Hungarians sojourning here tell me he never intended to go to America, which is too far removed from the theatre of his future operations.

He sent the ministerial letter refusing him a passport, to the editor of "Le Peuple," an ultra Red Republican paper here, and it was published with editorial remarks of so exciting a character that the authorities caused the entire edition to be suppressed. This was among the direct violations of the American Consul's pledge, founded upon Kossuth's promise. He also published a proclamation to the "Democrats of Marseilles," which you have doubtless seen in the English papers. I inclose you a copy, in case you should not receive it from other sources.

We leave in a day or two for Nice, where we shall probably spend the winter. If anything transpires worthy your attention, I will drop you a line.

Respectfully yours, L.

For his bold assault upon Despotism in its stronghold, we admire Kossuth: for his efforts to release his country from Austrian domina-

tion, we love him; but for his ambition, we would shun him. His presence here, we feel assured, will not conduce to our national peace: for if he comes, he comes avowedly to fan the flame of animosity against European States, and with the prestige of his name, and the influence that he will exercise with the Red Republicans who have recently swarmed upon our shores, from the revolutions of the Old World, it is not too much to believe that the American ballot box will be made to echo the radical sentiments of European malcontents, and perhaps, ere long, involve us in a bloody and disastrous war. Why not? American demagogues stand ever ready to grasp at any theme that promises to carry them into power, and why not Hungarian independence as easily as American disunion?

That Kossuth, though a man of erudition and experience, does not understand the first principles of our republican system, is shown in his imbecile and uncivil threat to appeal from the Government to the people, in the case of Captain Long and the Consul, Mr. Hodge: and the same slip of propriety exhibits a discordant and radical spirit, ill adapted to popular peace in any land. It is with more satisfaction than regret, therefore, that we learn, incidentally, that it is not his intention to make the United States his place of residence. Should he determine to visit us, however, he will be met by the American people with the cordiality of true hospitality—the arms of the nation will be opened to receive him, and whether his stay be temporary or permanent, so long as his demeanor is that of a peaceful and orderly citizen, the "land of the free" will afford him a happy asylum, and the banner of our blessed Union shall be his protection and his shield.