

Lindvigh, Samuel, letter to N.Y. Herald  
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To New York Herald,  
publ 3/30/1848

you are requested to publish the following lines in the H - well deserving being communicated to the P - public. After an absence of 11 years which I was so happy as to spend in the U. S. I am here in my native land on a visit. It is natural to love the land of our birth + highly interesting to see after a long absence the changes in its political and social life. I left N.Y. in the month of Aug. last, for Havre; visited Paris, went to Hamburg, Leipzig + Vienna, and could see in all those parts of Eur. many useful improvements; and in literature, religion + politics such movements as did again convince me of the eternal truth, that man is a progressive being; and that knowledge - nothing but knowledge - alone can be the foundation of liberty and of a future more happy for mankind.

Hungary, a country, the next

neighbors of which are the Turks, the  
Russians & the Austrians; a country  
inhabited by a proud nation which  
have shown themselves brave in  
many wars, three centuries  
against the Moslems; a country  
fertile & beautiful, & blessed in its  
inference by a constitution similar  
to that of England, called "Palla  
Aurea" and of the same age with  
the "Magna Charta"; a country which  
once elected their kings, and was  
powerful & independent; a country  
which has hurled the flower of  
its nobility at the mournful  
battle of Mohács against  
Soliman in 1526; a  
country which fell under foreign  
influence, was agitated by  
many civil wars, and  
neglected by popular education  
has been a long time a  
terra incognita for other  
civilized nations; this country  
did rise from its slumber,  
did begin to feel its valor as  
a nation, and is attracting  
already the attention of  
foreign countries by its  
mighty progress in cultivating  
their language, in elevating



their arts & sciences; and especially  
by their liberal principles in  
matters of government which have  
their source in the nobility,  
against their own prerogatives -  
without an example in  
history. It is true, the  
movement did only begin;  
there are appearances there which  
still are piercing the heart of the  
cosmopolite; there is a powerful  
clergy, possessing the ninth  
part of the country, influencing  
the education at large, as well  
as the legislative body of the diet  
(Congress); there are very few  
internal improvements; almost  
no public institutions on a  
national & higher scale;  
State & church are united;  
the representation of the people  
not yet regulated, but still the  
mighty movement has  
begun & we can verily say  
that this country, vehemently  
shaken but not broken, has  
a better future to await for.

The political parties, those of the  
Conservatives & of the Opposition,  
are organized & polit. life is  
organizing itself more & more.

One thing I should like to advise to my countrymen, viz. that they should take in their main consideration what hitherto has been entirely neglected - internal improvements & public education. In vain we look for liberty & its lasting blessing, if the mass of the people is fanatic & ignorant.

Yesterday the opposition club, consisting of ab. 700 members, all brave & intelligent men, gave a splendid ball where many of the fair St. Ladies appeared in magnificent costume. To this ball (the 6th I have visited this season), I had the pleasure to be invited, and there I was honored and surprised with a card for Mr. Polk, Pres. of the U.S., which I shall present to him myself on returning home next May. This gift, I think to be a great honor to the Amer. nation, as a token of respect to their chief magistrate from the liberal party of a far & noble-hearted country. It shows how the remotest parts of old Europe



3

are looking with admiration to  
young America & how the starspangled  
Banner of the U.S. which ere  
now triumphantly waves over  
conquered Montezuma, sheds  
gloriously its lights to foreign  
nations, destined by the natural  
law of progress to follow manly  
in the path of virtue <sup>to the temple</sup>  
of liberty & independence.

Respectfully  
Samuel Ludwig.