

"COURAGE OUGHT TO HAVE EYES AS WELL AS ARMS."

ence so effectually in behalf of her favourite, that he was elected King of Poland, to the great discontent of a large party of the Polish nobility. At the commencement of his reign Stanislaus gave many proofs of his moderation and love of justice; but his attempt to introduce some modifications into the Polish constitution rallied a powerful party against him; and there arose a struggle betwixt Protestants and Catholics, when the latter formed the celebrated "Confederation of Bar." Pulaski, one of their chiefs, entered into a conspiracy to bodily carry the king off; and as on one dark night he was proceeding to his palace, the conspirators forcibly seized Stanislaus, and mounting him upon one of their horses, they rode rapidly away, and continued until their horses were completely exhausted, but, as morning broke, they found to their horror that instead of riding away from Warsaw, they had missed their way, and were only a short distance from the town! All the conspirators except one, Kosinski, fled. Struck with remorse, he implored the king's pardon, which was not only magnanimously granted, but a pension was settled on him. But Stanislaus still continued to be troubled by the divisions of his people, and the confederation breaking up, the *first partition of Poland* took place in 1772, when, too weak to avert the calamity, Stanislaus saw 13,500 square miles of his kingdom divided between Russia, Prussia, and Austria. In 1787 the Empress Catherine visited the Crimea, and Stanislaus obtained from her a promise of security for his kingdom; whilst the Emperor Joseph II. also made him a like solemn promise. Nevertheless, in 1792, the Russians and Prussians invaded Poland, when a *second partition* took place in 1793. In the meantime Kosciusko had gathered together an army, chiefly composed of peasants, with which he fought with the most astonishing bravery against the overwhelming masses of Russia—at Dubienka especially, which, with four thousand men, he defended during six hours against twelve thousand Russians. But the brave Poles were defeated, and Kosciusko taken prisoner, when the Russians, under the celebrated Suwarroff, entered the blood-stained capital of Warsaw. Stanislaus was forced to resign his crown, and the *final partition of Poland* took place in 1795—the remainder of Poland being divided between Russia, Austria, and Prussia. The unfortunate monarch afterwards retired to Grodno, from whence he was called to St. Petersburg, where he remained until his death, which occurred in the year 1798.

The extinction of the ancient kingdom of Poland excited a profound sensation throughout Europe—she being viewed as a victim to Imperial ingratitude, Prussian cupidity, and Muscovite ambition; whilst she was held in reverential remembrance as being, under John Sobieski, the bulwark of Christendom against the Ottomans. The poet Campbell has celebrated the unhappy event in the following immortal lines:—

"Oh! bloodiest picture in the book of Time,
Sarmatia fell, unwept, without a crime;
Found not a generous friend, a pitying foe,
Strength in her arms, nor mercy in her woe!
Dropp'd from her nerveless grasp the shattered
spear,
Closed her bright eye, and curb'd her high career;
Hope for a season, bade the world farewell;
And Freedom shriek'd—as Kosciusko fell!"

Additional Notes to February.

SIEGE PRICES.

(19.)—The following list of prices which prevailed during the *SIEGE OF PARIS* will show to what straits even the easy classes of the population were driven; and what the poorer classes suffered must be left to the imagination of the reader. The prices will become historical, and hence deserve a record:—Salt pork, per pound, £1; ham, £2; fresh butter, £2 8s. 4d.; a German sausage of horseflesh, 6s. 8d.; black-pudding of horses' blood, 6s. 8d.; pudding of horse chitterlings, 5s.; horse's head, collared (no pun hereby meant), 6s. 8d.; dog-flesh, 6s. 8d.; preserved meat, said to be beef, 10s.; sugar, 1s. 8d.; honey, 10s.; chocolate, 4s. 2d.; rice, 1s. 8d.; bread and biscuit, 1s. 3d.; patent soup, glue being its

base, 10d.; kitchen fat, tallow, 3s. 4d.; a hundred weight of wood, 10s.; the same quantity of coal, 12s. 6d.; a single egg, 2s. 6d.; a fowl, £2 5s.; a goose, £6; a turkey, £4 12s.; a duck, £1 15s.; a pigeon, 12s.; a crow, 5s.; a sparrow, 10d.; a hare, £3 5s.; a rabbit, £2 5s.; the brain of a sheep, 5s.; a cat, £1; a rat, 2s. 6d.; a box of sardines, 13s.; a tin of preserved peas, weighing 1lb., 6s. 8d.; the same of French beans, 7s. 6d.; a cauliflower, 12s. 6d.; a carrot, 2s. 6d.; a beet-root or mangelwurzel, weighing 1lb., 6s. 8d.; an ordinary-sized cabbage, 12s. 6d.; a turnip, 2s.; a root of celery, 2s.; an endive, 2s.; a bushel, dry measure, of onions, £3 4s. 2d.; a clove of shalot, 10d.; a clove of garlic, 7d.; a leek, 1s. 8d.; a bushel of potatoes, £2; and so on through the entire chapter of all the necessaries of civilized life.

THE "FROTH" AND THE "DREGS."

(26.)—The *Birkenhead* troop-ship sailed from Queens-town on the 7th of January, 1852, for the Cape, having on board detachments from the 12th Lancers, 2nd, 16th, 43rd, 45th, 60th, 73rd, 74th, and 91st Regiments. The unfortunate vessel struck upon a pointed pinnacle rock off Simon's Bay, South Africa, and out of 638 persons, only 184, almost all women and children, were saved; 454 of the crew went down with the ship, the soldiers and officers standing in their ranks as on parade. The event created a great sensation of pity and admiration throughout the civilized world, and as a mark of respect for the bravery and discipline displayed at such an awful moment, the narrative of the event was read at the head of every company and troop in the Prussian service, by order of the King.

Whilst the discussion on the Army Bill was going on in Parliament during the session of 1871, the following letter appeared in *The Times*:—

"A public man has recently compared the officers of 'the army to the 'froth' and the soldiers to the 'dregs' of society.

"In 1814, after the House of Commons had voted its thanks to the Duke of Wellington and the officers of the Army, the Speaker used these memorable words:—'The military triumphs which your valour has achieved upon the banks of the Douro and the Tagus, of the Ebro and the Garonne, have called for the spontaneous shouts of admiring nations. Those triumphs it is needless to recount; their names have been written by your conquering swords in the annals of Europe, and we shall hand them down with exultation to our children's children.' This was to the froth.

"In 1852, a scene occurred which more than rivalled Thermopylæ. It was on board the ill-fated *Birkenhead*. In the silence of the night 350 soldiers met death in the deep sea, with nerves braced to determination to obey the command which restrained them from action, and, perhaps, from safety; these men preferring obedience to imperilling the lives of women and children. These were the dregs.

"If the public man is correct in his simile, there must be a large section of the Anglo-Saxon race more frivolous than the 'froth' and more degraded than the 'dregs.'"



"The sea is the largest of all cemeteries, and its slumberers sleep without monuments."

MANTELL.