

PRESENTATION
OF
A M E D A L
IN MEMORY OF THE LATE
LORD DUDLEY COUTTS STUART,
ON BEHALF OF
THE POLISH NATION,
BY
PRINCE CZARTORYSKI,
TO
THE EARL OF HARROWBY,
AND
VISCOUNT SANDON.

LONDON:
I. R. TAYLOR, 13, BROWNLOW STREET,
BEDFORD ROW, W.C.

1859.

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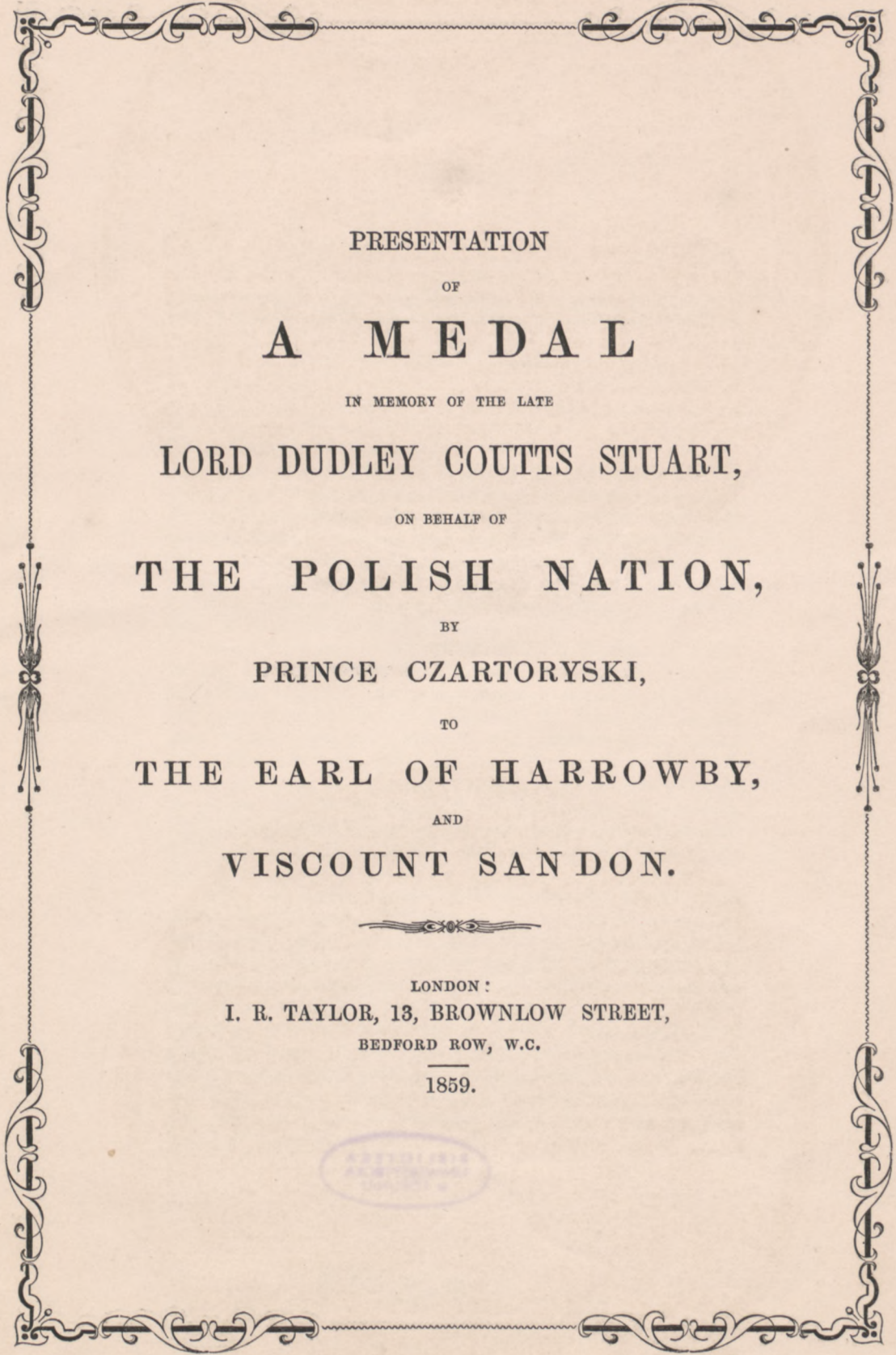
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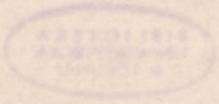
J. R. Taylor Lith. Brown & S. Hoborn





PRESENTATION
OF
A MEDAL
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BY
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TO
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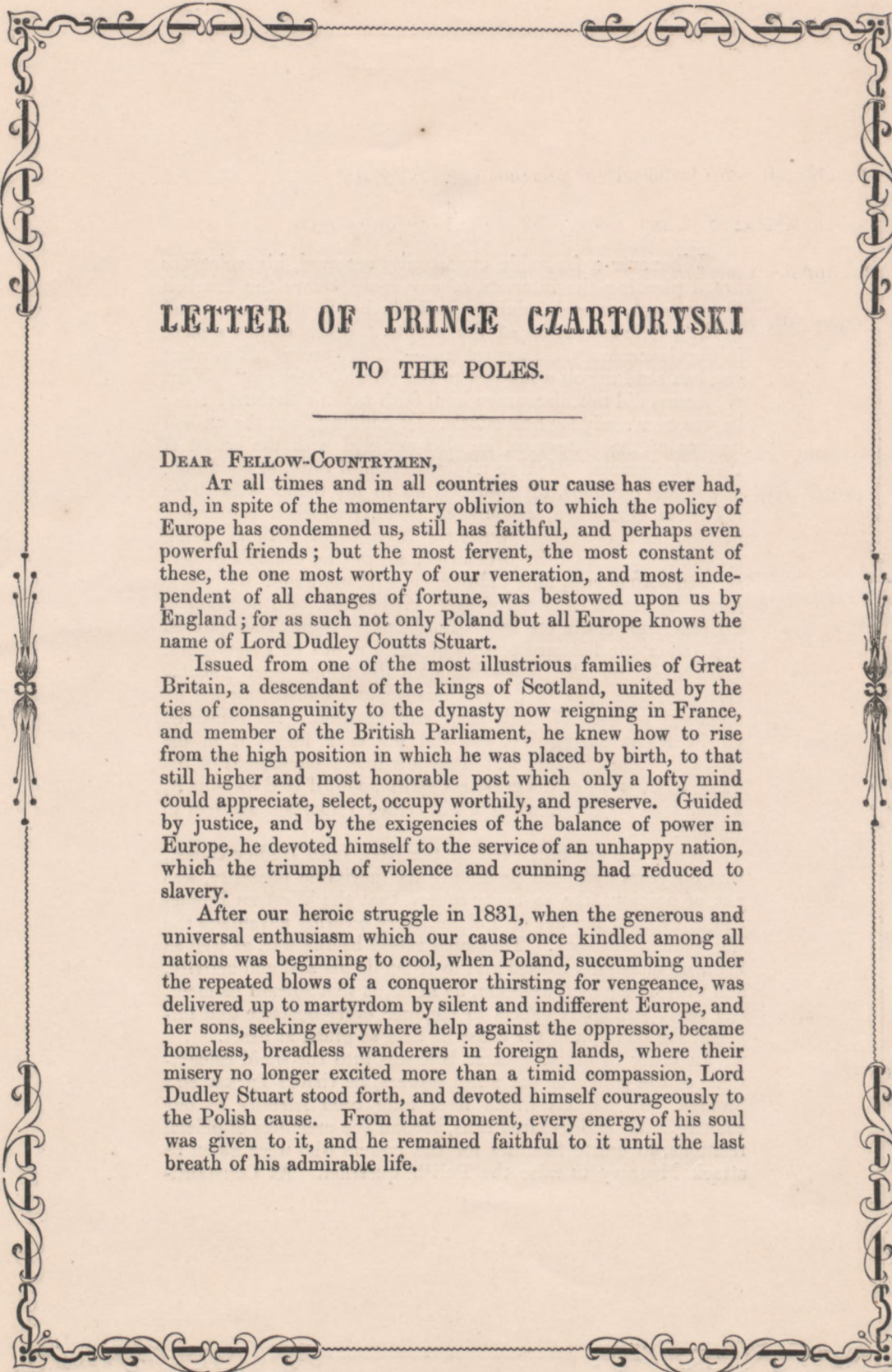


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LETTER OF PRINCE CZARTORYSKI
TO THE POLES.

DEAR FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN,

At all times and in all countries our cause has ever had, and, in spite of the momentary oblivion to which the policy of Europe has condemned us, still has faithful, and perhaps even powerful friends; but the most fervent, the most constant of these, the one most worthy of our veneration, and most independent of all changes of fortune, was bestowed upon us by England; for as such not only Poland but all Europe knows the name of Lord Dudley Coutts Stuart.

Issued from one of the most illustrious families of Great Britain, a descendant of the kings of Scotland, united by the ties of consanguinity to the dynasty now reigning in France, and member of the British Parliament, he knew how to rise from the high position in which he was placed by birth, to that still higher and most honorable post which only a lofty mind could appreciate, select, occupy worthily, and preserve. Guided by justice, and by the exigencies of the balance of power in Europe, he devoted himself to the service of an unhappy nation, which the triumph of violence and cunning had reduced to slavery.

After our heroic struggle in 1831, when the generous and universal enthusiasm which our cause once kindled among all nations was beginning to cool, when Poland, succumbing under the repeated blows of a conqueror thirsting for vengeance, was delivered up to martyrdom by silent and indifferent Europe, and her sons, seeking everywhere help against the oppressor, became homeless, breadless wanderers in foreign lands, where their misery no longer excited more than a timid compassion, Lord Dudley Stuart stood forth, and devoted himself courageously to the Polish cause. From that moment, every energy of his soul was given to it, and he remained faithful to it until the last breath of his admirable life.

Whenever a favorable opportunity occurred, his voice was heard pleading the interests of our cause before the English Government, to each minister individually, in Parliament, and in the public assemblies of the people. When offered a place in the Government, his answer was—"I will accept office, when you can send me on a mission to the Court of Poland." Want of success did not discourage him, faith never abandoned him; he was ever ready for new efforts. Descending from the exalted regions of the statesman, he also mingled with the crowd of Polish emigrants. Making no distinction of rank, of condition, of political opinions, he embraced all in his tender solicitude; fed them, clad them, encouraged them, reconciled conflicting parties, and even bore outrages from them without being disheartened. As their benefactor, he was an example of perseverance, patience, and indulgence, as throughout his whole career he was an example of every civil virtue. In addition to his other services in our cause, Lord Dudley Stuart re-organised in London the Literary Society of the Friends of Poland, first established by the honorable and illustrious poet Thomas Campbell; he ensured its continuance, and enlisted among its members persons of high rank and position. He remained its President during life, and did not even forget it in his last will. This Society will remain a living monument of his ideas, of his zeal, of his ceaseless efforts, and, if God so wills it, a time may still come when it will render important services to Poland.

When the war broke out in the East, Lord Dudley Stuart, who for years had been predicting its inevitable necessity, was not of opinion, like so many others, that the Western Powers could, without the aid of Poland, carry on with advantage the war against Muscovy. The hopes raised by the war, as well as his fears of failure, caused him to redouble his zeal and activity, and with unbounded devotion, he made, at that solemn moment, the most strenuous efforts to conquer every obstacle that impeded the triumph of the cause he held so much at heart.

In order to infuse greater boldness into the timid calculations of the policy of the allied powers, he visited Turkey and Sweden, two nations which have long been friendly to our country. He endeavoured thus, beyond the precincts of official relations, to create facilities for the powers who were about to attack Muscovy to raise the Polish question. At Constanti-

noble he was received with that traditional sympathy for our cause which had already attracted thither several of our countrymen ready for the combat. From the South he proceeded to the North. Received with much kindness by the King of Sweden and his family, the friend of Poland was allowed to speak and was listened to. But, alas! it was the last time his voice was to plead our cause before men! Seized with illness during an audience granted him by the Crown Prince, he had not even the strength to retire, but fell prostrate. He died at Stockholm, a victim of his zeal in our cause—but like a valorous knight, he fell in the thick of the battle.

Several times already, dear fellow-countrymen, we have given proofs of our gratitude to Lord Dudley Stuart, but now that death has called him away from us, it is a still more imperative duty for us to provide a lasting testimony which shall bear witness that the gratitude which we feel towards him will survive our death, as it has survived his. Let us perpetuate by a Medal the remembrance of his services, and above all let us render this conspicuous homage to a devotion so disinterested and so rare in our day, to this pure and divine revelation of a nobility of soul, the sight of which, like the spring in the desert, restores to drooping humanity its dignity, its courage, and its strength.

On the one side of the Medal we will represent his noble countenance; on the other, the Map of Poland, but of Poland such as he bore her in his heart—Poland that lives and waits—Poland entire and independent, where the name of Dudley Stuart is and ever will be venerated. One day our children's children will take in their hands this Medal, and will remember the long and persevering struggles which their ancestors sustained against destiny, and they will bless this heroic citizen of a happy and a mighty land, who with the torch of truth in his hand, never ceased to point out to his fellow-countrymen the road to a new glory, untainted by a single drop of selfishness. They will bless him who shared our love for Poland, as he shared our hopes, our labours, and our sufferings, at a time when the rest of the world, forgetting that we were being trampled under the foot of the oppressor, rashly proclaimed the triumph of justice, of religion, of civilisation, and of international law.

Dear compatriots! long and intimate friendship bound me

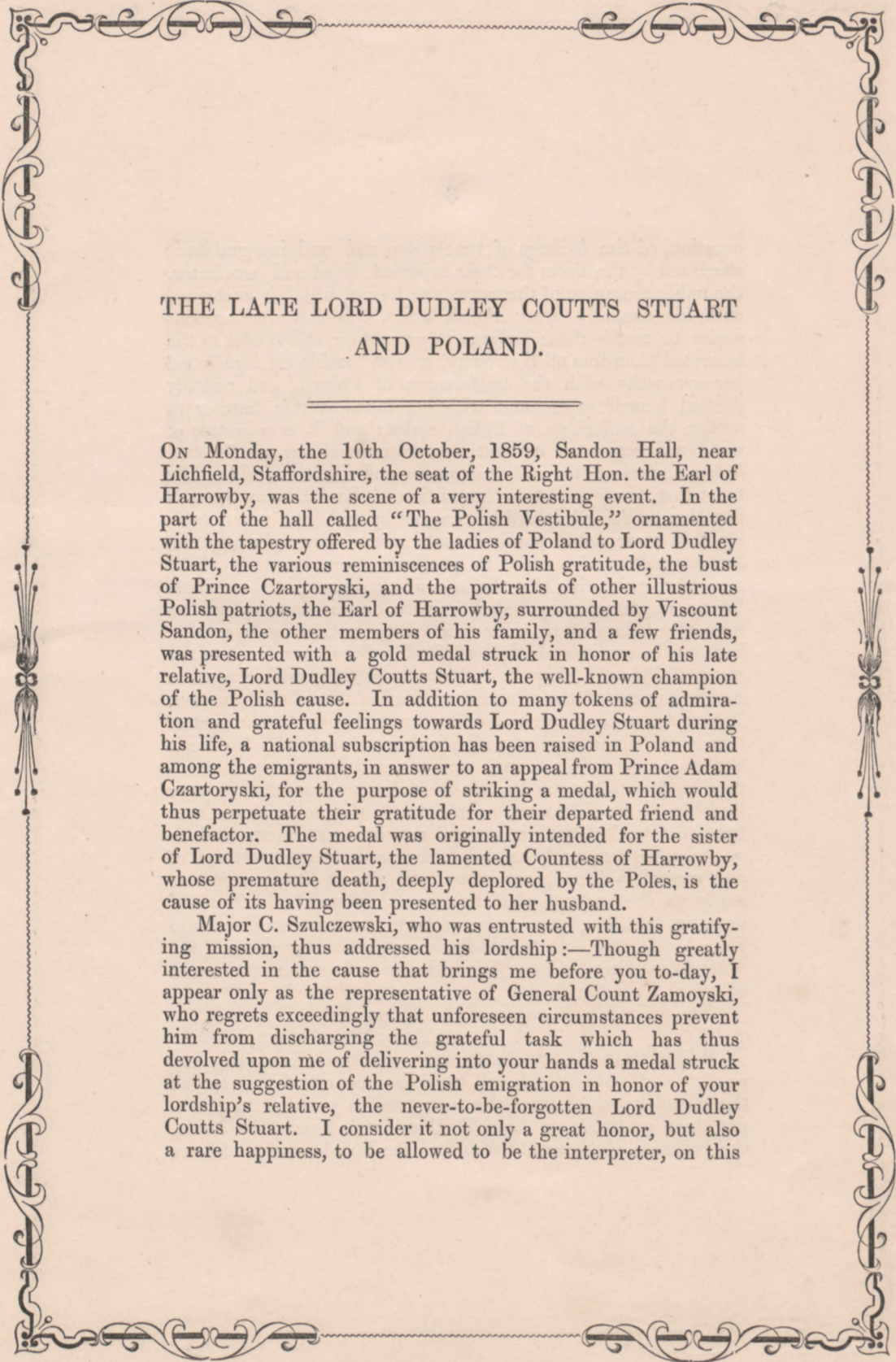
to Lord Dudley Stuart. This friendship was the pride and consolation of my life. Many a time I have been the interpreter of the wishes and sentiments of our nation, but never have I been a more faithful interpreter than when expressing, as at this moment, its feelings towards this unrivalled advocate, this valiant champion, this self-devoted martyr of our cause.

As long as he lived, I loved him, if I may be allowed the expression, *with the whole heart of Poland*; now that he has been taken away from us, let us in common ensure to him eternal remembrance and gratitude from all those who bear, and who shall in future bear the name of Poles.

ADAM CZARTORYSKI.

Paris, 20th April, 1859.





THE LATE LORD DUDLEY COUTTS STUART
AND POLAND.

ON Monday, the 10th October, 1859, Sandon Hall, near Lichfield, Staffordshire, the seat of the Right Hon. the Earl of Harrowby, was the scene of a very interesting event. In the part of the hall called "The Polish Vestibule," ornamented with the tapestry offered by the ladies of Poland to Lord Dudley Stuart, the various reminiscences of Polish gratitude, the bust of Prince Czartoryski, and the portraits of other illustrious Polish patriots, the Earl of Harrowby, surrounded by Viscount Sandon, the other members of his family, and a few friends, was presented with a gold medal struck in honor of his late relative, Lord Dudley Coutts Stuart, the well-known champion of the Polish cause. In addition to many tokens of admiration and grateful feelings towards Lord Dudley Stuart during his life, a national subscription has been raised in Poland and among the emigrants, in answer to an appeal from Prince Adam Czartoryski, for the purpose of striking a medal, which would thus perpetuate their gratitude for their departed friend and benefactor. The medal was originally intended for the sister of Lord Dudley Stuart, the lamented Countess of Harrowby, whose premature death, deeply deplored by the Poles, is the cause of its having been presented to her husband.

Major C. Szulczewski, who was entrusted with this gratifying mission, thus addressed his lordship:—Though greatly interested in the cause that brings me before you to-day, I appear only as the representative of General Count Zamoyski, who regrets exceedingly that unforeseen circumstances prevent him from discharging the grateful task which has thus devolved upon me of delivering into your hands a medal struck at the suggestion of the Polish emigration in honor of your lordship's relative, the never-to-be-forgotten Lord Dudley Coutts Stuart. I consider it not only a great honor, but also a rare happiness, to be allowed to be the interpreter, on this

occasion, of the feelings of veneration and undying gratitude cherished by the Poles for their departed friend and benefactor, the noble champion of the cause, the love of which is enshrined with his name in every Polish heart. It was our anxious desire to testify those feelings in presenting this medal to the lamented Countess of Harrowby, who so touchingly manifested her sympathy with the misfortunes of Poland, and actively exerted herself in common with her incomparable brother to soothe the sufferings of Polish exiles: and it is a source of unfeigned regret to us that this testimonial was not finished before she was called away to another and a better world. We trust that, tardy as is this recognition of Lord Dudley Stuart's devotion to Poland, it will be received by and kept as an heirloom in your noble family; that, when contemplating this humble token of a nation's gratitude, your posterity may remember with pride that the man whose disinterested sacrifices for an oppressed people shed a lustre on his country and on humanity belonged to their kin. It is not for me to enlarge here on the services which Lord Dudley Stuart rendered to the cause of Poland; they have been dwelt upon with eloquence in the appeal of the illustrious chief of the Polish nation, Prince Adam Czartoryski, to his countrymen on the subject of this medal, and a copy of which is thereto annexed. Suffice it for me to say that, although we know and feel that such devotion as his cannot be looked for again, we hope that in your lordship as his kinsman, as the head of a noble house, ever noted for its Christian virtues and generous sentiments, and as one who so frequently seconded the persevering exertions of our matchless friend, our cause will always find a supporter ready to demonstrate what an honest purpose can affect. I now, my lord, beg your permission to read and to place into your hands two letters, one from Prince Czartoryski, and the other from General Count Zamoyski, as well as the testimonial of which I am the bearer.

The following are copies of the letters:—

“ Paris, 10th August, 1859.

“ MY DEAR LORD HARROWBY,—General Zamoyski, my nephew and your friend, will have the honor to deliver to you the medal by which the Poles have tried to transmit to posterity their gratitude to Lord Dudley Cousts Stuart, the noble, the generous, the constant friend of the Polish cause. I have

thought it necessary to annex to it an explanation of the motives which have impelled my countrymen to the performance of this national act.

“Both myself and my countrymen must ever regret that this duty of all Poland was not accomplished at the time when the noble sister of our generous champion might have been informed of it; she who loved her brother so much—who shared his sentiments—who comprehended the greatness of his loss, and who, herself inconsolable, has endeavoured to assuage our anguish. You, my lord, whom the close ties of friendship and of kindred, and of which she was the link, attached to our mutual friend—you who have been the witness of his boundless devotion to our clearly just, though cruelly persecuted cause;—you, who in common with us deplore his irreparable loss, it is to you, my lord, that is due the first copy of the medal commemorative of his virtues. It is to your noble heart that we prefer to disclose our feelings of regret and of gratitude, and our hope that, should circumstances prove favorable, we shall find in you as before an advocate of our unfortunate country.

“We beg of you that this medal may become an heirloom in your family, and thus the possession of your eldest son, who, we trust, inherits the sentiments of his mother, and will demonstrate them through a long and honorable life.

“It is with these feelings and the unalterable attachment which I cherish for you that I shall never cease to be, my dear Lord Harrowby,

“Yours very sincerely,
“A. CZARTORYSKI.”

MY DEAR LORD HARROWBY,—“On my return from Sandon, and at the very moment of starting for France, I received a packet from Prince Czartoryski containing the enclosed letter addressed to you. I regret exceedingly that this packet should have been so long in reaching me, for I am unable, as the Prince informs you, to deliver in person to you, on his part and on that of his countrymen, the medal struck in honor of our dear Dudley, originally destined for his sister, and, now that it has pleased God to unite her to her brother, offered to those who possessed his earliest affections.

“Compelled to leave England, I have entrusted this message to Major Szulczewski. The particular affection which Lord

Dudley Stuart felt for him, the long and useful services he has rendered, and does not cease to render, to the cause of Poland, naturally point him out to take my place on this occasion. I hope that he will find now, as before, from yourself and Lord Sandon the kind reception which he deserves.

“ Believe me,

My dear Lord Harrowby,

Yours very sincerely,

“ L. ZAMOYSKI.

“ London, 18th August, 1859.”

Lord Harrowby then addressed Major Szulczewski in a few words, expressing on the one hand the regret which he experienced that General Count Zamoyski, to whom he was bound by ties of long-established friendship, should have been prevented from fulfilling his sad though gratifying mission; on the other, his satisfaction that the task had in his default fallen upon one whom he had so long known personally, and esteemed both for his private character and his services to the cause to which he had devoted himself. In regard to the object of the mission, there were circumstances of such a nature that he was unwilling to trust himself to speak of them, and he would therefore do no more than read the reply to Prince Czartoryski's letter, which, through Major Szulczewski's kindness in permitting him to have a sight of the letter previously, he had been enabled to prepare. The reply was in the following terms:—

“ MY DEAR PRINCE CZARTORYSKI,

“ The beautiful memorial and faithful resemblance of my lamented friend and kinsman Lord D. C. Stuart, which, under your instructions, as the organ of exiled Poland, has been now put into my hands, comes to me under very touching circumstances. It was intended for one who would have indeed most highly prized it; but she, alas, is no longer amongst us, to share in your sorrows, and to derive consolation in her own grief from feeling how deeply it had been sympathised in by those for whom her brother had devoted many years of his benevolent and earnest life, and at last life itself. As her representative, I accept it with pride and gratitude, as a record of personal ties of the nearest and dearest kind, as well as of the community of opinions and feelings which had long united me with my lamented kinsman in the great cause in which he

had employed his best energies. He was a more sanguine, more able, more devoted, more persevering advocate of Poland than myself; but we fully concurred in principle, equally united in condemning the partition of your country by the three contiguous states as the great crime and the great error of the age in which, by a mixture of treachery and violence, it had been effected; in denouncing the tyranny which your country had subsequently suffered; in looking to the re-establishment of your country in its independence as the best, if not the only, security for the West of Europe against the encroachments of the aggressive East; and in sympathising with the gallant men who had sacrificed everything to a noble cause, and after an heroic struggle had borne the consequences of failure with an unshaken and admirable constancy. In these sentiments we were heartily united, and in these I still remain.

“ Perhaps some additional life may have been supplied to these feelings and convictions by personal attachments, by a deep sense of veneration for your own noble character—for the character of one who had abandoned wealth, station, family, country, without ostentation, and without personal ambition, and had devoted, as he still devotes, even to extreme old age, those resources of influence and character, which nothing can deprive him of, to the interests of that same country and her sons.

“ My son, Lord Sandon, whom you have named as joint sharer in the beautiful testimonial gift, will value it as I do, and I hope it will long remain as an heirloom in my family, and one of its most cherished distinctions.

“ I remain ever, my dear Prince Czartoryski,

“ Yours very faithfully,

“ HARROWBY.”

The medal is greatly admired for the beauty of its workmanship, and the striking resemblance it bears to the deceased nobleman. The subject of the medal and the inscription are by Mr. Charles Sienkiewicz, eminent for his scholarship and erudition. The dies were executed by Monsieur Bovy, one of the first artists in Paris. The medal, which is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and in point of design and execution a most exquisite piece of workmanship, was struck by Messrs. T. and J. Pinches, medalists, in London. The case containing the medal is ex-

tremely elegant, and bears on the top a silver tablet, surmounted by a Polish eagle, with the following inscription:—

TO THE HUSBAND AND THE SON
OF THE LATE
COUNTESS OF HARROWBY,
SISTER OF
LORD DUDLEY COUTTS STUART,
THIS TOKEN OF GRATITUDE IS OFFERED
BY
POLAND,
1859.

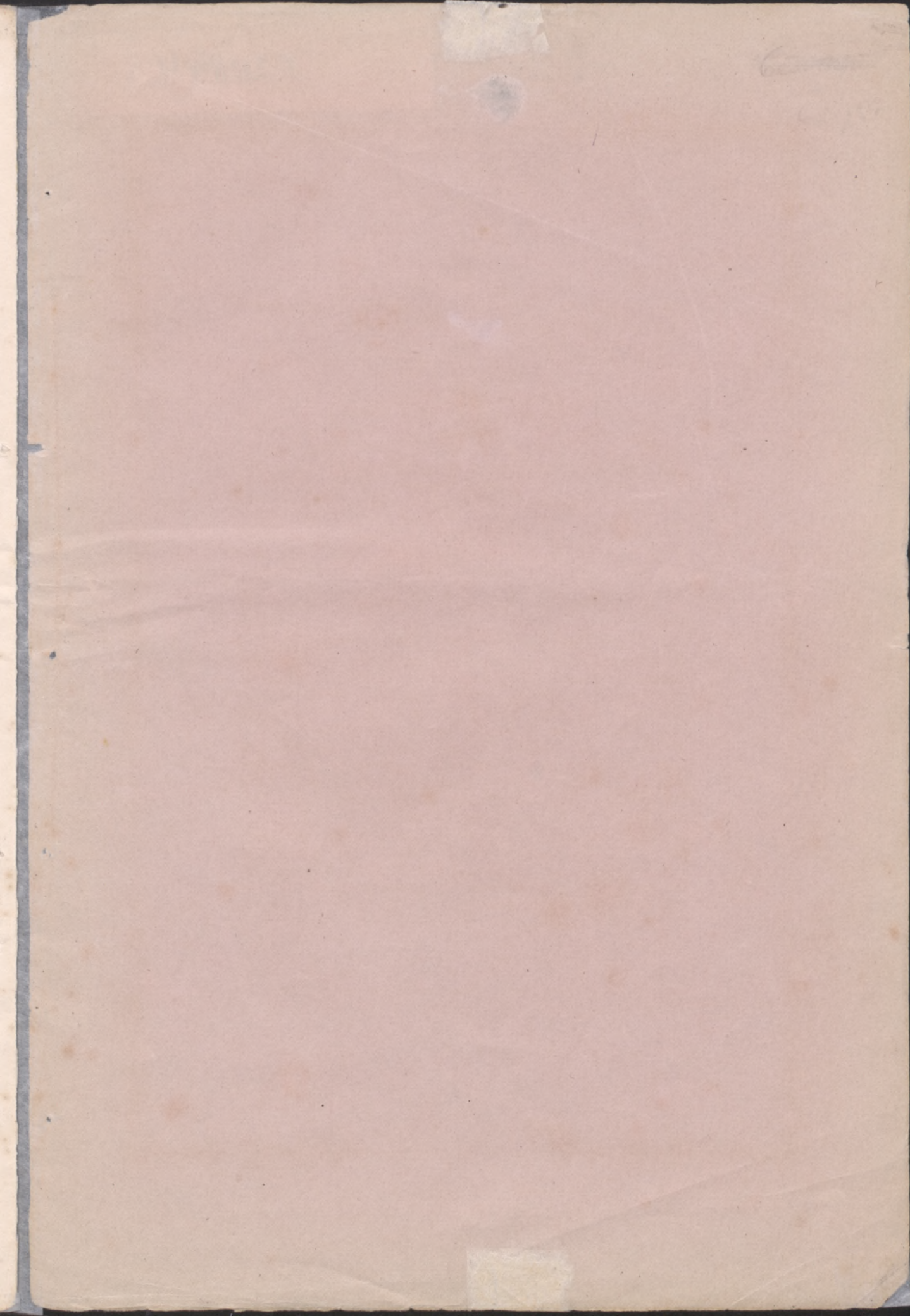
The inscription on the front of the medal is:—

DUDLEY C. STUART,
CAUSÆ POLONIÆ INDEFESSUS VINDEKS,
EXULUM POLONORUM
AMICUS ET FAUTOR.
NAT. A. 1803, OB. HOLMIÆ A. 1854.
CIVES POLONI HOC MONUMENTUM PIETATIS PUBLICÆ FIERI
CURAVERUNT,
1859.

On the reverse of the medal, round the map of Poland, are the words:—

“ILLIC HONOS NOMENQUE TUUM LANDESQUE MANEBUNT.”

The map, which is most beautifully engraved, with the Carpathian mountains in relief, exhibits the countries comprised in the kingdom of Poland, in various periods, from the reign of Mieczyslas I., when Poland was converted to Christianity (A.D. 965), to that of Stephen Batory, when Riga became a Polish port (A.D. 1586). The great historical importance and early civilisation of the country is explained by its position between the Baltic and the Black Sea, and by the fact that it comprehends the most fertile land (perhaps excepting the alluvial plain of the Danube) in the whole of Europe. The Vistula and the Dniester still bear the harvests of Poland to the ocean. but as the ports of shipment are Odessa and Dantzic it is often erroneously asserted or assumed that Russia and Prussia are the sources of the inexhaustible supply of corn which is in fact only to be found in Poland.



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