

KOSSUTH AND HIS FELLOW-PRISONERS.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF OHIO,

RELATIVE TO

*Affording relief to Kossuth and his fellow-prisoners.*

FEBRUARY 25, 1850.

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

Whereas it is well known, that in the years 1848 and 1849, during a general revolution among the nations of Central and Southern Europe, the ancient kingdom of Hungary, for reasons believed to be satisfactory, declared herself to be independent of the imperial house of Hapsburgh, and of the Austrian government and empire. That in maintaining this declaration, this kingdom pursued the most natural, justifiable, and patriotic measures; that she twice drove her enemies beyond her borders, thereby, according to the law of nations, positively achieving her independence. That subsequently, an army of Russian mercenaries, employed and paid by the Emperor of Russia, invaded the kingdom of Hungary; that the Hungarians, nobly struggling for their lives and liberties against the united forces of two powerful despots, nearly secured their independence the second time, and would undoubtedly have done so, had it not been for a deed of treachery; that this treachery, by which an army of nearly two hundred thousand strong, and about fifteen millions of heroic and determined people, were delivered up to their oppressors, was instigated by large and tempting bribes offered by the unscrupulous invaders; and that in this unmanly way, and not by the usual means of warfare, the independence of Hungary was defeated:

Whereas, furthermore, it is equally well known, that from the beginning to the close of this eventful struggle, the illustrious Louis Kossuth was the leading man of Hungary—that he had devoted all of his precious life to the emancipation, elevation, and glory of his country—that during the progress of the revolution, he threw himself, his property, his family, his friends, his future hopes and prospects, unreservedly and magnanimously into the scale, to secure the freedom of his native land; that contrary to the advice of many of his warmest friends, but prompted by the purest and holiest motives, and in imitation of our own revolutionary forefathers, by his sole authority, and on his own responsibility, he solemnly proclaimed Hungary a republic; that the almost superhuman exertions made by him to establish a republican government, and thus guaranty the freedom and happiness of his countrymen, challenge the admi-

ration of all nations; and that in the fall of Hungary, and in his own flight for personal safety, not only has his reputation as a commander not been tarnished, but his duties as the head of a temporarily unsuccessful, but not yet hopeless effort, have been both maintained and honored:

Whereas, also, it is generally notorious that at this time the Hungarian patriot, contrary to the law of nature and of nations, is held in captivity by the Sultan of Turkey, though not a solitary crime against the Turkish government has been alleged against him; that Russia has demanded the delivery of him into her hands, in order to his being punished as a rebel and malefactor; that she is now arming her soldiers for the purpose of sweeping down at the earliest opportunity, to take forcible possession of his person, and that in all human probability she will get possession of him, and hurry him into her own territory, there to shed his blood by some barbarous method of execution, unless she is anticipated in her movements by the timely interposition of some free and friendly nation:

Whereas, finally, it appears from our most reliable advices, that the wife, the mother, the children, and other members of the great patriot's family, have been lying for the past three or four months in an Austrian prison; that they have been recently released from confinement; that they are dependent for their daily bread upon the hard charities of Kossuth's enemies; and that while he is kept in utter ignorance of their condition they are allowed to know nothing of the fate that has befallen, nor of the yet sadder fate that awaits him: Therefore, it being the duty of all free people, and of the American people in particular, to extend the hand of sympathy and fellowship to a suffering patriot and republican, when unrighteously treated and shamefully abandoned, after having made such great and irrecoverable sacrifices for the cause of human freedom, it is hereby

*Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio,* That in our deliberate judgment, the present critical condition of General Louis Kossuth, and of his family; loudly calls for the friendly and peaceful interposition of the American people.

*Resolved,* That we believe it to be the duty and privilege of the Congress of the United States to send immediately an embassy of peace to the Sultan of Turkey in one of our national ships, who shall be instructed respectfully and urgently to solicit of the Sublime Porte the liberation of Kossuth and his associates in captivity, in the name of the American people, and to take such other steps as shall be best calculated to secure the removal of the great Hungarian and of his afflicted family to this country.

*Resolved,* That our representatives in Congress be requested, and that our senators be instructed, to bring this subject as soon as possible before Congress, and to pursue such other measures as shall most certainly and speedily carry out, if possible, the objects set forth in the foregoing resolutions. And be it further

*Resolved,* That the governor be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing resolutions to the President, and to each of our senators and representatives in Congress.

BENJAMIN F. LEITER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

CHARLES C. CONVERS,

*Speaker of the Senate.*

FEBRUARY 9, 1850.