



P. E. Strelecky

LIFE OF
SIR PAUL EDMUND
STRZELECKI

C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.G.S., D.C.L.
(Polish Scientist, Explorer and Philanthropist)

1796-1873

With Foreword by
The Rt. Hon. S. M. BRUCE, P.C., C.H., M.C., LL.D.
High Commissioner for Australia

Introduction by
SHANE LESLIE, LL.D.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY THE STRZELECKI COMMITTEE
TO COMMEMORATE THE
70TH ANNIVERSARY OF STRZELECKI'S DEATH

DEDICATED
TO
THE AUSTRALIAN
AND POLISH
SOLDIERS

WHO FOUGHT AS COMRADES
IN THE
GLORIOUS BATTLE OF TOBRUK
IN 1941

FOREWORD.

Speech by the Rt. Hon. S. M. Bruce, the High Commissioner for Australia, at the Meeting to commemorate Count Paul Strzelecki, held on 20th October, at the premises of the Royal Geographical Society.

"I regard it as a great honour to pay a tribute to-night to the memory of a distinguished Pole, who played an important part in the opening up of Australia; and also to voice the thought that is in the minds of all Australians—the admiration we feel for the heroic conduct of the Polish people in the present struggle. I think that the Poles and the Australians have certain attributes in common—for example, they have the same kind of toughness; and I know that my people, like the Poles, 'are determined to see this struggle through to the end so that a better world may be built out of the present tragedy.' The same honourable outlook and courageous conduct which Count Strzelecki displayed during his explorations in Australia are being revealed by Poles to-day, and these qualities will in the end bring about victory and the establishment of a new Poland.

"Count Strzelecki came to Sydney in 1839. He there formed a friendship with one of the greatest of our early Governors, Sir George Gipps, who suggested to him that he should undertake a scientific expedition in the mountainous regions that lie in the South-East of the continent. Strzelecki agreed, and in the course of his travels discovered much that was of value in the geology, flora and fauna of this area. He also found specimens of Australian gold, but in deference to the wishes of Sir George Gipps, he agreed to keep silent about his discovery so that the colony would not be thrown into the undesirable turmoil inseparable from a gold-rush.

"In 1840 he carried out one of his greatest exploratory journeys. He climbed from the valley of the great Murray River to the heights of the Australian Alps, the highest point of which he named after his compatriot Kosciuszko. To be absolutely accurate, I should say that Strzelecki named the second highest peak, but my countrymen, when they established that another one was still higher, very properly transferred the name of Kosciuszko to that one. Those of you who think of Australia as a hot and arid plain may be surprised to learn that Mount Kosciuszko to-day is one of the world's most popular centres for every form of winter sport.

"After having crossed the Australian Alps, Strzelecki descended to the rich plains that lie to the South. He named these plains Gippsland, after his friend, the Governor at Sydney.

To-day Gippsland is not only a valuable agricultural area, but it is also the centre of a great electricity scheme which provides so much of the power for our Australian war industries. I know this district well, because a corner of it formed part of the constituency I represented in the Australian Parliament.

"Next, Strzelecki crossed to Tasmania, whose Governor at that time was Sir John Franklin, the great Arctic explorer. He traversed over 2,000 miles on the Island, and as a result of his researches he was able to give the authorities useful advice as to the colony's coal and irrigation possibilities. Only those who have been there can realise the difficulties of travelling through the wooded, mountainous areas of Tasmania, much of which is still untrodden by the foot of man.

"Besides naming some of Australia's greatest physical features, Strzelecki in his turn was himself honoured by my countrymen. To-day there is a Mount Strzelecki in Northern Australia, a Strzelecki Creek in South Australia, the Strzelecki Range of South-Eastern Victoria, while on Flinders Island, which lies between Victoria and Tasmania, there is a Strzelecki Peak.

"In 1846 he returned to Europe and shortly afterwards he brought out his well-known work—'A Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land.' This book did much to stimulate interest in Australia. In addition, Strzelecki induced many Irishmen, during the devastating famine of 1847-1848, to leave Ireland and make a fresh beginning in Australia, and I feel sure that those Irishmen who decided to make the change did not regret the venturesome journey across the seas to the new land.

"To-day Poland and Australia continue to play the part they have always played in the struggle against tyranny, and were Paul Strzelecki living now he would rejoice in the fact that our two peoples are ranged together in the present war. I feel sure also that Poland and Australia will take their full share in building the brighter future at which we are all aiming ; and that they will continue that same co-operation in times of peace of which this commemoration is a symbol."

STANLEY M. BRUCE.

INTRODUCTION.

In these days when Great Britain and Poland are most anxious to find common ground in the past as a link with their joint-struggles in war and a bright prelude to their advance hand in hand into the future—the name of Strzelecki springs most promptly into mind.

Here is a god-given exemplar from History, here is the name of a pioneer of the British Empire who was also a Pole. Here is a bright light in the story of British geography and exploration. Here is the brilliant symbol which is needed to give Poland her link to the British Empire.

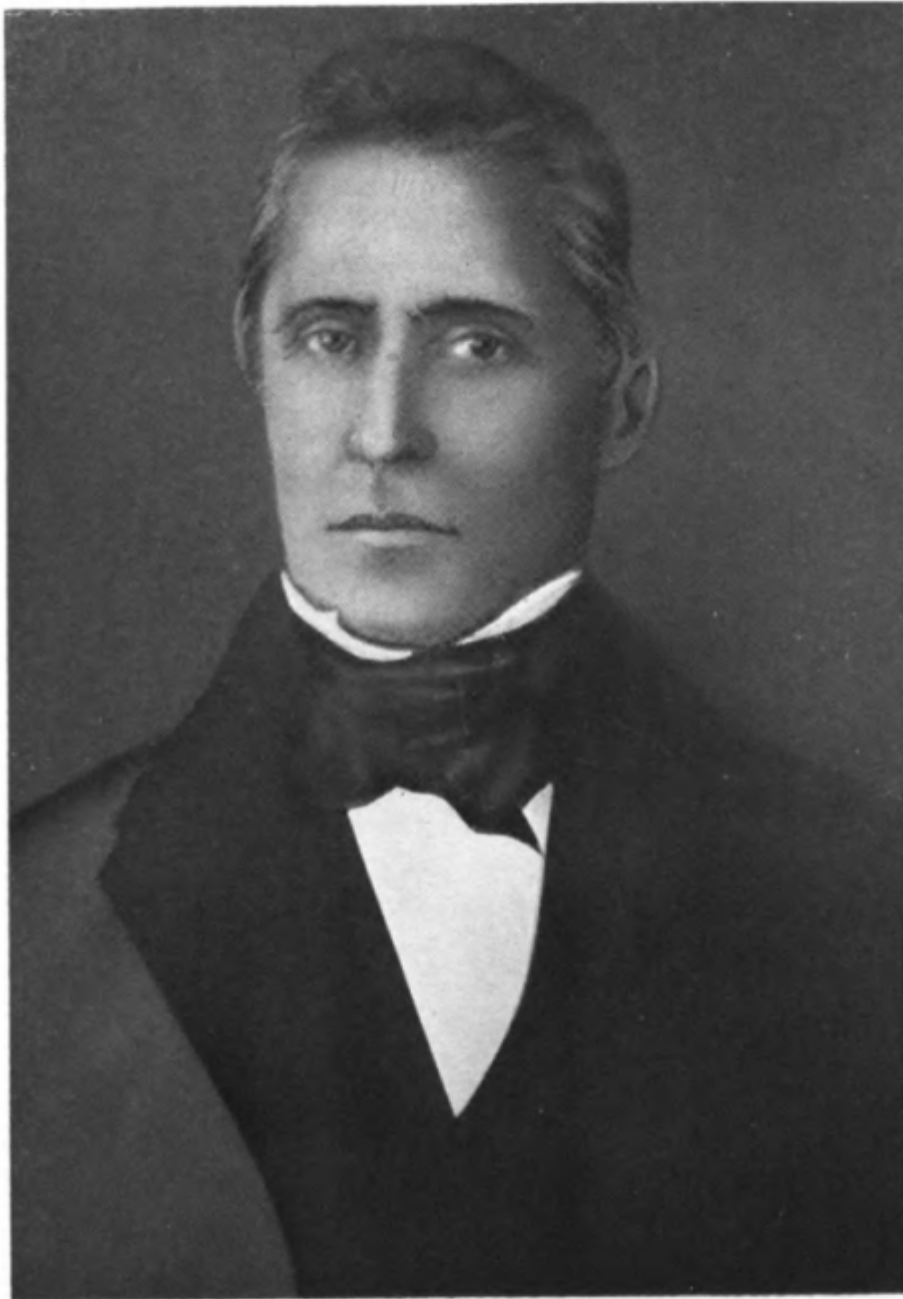
For this reason it is opportune to collect an outline of his adventurous and romantic life exceeding the dry details which crown his name in the Dictionary of National Biography.

One day there will be a well-documented Biography of Strzelecki. Unfortunately he never wrote the Autobiography which would have told so much that has since perished from memory.

Meantime this booklet contains a sketch which Poles and Australians will especially value.

It carries the story into the present. The great meeting of commemoration which was held at the Royal Geographical Society in October, 1942, and later the broadcast by which friends made known to listeners in Australia how Strzelecki has been recalled and honoured in London where he died, and where he is buried.

SHANE LESLIE.



SIR PAUL EDMUND STRZELECKI.

Reproduced from an old family painting.

SIR PAUL EDMUND STRZELECKI.

FAMILY ORIGINS.

Paul Edmund Strzelecki descended from a very old family of Polish knights. We find the name of Strzeleckis using the Oksha crest in old chronicles from the thirteenth century.

The cradle of this family was situated in the South-Eastern part of Poland, in the province of Lwow. Here they lived the hard life of the border gentry, being exposed to continual threat of attack and danger. At a short distance to the east lay the great and wild Ukrainian steppes—the route of the war-like Tartars in their raids and incursions on Polish territory.

The role of the border nobility was above all to protect the agricultural settlements and secure their defence. They fought stubbornly for their country and for their homes during many centuries against the battering waves of the Moslem hordes, defending at the same time the Christian civilisation. This kind of life, full of struggle and sacrifice, required strong and undaunted characters. Perhaps Paul Strzelecki inherited his indefatigable spirit and obstinacy which he displayed during his voyages of discovery from those distant ancestors.

The Strzeleckis were typical representatives of the Polish border gentry, which may be compared with the medieval knights of borders in early British history. A number of members of this family were notable and attained high and important positions. We find the name of Strzelecki on one of the most ancient Polish documents, the "Status Wisliski," given by King Kazimir the Great in 1347, which can be compared with the English Magna Charta.

Two of them became Palatins or Wojewods (a dignity corresponding to a Lord-Lieutenant) of Belz, a province situated in the South-East of Poland, Stanislas in 1478 and John in 1493. Another John Strzelecki became Archbishop of Lwow, and two were Castellans or commanders of fortified cities, one of them was sent in 1472 by the Polish King Kazimir as ambassador to the Hungarian King Matias, with full power to settle a border controversy.

The life of the Archbishop was quite uncommon. As a knight he participated in the disastrous expedition against the Turks under Wladyslaw, King of Poland and Hungary, the son of the King Jagiello, the victor against the Teutonic Knights at the historical battle of Tannenberg in 1410. After the disaster to the Polish army at Varna, Bulgaria, Strzelecki

became a prisoner of the Turks. Having escaped, almost miraculously, he devoted himself to the service of the Church. (See Book of Polish Armorial Bearings, Niesiecki, vol. 7, British Museum.)

Peter, the grandfather of Paul, left Eastern Poland in 1730 and settled in Great Poland, near Poznan, where he married Countess Raczynska. Paul was born on the property of Gluszyna, which belonged to his father, who also married a Raczynska, a sister of the Archbishop of Gniezno, Ignatius Raczynski, who had been Primate of Poland during the period of the Grand Duchy of Warsaw (1806-1813). The eldest sister of Paul, Isabel, who later married Slupski, had stayed as a girl at the Archbishop's palace, where she was brought up.

At that time this branch of the Strzelecki family were not rich, both parents having seen the bulk of the estates pass to brothers, but Paul Edmund could claim very good descent both through his father and his mother.

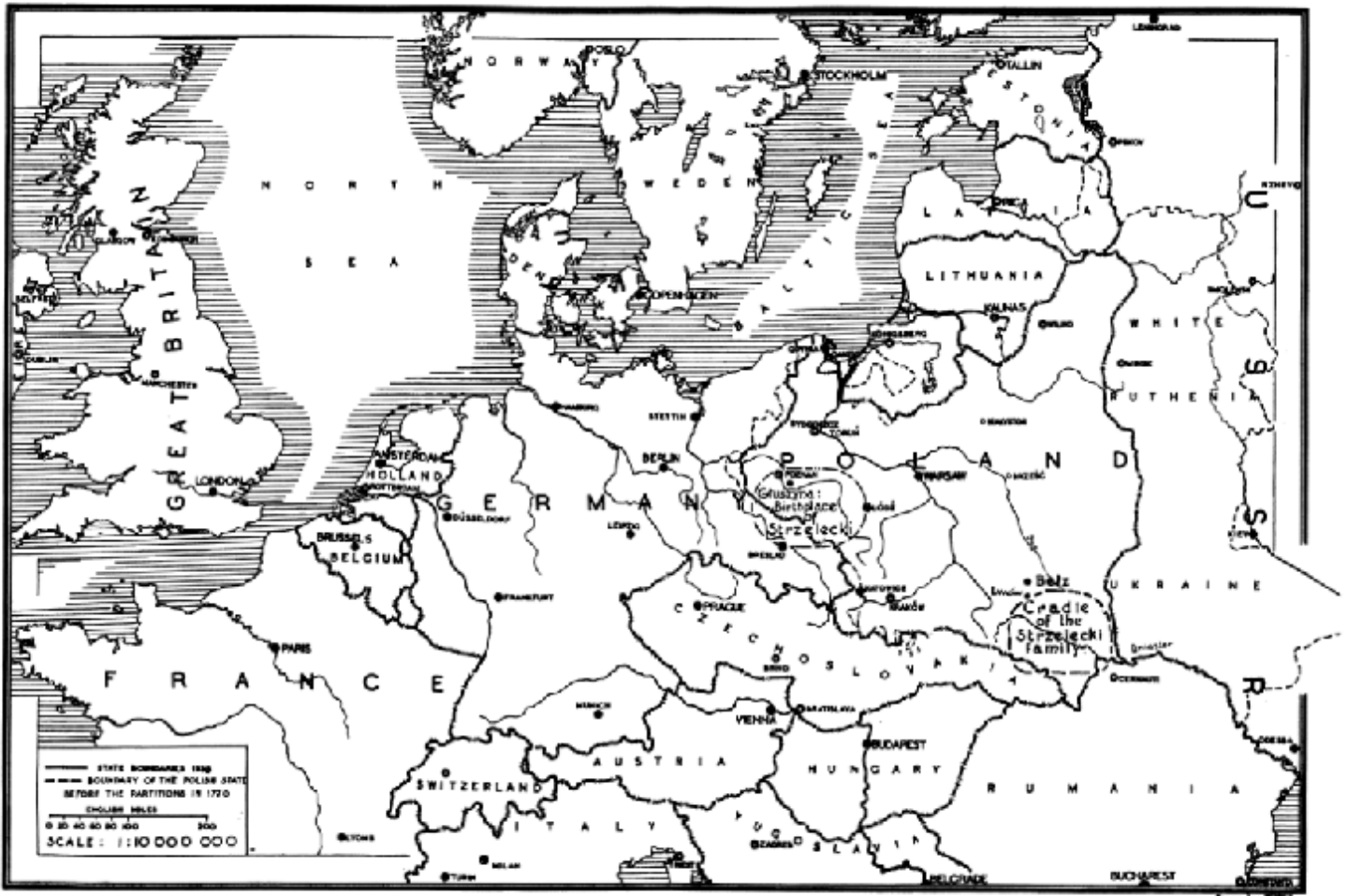
BOYHOOD AND FIRST DISAPPOINTMENT.

Paul Edmund Strzelecki was born in June, 1797, in the province of Poznan, which was seized by Prussia in 1794, when, in spite of the heroism of the great Polish patriot Kosciuszko, Poland fell under the blows of the German and Russian armies.

The country house of Gluszyna was filled with many patriotic reminiscences and the boy grew up with a vision of past glory and liberty, with the name of Kosciuszko in his heart. Afterwards Paul Strzelecki gave that glorious name as a priceless gift to another rising country—to Australia—by giving the name of Kosciuszko, the indomitable champion of liberty, to the highest peak of the Australian Alps.

In his childhood Paul was able to hold the attention which was paid to him as the youngest in the family, his brother Peter being six years older and his sister Isabel eight. He used to play at speech-making, write dramas and preach sermons, showing an urge to rise above his surroundings. At the age of about 14 he was sent to school at Warsaw. He stayed in the care of a friend of his father, a solicitor named Kiedrzynski. Though he was very well treated, he seemed somewhat highly strung, perhaps as the result of an imagined affront, and at the age of 16 he returned home from school in the absence of his parents, packed some necessities and went on his travels. He disappeared for five years until his brother Peter, who had fought well in Napoleon's army, found him in Krakow on his way home, in 1816, and took him back to Gluszyna.

Among the houses at which Paul was welcome was that of the Turnos, wealthy landowners near Gluszyna. After the other guests had left, having stalked and shot various game, Paul soothed his restlessness by participating in the life of the household. Adyna, one of the daughters of the family, was a charming and attractive girl of 15, and a mutual affection,



developed between them which was to last throughout their lives. Turno could not agree to his daughter's marriage with Paul Strzelecki, who, although well connected, could not hope to find himself, as a younger son, in possession of much property, and therefore the two decided to elope. They laid their plans carefully. On some good pretext, Paul left the house with his luggage and waited for Adyna at the appointed place. But she made a fatal mistake. When taking leave of her father, who had been dozing, she told him that she would attend to the supper and asked him whether he wanted one of his favourite dishes. This was agreed, but when Turno followed his daughter he was astonished to find the dining-room empty and the table unladen. Having asked some questions about his now missing daughter, the infuriated father soon discovered the facts. Adyna was overtaken and obliged to return, while Paul soon found the district too small for his reputation. His brother and sister having provided funds, he again disappeared.

TRAVELS.

In 1830 Strzelecki visited Scotland and explored the Northern part of the country. He visited Tongue and also a sheep farm at Strathnaver. In his reminiscences he compares the methods of the sheep farmer Patrick Sellar, of Sutherland, with the economy practised on the Wartenberg estate of Prince Biron of Courland and generally on the sheep farms of Silesia. Strzelecki had the highest opinion of the Scottish methods and later recommended them to Australian graziers. We can imagine that the landscape of the Scottish Highlands and their inhabitants may have reminded Strzelecki of the people and the uplands near the Carpathians in Southern Poland, along the natural boundary between Poland and Hungary. He wrote: "The mountainous district about Strathnaver revives many recollections of the Polish Highlands."

In Scotland and London his charm of manner and striking personality helped him to enjoy many friendships, and he spent some three or four years in the British Isles before setting out on some of the journeys which gave him his great reputation. In his mid-thirties Strzelecki stood on the threshold of a new life, in which he overcame the difficulties of a new language and strange lands and achieved lasting distinction.

JOURNEY TO AUSTRALIA VIA THE AMERICAS.

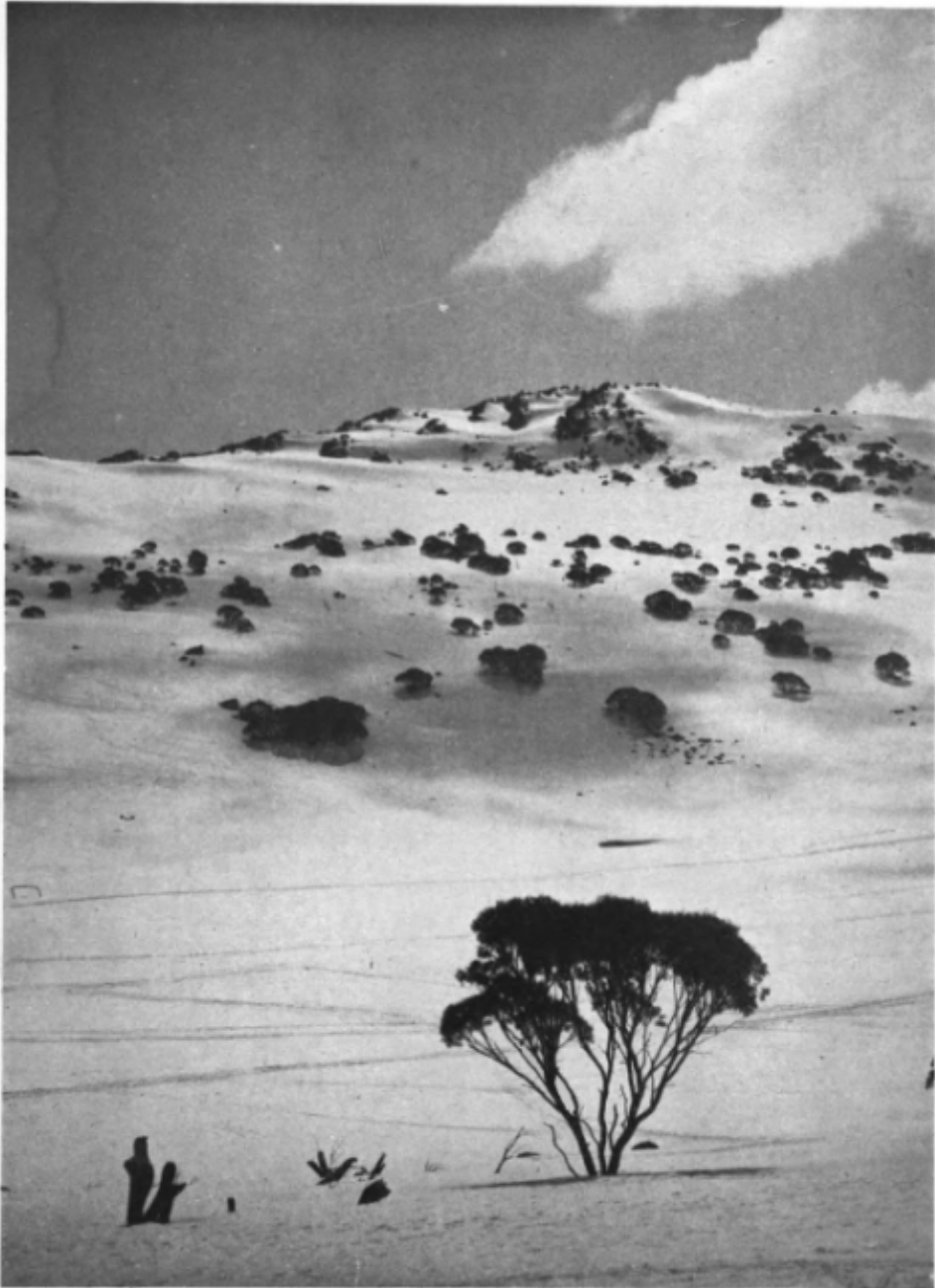
We can begin by quoting Strzelecki himself :

"I left Europe on June 8th, 1834, taking ship at Liverpool. I reached New York, explored the Eastern States and their capitals, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Charleston, going up the Hudson as far as Albany, and saw the huge waterfall of Niagara. Then I retraced my steps to the shore of Lake Ontario and down the

St. Lawrence through Montreal, Quebec and all their districts. I made a short stay in Canada, passing through St. Jean to the North-East of Montreal, then back to New York by Lakes Champlain and Toba—from there to the Antilles, and Havanna, stopping at Vera Cruz, and to the town of Mexico. Leaving Mexico I went to Tampico, then across to New Orleans and up the Mississippi and Ohio to Cincinnati, and back to Baltimore. Sailing to Brazil, visiting Rio de Janeiro (it is known from his "Physical Description" that this was in January 1836), exploring the provinces of San Paulo and Minas Gerais (Villa Rica) then going up the La Plata, I visited Montevideo, stayed for a while in Buenos Aires, crossing the Argentine Republic, getting as far as Croboda, going towards the South, reached Mendoza, where I examined various minerals, crossed the Cordilleras or Andes till I reached St. Jago in Chile, and from there to Coquimbo in the North and in the South Concepcion. From Valparaiso I went up the Pacific coast, visiting Lima, Guajaquil, Punta (on the West of Panama) San Salvador, Acapulco—St. Blas—Mazatlan and Guaymas—I explored the Californian Peninsula, approaching Avispe on the North, visited the most famous mines, withdrew to Tepu-Xalisco (it is known from his journal that he was here in April, 1837), thence back to St. Blas and by boat to Chile. Immediately after my return to Valparaiso, I left again for the islands of Oceania. . . I was once on the Marquesas Islands—once at the Sandwich Islands, I went to Otaheite, where the Friendly Islands are, and from there to New Zealand, whence I sailed for New South Wales, where I have been for the last four days. (This was known to have been in April 1839). In this route-march I have given you only the actual names. I crossed the Equator six times and saw much and felt more."

The first information which his family seems to have received about Strzelecki after his departure from Europe appears to have been given by some poor emigrants, whose return from North America to Poznania he had made possible by paying part of their fares and securing the necessary papers for them. This deed fully characterizes Strzelecki, who was above all a great philanthropist, always willing to help the needy and shocked by injustices, persecutions and misery, which always touched him deeply and which he considered an offence against humanity and civilization. In the United States Strzelecki had at least one interview with President Andrew Jackson, and in a letter to Adyna Turno he mentions that he took every opportunity of helping prisoners and slaves.

Strzelecki's comments on the South American slave traffic, on the treatment of the Indians by the Spanish, his approval of Lord Glenelg's rebuke following reprisals after the Caffre rising, as well as his remarks concerning the treatment of the Australian aboriginies, are sufficient evidence of his humanity. He referred to the slave trade as "that stigma which the sordid



GUTHRIE RANGE, MOUNT KOSCIUSZKO, AUSTRALIAN ALPS.

thirst of gain has fixed on European civilization. . . ." Writing in his journal on January 22, 1836, he recorded at Rio de Janeiro :

"Yesterday Her Britannic Majesty's sloop of war, the *Satellite*, Captain Smart, brought into this port a brig engaged in the slave trade, which she captured not far from the coast.

"I have been to-day to look at this slaver, and, fully prepared as I was for the spectacle, which is daily becoming more rare, I own that the picture of human wretchedness which my imagination had painted was far surpassed by the reality. No sooner had I looked over the ship's bulwarks, than I felt as if the chain which attached me to civilization had broken. . . ."

From Rio de Janeiro Strzelecki travelled South to Buenos Aires, where, on recalling scenes from the time of the Spanish colonization, he declared : "The further we examine into the history of this part of the world, the more we shall feel ashamed to meet an Indian, and almost wish that we could appear *black* in his eyes."

It seems that Strzelecki was the guest of the Argentine dictator, General Juan Manuel Rosas. Soon he led an expedition to Paraguay, and then, again crossing the Argentine, he went to Chile over the Cordilleras, through the La Cuimbre (Uspallata) Pass, and then through Santa Rosa to Valparaiso.

He travelled up the Pacific coast in the British ship *Cleopatra*, and visited Mexico, including the Californian Peninsula. He has left some detailed descriptions of Mexican farms in which he praises the owners and their methods. While in California Strzelecki left the ship and did some gold-prospecting, an experience which was to be useful later. He also visited silver mines at Sonora.

Strzelecki spent altogether some ten months on H.M.S. *Cleopatra*. He found an ideal companion in Captain George Grey. Returning to Valparaiso, Strzelecki transferred to H.M.S. *Fly*, Captain Russell Elliot, and visited the islands of the Pacific, including the Marquesas, the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), and others.

From the Hawaiian Islands Strzelecki travelled south to New Zealand, calling at Otaheite (Tahiti, in the Society Group) and the Friendly Islands. At Otaheite he was welcomed by Queen Pomare.

Strzelecki arrived in New Zealand about the beginning of 1839. A British resident, James Busby, left a very flattering description of him. Strzelecki made a point of meeting some natives and their chiefs, in order to obtain a clear picture of conditions in the country. In April, 1839, he left in the barque *Justine* for Port Jackson in New South Wales.

STRZELECKI'S PRAISE OF AUSTRALIA.

The *Sydney Gazette*, of Saturday, April 27th, 1839, published the following (Strzelecki's name being mis-spelt) : "From the Bay of Island, on Thursday last, whence she sailed on the

10th instant, the French barque Justine, 265 tons, Captain Bernard, with 18 tons potatoes from New Zealand, and 300 bushels of Chilean barley. Passengers, Messrs. Abercrombie and Uhr, Monsieur le Comte Traliski (late of the Polish Army), and Mr. Rowe, late navigator of the whaling barque Proteus."

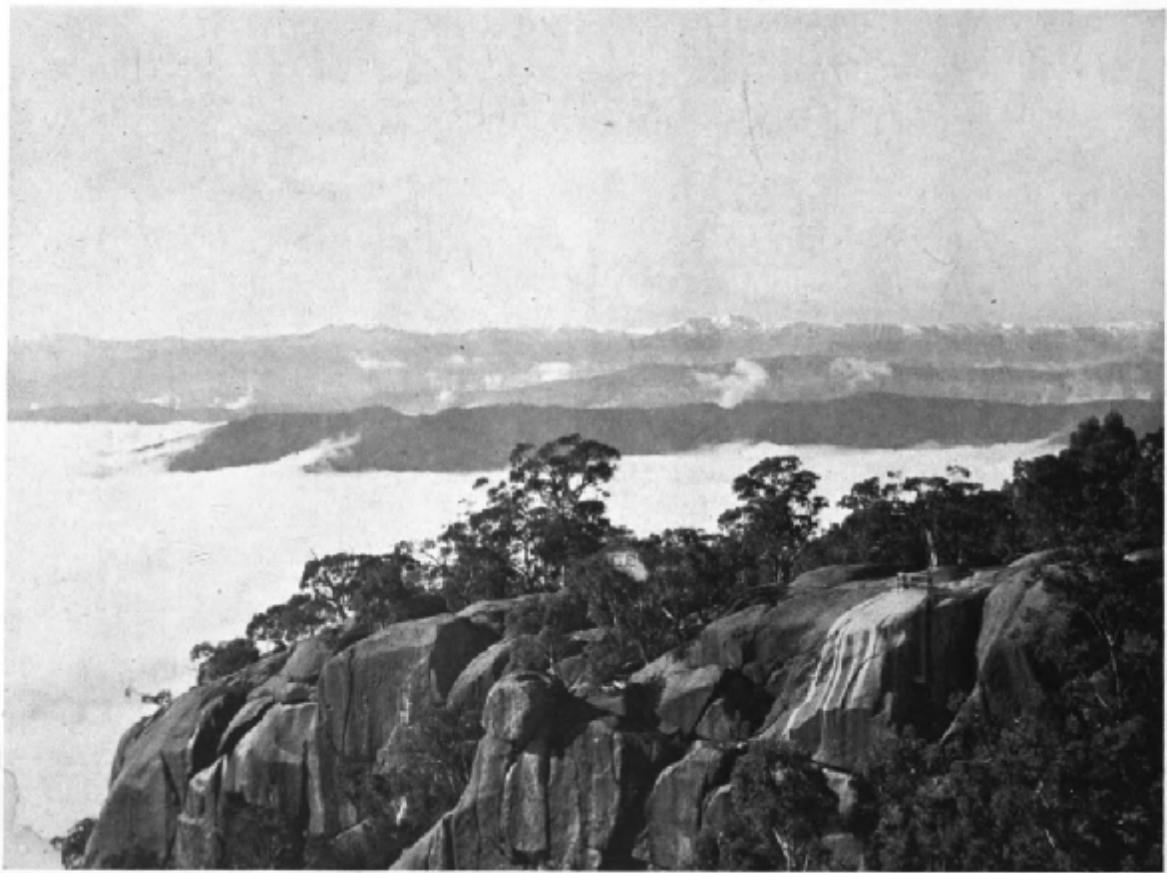
Regarding Sydney Strzelecki wrote in his journal :

" Since my arrival in Sydney, I cannot cease asking myself, am I really in the capital of that 'Botany Bay' which has been represented as 'the community of felons,' as 'the most demoralized colony known in the history of nations,' as 'a possession which adds a tarnish rather than a lustre to the British Crown,' etc., etc.

" Let the authors of these and other epithets contained in the numerous works which they wrote on New South Wales congratulate and applaud themselves : my mystification was complete. The evening I effected my disembarkation in Sydney, I did it with all imaginable precaution, leaving my watch and purse behind me, and arming myself with a stick ; being resolved to encounter inevitable and imminent dangers with the least possible risk ! !

" I found, however, on that night, in the streets of Sydney, a decency and a quiet which I have never witnessed in any other of the ports of the United Kingdom. No drunkenness, no sailors' quarrels, no appearance of prostitution, were to be seen. George Street, the Regent Street of Sydney, displayed houses and shops modelled after the fashion of those in London ; but nowhere did its lamps and the numerous lamps in its windows, which reflected upon the crowd, betray any of those signs of a corrupt state of society common to the streets of other capitals. Since then how many nights like the first did I not witness, in which the silence, the feeling of perfect security, and the delicious freshness of the air, mingled with nothing that could break the charm of a solitary walk ! At ten o'clock all the streets are deserted : to the bustling industry of the day succeeds a happy repose ; and to that again a day of fresh struggles, successes or failures ! Extraordinary race ! the only people who—to speak the language of one's own craft—seem subjected to atomic laws, immutable and independent of the varieties of climate ; aggregating by a kind of molecular attraction, constantly in the same order ; and expanding, however dispersed, into a similar social structure, thus everywhere preserving those properties and tendencies which nature assigns to their primitive form.

" Other races, like true children of the soil, identify themselves with it, draw from it their sustenance, their power and their nationality ; call it country ; love and cherish it as such, and cling to its bosom, though at the cost of freedom, of comfort, of poverty and even of life. Banished from it, they become but lost wanderers, and soon degenerate ; like the Alpine



MYSTIC LAKE, MOUNT BUFFALO, VICTORIA.

rose, which when transplanted to more genial regions loses its blossoms, and sends forth only thorns.

"The hardy nature of the Anglo-Saxon race is proof against the effects of transplantation; for it does not depend on the soil either for its character or its nationality: the Anglo-Saxon reproduces his country wherever he hoists his country's flag.

"The United Kingdom is far from furnishing a just idea of this race. The traveller there is like one buried in the entrails of a colossus. It is in the United States, in the West Indies, in the factories of South America and China, in the East Indies, and in this town of Sydney, that the prodigious expansion of the Anglo-Saxon life, the gigantic dimensions of its stature and the energy of its functions, are fully perceived and appreciated."

Strzelecki proved to be a sound observer of British qualities and methods. Soon after his visit, Australia became self-governing and has made enormous progress since. As for Strzelecki himself, it cannot be said that he withered on foreign soil. On the contrary, he expanded and thrived, like the English.

Strzelecki's main purpose in visiting New South Wales was to carry out mineralogical investigations. But soon the geology of the country attracted the greater part of his attention. His field of activity lay some 150 miles inland, beginning from the coast and extending from Port Stephens to the southern part of Tasmania. He defined it as: "the country running parallel with, and stretching 150 miles inland from the sea coast, and comprehended between the 30th and 39th degrees of south latitude." Zig-zagging across the country, he reached Wilson's Promontory, then he went towards the Islands of Bass's Straits, then Cape Portland and Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). Everywhere Strzelecki found very much to interest him and he observed the geological links between New South Wales and Tasmania. He also had many adventures during his wanderings, being almost lost in the deep and intricate ravines between Mounts King George, Hay and Tomah, in the valley of the Grose. On another occasion, when attempting to climb Mount Tomah, Strzelecki was nearly frozen to death at the higher altitudes. He also climbed Mount King George. Without mentioning other parts of the country which had been visited, suffice it to say that Strzelecki covered his ground very thoroughly. To the east of Wallerawang he named a mountain Mount Adine (Adyna).

DISCOVERY OF GOLD.

Strzelecki's mineralogical researches in New South Wales led him to the discovery of gold. He showed his specimens to the governor, but Gipps, fearing the effect of this discovery on the colony, asked Strzelecki to keep it a secret. It is to the

credit and honour of Strzelecki that he kept the promise he had given, despite the big material sacrifice. In October, 1853, James Macarthur stated in the Legislative Council of New South Wales that it was not true that a certain Hargraves was the first discoverer of gold. He had only been responsible for introducing the Californian system of cradle-washing, while it had been Count Strzelecki who had first discovered gold in the County of Wellington in 1839. Strzelecki had then also mentioned that a considerable gold-field existed in the Bathurst district, but that Sir George Gipps had requested him to keep it a secret, fearing that the conditions in the colony might have led to serious consequences. Macarthur then stated that he had received a letter from Strzelecki with the postmark of 26th October, 1839, which said :

" I have specimens of excellent coal, some fine serpentine, with asbestos, curious native alum, and brown hepatite, fossil bones and plants, which I dug out from Boree and Wellington caves, but particularly a specimen of native silver, in horn-blende rock, and gold in specks of silicate—both serving as strong indications of the existence of these precious metals in New South Wales. It was beyond my power to trace these veins, or positively ascertain their gauge. I would have done so with pleasure, *pro bono publico*, but my time was short, and so were the hands. I regret that the Government, having reserved all the mines for its benefit, did not send there a scientific man, truly miner and mineralogist, to lay open these hidden resources, which may prove as beneficial to the State and individuals, as the rest of the branches of the colonial industry."

Macarthur said on the same occasion that Strzelecki had also written to others on the same subject and had told him that he had not prosecuted his discoveries further as the Governor had feared the mischief which might arise. Soon after the Count had sent samples to Berlin for analysis and it was found that they were superior to the Ural ores of Siberia. Later experience had confirmed this. In Macarthur's view these facts were sufficient to establish Count Strzelecki's claim to the honour of being the first discoverer of gold in this colony.

References to Strzelecki and his discoveries were often made in the Australian press and many publications on the history of Australia, all of which refer to Strzelecki's discovery of gold and Sir George Gipps' request to keep this secret for the well-being of the colony. Among these works are the following :

Murdoch, " The Making of Australia " ; Jose, " History of Australasia " ; Cramp, " A Story of the Australian People " ; Watts, " Stories from Australian History " ; Clarke, " History of Australia and Tasmania " ; Sutherland, " History of Australia and New Zealand " ; Finney, " History of the Australian Colonies " ; and Scott, " A Short History of Australia."



STRZELECKI TRAVELS SOUTH.

Strzelecki now decided to travel southwards, but first he revisited Sydney. He met James Macarthur and they decided to travel together. Strzelecki investigated the country around the Wollondilly and Shoalhaven rivers and visited Lakes George and Bathurst. He measured many elevations and collected a large number of various specimens. After visiting many places, he reached the Murray river in the valley in front of the Australian Alps. Of this Strzelecki wrote :

"The country which farther on stretches itself to lat. 37 deg., and which is limited to N. and S. by the Manes and Ajuk Ranges, offers from its extent, and from having the highest protuberances of New South Wales, a wider and more interesting field to investigation and comment. On entering it from Mane's Range through Mount Aikin, every feature of that division (the second) seems to bear the stamp of foreign grandeur. The broken country to the westward, in which the Tingella Creek takes its rise ; to the eastward the dividing range, here called the Australian Alps, with its stupendous peaks and domes ; and in front the beautiful valley which the Murray so bountifully waters ; unite to form attractions for the explorer of no ordinary kind. I followed the windings of that valley for about 70 miles to the foot of the highest protuberance of the Australian Alps, which it was my object to ascend and examine."

MOUNT KOSCIUSKO.

“ But should we wish to warm us on our way
Through Poland, there is Kosciusko's name
Might scatter fire through ice, Like Hecla's flame.”

—Lord Byron.

Strzelecki started, at this stage of his voyage of exploration, his historical ascent of the highest peak of the Australian Alps (7,328 feet), to which he gave the name of that great fighter for freedom and democracy—Kosciusko. He thus established in 1840 the first ties of friendship between Australia and Poland.

Strzelecki found the ascent of the mountain difficult, especially (he mentioned in one of his letters) as for safety, he carried his instruments himself. However, having reached the crest of the range, it was moderately easy to climb the peak itself. He describes the view over an enormous area which he saw on 15th February, 1840, when he had reached a dominant height among perpetual snows. Strzelecki writes of this: “ On 15th February about noon, I found myself on an elevation of 6,510 feet above the level of the sea, seated on perpetual snow, a lucid sky above me, and below, an uninterrupted view of over more than 7,000 square miles. This pinnacle, rocky and naked, predominant over several other elevations of the same mountain, was and always will be, chosen for an important point of trigonometrical survey; clear and standing by itself, it affords a most advantageous position for overlooking the intricacies of the mountain country around. The eye wanders to the Three Brothers, or Tintern, thence to the sources of the Dumut and the Murrumbidge, discovers with ease the windings of the Murray, the course of the dividing range, the summits of Mounts Aberdeen and Buller, and is seduced even beyond the required limits of a survey. The particular configuration of this eminence struck me so forcibly, by similarity it bears to a tumulus elevated in Krakow over the tomb of the patriot Kosciusko, that, although in foreign country on foreign ground, but amongst a free people, who appreciate freedom and its votaries, I could not refrain from giving it the name of Mount Kosciusko.”

Incidentally it should be noted that the tumulus is not in fact the tomb of the Polish patriot, but a monument to him. Kosciusko is buried in the Cathedral of Krakow, the Polish Westminster Abbey, among the Polish kings, where a few years ago Marshal Pilsudski, the victorious hero of the 1914-1920 struggle for freedom, was also buried.

After the ascent, Strzelecki wrote to Adyna Turno: “ The highest of the Australian Alps—it towers over the entire con-



TADEUSZ KOSCIUSKO.
The Immortal Fighter for Freedom
(1746 — 1817).

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MR. A. JAROSIEWICZ AND MR. S. GRACZYŃSKI.

continent—whose summit, before my coming had not been reached by anyone, with its everlasting snows, the silence and dignity surrounding it, I have reserved and consecrated as a reminder for future generations upon this continent, of a name dear and hallowed to every Pole, to every human being, to every friend of freedom and honour—Kosciusko." In another letter to Adyna he quotes: "Here is a flower from Mount Kosciusko—the highest peak of the continent—the first in the New World bearing a Polish name. I believe that you will be the first Polish woman to have a flower from that mountain. Let it remind you ever of freedom, patriotism and love."

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND—TASMANIA.

After the ascent of the Australian Alps, Strzelecki made an expedition through Gippsland and then arrived in Melbourne on May 28th, 1840. Having spent several weeks there, he travelled to Tasmania. The explorer enjoyed the friendship of Sir John Franklin, who, with others, helped him in many ways and encouraged his activity by putting a government vessel at his disposal for an exploration of Gippsland from the sea. Writing to Adyna Turno, Strzelecki says: "If I could forward you a letter received from Sir John Franklin, famous for his discoveries in the North, now Governor of Van Diemen's Land, you would be surprised to note that, I, a modest person, have become the object of admiration and attention. He writes to me from Hobart Town, the capital, that he has issued orders to all authorities, organizations and the army to aid me, if necessary, in the geographical and mineralogical works which have brought me to Van Diemen's Land. He also ordered the commanders of ports to accept my specimens on boards of ships, to lend me boats for exploring the seashore, and to give me any aid that may be needed in my scientific work."

We quote a part of a characteristic letter from Franklin, written on 4th August, 1840, which illustrated his great friendship to Strzelecki and his anxiety to help him in any way: "My Dear Count Strzelecki, I am happy to tell you that I have procured a mountain barometer which will be at your service. It is unfortunately an old one and some additional mercury was required in the tube before it could be either carried safely or used satisfactorily. This has been supplied, and it is now ready for sending to you. . . ."

Returning in due course to New South Wales, Strzelecki discovered excellent coal, among other minerals. Franklin, in one of his letters, expressed his gratitude to Strzelecki for his "very valuable letters respecting this coal" near Jerusalem. Afterwards he sent Strzelecki for analysis two specimens of coal from Kerguelen's Land. In another letter Franklin wrote that he was "anxious to receive a report from Strzelecki about coal, which would be invaluable to Launceston and its vicinity."

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Strzelecki had explored the greater part of Tasmania, where he organized three expeditions; his investigations were carried out on foot, as usual, with three men and two pack-horses. He wrote in May, 1841 to his friend, James Macarthur, who possessed a large estate in Tasmania: ". . . I like V.D. (Van Diemen's Land). It is all what nature and industry has done and is about to do—all beautiful—surprising and surpassing the expectations. In these points V.D. is superior to N.S.W., inferior to it as to the political and even social man. Before I got your letter I saw your property on the left of the bridge and encamped and fed my horses on it. Fine soil, entirely agricultural. Capital position for small farms and irrigation which is the only speculation the proprietors must resort to make their land valuable."

Strzelecki indeed was an advocate of irrigation. In the *Launceston Advertiser* of 14th October, 1841, we read in an article referring to the altitudes previously surveyed by him: "Count Strzelecki has greatly facilitated and encouraged an extended system of irrigation in this colony by proving its practicability; and his table of calculations, giving the heights of different eminences in all parts of the colony—this document will prove extremely serviceable to the community."

ISLANDS OF BASS STRAIT, THE STRZELECKI PEAKS.

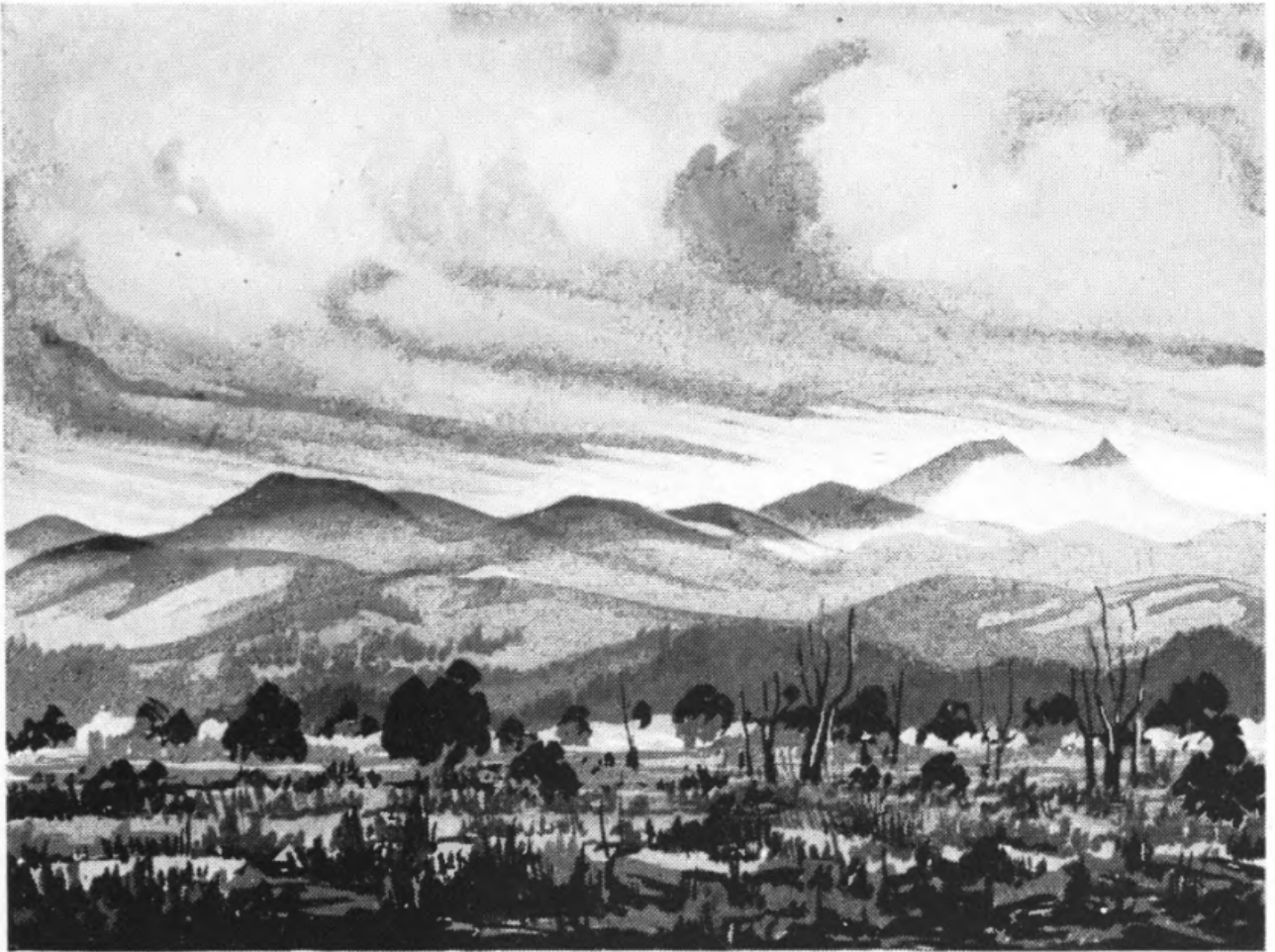
In the summer of 1842 Strzelecki carried out an exploration of the islands of Bass Strait. He ascended on 13th January, 1842, the highest peaks of Flinders Island, which were afterwards named Strzelecki Peaks in his honour by Captain Lort Stokes of H.M. surveying ship *Beagle*. We read in the *Discoveries in Australia*, by J. Lort Stokes, Vol. II, p. 444: "The rugged peaks of Strzelecki, reaching an elevation of 2,500 feet, rise immediately over the northern point of the west entrance of Franklin Channel."

Strzelecki described this voyage to James Macarthur in a letter written on February 8th: "My Dear James, I just returned from the Straits, having touched at and seen all what I wished and wanted to see of the Islands. I went to Wilson's Promontory and Sealers' Cove; did not go as far as Corner Inlet for fear of wrecking the vessel as the weather was boisterous from N.E. . . ."

Strzelecki was one of the initiators and patrons of the Franklin Museum in Tasmania. Lady Franklin, in a letter to Strzelecki in March, 1842, described the "little museum," and asked him to continue to be a patron. She asked him also to sign a parchment which was to be buried in the foundation stone.

THE STRZELECKI RANGE.

The naming of a small range of mountains including the Strzelecki Peaks in Flinders Islands, N.E. of Tasmania in honour of Strzelecki was mentioned by Sir John Franklin in a letter written on July 6th, 1842: ". . . I have had great



THE STRZELECKI PEAKS, FLINDERS ISLANDS.

Reproduced from a picture by MR. WENGRZYN.

happiness in distinguishing one of the ranges by your name." (This is evidently the same as that referred to by Capt. Lort Stokes, the naming probably being decided in collaboration with Sir John Franklin). The Strzelecki Peaks should not be confused with the Strzelecki Range—which is in S.E. Victoria.

RETURN TO NEW SOUTH WALES.

In September, 1842, Strzelecki left Tasmania and returned to New South Wales. In a letter to Adyna Turno from Sydney, he expressed his deep admiration for the indefatigable industry and activity of its citizens: "Upon return, I found Sydney larger, more like a European city, with its activity so characteristic of the English sea coast. If I were to tell you everything they intend to do, it would require more than a volume. Many thousand miles from the metropolis, administered by a delegate of the authorities—yet work progresses at an amazing speed. . ."

Strzelecki prepared in Sydney materials for scientific books, before returning to Europe some three months later.

RETURN TO ENGLAND.

In April, 1843, four years after his arrival in Australia, Strzelecki left Sydney for Singapore. On the way to Europe he visited the Japanese Islands, part of China, the East Indies and Egypt.

On returning to England Strzelecki received an address from Tasmania, signed by 39 leading personalities of the colony, headed by the Governor, Sir John Franklin, the Colonial Secretary, G. Boyes, Esq., the Chief Justice, Sir John Pedder, and most prominent settlers, in which he was thanked for the services which he had rendered to Tasmania:

"We, the undersigned, cannot suffer you to depart from our shores without presenting to you the assurance of our sincere regret. The benefit which you have conferred upon our country have added other motives to those of private friendship which call for a public and united expression of our esteem.

"We are conscious that much is owing to your scientific knowledge and to your indefatigable exertions; much that will from henceforth advance the progress of science and the development of the natural resources of Tasmania. . ."

Lady Jane Franklin and 84 Tasmanian ladies joined their signatures with a special address:—

"To Count Strzelecki:

We, the undersigned Ladies of Tasmania, fully concurring in the sentiments of esteem and regard expressed by the gentlemen of the colony for Count Strzelecki, desire to participate in the honour of contributing towards the testimonial which it is their intention to present to him."

THE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

Soon Strzelecki published a capital work: "The Physical

Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land." This book of nearly 500 pages was published in 1845 by Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans, and became for a long time the standard work on Australia. It was dedicated to the Governor of Van Diemen's Land, Sir John Franklin, the personal friend of Strzelecki, who was at that time leaving on his tragic Arctic journey to the North Pole.

The author stated in the introduction that this work was the result of five years of continual labour during a tour of 7,000 miles on foot. The "Physical Description" is divided into eight sections: 1st—History and Results of the Marine and Land Surveys; 2nd—Terrestrial Magnetism; 3rd—Geology and Mineralogy; 4th—Climatology; 5th—Fossil and Existing Flora; 6th—Fossil and Existing Fauna; 7th—Moral and Social State of Aborigines; and 8th—Colonial Agriculture.

This book attracted a great deal of attention in literary, social, scientific and philanthropic circles of Great Britain. A very flattering review of it was printed in *The Times* of October 8th, 1845; in *The Sydney Morning Herald* of January 28th, 1846; in *The Port Philip Herald* of March 17th, 1846, and many other newspapers and periodicals.

The Royal Geographical Society honoured Strzelecki with the Founders' Gold Medal, which was presented to him by the President at the Anniversary Meeting of the Society on 25th May, 1846. The speech of the President, delivered on that occasion, fully testifies the merit of the explorer in laying the foundations of the more extensive knowledge of the Australian continent, so important for its future development.

He added: "The energy and perseverance required to produce such results proclaim a geographer of no ordinary merit, and form the ground on which has been awarded to you the medal of our Royal Founder which I have in the name of the Council to present to you."

Strzelecki applied for British naturalization, which was granted to him in November, 1845; Lord Overstone assisted him by procuring the necessary certificate.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

Strzelecki, who always had deep sympathy with the needs of suffering humanity, played an important part in the relief of the big Irish famine in 1847-1848. The potatoes and other crops had completely failed in Ireland, and food could not be imported owing to the Corn Laws and the scarcity of crops all over Europe. Soon the famine spread throughout Ireland and became a national calamity. The British Relief Association was immediately organized, whose Committee of Administration consisted of leading bankers and merchants of London. Half-a-million pounds were collected by private subscription, besides the important sums given by the Government. Strzelecki took a great interest in the work of the Relief



VIEW OF THE MAIN RANGE FROM MOUNT KOSCIUSZKO.

Association, and he became its representative in Ireland, supervising the distribution of supplies in the counties of Sligo and Mayo. He found there the most terrible misery, and, while making great efforts in the service of the Irish people, he contracted famine fever which affected his health for the rest of his life. According to *The Times* of October 17th, 1873, Strzelecki, on his arrival, reported: "No pen can describe the distress by which I am surrounded. It has actually reached such a degree of lamentable extremes that it becomes above the power of exaggeration and misrepresentation. You may now believe anything you hear and read, because what I actually see surpasses what I ever read of past and present calamities."

The satisfaction given by Strzelecki to the Committee was so great, that during the winter 1847-1848 he was appointed the sole representative of the Association in Dublin, and superintended relief measures for all the affected districts of Ireland. He provided meals for 200,000 children who were attending schools in the West of Ireland, and took the opportunity also of encouraging Irish peasants in an urge towards a better diet than one consisting almost entirely of potatoes.

For all these important services Strzelecki was awarded the Companionship of the Bath, an honour which he highly prized.

STRZELECKI'S POPULARITY IN SOCIETY.

In 1849 Strzelecki returned to London and became very popular in Society. *The Times* states: "Count de Strzelecki found himself famous. Society rejoiced in him, and during the rest of his life he maintained a high position in the ranks of science and literature."

Soon Strzelecki was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a Fellow of the Royal Society in London.

At the same time he was turning his special attention to philanthropic questions. He helped to promote the emigration of many impoverished families to Australia, most of them from Ireland. He was associated with the Herberts and Caroline Chisholm and was certainly one of the most active and successful pioneers of emigration to Australia. As a member of Lord Herbert's and the Duke of Wellington's Emigration Committees he helped many thousands of the emigrants to go Australia. This fact was emphasized in the *Illustrated Sydney News* of October 29th, 1853.

Strzelecki assisted Lord Herbert in his work on behalf of wounded and ailing British soldiers during the Crimean War, and as a member of the Crimean Army Fund Committee he accompanied his friend, Lord Lyons, to the Crimea in 1855. He met Florence Nightingale, and there is good reason to believe that her articles published in *The Times* on medical reforms were the result of Strzelecki's personal request to John Thadeus Delane, the well-known editor, who highly appreciated him.

In 1860 Strzelecki was honoured by the honorary degree

D.C.L. from the University of Oxford, and in 1869 the Order of St. Michael and St. George was conferred on him for his "Five years' explorations in Australia, the discovery of gold, the discovery of new territory accessible to colonization, and finally for the construction of topographical and geological maps, based on astronomical observations," as was stated in an official document sent by Strzelecki to his niece, Sidonia Douglas, the daughter of his sister Isabel.

Paul Strzelecki never went back to Poland, but he preserved till his death a feeling of deep love towards Adyna Turno. He planned to meet her soon after his return from Australia, but, this meeting was postponed and took place much later in the sixties, in Geneva. Afterwards she returned to Poland, carrying tender memories of her first love nearly 40 years earlier, while Strzelecki came back to London.

Strzelecki was strongly linked with some representatives of his family in Poland, great affection especially uniting him with the daughter of his sister Isabel, Sidonia, and her husband Joseph Douglas, who often visited him in London. One of the sons of Sidonia, Archibald Douglas, was educated and spent his boyhood in the house of his uncle in London. It is interesting to note that the Polish Douglas derives from the well-known old Scottish family; they emigrated from Scotland in the seventeenth century after the fall of the Stuarts. One of the grandsons of Sidonia and Joseph, Cristyn Douglas, a young officer of the Polish Army, is now a prisoner of war in Germany.

THE LAST YEARS AND DEATH.

Strzelecki preserved till his old age his full vitality and was very active. He attended many social and philanthropic functions and was, as we have already noted, highly appreciated in London society circles. He rode and drove horses in a truly British sporting spirit, and was a great lover of them. Even in his will we find a passage concerning his horse: ". . . I give to my dear friend, Mr. Thomson Hankey, my riding horse, which he liked."

In 1873, at the age of 77, the health of this indefatigable man became weaker, and he was no longer able to leave his house at Savile Row. He was obliged to cancel all his activities and limit himself to receiving his friends at home. A few weeks before his death in the autumn of the same year Strzelecki became even unable to see anybody, and he died early in the morning of the 6th October.

He was buried at Kensal Green Cemetery in a modest grave according to his will: "I also request that my funeral expenses shall be reduced to a minimum."

Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki was a Knight Companion of the Bath and a Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George, as well as being a member of scientific societies. From a country house of Gluszyna, in a province of Great Poland,



THE COMMEMORATION PLAQUE UNVEILED OCTOBER 6TH, 1943.

near Poznan, without any help of family or influence of protection, he won a distinguished position in England during the Victorian era. Explorer, scientist and philanthropist, his work reflected credit on his native land while it gave him standing abroad. Strzelecki should be regarded as one of the great international links between Poland, Australia and Britain.

Among many articles published recently about Strzelecki in British and Australian papers, we should notice a short biography of him which appeared in *The Times Literary Supplement* on October 10th, 1942, under the title "A British Pole—Debt to Count Strzelecki." The traveller and explorer is represented as one of the most romantic figures of the Victorian era. His numerous travels, works, difficulties and discoveries are described, underlining the discovery of gold and the naming of the highest peak of Australia, Mount Kosciusko. The article finished with a tribute paid to the memory of the great explorer, emphasizing the services rendered by him to the Empire: ". . . He—Strzelecki—foresaw the future of the British Empire with the same eye as Rhodes. It is interesting that, like Rhodes in two respects, he was for a time deeply interested in the Irish problem, and that his name is associated with the discovery of precious minerals in an outlying province of the Empire. They were both made D.C.L. of Oxford.

Such is the skeleton of a life as rich as it was vigorous in its services to mankind, and especially to the British Empire.

In the name of this intrepid traveller and scientist it should not be difficult to claim a merited corner in oversea countries for Polish emigration in the future and for the raw material essential for post-war reconstruction."

His romantic disappointment, probably also the German oppression which weighed on Poland, were the main reasons which drove Strzelecki to accomplish his world-wide journeys of discovery, in which his great energy found an outlet.

It is interesting to note that he never married, like Adyna Turno, who lived in his heart until death. The German ruthlessness which he resented in Poland during his boyhood and early youth, persecuted him even after his death: in 1940, the stone with his name on the grave at Kensal Green was damaged by splinters from a German bomb!

CONCLUSION.

The services rendered by Strzelecki to the British Empire and especially to Australia will be seen to have been great. He gave also to his native country fame and honour at a time of Poland's greatest misfortune, during the period of her darkest hours of partition and persecution. Now she is under the same ruthless occupation, but is fighting side by side with her Allies, united under the banner of justice and democracy; and Australia, inspired by the great spirit of Kosciusko, the indefatigable fighter for those highest ideals, has undertaken the protection of many thousands of Poles scattered and

suffering throughout the immeasurable territories of Russia and Siberia.

The shadow of forgetfulness often dims fame and glory, but the memory of Sir Paul Strzelecki, whose name is so closely linked with Mount Kosciusko, will ever remain in Australia, where it has helped to forge a strong link between that wonderful continent and the great explorer's native land—Poland.

This idea is already expressed on the commemorative plaque erected by the Strzelecki Committee on his grave with Australian and Polish emblems engraved on the marble.

The Plaque, a photograph of which appears in this booklet, was unveiled by the representatives of Australia and Poland on 6th October, 1943, the 70th anniversary of Strzelecki's death.

ANNEX 1.

THE STRZELECKI COMMITTEE IN LONDON.

In the autumn of 1942, nearly 70 years after the death of Sir Paul Strzelecki, a Committee was formed in London in order to pay a tribute to the memory of this distinguished explorer.

The well-known writer and poet, Mr. Shane Leslie, who many years ago was attracted by the uncommon personality of the Polish traveller, became the President of this Committee, and General S. Zahorski its Hon. Secretary.

The family of Strzelecki was represented by Mrs. Alina Zahorska, born de Witte, Countess Broel-Plater by her first marriage, who is the grand-daughter of Isabel, the sister of Paul Strzelecki.

Many prominent British and Polish personalities, including the Polish Prime Minister, the High Commissioner for Australia, Lord Tyrrell, and the President of the Royal Geographical Society, became the Patrons of the Committee.

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY COMMEMORATION.

A warm tribute was paid to the memory of Strzelecki by the Royal Geographical Society at a special commemorative meeting held at the society premises on October 20th, 1942. Mr. Shane Leslie, being chairman of the meeting, emphasized in his foreword, that Strzelecki was renowned as the greatest Pole in the British Empire in the last century. His romantic figure has become a legend that will always live in Australia, he said, and in London his grave in St. Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green, has become a part of Poland. . . .

Sir George Clark, the President of the Royal Geographical Society, paid a tribute to Strzelecki, saying :

" I am happy and honoured to offer the hospitality of our House to this commemoration of the name of Paul Edmund de Strzelecki, one of our most distinguished Gold Medallists. It is unnecessary to dwell on his brilliant and romantic career, already ably described by the previous speaker.

" The rumour is spreading that Strzelecki left his native country in connection with an unhappy love affair. We must bless this tragic circumstance. . . . Otherwise the world would not probably have had the benefit of his services. . . .

" Looking more particularly to the life of Count Strzelecki, two things, apart from his courage and determination, seem to me to stand out : one, his capacity for inspiring in great minds feelings of friendship for, and confidence in, him. His association with another of the great names of our Society, Sir John Franklin, is proof enough of that.

" And the other feature of his character as I see it is his

profound integrity. Count Strzelecki abandoned an opportunity to make a vast fortune because another friend, Sir George Gipps, asked him not to reveal the gold-field he had discovered, for fear of the harm that a gold-rush might do to the colony.

"Count Strzelecki, in short, was a man of whom both his native and his adopted country do well to be proud, and I see in him a symbol of the union between Poland and the British Empire which exists to-day, and of those qualities of honour and perseverance and belief in truth and justice which are leading us slowly but surely to the defeat of our common enemy."

The next speaker, the Polish Foreign Minister, Count Raczynski, compared Strzelecki with another prominent Pole, the singer of the sea, Conrad, who expressed the urge and love of the ocean, which was so strong in Poland during the last 20 years. The splendid creation of the port of Gdynia was the first real result of this feeling. He ended by expressing the hope that new Strzeleckis and Conrads will arise in the reborn Poland, and that the tie which unites her with Great Britain will become closer and stronger.

Professor Zaborski, of the University of Warsaw, explained in a concise speech the importance of the scientific activity of Strzelecki.

Strzelecki's book published in 1845, entitled *The Physical Description of the New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land*, was a fundamental work on Australia.

The scientific researches of Strzelecki had more than a theoretical importance, for he discovered important agglomerations of raw materials like asbestos, coal, metal ores and gold. As a great explorer, he was guided by an uncommon instinct, foreseeing the possibilities of a future great development and prosperity of many almost deserted districts—like the South-Eastern part of Australia, which he foresaw could be largely adapted for agricultural and stock-breeding purposes. His exploration of Gippsland and Tasmania was certainly of great importance for the future development of those rich areas.

The Rt. Hon. S. M. Bruce, the High Commissioner for Australia, was one of the principal speakers. He emphasized the merits of Strzelecki in helping to open up Australia, and said that Australians, like Poles, have the same desire to end the present struggle and build a better world. His splendid speech is fully reproduced as the foreword.

B.B.C. STRZELECKI BROADCAST.

The memory of Strzelecki was also honoured by the B.B.C. in their Pacific Service programme, which was broadcast on 1st September, 1942, the third anniversary of the German invasion of Poland. The whole interesting programme was organized by an Australian, who knew and appreciated Strzelecki's work in Australia, Mr. Ivan Smith, the director

of the Pacific Service of the B.B.C. In addition to Mr. Smith, the following took part: Mr. Shane Leslie, Mr. Max Robertson and General S. Zahorski, of the Polish Army, who said a few words on behalf of Strzelecki's family. In this broadcast the life of Strzelecki was described from his boyhood and his uncommon character, and extraordinarily deep and life-long love for Adyna Turno were underlined.

The tragic invasion of Poland, and Australia's sympathetic alliance because of that invasion were also emphasized. Strzelecki was undoubtedly the pioneer of the Australian and Polish friendship, of mutual understanding and brotherhood in arms contracted on the glorious battlefield of Tobruk by the Polish and Australian soldiers, who there fought shoulder to shoulder.

A second broadcast devoted to Strzelecki was organized on 18th November, 1942, in the form of a realistic conversation between Mr. Shane Leslie, Mr. Leslie Bailey and Mr. George Looker, with Mr. Patrick Curwen of the B.B.C. Home Service, representing Strzelecki and Sir George Gipps, the Governor of New South Wales at the time of Strzelecki's travels in Australia. The disinterestedness shown by Strzelecki in connection with his discovery of gold is particularly noted in a conversation between Strzelecki and Gipps. Some typical passages from this broadcast should be quoted:

PATRICK CURWEN: Strzelecki set off into the interior of New South Wales, his main object to examine its minerals.

STRZELECKI: These excursions led me through a very wild and broken country, rarely permitting rapid progress, or affording compensation for my labour, fatigue and privation. Indeed, the scarcity of minerals was such as might have discouraged the most ardent mineralogist who ever devoted himself to the science.

PATRICK CURWEN: But at last he returned to Sydney. He brought back big news to the governor, Sir George Gipps.

STRZELECKI: Sir George, have you ever heard of gold being found in Australia?

GIPPS: Gold?—why no. Of course there have been rumours. Its presence is suspected, but—

STRZELECKI: Its presence cannot be doubted, sir. I found these specimens in the country around Wellington.

GIPPS: Why!—Strzelecki!—yes—yes—this looks like gold.

STRZELECKI: It is gold.

GIPPS: It is gold. . . You know—I have long feared this day.

STRZELECKI: Feared it? You mean?

GIPPS: Do you realize what this means?

STRZELECKI: Why, I suppose—when the news is known—there will be a gold-rush.

GIPPS : A gold-rush. That's why I want to ask you not to make it known.

STRZELECKI : But why not ?

GIPPS : Count Strzelecki : I know I am asking you a lot ; perhaps to forego a fortune. But I am terribly anxious. The worst elements would be attracted by a gold-rush. We simply haven't the means to cope with lawlessness. We need peace and quiet to develop this colony. I do request you most urgently not to make this discovery known.

PATRICK CURWEN : And Strzelecki never did.

PATRICK CURWEN : He climbed the highest mountains in the Snowy River district and discovered one great peak thousands of feet high which reminded him of a peak at Crakow in Poland, which was consecrated to the name of the Polish patriot, Kosciuszko, and he gave that glorious name to the mountain. .

PATRICK CURWEN : This romantic traveller went on to make the first survey of Tasmania ; he went to Ireland and saved thousands of lives during the great famine of 1848. His own constitution undermined by famine fever, he gave up travelling, and as Sir Paul Strzelecki, C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.G.S., he became a prominent figure of London society. Once, when he was 70 years of age, he went to Geneva and met Adyna Turno again.

STRZELECKI : We met again, after a 40-years' separation. After our meeting we went our respective ways—she back to Poland, I to my house in London, both of us full of deep thoughts of the strange rulings of fate. If, in our far-off youth, Adyna's father had not overtaken her as she sped to our elopement, we might have lived these 40 years together in Poland, and never known the pangs of solitude, nor yet—for me—the joys of travel and discovery in many parts of the world.

PATRICK CURWEN : That was in the 1860's. Now the scene moves to 1942. Many Polish soldiers, sailors and statesmen have arrived in England during this war, and some of them wished to find Strzelecki's grave, which for long had been forgotten. The poet and writer, Shane Leslie, who had long made a study of Strzelecki, led an expedition to a London cemetery. He will tell you what happened.

SHANE LESLIE : On a fortunate Sunday we visited a cemetery at Kensal Green. It had also been visited by German bombers. It had been ploughed up by bombs. The grave was intact, but the tombstone was damaged by some splinters. Someone found a crumbling stone with these words, nothing more : " Paul Edmund de Strzelecki, died October 6th, 1873." The rest of the party rushed to the spot. There they fell on their knees and breathed a prayer for his soul. And to-day over his grave, here in London, float the flags of Australia and Poland.

THE COMMEMORATION IN AUSTRALIA.

The commemoration of the centenary of the naming of the highest Australian peak—Mount Kosciusko, was celebrated in Australia, where a special Commemoration Committee was organized.

As described by Mr. H. J. Lamble, the celebration in Australia was imposing: "In view of the International significance of the naming of Australia's highest mountain—Mount Kosciusko—by Paul Edmund Strzelecki in February, 1840, after the Polish patriot, General Kosciusko, the Government of New South Wales appointed a small Committee to arrange a suitable memorial and to conduct an appropriate ceremonial to mark the Centenary. The Committee included many representative citizens with Sir Francis Anderson as Chairman and President. It was decided to place a bronze plaque on a granite boulder at the Summit of the Mountain.

The function was conducted on Saturday afternoon, 17th February, 1940. A large number of local residents and visitors were in attendance. Sir Henry Manning, Attorney-General, represented the Government of New South Wales. The plaque was unveiled by the Polish Consul-General and Madam Noskowski.

A large party of children from the Cooma and Jindabyne schools attended and sang the Polish National Anthem, "Advance Australia Fair," and the British National Anthem.

The keynote of the sentiments expressed by the speakers was the age-long struggle for freedom. Reference was made to the circumstances that whilst the enemies of freedom were actually at this time destroying ancient monuments to Kosciuszko in Poland, the children of this free democracy—Australia—were raising new ones in memory and honour of the same ideal of freedom.

Among the visitors was a large party of horsemen who had ridden from Corryong and District in Victoria, arriving at the Summit after some 70 miles' journey from the head waters of the Murray River. Some part of this route may have been traversed by Strzelecki on his original ascent in 1840.

The inscription of the plaque was prepared by members of Kooya Committee for Historical Research. It is interesting to cite its text:

" From the valley of the Murray River
the Polish Explorer
PAUL EDMUND STRZELECKI
Ascended these Australian Alps on 15th February, 1840.

A "pinnacle, rocky and naked, predominant over several others," was chosen by Strzelecki for a point of trigonometrical survey. "The particular configuration of this eminence," he recorded, "struck me so forcibly by the similarity it bears to a tumulus elevated in Krakow over the tomb of the patriot

Kosciusko, that, although in a foreign country, on a foreign ground, but amongst a free people, who appreciate freedom and its votaries, I could not refrain from giving it the name of Mount Kosciusko."

The cost of this Memorial Plaque was met from subscriptions of pennies from the school children of the State, and at a later date this fact will be acknowledged by a subsidiary plaque to be attached to the boulder."

THE COMMEMORATION IN AMERICA.

In America a Centennial Jubilee Committee was formed by Mr. B. Strzelecki of New York in order to commemorate the centenary of the naming of the highest Australian peak, Mount Kosciusko. The Committee, which included many prominent persons from Europe and America, organized lectures and published many articles in the American press concerning Strzelecki's activity and his explorations. It was especially stressed that, by giving the name of Kosciusko, a Polish hero of America, to the Australian peak, Strzelecki connected the American and Australian people in a mutually interesting historical fact.

A Jubilee stamp issued in connection with the celebration is reproduced below.

