

COUNT ADAM G. DE GUROWSKI¹



"... a strange old man, a great lord in his own country, Poland, owner 30,000 serfs & great estates – an exile for conspiracy against the government – he knew everything & growled & found fault with everybody – but was always very courteous to me & spoke very highly of me in his book, his Diary printed last winter..."

**“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY**



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1805



September 10, Tuesday: [Adam Gurowski](#) was born in the palatinate of Kalisz, Poland, a son of Count Ladislas Gurowski (a follower of Kosciusko, the count had forfeited the greater part of his estates after the failure of the insurrection of 1794).

Austria attacked Bavaria, Napoléon's ally.

[Malcolm Laing](#) got married with Margaret Dempster Carnegie, daughter of Thomas Carnegie and Mary Gardyne (the couple would produce no children).

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT






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1818

 [Adam Gurowski](#) was expelled from the gymnasium of Warsaw for revolutionary demonstration.

**LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?
— NO, THAT’S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN’S STORIES.
LIFE ISN’T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.**

[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)**COUNT ADAM GUROWSKI****COUNT ADAM G. DE GUROWSKI****1819**

 [Adam Gurowski](#) was expelled from the gymnasium of Kalisz, Poland for revolutionary demonstration (he would at various German universities continue his studies, at one point as a student of philosophy under [G.W.F. Hegel](#); at some point he would lose an eye, presumably as the unintended but not to be unexpected result of a student saber [duel](#) of the sort then so very popular).



At about this period a Germanization of Boston intellectual culture would be initiated, through the return from study at German universities of [George Ticknor](#)² and [Edward Everett](#).

[CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE](#)


2. Both Waldo Emerson and Henry Thoreau would have classes under Professor Ticknor.



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1825

 [Adam Gurowski](#) returned from Germany to Warsaw, where he would become identified with those opposed to Russian influence and in consequence would several times be imprisoned. From this year into 1828 the Persian-Russian War (this would amount to Russia capturing Tabriz).

The “Decembrist” uprising.

Upon the accession of Tsar Nicholas I Romanov, Lieutenant-Colonel [Benedict Jaeger](#) was sent to explore the newly acquired Crimea — his report would be titled TRAVELS FROM ST. PETERSBURG TO THE CRIMEA AND COUNTRIES OF THE CAUCASUS.

In 1825 the Russian empire was again alarmed by the appearance of an innumerable quantity of grasshoppers, of which I had the pleasure (if pleasure it may be called) of being an eye-witness. I left the city of Moscow in the beginning of the month of April, 1825, in order to visit the Crimea, the Caucasus and the countries lying between the Black and Caspian Seas. Passing through the well-cultivated States of Moscow, Orel, Rasan, Charkow, Kiew and Woronesch, the whole population of these States expressed in a lamentable manner their fear of perishing by famine on account of the enormous quantity of the then wingless grasshoppers which inundated the desert prairies between Kiew and Odessa and between the Don and the Wolga towards Astrachan and the Caucasus. ... But the more majestic view of one of their flying swarms presented itself to me in Asia, in the Island of Phanagoria, after having crossed the Black Sea at Panticapacum, the modern city of Kertsch, on the Bosphorus.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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1830



Sydney Owenson's (Lady Morgan's) FRANCE IN 1829. Revolution in France. After the rebellions had been put down Louis-Phillipe was crowned as King (overthrow of Bourbons). Stendhal's THE RED AND THE BLACK (*LE ROUGE ET LE NOIR*).

[Adam Gurowski](#) was active in organizing the [Cadet Revolution](#) in Warsaw and took part in it. When in the following year it would be suppressed, he would flee to France where he would reside for several years and pick up hot-damn ideas from [Charles Fourier](#). Wanted dead or alive, his estates in Poland of course forfeit, in Paris he would be becoming a member of the national Polish committee.

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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1835



[Adam Gurowski](#)'s *LA VÉRITÉ SUR LA RUSSIE ET SUR LA RÉVOLTE DES PROVINCES POLONAISE* (Paris: DeLaunay) advocated a union of the different branches of the Slavic race. The book being favorably regarded by the Russian government (Czar Nicholas I, intrigued by the thinking, granted de Gurowski a pardon and invited him to St. Petersburg), Gurowski was recalled, and although his estates were not restored, he would come to be employed in the civil service.

WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF



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1840

LA CIVILISATION ET LA RUSSIE, PAR [LE COMTE A. GUROWSKI](#) (Saint-Petersbourg, Chez J. Gauer et Co, Libraires, Perspective de Nevsky Près le boulevard, maison Pétillet No. 3).

LA CIVILISATION ET LA RUSSIE

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



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1841

[Adam Gurowski](#)'s *PENSÉES SUR L'AVENIR DES POLONAIS* (Berlin).



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1843

[Adam Gurowski](#)'s *AUS MEINEM GEDANKENBUCHE* (Breslau).



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1844

Having made powerful enemies at court, [Adam Gurowski](#) departed in secret for Berlin and would transit from there to Heidelberg. He would devote himself to study and for a couple of years would lecture on political economy at the University of [Berne](#).

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



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1845

[Adam Gurowski](#)'s *EINE TOUR DURCH BELGIEN* (Heidelberg).



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1846

[Grafen Adam von Gurowski](#)'s *IMPRESSIONS ET SOUVENIRS: PROMENADE EN SUISSE EN 1845* (Lausanne) and *DIE LETZTEN EREIGNISSE IN DEN DREI THEILEN DES ALTEN POLENS* (München). He went to [Italy](#).

GRAFEN ADAM VON GUROWSKI



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1848

LE PANSLAWISME, SON HISTOIRE, SES VÉRITABLES ÉLÉMENTS: RELIGIEUX, SOCIAUX, PHILOSOPHIQUES ET POLITIQUES; PAR [LE COMTE ADAM DE GUROWSKI](#) (Florence).³

LE PANSLAWISME

3. Written at Monte Cassino.



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1849

[Adam Gurowski](#) emigrated to the United States of America.⁴

4. While lecturing at [Harvard College](#) he would attempt to entrap another professor into a [duel](#) (presumably, given his history, with swords).



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1850

October: [Count Adam de Gurowski](#)'s "Slavic Languages and Literature" appeared in The North American Review (pages 323-359).



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1854

[Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevski](#) completed his 4-year sentence to penal servitude at Omsk in western Siberia and began a 5-year period of compulsory military service in the Russian army at Semipalatinsk in southwest Siberia.



The war correspondent of [The Times of London](#), Billy Russell, witnessing incompetence in the British Army's logistical and medical procedures, inquired of his editor "Am I to tell, or am I to hold my tongue?" Encouraged by this editor, he would file a series of dispatches that would topple the British government and lead to reform of the press laws. At Balaklava just south of Sevastopol in the Crimea in this year, General Sir Colin Campbell confronted his infantry line, preventing them from dashing after a retreating Russian hussar regiment by crying out "Damn all that eagerness!" However, nearby, Lieutenant General James Thomas Brudenell, 7th Earl of Cardigan ordered the light cavalry to charge. French Marshal Pierre Bosquet would comment about that day's action "*C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre. C'est de la folie.*"

[Adam Gurowski](#) had been on the editorial staff of [Horace Greeley](#)'s New-York [Tribune](#), writing articles favorable to the Russian cause in the Crimean War. His [RUSSIA AS IT IS](#) and [THE TURKISH QUESTION](#) (New York: William Taylor & Company, No. 18 Ann Street).

RUSSIA AS IT IS

THE TURKISH QUESTION



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1855

[Adam G. de Gurowski. A Citizen of the United States](#)'s A YEAR OF THE WAR (New York: D. Appleton & Company, 348 Broadway. London: 16 Little Britain).⁵

A YEAR OF THE WAR

Czar Nicholas I died and was succeeded by his 36-year-old son who began a 26-year reign as Aleksandr II. The Crimean War continued. Although scenes from the war front were being photographed using the slow wet collodion process developed by photographer Roger Fenton, there was as yet no way to publish such images.

At about this point, [Lev Nikolævich Tolstòy](#)'s *SEVASTOPOLSKIYE RASSKAZY* (SEVASTOPOL SKETCHES).

[Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevski](#) was at Semipalatinsk in southwest Siberia serving the 2d year of a 5-year period of compulsory military service subsequent to his 4 years of penal servitude.

5. The war in question was the war in the Crimea from 1853 to 1856, of Russia vs. Turkey with her allies England and France.

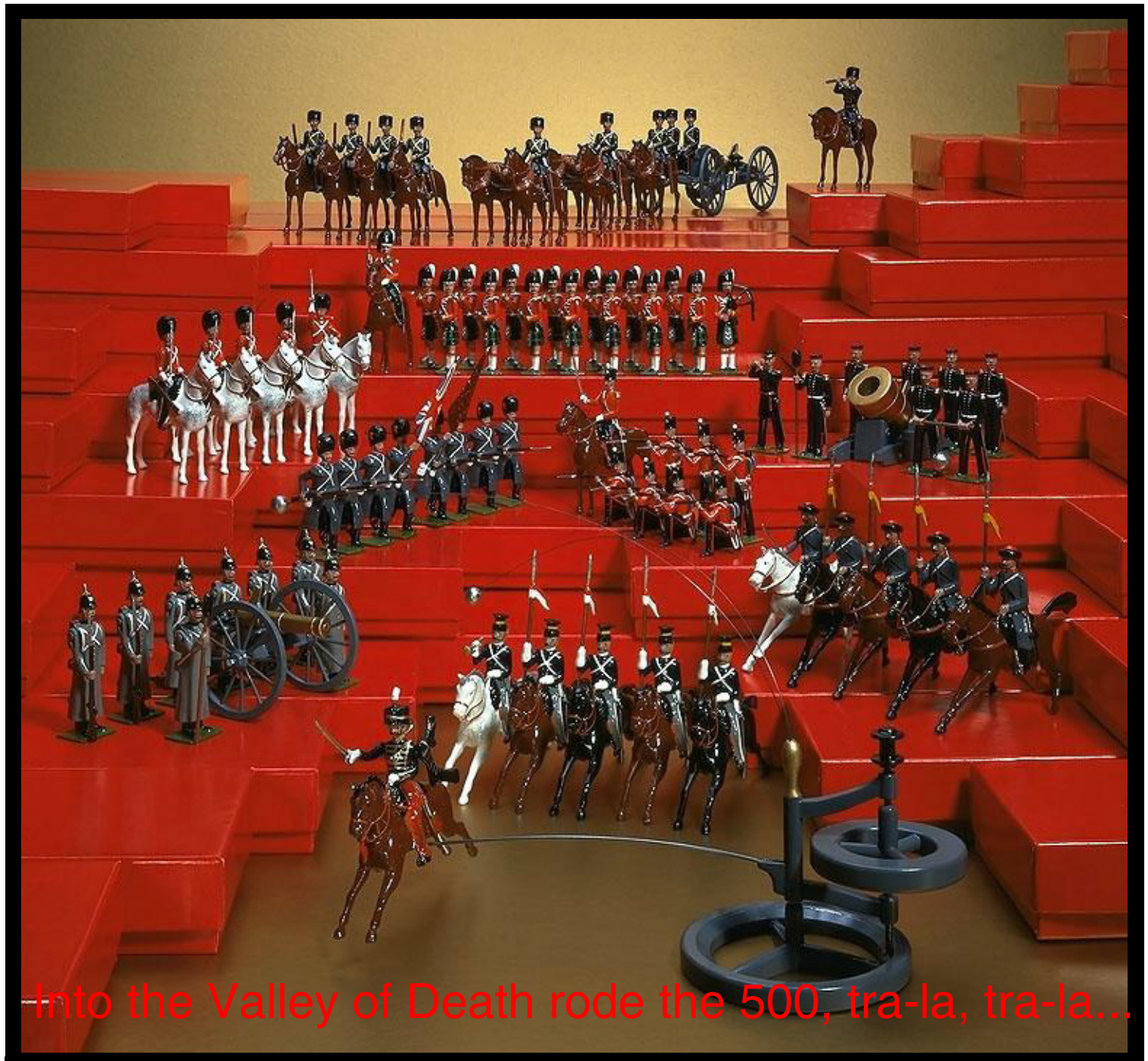
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Into the Valley of Death rode the 500, tra-la, tra-la...



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1857

[Adam G. de Gurowski](#)'s AMERICA AND EUROPE (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 346 & 348 Broadway).

AMERICA AND EUROPE

(In the following year [Henry Thoreau](#) would take notes from this in Indian Notebook #10.)



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1858

February 1, Monday: At Frederick Douglass's home in Rochester, New York, John Brown moved into the spare

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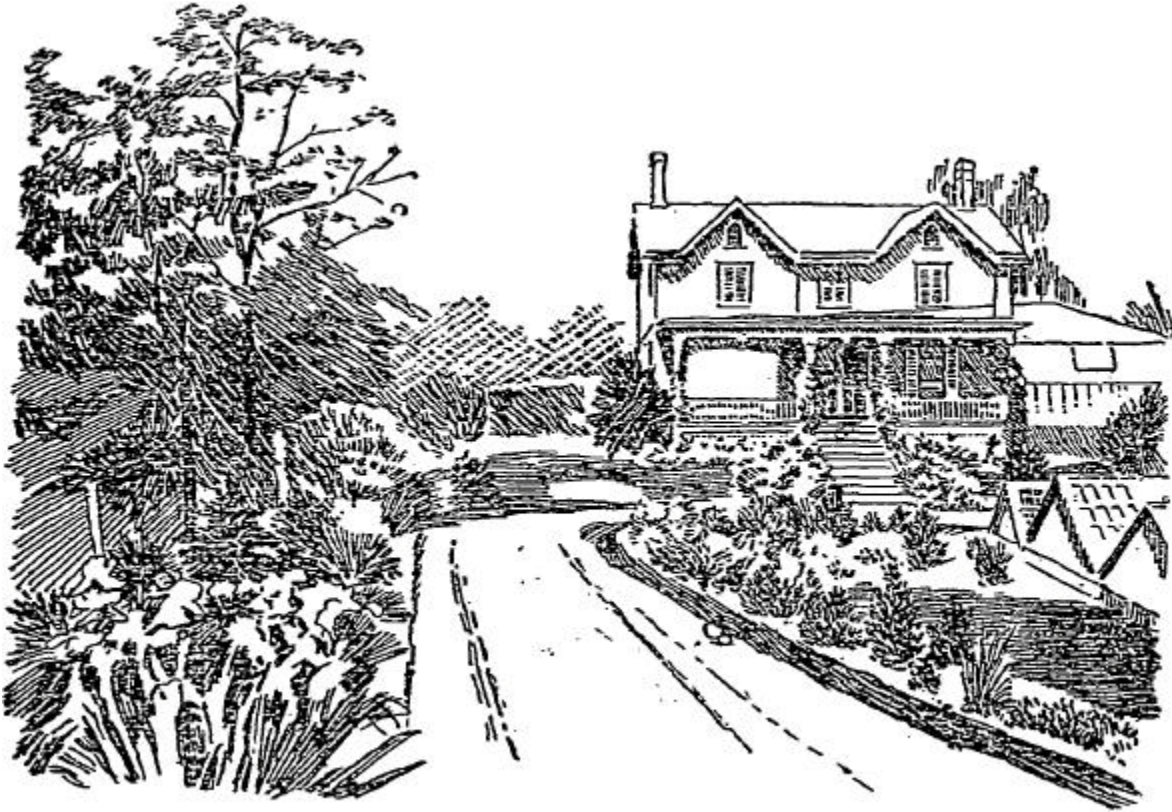
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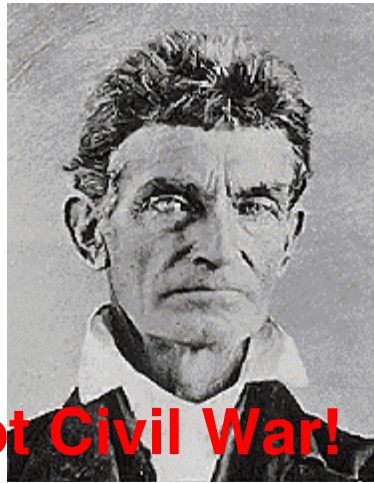
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bedroom and the two of them began to hatch plans for creating in the American South a [servile insurrection](#).



Frederick Douglass's Homestead, Rochester, N. Y.



Race War not Civil War!



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Charlotte L. Forten “Rec’d a letter and papers from Mr. N [[William Cooper Nell](#)] who is very kind ... Mr. P [George W. Putnam of Lynn] and I spent the morning in writing a Parody for Mr. N on the ‘Red, White and Blue.’”

[Waldo Emerson](#) checked out, from the Boston Athenæum, [Adam G. de Gurowski](#)’s AMERICA AND EUROPE (New York: D. Appleton, 1857). [Henry Thoreau](#) would make notes from this in his Indian Notebook #10.

AMERICA AND EUROPE



COUNT ADAM GUROWSKI

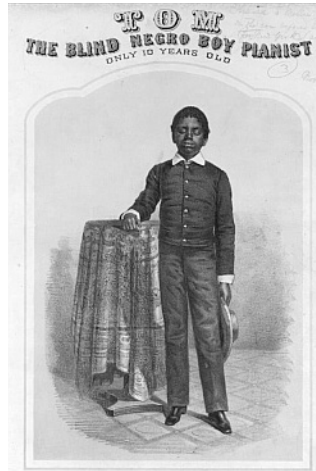
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1860

[Adam Gurowski](#)'s [SLAVERY](#) IN HISTORY (New York: Published by A.B. Burdick. 145 Nassau Street).

SLAVERY IN HISTORY

“Blind Tom” played the White House.



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1861

Because [Adam Gurowski](#) was comfortable in eight languages, his friend Senator Charles Sumner, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was able to get him a job and an income as a translator for the US Department of State in Washington DC (he would translate foreign newspaper articles for their internal use until 1863, when general tactlessness and a relentless mockery of Secretary of State William Henry Seward would result in a belated termination).

[Waldo Emerson](#) to his journal:

Gurowski asked, "Where is this bog: I wish to earn some money: I wish to dig peat." – "Oh, no, indeed, sir, you cannot do this kind of degrading work." – "I cannot be degraded. I am Gurowski."





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1862

[Adam Gurowski](#)'s DIARY, FROM MARCH 4, 1861 TO NOVEMBER 12, 1862 (Boston: Lee and Shepard, successors to Phillips, Sampson & Co.).

3/4/1861 TO 11/12/1862



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1863

[Adam Gurowski](#) was comfortable in eight languages, so his friend Senator Charles Sumner, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, had recommended him as a translator to the Department of State in Washington DC. However, he had there engaged himself in a relentless mockery of Secretary of State William Henry Seward. Sumner had given up on the man's general boorishness and withdrawn support — so in this year the count's employment was terminated.

[Waldo Emerson](#) to his journal:

Eloquence a power, Sketch of Thoreau, in Cause & Effect.






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1864

 President Abraham Lincoln called for 500,000 men to serve three years or the duration of civil war. New-York photographer Mathew Brady traveled through the war-torn South to record scenes of the conflict — including for some reason lots and lots of people lying down on the ground holding very still.

[Adam Gurowski](#)'s DIARY, FROM NOVEMBER 18, 1862, TO OCTOBER 18, 1863 (more notes on the civil war).

11/18/1862 TO 10/18/1863



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1866

May 4, Friday: [Adam Gurowski](#) died of [typhoid fever](#) at the home of Charles Eames in Washington DC. The body would be placed in the Congressional Cemetery. In this year would appear a 3d volume of his civil war DIARY (Washington DC: W.H. & O.H. Morrison).

DIARY: 1863-'64-'65

November: The Atlantic Monthly ran an obituary of [Adam Gurowski](#) (pages 625-34).

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1900

[Julia Ward Howe](#)'s REMINISCENCES, 1819-1867 (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, materials about [Adam Gurowski](#) on pages 220-7):

Shortly after my return to Boston, my husband spoke to me of a new acquaintance, -a Polish nobleman, Adam Gurowski by name,- concerning whom he related the following circumstances. Count Gurowski had been implicated in one of the later Polish insurrections. In order to keep his large estates from confiscation he had made them over to his younger brother, upon the explicit condition that a sufficient remittance should be regularly sent him, to enable him to live wherever his lot should thenceforth be cast. He came to this country, but the remittances failed to follow him, and he presently found himself without funds in a foreign land. Being a man of much erudition, he had made friends with some of the professors of Harvard University. They offered him assistance, which he declined, and it soon appeared that he was working in the gardens of Hovey & Co., in or near Cambridge. His new friends remonstrated with him, pleading that this work was unsuitable for a man of his rank and condition. He replied, "I am Gurowski; labor cannot degrade me." This independence of his position commended him much to the esteem of my husband, and he was more than once invited to our house. Some literary employment was found for him, and finally, through influence exerted at Washington, a position as translator was secured for him in the State Department. He was at Newport during the summer that we passed at the Cliff House, and he it was who gave it the title of Hotel Rambouillet. His proved to be a character of remarkable contradictions, in which really noble and generous impulses contrasted with an undisciplined temper and an insatiable curiosity. While inveighing constantly against the rudeness of American manners, he himself was often guilty of great impoliteness. To give an example: At his boarding-house in Newport a child at table gave a little trouble, upon which the count animadverted with great severity. The mother, waxing impatient, said, "I think, count, that you have no right to say so much about table manners; for you yesterday broke the crust of the chicken pie with your fist, and pulled the meat out with your fingers!"

His curiosity, as I have said, was unbounded. Meeting a lady of his acquaintance at her door, and seeing a basket on her arm, he asked, "Where are you going, Mrs. —, so early, with that basket?" She declined to answer the question, on the ground that the questioner had no concern in her errand. On the evening of the same day he again met the lady, and said to her, "I know now where you were going this morning with that basket." If friends on whom he called were said to be engaged or not at home, he was at great pains to find out how they were engaged, or whether



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they were really at home in spite of the message to the contrary. One gentleman in Newport, not desiring to receive the count's visit, and knowing that he would not be safe anywhere in his own house, took refuge in the loft of his barn and drew the ladder up after him.

And yet Adam Gurowski was a true-hearted man, loyal to every good cause and devoted to his few friends. His life continued to the last to be a very checkered one. When the civil war broke out, his disapprobation of men and measures took expression in vehement and indignant protest against what appeared to him a willful mismanagement of public business. William H. Seward was then at the head of the Department of State, and against his policy the count fulminated in public and in private. He was warned by friends, and at last officially told that he could not be retained in the department if he persisted in stigmatizing its chief as a fool, a timeserver, no matter what. He persevered, and was dismissed from his place. He had been on friendly terms with Charles Sumner, to whom he probably owed his appointment. He tormented this gentleman to such a degree as to terminate all relations between the two. Of this breach Mr. Sumner gave the following account: "The count would come to my rooms at all hours. When I left my sleeping-chamber in the morning, I often found him in my study, seated at my table, perusing my morning paper and probably any other matter which might excite his curiosity. If he happened to come in while a foreign minister was visiting me, he would stay through the visit. I bore with this for a long time. At last the annoyance became insupportable. One evening, after a long sitting in my room, he took leave, but presently returned for a fresh *séance*, although it was already very late. I said to him, 'Count, you must go now, and you must never return.' 'How is this, my dear friend?' exclaimed the count. 'There is no explanation,' said I, 'only you must not come to my room again.'" This ended the acquaintance! The count after this spoke very bitterly of Mr. Sumner, whose procedure did seem to me a little severe.

Unfortunately the lesson was quite lost upon Gurowski, and he continued to make enemies of those with whom he had to do, until nearly every door in Washington was closed to him. There was one exception. Mrs. Charles Eames, wife of a well-known lawyer, was one of the notabilities of Washington. Hers was one of those central characters which are able to attract and harmonize the most diverse social elements. Her house had long been a resort of the worthies of the capital. Men of mark and of intelligence gathered about her, regardless of party divisions. No one understood Washington society better than she did, and no one in it was more highly esteemed or less liable to be misrepresented. Mrs. Eames well knew how provoking and tormenting Count Gurowski was apt to be, but she knew, too, the remarkable qualities which went far to redeem his troublesome traits of character. And so, when the count seemed to be entirely discredited, she stood up for him, warning her friends that if they came to her house they would always be likely to meet this



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unacceptable man. He, on his part, was warmly sensible of the value of her friendship, and showed his gratitude by a sincere interest in all that concerned her. The courageous position which she had assumed in his behalf was not without effect upon the society of the place, and people in general felt obliged to show some respect to a person whom Mrs. Eames honored with her friendship.

I myself have reason to remember with gratitude Mrs. Eames's hospitality. I made more than one visit at her house, and I well recall the distinguished company that I met there. The house was simple in its appointments, for the hosts were not in affluent circumstances, but its atmosphere of cordiality and of good sense was delightful. At one of her dinner parties I remember meeting Hon. Salmon P. Chase, afterwards Chief Justice of the United States, Secretary Welles of the Navy, and Senator Grimes of Iowa. I had seen that morning a life-size painting representing President Lincoln surrounded by the members of his Cabinet. Mr. Chase, I think, asked what I thought of the picture. I replied that I thought Mr. Lincoln's attitude rather awkward, and his legs out of proportion in their length. Mr. Chase laughed, and said, "Mr. Lincoln's legs are so long that it would be difficult to exaggerate them."

I came to Washington soon after the conclusion of the war, and heard that Count Gurowski was seriously ill at the home of his good friend. I hastened thither to inquire concerning him, and learned that his life was almost despaired of. Mr. Eames told me this, and said that his wife and a lady friend of hers were incessant in their care of him. He promised that I should see him as soon as a change for the better should appear. Instead of this I received one day a message from Mrs. Eames, saying that the count was now given up by his physician, and that I might come, if I wished to see him alive once more. I went to the house at once, and found Mrs. Eames and her friend at the bedside of the dying man. He was already unconscious, and soon breathed his last. At Mr. Eames's request I now gave up my room at the hotel and came to stay with Mrs. Eames, who was prostrated with the fatigue of nursing the sick man and with grief for his loss. While I sat and talked with her Mr. Eames entered the room, and said, "Mrs. Howe, my wife has always had a menagerie here in Washington, and now she has lost her faithful old grizzly."

I was intrusted with some of the arrangements for the funeral. Mrs. Eames said to me that, as the count had been a man of no religious belief, she thought it would be best to invite a Unitarian minister to officiate at his funeral. I should add that her grief prevented her from perceiving the humor of the suggestion. I accordingly secured the services of the Rev. John Pierpont, who happened to be in Washington at the time. Charles Sumner came to the house before the funeral, and actually shed tears as he looked on the face of his former friend. He remarked upon the beauty of the countenance, saying in his rather oratorical way, "There is a beauty of life, and there is a beauty of death." The count's good looks had been spoiled in early life



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by the loss of one eye, which had been destroyed, it was said, in a duel. After death, however, this blemish did not appear, and the distinction of the features was remarkable.

Among his few effects was a printed volume containing the genealogy of his family, which had thrice intermarried with royal houses, once in the family of Maria Leszczinska, wife of Louis XV. of France. Within this book he had inclosed one or two cast-off trifles belonging to Mrs. Eames, with a few words of deep and grateful affection. So ended this troublous life. The Russian minister at Washington called upon Mrs. Eames soon after the funeral, and spoke with respect of the count, who, he said, could have held a brilliant position in Russia, had it not been for his quarrelsome disposition. Despite his skepticism, and in all his poverty, he caused a mass to be said every year for the soul of his mother, who had been a devout Catholic. To the brother whose want of faith added the distresses of poverty to the woes of exile, Gurowski once addressed a letter in the following form: "To John Gurowski, the greatest scoundrel in Europe." A younger brother of his, a man of great beauty of person, enticed one of the infantas of Spain from the school or convent in which she was pursuing her education. This adventure made much noise at the time. Mrs. Eames once read me part of a letter from this lady, in which she spoke of "the fatal Gurowski beauty."

"MAGISTERIAL HISTORY" IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



Prepared: January 3, 2015



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ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.