

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1953)

Heft: 1205

Artikel: From the Times of 1853 : Tuesday, March 29, 1853

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690342>

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FROM THE TIMES OF 1853.

Tuesday, March 29, 1853.

(An extract from a three-column letter to the Editor signed "Cosmopolite.")

. . . The soil of Switzerland, like that of England, though of late years in a more restricted manner, has ever been a sure refuge against persecution, of which all sorts and conditions of men have availed themselves in the hour of need. Religionists of all kinds, from Calvin and the English Protestants to Archbishop Franzoni; English cavaliers and English regicides — Ludlow — the Pretender — Emigrés and Conventionists of France — Louis Philippe and Louis Napoleon — Red Republicans and Doctrinaires — dignified ecclesiastics and scandalous mistresses of dotard kings — ex-Parliamentarians of Frankfort and fugitive Durchlauchs — all have had great satisfaction in signing their names in the strangers' book of the universal hotel. As with us, those are most ready to seek asylum in Switzerland who have been most eager to suppress it. . . . No refugee was ever a greater burden upon Switzerland, and none ever met with more generous support in adversity than M. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte. No Sovereign has ever made more peremptory demands upon Switzerland for the withdrawal of support from refugees than His Imperial Majesty Napoleon III. Most true it is that in these later years the Swiss people have shielded many thousands of fugitives from the virulence of triumphant hypocrisy and the vindictive cruelty of fear; and to the charge of humanity, the accusation of honour, they must plead guilty. But that which is further alleged, that political exiles in Switzerland have, in recent times, been allowed to commit acts of hostility against foreign countries, is by no means true: the assertion is wholly false that the Federal authorities have connived at their plots and encouraged their designs; there is no evidence to show that the Cantonal Governments have been guilty of such conduct, although there may be reason to believe that persons among those Governments have sometimes so far forgotten their duty as to abet the

most reprehensible intrigues against their neighbours: it is not proved that the established order of any State is, or ever has been, endangered by the residence in Switzerland of men who have fled from it. . . .

AN ATTRACTIVE SWISS MAGAZINE.

The art of producing a high-class illustrated magazine is no longer an Anglo-American monopoly. Among the many periodicals printed in Switzerland there is one which compares not unfavourably with similar English publications. We refer to the "Schweizer Journal" published by A. G. Fachschriften-Verlag, Zurich under the Editorship of Albert Häusermann.

It is a monthly magazine, described as "Monatsschrift über Schweizerisches Leben, Denken und Schaffen", profusely and beautifully illustrated, and adorned with an artistic coloured frontispiece. The annual subscription for readers residing abroad is Sw.fcs33.—, single copies cost Sw.fsc..2.80.

The text, written in German, consists of literary contributions of a high intellectual order, all by Swiss writers. There are historical, antiquarian and biographical sketches, studies of geographical and geological subjects, interspersed with fiction and poetry, and articles on the arts.

To those who wish to keep abreast of the cultural development of Switzerland, the magazine offers, in a tasteful and artistic form, instruction and entertainment.

MAY.

Enjoy the wonderful month of May
Every new leaf the trees unfold
The wealth of blossoms snowwhite array
Cheers with beauty the young and the old
And fills their hearts with new hope and song
Bless him who still keeps, when old and grey
Heedless of all life's trials and wrong
For a niche of his heart, that blossom of May.

H. Ellison.

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