

STRZELECKI. A WITTY GENTLEMAN



“One of the most accomplished and interesting persons. You will be enchanted with him, everybody is so without exception, he is so gentlemanlike, elegant, so very clever, so accomplished, so full of fire and vivacity and withal, so amiable, only a bit satirical, but not too much so.”

—Lady Jane Franklin

“His vivacity and fire, his amusing anecdotes, his wide, laughing, mobile, bitter mouth.”

—Sophia Cracroft, Sir Franklin's niece



Samuel Prior Hill, artist. 'Our Government House (Franklin)' (ca. 1860). Watercolour. Albert Library and Museum of Fine Arts, State Library of Tasmania.

“Papa had a new friend too, in Count Paul de Strzelecki (...). He had arrived straight from the bush, in walking-jacket with buttoned flap pockets and strong corduroy trousers, a knapsack full of geological specimens on his back and wide-brimmed felt hat on his head.

It was just when they were having a big dinner for the officers of Erebus and Terror, but Papa had welcomed him like an old friend: ‘Come in, come in!’ he cried heartily. ‘Never mind your bush dress; we are all travelers here.’

He had made himself entirely charming, kissing [Lady Franklin's] hand with courteous grace, always respectful yet subtly conveying that he would, in other circumstances have wished to kiss more than her hand. His accent was fascinating, his manners were impeccable, and his face had that rugged strength, that air of decision of the outdoor man of action.”

—Eleanor, daughter of Sir John Franklin, quoted by Nancy Cato in her novel ‘North-West by South’, p. 163.

Caricature portrait of Count Strzelecki by Richard Doyle. © The Trustees of the British Museum.



“A most delightful man to converse with... cheerful in conversation, had a rich store of anecdotes, which he told in most interesting and often amusing manner, with his strongly foreign accent... he was cheerful, withal, high-spirited, of powerful physique, and gifted with a rich fund of scientific lore.”

—James Fenton



“Pole's affable charm and intellectual companionship.”

—Captain George Grey

“Sir Edmund de Strzelecki was not less universally known both in England and in other parts of the world. (...) His foreign accent added piquancy to the anecdotes which he told with dramatic humour, and his genial courtesy never failed.”

—The Freeman's Journal, 1st January 1874



Strzelecki & Lady Jane Franklin by Eric Grell.



“Another naturalized foreigner who added much to our cheerfulness was Count Strzelecki. I think he first became known by his exertions in Skibberen, in the year of the Irish famine. He was most entertaining. I once returned from Yorkshire in the same railway-carriage with him, and the journey seemed all too short, he told such lovely stories and made me laugh so heartily. One was of a lady alone in the train with a man whom she feared was mad, and her terror reached its height when he took out a knife and brandished it. She was relieved when he plunged his hand into another pocket and pulled out an orange. Another story he was fond of telling was an old bachelor in the Albany, paralyzed, and lying in bed in charge of a nurse who, before his eyes, packed up all his valuables and prepared to run off with them; but first she said, leaning over the bed:

“My dear, I must go; but before we part, I will give you one kiss.”

His way of telling these stories, his inimitable drolery, and funny English, and animated gestures, gave effect to what at second-hand may not appear amusing.”

—Mary C. M. Simpson



Emigration ^{to} AUSTRALIA.

Having barely concluded his involvement in the Irish Famine relief operations, Strzelecki plunged into the commencing activities of the Family Colonization Loan Society (...). Later he was involved in the Lord Herbert's Emigration Committee's activities as well as The Duke of Wellington Emigration Committee.

L. Poszkowski, Strzelecki, Reflections on His Life, p. 261



PROMOTING FEMALE EMIGRATION 1849

Throughout Great Britain the male population is greatly outnumbered by the females (...). In the British Colonies the inequality is reversed: in 1847 there were in New South Wales only 41,900 females to 83,000 males; (...)

It is proposed to take measures with a view to abate this double evil - to supply the Colonies with the population which is the crying want of society there, and at the same time to redress this increasing grievance of the mother country.

Morning Post of 22nd December 1849



SIDNEY HERBERT'S FEMALE EMIGRATION SCHEME April 1851

On Friday the thirteenth consignment of emigrants under this scheme left Gravesend for Sydney, in the Malacca (...). The number of emigrants who left on Friday amounts to 35 (...). Up to the close of last year 409 distressed females were sent abroad through the instrumentality of this fund.

Devize and Wiltshire Gazette of 24th April 1851

FAMILY COLONIZATION SOCIETY 1853

This Society, originated by Mrs. Caroline Chisholm, has recently had placed at its disposal by the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales a sum of £10,000 for the purpose of promoting emigration to that colony.

Newcastle Guardian of 11th of June 1853



WELLINGTON EMIGRATION FUND FOR UNEMPLOYED MEN 1857

Wellington Emigration Fund Committee 1857

His Grace the Duke of Wellington, Chairman; Count P.E. de Strzelecki, C.B., member, as well as the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, M.P., the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor Thomas Baring, M.P., Thomson Hankey, M.P. Matthew Uselli, Esq. - all his personal friends.

This Committee was formed to assist the unemployed men. "They are able and willing to work; and being unable to obtain employment in this country, they consider their only hope is an immediate emigration; and that although, owing to their almost absolute destitution, they are compelled to ask for an entirely free passage to the colonies."

Morning Post of 13th April 1857



Illustration: The Duke of Wellington

FEMALE EMIGRATION May 1853

The excellent work set on foot some four years ago by the Hon. Mr. Sidney Herbert, having for its object the providing the means of emigration for the most helpless class of our country women who obtain a scanty livelihood from needlework, was brought to a close yesterday by the dispatch of 40 young women, being the thirty-second party sent out under the auspices of the Benevolent ladies and gentlemen who control the disposition of the Female Emigration Fund. (...)

The party yesterday left Blackfriars-pier at 10 o'clock accompanied by (...) and Count Strzelecki. After a very pleasant run to Gravesend, the steamer, conveying the party, brought up alongside the Walmer Castle. The emigrants, having been conducted to their cabin, the ladies and gentlemen accompanying them were permitted to go on board and inspect the arrangements for their comfort (...). Farewell addresses were delivered (...). The company then partook of luncheon in the chief cabin - Capt. Pryce doing the honours of the ship in a very liberal manner. The steamer returned to London at five o'clock.

Morning Post of 18th of May 1853



Illustration: The Duke of Wellington



Illustration: The Duke of Wellington

MIGRATION SUCCESS

Many migrants whom Paul Edmund Strzelecki assisted became important members of a growing nation. Charles Hardess found a job at the Supreme Court Registry Office. His son George became a reader for the Victorian Parliament within months of his arrival and was elected to the Hotham council. Their descendants became teachers, artists, publicans, mayors and miners. In 2014 the great-great-grandson of Charles Hardess was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia.

None of this could have been possible without Strzelecki.

EMIGRANT SHIP PASSENGERS



Bridget



Mary Doherty



Charles Hardess

INFO 0408 897 358



SIR STRZELECKI'S LONDON ADDRESS 23 SAVILE ROW (1855 - 1873)

From about 1855 until his death in 1873 Sir Paul Edmund de Strzelecki, the Australian explorer, occupied the part of the house which after 1864 was numbered 23, the auctioneers' part being numbered 22. His residence is described as "a suite of rooms - a modest bachelor's establishment". In 1880 work to the value of some £1322 was about to be undertaken by Messrs. Eales and Son, architects. The work probably included the building of a lecture hall perhaps used by the Y.M.C.A.; this was doubtless Burlington Hall which in 1893 was situated over the auction room. From 1896 the upper part and basement of the house were occupied as the headquarters of the Alpine Club, until 1937.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vols31-2/p12/pp517-545>

The fact is that Strzelecki occupied a splendid apartment at 23 Savile Row in London. He had a handsome gallery of paintings, four servants, elegant coaches, two carriage-horses, a riding horse. He led a life like a lord... [His cousin, Nancyza Zmichowska in her memoirs, *O Piewle Edmundzie Strzeleckim*, Athenaeum, Warsaw 1876, s. 569]



"SPLENDID APPARTMENT"
OR "MODEST BACHELOR'S
ESTABLISHMENT"?

His apartment at 23 Savile Row,
Mayfair, City of Westminster



Here after 23 Savile Row
The Alpine Club

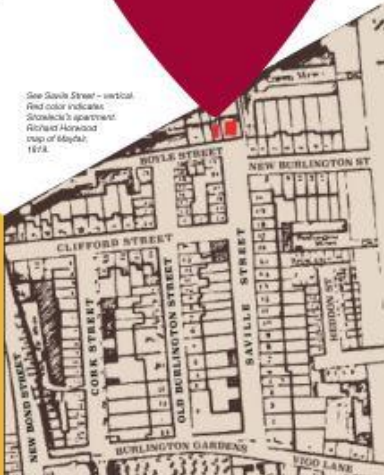


Alpine Club Reading Room



Savile Row, bomb damage, 1894.
Photo: Imperial War Museum
Copyright © 1994 (JG1864)

See Savile Street - vertical.
Red color indicates
Strzelecki's apartment.
Richard Horwood
map of Mayfair,
1818.



Burlington Fine Arts 1867,
photo: Henry Bedford Lemere



His neighborhood: 23 Savile Row,
Royal Geographical Society, off Piccadilly

BURGLARY STORY

Published in *Pall Mall Gazette*, 24th January 1868

At Marlborough-street police-court, Frederick Johnson, described as a labourer, but refusing his address, was charged before Mr. Koss with stealing at No. 23, Savile-row, an opera glass, a gold chain and seals, a medal and a quantity of other property belonging to the Count Paul Strzelecki. Henry Stokes, valet to the Count Strzelecki, said: "Yesterday evening I dressed the Count for dinner, and after he left I set everything right in the room. I went out, and on my return the servant who had gone upstairs to light a fire in the room found the prisoner at the count's drawers, and in consequence of the alarm she gave I rushed upstairs and saw the prisoner coming downstairs. I seized him and sent the servant for a constable, and before his arrival the prisoner got me into Boyle Street, where I had a struggle with him. He then got from my grasp and I was tripped up. I got up as soon as I could and followed him into Cork-street, where he was overtaken and taken back to Savile-row. I returned there with a constable to see whether there was any one else in the house, but there was not. I then went to the Vine-street station and made the charge, and at the station a quantity of articles, the property of the count, were found on the prisoner. I believe the articles to be of the value of about £40". The prisoner said he saw the door open and went in. He was remanded for a week.

