

Konopiansky  
Edgewood  
1854

Lyons 19<sup>th</sup> October 1854

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir,

I hoped to pay a visit to our capital during the vacations of the Tribunals, & then thank you for the kindness you showed in accepting my insignificant present, but the Italian proverb "l'uomo propone e l'Iddio dispone" once more found its application in the hindrance, annoyance, & danger, which the cholera has caused to the inhabitants of all these Islands.

Now we have got rid of it - tho' more than one of its evil consequences still annoy us all - The living is still comparatively more expensive than it was before - Those among the inhabitants that had fled for safety are still either scattered

the authorities & the physicians themselves, who, with regard to the cholera, could not boast of having more experience than the apothecaries had. Among the latter, young Marchetti played his part with the best success, for his long legs enabled him to give prompt aid to those that applied to him for such; & then, well provided with all sorts of salts & vinegars, he lavished his remedies on the lower classes, who found the surest proof of Dr. Marchetti's unparalleled abilities in the hot frowning they felt when he approached his bottles to their noses. Next came his method of curing his patients. I have it from a very good source, from one who was truly a patient while attended by Dr. Marchetti. "I caught cold," my acquaintance told me, "and I thought nothing of my indisposition, but in order to please my wife I sent for the doctor, & the unknown to me Dr. Marchetti came

wire, it's her fault if she died; I broke  
my head with efforts to find the medi-  
cine that will cure the cholera, & I can  
tell you I have found it, & it is so ef-  
ficacious that the woman you are al-  
luding to could not resist its curative  
powers - I assure you, however, that the  
other patients will all be cured! "Pray,"  
said his principal, "keep your discover-  
y to yourself, otherwise I shall be obliged  
to report the effects of its efficacy to the  
Authorities. Such were the tragicomical  
events of last summer - Those of a  
purely serious nature, as exceeding the  
narrow limits of a letter, deserve of a  
separate chapter, which I am, <sup>now</sup> writing  
& <sup>which</sup> according to circumstances, will be  
sooner or later published.

as if a war-tornly cruel enemy had in-  
vaded the place; and when they saw  
the Susceptor of Police assuming a  
factious & care - nothing air. While he  
was preparing the implements that served  
to cure the sick, they shrunk back  
as prejudiced people do at the sight  
of him, who undertakes to defy a  
Tampfire. - However, in the midst of  
such tragic scenes the comic was also  
interlarded in so ludicrous a manner  
that we could not help indulging to  
the amusement which it caused.

Those, who contributed the most to this  
sort of gaiety were the apprentices that  
came to the aid of the physicians of  
this town, & to whom the lives of the  
inhabitants were entrusted by both

the authorities & the physicians themselves, who, with regard to the cholera, could not boast of having more experience than the apprentices had. Among the latter, young Marchetti played his part with the best success, for his long legs enabled him to give prompt aid to those that applied to him for such; & then, well provided with all sorts of salts & vinegars, he lavished his anodynes on the lower classes, who found the surest proof of Dr. Marchetti's unparalleled abilities in the hot pinching they felt when he approached his bottles to their noses. Next came his method of curing his patients. I have it from a very good source, from one who was truly a patient while attended by Dr. Marchetti. "I caught cold," my acquaintance told me, "and I thought nothing of my indisposition, but in order to please my wife I sent for the doctor, & the unknown to me Dr. Marchetti came

to see me. Thinking that he was a physician I stood up to receive him with every attention, but he took no notice whatever of my civilities, he only put his bottles under the noses of all those that were in the room, & of my poor baby, which was crying, & sneezing, & picking with the pain it suffered, then turning his face to the door of the street "halloo!" he cried out, & presently four dirty refugees, of those that came from the frontiers, walked in, & at his command of putting me down, they caught <sup>me</sup> without any ceremonies with the intention of putting me on my bed to rub me. I wince not only my reluctance but my indignation too at such a treatment; but he repeated his order, adding "don't wait, put him down at once" & then a scree would have ensued had not Dr. Scappi prevented it by his

appearance. A prescription had been already written by Dr. Marchetti, but even this part of the treatment was not approved of by his principal Dr. Scassi, who saved me from worse than cholera.

And still when Marchetti was ordered to give his aid in another part of the town, his successor, a tolerably clever young man, had the mortification of hearing that the inhabitants of that section had petitioned for the restoration of the long doctor / Dr. Marchetti.

Another of the apprentices, Dr. Simon, was so elated with his functions, that he boasted of having saved Syria from total extermination; upon which Dr. Parascheva, his principal, upbraided him for having killed a woman, who was only suffering from cholera; but Dr. Simon rejoined "the fault is not

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I am sorry I have no other news to give you but those which are already known to you since yesterday - The Captain of the Austrian boat only added that more troops were being sent from Constantinople to the Crimea while he was leaving the former place - I have not words enough to express to you the gratification which I feel while contemplating with my mind's eye the glorious sight of the reduction of Sebastopol - In the destruction of the fortresses & of the fleet I view Ambition's & Despotism's strongest bulwark annihilated, as I view the man, who dared to couple those despicable names with that of Religion, kicked down to prostration & trodden upon by the foot of Civilization.

you very well know that my

private or individual interests gain  
nothing by the chastisement of the  
Ogar's insulting protervity, but no  
one belonging to Science can think or  
feel as the generality of our Nation  
unluckily do. Hence you will fancy  
how wretchedly I must be to reside in  
a place where public opinion forms  
the reverse of my way of thinking.  
But it is only here that I shall  
be able to make - not my fortune -  
but the sum, which is necessary for  
my passage to America - In order  
to facilitate the execution of my plan  
I offered my services to the Minister  
of Public Instruction, & the Comar  
was kind enough to recommend

my offer, certifying the want, which  
the students of the Gymnasium  
feel of being taught ~~either~~ both the  
Commercial, <sup>law</sup> & the English language  
which, (the first better than the  
last) I might teach with one half  
the emolument that the Government  
must give to regular Professors.

But, this advantageous proposal  
did not even attract the Minister's  
attention. - Let us do without it, tho'  
slower for my plan. - I have at least  
the consolation of thinking that your  
noble-minded countrymen will aid me  
to establish myself in their land  
of happiness. Besides the gentle-  
men that I know at Brauplia, I  
also know M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Carnes &  
M<sup>r</sup> Lowe, who made clearer the  
ray

of good fate, which at last the clouded  
horizon of my life opened to my sight.  
And when I mention those names, yours  
is above all understood as first among  
those that claim my gratitude, for  
your name was with all of them the  
best recommendation. I have remarked  
you hesitate to encourage me to pursue  
the course that I have traced, but ten  
times greater difficulties than those,  
which I expect to meet with are not  
so agonizing as my position, among the  
numberless reasons that cannot but grieve  
even the most equanimous of men.

I was sorry to see Mr. Buell in so weak  
& uncertain health. He seemed to me  
greatly altered both physically & men-  
tally. Pray remember me most respect-  
fully to Mrs. Will & the other ladies &  
believe me Reverend Sir, your most obedient  
I hoped to send this, ~~with~~ most devoted servant  
some papers belonging to you by Mr. Williamson - but he has put off his trip. A. Cassin