

POLAND AND RUSSIA.

The Czar's Government in Poland and on the Danube.

The Historic Relations of Poland and Russia—Present Relations of that People to European Politics—The So-called Emancipation of the Polish Peasants—Credits Due to the Polish Revolutionists—Greek and Latin Culture—Etc.

[Prepared especially for the Post by a Polish Journalist.]

Since the war, now raging on the Danube, has occupied the minds of the whole civilized world, a more diligent attention is turned to the Polish question and to the relations of Poland to Russia in particular and to all the other Slavonic races in general.

POLAND, IN ITS HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT.

Has played a double part. In the first, it sheltered the Slavonic tribes against the German conquest; in the other, it defended the whole of Europe against the Turkish invasions.

In the course of time the Teutonic order settled in Prussia—at that time belonging to Poland—and the Order of the Knights, or Brothers of the Sword, in Poland. Under the pretense of converting the Prussians, Lithuanians and Letonians to Christianity, they extended their power over the Slavonic tribes.

THE POWER OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE INCREASED.

Threatening not only Poland but the whole of Europe. At the same time the victories of the Hero King (Joannes III), Sobieski, like a flash of lightning follow one after the other. The battles at Leopold, Polona and Chocim seem to be only the prelude to the last terrific fight at Vienna in 1683, in which that Hero King, at the head of 20,000 Poles and the remains of the routed German army, defeated and put to flight about half a million Turks and Tartars.

EPOCH OF REGENERATION.

And strove for superiority with the celebrated universities of Oxford, Paris, Padua and Bologna. Thousands of students found therein the fountain of knowledge and enlightenment. Celebrated men, nourished at its breast, occupied prominent positions in the councils of Constantinople and Basil.

At the end of the seventeenth and in the eighteenth century the downfall of Poland began. The principal, among many other reasons, was the total exhaustion—although victorious—in the Turkish wars, which were beyond all experience destructive. The political downfall was succeeded by that of enlightenment and education.

RUSSIA APPEARED ON THE EUROPEAN STAGE.

We shall see how the "protectrix," Russia, played her first debut. It is hard to believe, but the facts prove it. He who does not flatter, and with the noble English Lord, Dudley Stuart, can say, *causa non facta sequitur*, cannot deny this fact.

executed in 1772. The "protectrix," Russia, together with Austria and Prussia, contracted the boundaries of a heroic nation, whose blood had been spilled in struggles for the most sacred ideas. Twenty years afterwards the nation awakened to a new life; the Diet of the 3d of May, 1792, promulgated a liberal constitution; religious tolerance and equal civil rights were secured to all inhabitants, without exception.

THADDEUS KOSCIUSKO.

Washington's friend, posted himself at the head of his nation. The struggle lasted but a short time. After the victories of Dubienka and Raclawice, followed the disaster of Mlaciejowice; the carnage of Praga, in which the Slavonic Russian soldiers butchered 16,000 persons—aged men, women and children.

In 1795 began the Russian government of Poland. They had slain the nation; stioin its political existence, by denying the rights of representation and self-government, and what remained? Those rights which are denied to nobody, and which constitute the fundamental and inalienable rights of every people—religion, patriotism, language and literature.

The cure of starvation consisted in giving them to eat every third day only, but the cure of watering was performed in a particular manner. Monks and nuns totally undressed and nude were driven to a river or pond covered with thin ice, and pulled in by ropes.

THE GILDED CHAMBERS OF ST. PETERSBURG.

Wherefrom the orders were given. Inhabitants of several villages took flight in the deep recesses of the forests. Not having friends of their own faith, and not willing to summon the orthodox, they married, baptized children and buried the dead without any spiritual assistance.

A STATE INSTITUTION.

A horrible condition this, obliging the son to deliver his own father into the hands of the prosecutor; a horrible situation, forcing the whole nation to take an oath to act in concert with the power, that is, to act against the country.

the pupils to talk Polish to each other does not exist now. Although in Posen the removal of the native Polish language from the public schools is not constitutional and against the solemn royal promises, the act cannot be compared with similar prohibitions in Russian Poland.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT ASSERTS

That it has brought to a successful end the "emancipation" of the peasants in Poland, to which the majority of the Polish nation was opposed. In consequences of the expression used, "emancipation," everybody would form the idea: First, that the Polish peasants were like the negroes in America; second, that their servile condition lasted till our time; third, that the Russian government really had it abolished.

From that personal work originated the so-called "pauszeryznos," that is the obligation to compulsory labor due to the lord of the manor in certain days of the week. In case the latter was too severe or demanded too much, the peasant—so he was not *gleba adscriptus*—was at liberty to leave the manor and to look for another holding under more convenient conditions, or to devote his time to any art, trade or mechanical labor.

What, then, has the Russian government done for the peasants? It endowed the peasants with lands, which they possessed before, on condition that they paid for them yearly a certain rent, in money or in work.

In Polish law the relations of the subjects to the masters were from the most remote times better defined than in any other European country, for they were in Poland not *gleba adscripti*, and the land endowment would have come earlier if Poland had maintained the rights of self-government.

A RUSSIAN INITIATIVE.

Earlier or later it must have come, with the spirit of progress, and for the accelerated introduction of the statute the peasants are indebted to the Polish revolutionary movements. When, after the outbreak of the last revolution (1863), a revolutionary government was constituted, its first act was to promulgate the instant endowment of the peasants.

When the Russian official organs state they had the peasants on their side, they are answered by most striking historical facts: Thaddeus Kosciusko gained his greatest victory at Raclawice through the assistance of Polish peasants armed with scythes, called *kosyuzni*, and in the revolution of 1833 detachments of infantry armed with scythes instead of firearms were mostly composed of Polish peasants.

support the common schools and teachers. All expenses of that kind have to be paid by the inhabitants. Because the ukase forbids the teaching of the Polish language in common schools, the inhabitants do not pay and do not send the children to school. The only reason is that they shall not be compelled to learn the Russian language.

THE DIET OF THE NOBILITY

Submitted to the Czar a petition calling his attention to the condition of the peasants as not being in accord with humanity and civilization. The Czar in the same year issued an "ukase," forbidding the nobility—

The foregoing presents a picture of the relation of Poland to Russia and of the Russian government to Poland. This is important, throwing a light not only upon the relations mentioned, but upon the events now pending on the Danube and upon the Russian policy from the beginning of its existence.

HALF A MILLION SOLDIERS TO THE DANUBE.

In order to liberate and unite the Slavonians, has done in past times, and is doing in our days, to make the union of the Slavonic race impossible. Such union demands that the different nations should find security under Russian protection.

THE RUSSIAN, A RESULT OF A NATIONAL-EXTERMINATING POLICY.

At the time when Turkey secured to all its citizens their national rights, at the same time Russia expelled the Polish language from the judicial courts. What a confusion of conception, what a historical wrong, what an inconsequence of hypocrisy.

The union of the Germans was far easier than that of the Slavonic race. The Germans were divided by different forms of government, different jargons, different religious confessions, but they had something common uniting them—their culture.

While the Bohemians, Poles and generally the Slavonians in the West have accepted Christianity from Rome, and with it the Latin and General European culture, Russia and the Slavonians in the East have accepted Christianity from the Greeks, and with it the Byzantine culture. Nothing stands more in contradictory opposition than these, and their differences have influenced the nations in their historical development, in their governmental forms, in their spirit of laws, in their character, their customs, their way of thinking, so that the difference between a Montenegro and a Bohemian or Czech, in spite of their common Slavonic descent, is far greater than that between the same Bohemian and an Englishman.

That nation was the link to a possible union of the Eastern and Western Slavonians, regarding ethnography and civilization. Had Russia sincerely intended a union, had it sincerely and on liberal principles aimed to that point, then it must have supported the Ruthenian nationality, the Unitarian Greek Catholic religion, and the trausitive Latin Byzantine culture.

The present Russian policy can be defined in few words: Either the appearance of Russia on the Danube—if it sincerely aims to ameliorate the loss of the Southern Slavonians, if it sincerely aims to a future union—is the greatest political nonsense, a stupidity of a blind diplomacy, or it is intended only to cloak by that pretense Russia's desire for conquests at the expense of the

OTHER SLAVONIANS.

Pressing upon them, instead of a constitutional government, the despotism of the Czar. In the first case it is only a political adventure; in the second, a new political robbery, and must be condemned by all nations. What has been said may explain the relations of Poland to Russia, and to the events now pending on the Danube.

Said a Main street man to a German friend, who was complaining of not having anything to do: "Why don't you form a circus and teach German? Your friend Schmidt has a night class, and he manages to make a few dollars in that way." "What did the Schmidt write under the portrait?" "Yes, the same." "Vj, he don't speak out English language like me. Ven he say moolle he say moolle; he don't can say moolle like me; and ven he say blay he say blay; he don't say blay like me."—Memphis Avalanche.

Take away your Spartan boy and his fox. The lad who puts his lighted cigar in his pocket when he meets his father, and while the Sunday school teacher said, while the cigar is burning him, is infinitely more worthy of admiration.