

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

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Vol. I—No. 15

APRIL 16, 1915

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MIECZYSLAW AND DĄBRÓWKA Spreading Christianity in Poland, in 965



From about 840 dates the legendary Origin of the Piast Dynasty of Dukes which in the male Line ruled over Polish Territory till 1370. Ziemowit, the supposed second Ruler of the Piast Dynasty, was the first whose History is to any Extent to be relied upon; and it was not till a Century after, when his Descendant Mieczysław I. (962—92) occupied the Throne and became through Marriage to Dąbrowka, a Bohemian Princess, a Convert to Christianity, that Poland really came into the Field of European History.

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Our Correspondence

Editor "FREE POLAND",
984 Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:—

I take the liberty of sending you the enclosed article of "The Destruction of Kalisz" and I would be very glad, if you would find it available for your esteemed magazine. This article is a lightly shortened translation of the recital of the former Mayor of Kalisz, Mr. Bukowinski, which was printed in the Russian newspaper "Rosskya vedomosty", Moscow (No. 174, Aug. 1914.)

Although the events described in this article took place several months ago, I think that the publication of same could present a recent interest because:

1) While much has been written regarding the events in Belgium, the similar events in Poland were almost not enlightened in American press.

2) We are told that two eminent Poles, Sienkiewicz and Paderewski, will soon come to the United States in order to manifest here the sufferings of Poland in the present war. Thus, it seems that the publication of the recital of Mr. Bukowinski could now be of recent interest.

I would greatly appreciate to receive several copies of the number with this article, if you find it available. If not available, will you kindly return me the manuscript?

Yours very respectfully,

W. KOTCHETKOW
St. Louis, March 21, 1915.

Mr. W. J. Showalter on Poland



AMERICAN sympathy can be given without reserve to "partitioned Poland", the magnificent, much-promising empire of yesterday, the keen suffering battlefield of today, whose farms and industry, villages and cities are being made war-offerings and whose people are fighting one another under three different flags; for Poland is the least concerned sacrifice in the European struggle. Polish lands comprise almost the entire eastern war-theater. This people, their chequered, turbulent history, their proud boasts and dearest hopes, and their peculiar characteristics are carefully explained to Americans in a historico-geographical study made for the National Geographic society by William Joseph Showalter.

Mr. Showalter says of the brilliant middle-European

kingdom of yesterday: "In size she outranks nearly every nation of the continent. Even now Russia alone of the European nations is larger than Poland was at her greatest. In population she stood at the forefront of Europe; only Russia and Germany today have greater populations than are to be found in the lands that once were Poland; for unpartitioned Poland had an area of 272,000 square miles, and the lands that once lay within her boundaries now support a population of 50 million. In area she was as large as the German empire, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland and Denmark together; there dwells a present population larger than those of France, Belgium and Holland combined."

Though 117 years have gone by since the final partition of Poland among Russia, Austria and Germany, and though the conquerors have made the most vigorous efforts to assimilate the Polish people, the Pole today, if anyway changed, is more intensely national, Mr. Showalter points out, more passionately devoted to an ideal of a re-established Poland than ever before. The Pole has a fervent love for all things Polish, this writer continues:

"He will tell you that their cooking is better than that of Paris; that their scenery is more beautiful than that of any other country; that their language is the most melodious that falls from human lips; that there is no dance in the world to be compared with the mazurka; that the most beautiful women on the face of the earth and the bravest men who ever lived are to be found among them; that the Poles are a cheerful, hospitable, easily pleased, and an imaginative race; and that yet, in spite of and notwithstanding all this, they are the most unhappy people and theirs the most hapless nation in history."

Poland was three times partitioned. The final apportionment was made at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, which left to Russia 220,500, Prussia 26,000 and Austria, 35,000 square miles. After this distribution, the conquerors sought to blot out all memories of the kingdom, Poland, and Mr. Showalter enumerates among the repressive measures employed to this end those forbidding the use of the Polish language, the use of the national dress—even at carnivals—the singing of national songs and the displaying of national coats-of-arms.

The Poles lost their place among the family of nations because they were the victims of an unrestrained individualism. Yet, where the Poles are willing to surrender some part of their individualism in the service of an idea—as in the case in the United States—they make the best of citizens. America is a decided gainer by the host of Poles who have sought her shores, is the conclusion of the writer.



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To The Government of the Dominion of Canada

The tragic position of the Poles in the present war, which compels them to engage in a fratricidal conflict, has been recognized by the whole cultural world. Partitioned Poland is reaping a bloody harvest. The famous manifesto, proclaimed by the commander-in-chief to the Poles, purports to do away with the landmarks of the partition and again recognizes Poland as one integral nation.

The acknowledgement of the manifesto is the most important testimony of the good-will of the Allies.

From the times of the partition of Poland we have never ceased to be one nationality, we have refused all attempts at assimilation,—a fact which we thought has been recognized by the whole world, with the exception of Prussia.

However, to our sincere regret and to our greatest surprise we learn that the Canadian Government still divides us into three categories, according to our compulsory allegiance. We find that the Poles of the Austrian and the Prussian provinces are subjected to unpleasant limitations, arrests and persecutions.

We have received, for instance, from one of the well-known Poles in Canada the following letter:

"I herewith beg to be informed if the Poles from Canada can cross the border in order to get out of Canada. We here are undergoing unheard of tortures. The Poles from Austria and Prussia are denied any work, and Pole-baiting is of every day occurrence. From all that is heard one gets the impression as if we Poles were guilty of this war, though we all, in fact, are the greatest enemy of Prussia and Austria.

"It has come to this that we are threatened with expropriation and forcible settlement on distant farms in the North; we are treated as real prisoners of war.

"For example, in the province of Ontario, there are held continual political meetings at which the speakers are attacking the Poles as enemies to England, and likewise Canada, and are urging that the Poles should be conveyed to secluded and distant spots, inasmuch as they constitute a dangerous element.

"Here at Timmings, Ontario, such decision has been taken, and deportation of Poles is to commence at any moment.

"Out on the farms in the far North we are to be paid 25 cents daily, with a package of tobacco in addition. We are already watched by the police. Every one of us has received a paper, a sort of passport, and every first Monday of the month must report at police headquarters. All eyes are turned upon us as if we really were Germans, or favorable to the cause of Germany or Austria. I myself can no longer bear the sight of what pranks they are playing upon our people and desire to leave Canada to avoid suffering for a crime of which I am entirely innocent. Would beg for information, etc."

Devoid of our own representation abroad, we have no power wherewith to take official action. The Polish Central Relief Committee, representing the large organizations which embrace the 4,000,000 Poles in America, not only feels itself authorized, but also deems it its sacred moral duty to take initial steps in bringing this painful situation to the attention of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

We beg leave to express our profound hope that with the good-will of the Canadian authorities this misunderstanding can be adjusted rightly and to mutual satisfaction, all the more since the example of the French Republic, where many Polish subjects of Prussia and Austria reside, facilitates the solution of this problem.

The Government of the French Republic has required the Polish citizens of France and the Polish organizations in France to give a moral guarantee of neutrality for those Polish citizens who owe allegiance to the hostile Powers.

Then, the people of Canada should not forget that the Poles of America were willing at any time to send over 10,000 volunteers in the interest of the Allies and that representatives of the Polish Committee had started to take the proper steps in the matter with Canada; but the idea was dropped for the sake of observing a strict neutrality.

The Polish Central Relief Committee most readily will cooperate with the Canadian authorities, and undoubtedly this painful affair will be settled in the spirit of justice to the Polish people who are brought to extremities by the usages of war.

POLISH CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE.

PETER ROSTENKOWSKI, President.
STANISLAW OSADA, Secretary.

Russia's Promises To Poland

(Concluded from FREE POLAND, No. 14)

THE THREE EMPERORS' PROMISES.

AS THE ISSUE of this war greatly depends on the success or failures that may occur, in the west it is of importance to the belligerents to have Poland's sympathy and help, especially as a great number of Polish soldiers are in the three armies. There are more than 500,000 Poles in the Russian army, and Poles actually constitute the basis of the forces fighting against Germany. For this reason it is not difficult to understand why the German, Austrian and Russian commanders-in-chief have sent forth, in the name of their respective emperors, proclamations full of promises.

If the numerous German and Austrian proclamations contain only uncertain promises, one knows at all events that in the German plans the reconstitution of the Kingdom of Poland was foreseen; it was to be incorporated in the German Federation and have a Habsburg or a Saxon prince for King.

The German and Austrian promises are practically without any effect as the defeat of Germany and Austria is doubtless.

I will therefore only consider the promises made in the name of the Tsar by the Grand Duke Nicolas.

* * *

3) RUSSIAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, GRAND DUKE NICOLAS, ADDRESSED TO POLES ON AUGUST 15-th THE FOLLOWING MANIFESTO:

P O L E S : — THE HOUR HAS STRUCK IN WHICH THE SACRED DREAM OF YOURS FATHERS AND ANCESTORS CAN BE REALIZED. A CENTURY AND A HALF AGO THE WHOLE LIVING BODY OF POLAND WAS TORN TO PIECES, BUT HER SOUL DID NOT DIE.

"SHE LIVED WITH THE HOPE THAT THE HOUR OF HER RESURRECTION AND FRATERNAL RECONCILIATION WITH GREAT RUSSIA WOULD COME ONE DAY. THE RUSSIAN TROOPS BRING YOU THE SOLEMN NEWS OF THIS RECONCILIATION. COME POLES AND BE ONE UNDER THE SCEPTRE OF THE RUSSIAN CZAR. POLAND SHALL RISE AGAIN AND BE FREE IN HER RELIGION, LANGUAGE AND AUTONOMY. RUSSIA ONLY ASKS YOU TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF THESE NATIONS TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN BOUND BY HISTORY. OPEN-HEARTED, WITH HANDS FRATERNALLY OUTSTRETCHED, GREAT RUSSIA COMES TO MEET YOU.

"THE SWORD THAT STRUCK THE ENEMIES NEAR GRUNWALD IS NOT YET RUSTY. THE RUSSIAN ARMIES ARE MARCHING FROM THE PACIFIC OCEAN'S SHORES TO THE SEPTENTRIONAL SEAS.

"THE DAWN OF A NEW LIFE IS OPENING FOR YOU. LET THE SIGN OF THE CROSS—SYMBOL OF THE SUFFERING AND RESURRECTION OF NATIONS SHINE IN THIS DAWN."

One month later, when his troops invaded Austria, the Czar repeated his promise in the following words:

"IF, WITH GOD'S HELP HE IS VICTORIOUS, HIS

IMPERIAL MAJESTY PROMISES TO UNITE IN ONE AUTONOMOUS NATION ALL THE PARTS OF ANCIENT POLAND WHICH ARE UNDER THE POWER OF GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND RUSSIA, AND TO RE-VIVE POLAND UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

"THEREFORE HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY HOPES THAT THE POLES WILL DO THEIR BEST TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIBERATION OF THE SLAVS IN GENERAL AND OF THEIR OWN IN PARTICULAR."

* * *

4) THE CZAR'S PROMISES AND FRENCH OPINION.

The promise of freeing Poland has created in the press, all over the world, a general and unanimous enthusiasm, which proves the conscience of all civilized nations is convinced of the injustice and violence Poland has suffered for over a hundred and fifty five years.

As I cannot quote here all the opinions given on the subject, I select those which give an exact idea of what has been written concerning the Tsar's declaration.

G. CLEMENCEAU—

"Poland will live again. By the will of Tsar Nicolas II, supported by France and England, one of the biggest crimes in history will have an end... Never was there in France after that of Italy a more popular cause, than the cry for Polish nationality... The Tsar alone had the power of destroying the bloody veils of the past, and of making the Russian flag the herald of the great reconciliation of the Slavonic forces in the peace of a new world.... As this war in which even our own lines are in question, is a liberating war for Europe, the greater the number of the liberated people, the greater will be our victory through extended rights among people and through increased liberty."

(L'HOMME LIBRE, August 16, 1914.)

* * *

G. HANOTAUX—

"A night-mare oppressed Europe: a nation is cut to pieces, panting, living and dead at the same time under the knife of the oppressors. All just men, all oppressed populations turned their eyes towards Poland, eldest of all martyrs.... A new European map will be made in the name of liberty and of independence of people...., Poland, Alsace-Lorraine, Belgium, all nations thrown down and yet standing for ever, cry out revenge before the world and before history.

"We shall make a new Europe, a liberated and united Europe. All those who have suffered under the helmeted tyranny, all those, who have been padlocked in their slaveries by the most unmerciful policy, that the world has ever known, all those who have been struck in their liberty, in

their independence, must rise, and if they cannot do so, if the fear of dreadful reprisals' stop them, they must remain silent and wait."

(LE FIGARO, August 16, 1914.)

* * *

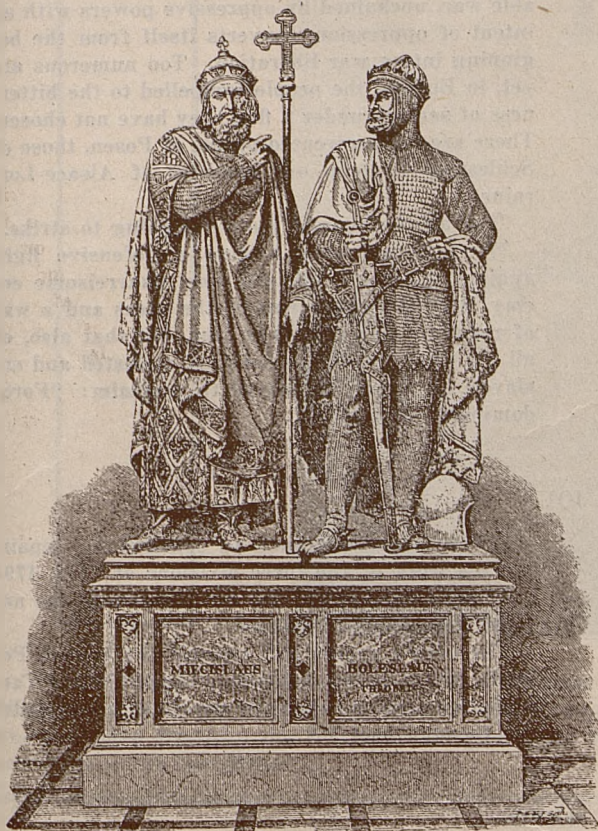
G. HERVE—

"Poland the martyr, Poland cut to pieces, a hundred and twenty years ago, by Prussia, Russia and Austria, shall come out of her grave, beaming with glory and youth.

They thought that a young and generous nation could be cut up like cattle....

Russia had pulled off her head and arms; Austria had taken her trunk; Prussia the remainder.

MONUMENT TO MIECZYSLAW AND BOLESŁAW THE BRAVE (992-1025) IN THE CATHEDRAL OF POSEN



Mieczysław's Son, Boleslaw the Brave made Conquests in Pomerania, Bohemia, and Silesia, successfully asserted his Independence of the German Empire, and shortly before his Death assumed the kingly Title. He favored the Spread of Christianity and largely promoted this Object by the Foundation of the Archbishopric of Gnesen in the Year 1000. Under him Poland began to assume Unity and Consistency.

And hearing at a distance the sons of 1792 singing the Marseillaise, Poland has moved in her grave.

Kosciuszko stood up, as he was the day the balls laid him low on the battle field, with the last defenders of heroic Poland. Marshal Poniatowski,

thought dead at Leipzig has put on his best costume of Marshal of the Great Army.

And the glorious insurgents who were shot or hanged, in 1830 and 1863, because they wanted to liberate their poor country, answered:—"Present."

Will free England and Republican France, who were not unacquainted with the manifesto of Grand Duke Nicolas, make their Ally the Czar understand that, to inspire the Poles with confidence and kindle in them a holy ardor in the struggle against the Germanic impudence, words are not sufficient but that acts are required?"

(LA GUERRE SOCIALE, August 16, 1914.)

* * *

L. LATAPLE—

"Poland symbolized the RIGHT oppressed by Force, the first of all rights, for people as for individuals, the right of living. There will be no lasting peace as long as nations, all nations have not recovered their freedom, have not again regained their integral nationality."

(LA REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE, August 17, 1914.)

* * *

S. PICHON—

"Inspired by the national rights, which lead the troops of the Allies to battle, the government of St. Petersburg disconcerts its enemies. In the face of Germany, who weighs heavily upon Poland with all the forces of her tyrannic oppression, it throws an appeal of release and justice, to the country which was like the vanguard of Slavonic nations against Prussia's invasion. 'For our liberty and for yours'—he cries, in an old formula of liberation."

(LE PETIT JOURNAL, August, 16, 1914.)

* * *

M. SEMBAC—

"So as to really give back life again this word of resurrection must be heartily uttered, without any secret restriction, without any mental reservation. The Czar spoke seriously and the vigorous approbation of the two free nations struggling by Russia's side will engage her to go further, or in the good way.... The proof that the road was good is that Prussia as soon as the manifesto was published, tried to copy it.... It is necessary, it is as just as political to guarantee to the citizens of New Poland rights that will not be inferior to those the Austrian dynasty granted them."

(L'HUMANITE, August 18, 1914.)

* * *

LE TEMPS—

"For centuries Europe has held in abeyance a debt of gratitude toward those who with Sobieski saved her before Vienna from the Turkish devastation. Europe has let this debt be protested. The Division of the heroic Polish nation was for all a secular uneasiness. It created between the three Empires an artificial union which was only profitable to Prussia and Austria and in last ana-

lysis, weakened Russia. Berlin and Vienna led the suspicions of Saint-Petersburg and drove her attention towards the supposed Polish danger.

In this war of deliverance which is gayly going on against the Gaoler-States, the slavery of dismembered Poland would have been the cause of a secret mourning for Europe.

The autonomy of Poland united again suddenly heals the old wounds from which flowed the blood of a noble race and the strength of a powerful empire."

* * *

L'ECLAIR—

"The Czar has just accomplished a great political act: he proclaims his firm intention to reconstitute the Polish nationality in a State composed of the ancient kingdom's territory, actually occupied by the three empires."

"The proclamation addressed to all the Poles by Grand Duke Nicolas, Russian Commander-in-Chief, makes the Czar's resolution evident. . . .

"In giving back to Poland her autonomy and her territorial integrity, Nicolas II will have his name imperishably inscribed in history and will more than ever, deserve the beautiful title of "protector of the Slavs."

"Indeed, the independence of Poland will bring back to life the most vibrating, the most warm-hearted and one of the noblest and greatest people of the Slavonic race.

"France, bound to the Polish nationality by a secular and oft tested friendship, leaped with joy on hearing that the Czar of all the Russias promised after our common victory, great Poland's autonomy.

"Moreover, this generous deed is also of high policy. Poland revived, reconstituted, autonomous, openly Catholic, speaking her beautiful language, what a barrier against pan-Germanism! And what a help for Slavs, still oppressed by Germans and Magyars!"

* * *

LA PETITE REPUBLIQUE—

"Poland reconstituted! This is the solemn assertion that this infamous war will be a holy war, since it will give freedom to all peoples and make the primordial right triumph in all Europe, thus uniting them again to their ethnographical groups."

* * *

LE RADICAL—

"This not only the Polish problem which it affects but the right of nations everywhere. The traditional thesis of democracy has received the adhesion of an Emperor."

* * *

LA GAZETTE DE FRANCE—

"By Russia's deliberate will, by the bold resolution of Czar Nicolas, Poland shall live again. It is not only a magnanimous word but an act of high policy. Poland will revive.... She was thought to be dead, but she was only asleep in

history, Poland, whose undeserved misfortunes have stirred so many French souls!"

* * *

LA LIBERTE—

"Before any other political considerations, all civilization must pay its unanimous homage to this act so spontaneous and so exactly in harmony with that of the European crusaders. For, it is certainly on this holy crusade that the Knights of the historical right and redemption of serf people are going to-day towards Alsace and Poland. The French opinion, the opinion of the civilized world will confirm the consequences which are expected from the noble act of Nicolas in favor of the historical right and freedom of nationalities."

* * *

LA LATERNE—

"It is of the highest interest that this formidable war, unchained by oppressive powers with an intent of oppression, converts itself from the beginning into a war liberation. Too numerous are yet, in Europe, the people compelled to the bitterness of serving under a flag they have not chosen. There are the persecuted people of Posen, those of Schleswig-Holstein, our brothers of Alsace-Lorraine....

"For all the hour of justice is going to strike.

"We are not only waging a defensive fight against the most rash and most quarrelsome enemy, but we wage a war of the races and a war of revenge—our war, it is true, but that also, of all the small, of all the helpless, molested and enslaved by those who dared to proclaim: "Force dominates over right".

* * *

LE JOURNAL—

"There never was such an occasion for repairing the work of the three divisions of 1772, 1793 and 1795; for uniting the three pieces of the ancient Republic of Poland.

The Czar's appeal will resound far beyond Poland's limits, in the Bohemian, Carinthia and Carniolan mountains, wherever the Slavs groan under the German boot."

* * *

LE MATIN—

"National autonomy and unity.

That is to say that henceforth, not only the Poles of Warsaw shall be free, but also those of Posen when they are saved from the Prussian domination, those of Lemberg and Cracow, when Austria shall be obliged to restore them."

* * *

LE PETIT PARISIEN—

"Partitioned on three distinct occasions between Prussia, the Empire of the Czar and of Austria—who has forgotten the hypocritical tears of Maria Theresa, this unhappy country has had a tragic fate. She never ceased to retain the sympathies of the western liberal nations, but these sympathies

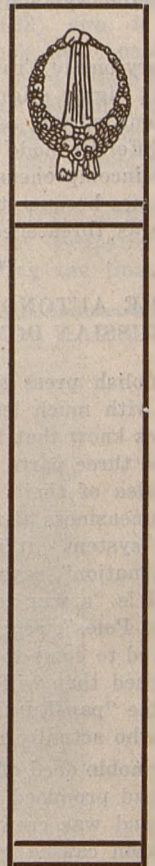
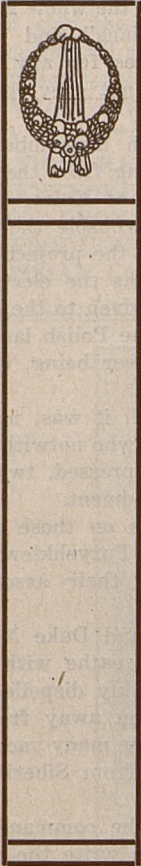
did not help her much. From Warsaw to Lemberg and Cracow, passing by Posen, Poles remained victims.

“One can but applaud such an initiative. No where will it be better understood than in France. We cannot forget what services they tendered us in 1792, when the sovereigns had formed a coal-

ition. The Polish problem be solved by a stroke of the pen and in a magisterial way; Emperor Nicolas takes towards the three Polands, the Russian, Prussian and Austrian, the engagement of reconstituting the Polish nationality in an autonomous state, under the protection of Russia.”

* * *

THE DEATH OF WANDA



The History of Poland previous to the Middle of the ninth Century is too legendary to have much Value. There are interesting legendary Types, as for Example that of Wanda, Daughter to Krakus, the Polish Beowulf, who preferred Death in the Waters of the Vistula to Marriage with a German Prince. — The Poles built a Cairn, near Cracow, in her Honor.

tion against the first Republic; we also cannot forget what part they have many a time taken in our armies.”

* * *

L'ACTION FRANCAISE—

“Now, we can admit it. Whatever might be our confidence in Emperor Nicolas’ word, it was difficult for us to forget that the Polish question was the bond by which, amidst the vicissitudes of their history, the St. Petersburg and Berlin courts have always been united. It was feared that at the last moment—the moment of liquidation and settlement of accounts—the same interest would form a new tie of solidarity between the two governments.

This shadow is driven away by the Czar’s de-

L'HUMANITE—

“Poland is on the point of reviving.

“The dream of the Polish patriots, this dream that seemed a chimera in the actual state of things, becomes suddenly a reality.”

“It is a fact, that the big European War unchained by the most execrable tyranny, promises to repair all the iniquities of national order, including the oldest of which, by force of habit, Europe had ceased to think. But no doubt, many will ask themselves: Where is the guarantee that the promise, as clever as it is interesting, will be realized? Has not the same Nicolas II violated the Constitutional manifesto of October 17—30, 1905, this solemn engagement towards the Russian people themselves?”

Thus THE OPINION OF THE FRENCH PRESS CAN BE SUMMED UP AS FOLLOWS:—

"It is really to-day that holy Crusade on which along the Alsacian and Polish roads are starting the knights of historical right and delivery of enslaved nations".
(LA LIBERTE.)

"This war will give independence to every people."
(LA PETITE REPUBLIQUE.)

"One of the biggest crimes of history is at the end."
(Clemenceau.)

"Poland symbolizes Right oppressed by Strength."
(LA REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE.)

Every one in France as in England and in all civilized countries highly stigmatizes the violence to which Poland was submitted and asks justice for her.

A different mode of reasoning, an other attitude would be quite incomprehensible at the moment when all Europe is in flames because the independence of a small Slavonic nation was threatened.

* * *

5) THE AUTONOMY OF POLAND UNDER THE RUSSIAN DOMINION IS NOT POSSIBLE.

The Polish press saluted the hope of Poland's resurrection with much less enthusiasm.

Poles know that the assured victory of the Allies will unite the three parts of Poland and they certainly rejoice at the idea of their dear country united again, but feel a little uneasiness at the thought of their country's future political system. It is "a holy war for the independence of every nation", says the public opinion of civilized countries; it is "a war for the freedom of Slavs and among others of Poles", repeats Czar Nicolas II in his proclamation. And to come to a practical conclusion, an autonomy is promised that will be guarded by the pan-Slavists or rather the "pan-Russists," "Black Hands" and "Red Russians", who actually rule over Russia and oppress her.

The noble deed of Nicolas II recalls that of Alexander I, who had promised and gave a very broad autonomy to Poland and was crowned King of Poland. Then as now his decision caused general enthusiasm and approbation.

M. Seignobos has mentioned how this so liberal a policy was transferred by degrees into a system, still in force, and whose object is the extermination of the Polish nationality. And yet, the Czars Alexander I, Nicolas I, Alexander III, could treat their subjects of different nationalities with much more liberty and justice than Nicolas II, because the pan-Russist movement actually represented by the "true Russians" and the "Black Hands" did not yet exist. Can an autonomy, even partial, subsist in a country with an autocratic and reactionary system?

I am convinced that Nicolas II was quite sincere in authorizing the Commander-in-Chief to issue the two proclamations promising to Poles their autonomy. But those who understand the Russian government know that IN THE ACTUAL STATE OF RUSSIA A REAL AUTONOMY FOR POLAND IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE.

IF ONE EVEN ADMITS THAT NICOLAS, "BY EXCEPTIONAL LAWS", CAN IMPOSE THIS AUTONOMY, IT IS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT IT WILL BE QUICKLY ANNIHILATED BY THE IRRESISTIBLE FORCE OF THE REACTIONARY MOVEMENT THAT RULES RUSSIA.

The power of the pan-Russists, whose fanaticism is not

inferior to that of the pan-Germanists, is very great. A well known conservative and monarchist, Prince Metshersky, speaks of them in this manner: "These people are more dangerous than revolutionists; they prepare Russia's disaster to the sound of the national hymns and under the flags of loyalty to the monarch."

The reactionists have never forgiven Nicolas II the famous manifesto of October 17—30, 1905, which promised to Russia, after the unhappy Japanese war, an era of liberty and progress. In a few years, they succeeded in obliterating the first footprints made by Russia on the way to modern liberalism and imposing the policy of great TERROR WHICH ACTUALLY RULES the whole Empire.

The "popes", police, "true Russians" and "Black Hands" have become those occult forces for any one is dismissed without any pity if he does not obey their injunctions.

After what was called the fourth dismemberment, which the pan-Russists effected by taking from the Kingdom of Poland, in 1913, the province of Kelm, Nicolas wanted to make a little concession to console the Poles. The Czar manifested the desire that in the projected law which was granting to the Polish towns the election of municipalities, the authority should be given to the future municipal counsellors to use at times the Polish language in their discussion, the president however being, obliged to speak Russian only.

Well, this concession however small it was, met the firm opposition of the Empire's Council, who notwithstanding the will of the Czar so clearly expressed, twice repealed the project of law with its amendment.

So one must not forget that it is on those pillars of the Russian reaction the Kassos, the Puryshkiewitshes, the Dournowos, the Shteheglitoffs and their associates, that Poland's destiny will depend.

After the proclamation of the Grand Duke Nicolas, one thought it would be possible to breathe with more liberty. But alas! this hope was quickly dispelled.

Poles are still systematically driven away from all state employment; although there are now many vacancies, it is from distant provinces and even from Siberia that the functionaries needed are called.

The only concession given, after the commander-in-chief's manifest, was the permission to write the names of the railway stations in the Kingdom of Poland in Polish. But alas! from the first Russian victory of October 6th, that is to say two months after the Czar's promises, there came an order to suppress these inscriptions.

We hold in our hands a letter from Russia of October 23. The expression, "God save Poland", has been suppressed unmercifully by the Censor.

A person without discretion having made the remark that one ought to take the Czar's liberal proclamation into consideration, was told that it binds on no one. This characteristic answer shows exactly the state of mind of the high Russian bureaucracy, which takes no more notice of the actual imperial promise than before of the manifesto of October 17-30, 1905.

The WARSAW MESSENGER of November 1, remarks that two months and a half after the promise of resurrection of Poland, there cannot be found the least sign of decrease in the oppressive system endured by Poland, but on the contrary this system is always applied with the same rigor everywhere.

Besides, the private desires of the Russian government have been very awkwardly betrayed by one of its partisan, Count Bobrinsky, sent as general-governor to Galicia since the taking of Lemberg.

Let us recall that there are in Galicia, Poles and Ruthenians who enjoyed, under the Austrian Sovereignty, a complete autonomy and all political and national liberties. This population, apart from its Slavonic origin, has nothing in common with Russia, in language or religion.

When taking possession of his functions on September 23, Count Bobrinsky made a speech which caused a violent astonishment and a general indignation very easy to understand. This speech was delivered in the Russian language not very much used in Galicia, so that Count Bobrinsky was obliged to be assisted by an interpreter who translated his words into Polish. I quote the principal passage of this speech, where one plainly sees the political plan the Russian government intends to follow in the conquered countries:

"EASTERN GALICIA HAS ALWAYS FORMED A THOROUGH RUSSIAN PART OF GREAT RUSSIA. ON THIS TERRITORY THE MAIN POPULATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN RUSSIAN AND THEREFORE ONE MUST BASE THE ORGANIZATION UPON RUSSIAN PRINCIPLES. I SHALL INTRODUCE HERE THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE, RUSSIAN LAW, RUSSIAN STATE ADMINISTRATION.

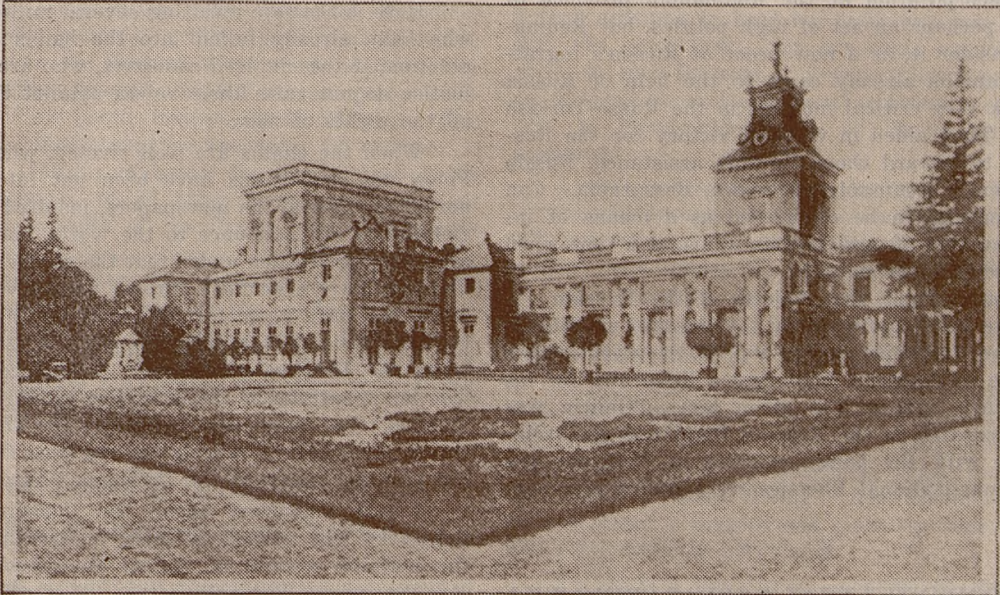
One cannot speak more plainly!

As one sees, the government has already begun to realize the Czar's promise, in taking again from Poland a piece of her ground.

The eminent representative of the government proclaims in its name that Eastern Galicia forms "a thorough Russian part of Great Russia." This is quite false and the speaker's contradictions prove it. Eastern Galicia never belonged to Great Russia, and besides for six centuries (1340) it was a part of Poland.

If the French delegates at the future Congress were to accept the thesis of the Russian government, they would also be obliged to admit that Brittany, which was only joined to France four centuries (1532) ago, is not a French province. Moreover, if we took into consideration in remodeling the map of Europe, the more or less justified pretensions of six centuries ago, the delegates of some countries would be in a great dilemma and the Russian Empire, which did not exist at the time, would not feel very proud of this Congress.

We must not forget that the Conference of the Hague of 1889, stipulated that the belligerent occupying a conquered country must endeavour during the time of the



The Palace of Willanów, near Warsaw, built by King John Sobieski in 1678-1694, and containing many Memorials of the Polish Kings.

TION. THESE PRINCIPLES WILL BE INTRODUCED LITTLE BY LITTLE, BECAUSE I CONSIDER THAT IN THE INTEREST OF THE POPULATION THE NORMAL STATE OF LIFE OF THAT COUNTRY MUST NOT BE UPSET. WHEREFORE TO BEGIN WITH, I SHALL ONLY NAME RUSSIAN GOVERNORS, RUSSIAN PREFECTS, AND RUSSIAN POLICE. AS REGARDING THE NAMES OF THE LOCAL AUTONOMY, SUCH AS MAYORS, ASSEMBLIES ETC. I WILL HOLD THEM THEIR FUNCTIONS UPON CONDITION, OF COURSE. THAT THEY WILL BE LOYAL RUSSIAN SUBJECTS. THE POLISH DIET SHALL NOT BE CONVOKED. MEETINGS OF COUNCILS OF PREFECTURE AND MUNICIPAL AND COMMON COUNCILS ARE FORBIDDEN."

war, to re-establish and assure, as much as possible, the public order and life "by respecting, save absolute impediments, the laws in force of that country." "BY ALL CIVILIZED NATIONS IT IS ADMITTED THAT AN OCCUPIED TERRITORY IS NOT SUBMITTED BY THAT MEANS TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE OCCUPYING STATE."—(Le Temps, October 16, 1914.)

Moreover, Russia has made a formal engagement with France and England only to conclude peace after having agreed with her Allies. So there can be only two possibilities: either Galicia shall be incorporated into the Russian Empire with the assent of France and England, or Russia considers her promises as "scraps of paper."

The first supposition must be immediately put aside, since we read in LE TEMPS of November 6, the following

words: "All are expecting the realization of their wishes in this war, whereby nations will be delivered and free to dispose of themselves."

Passing from words to actions, Count Bobrinsky has arrested and deported the United Greek archbishop of Lemberg, Count Szeptycki, and put in his place the well known specialist at Russification, Eulogius, Orthodox bishop of Volhynia, who was escorted by a company of popes, gendarmes and policemen picked up in the centre of Russia.

Scarcely have two months elapsed since the army of "liberation" entered Galicia, and two-thirds of the country, the rest not being yet conquered, is incorporated into the Russian Empire and organized by the politic system in force in Volhynia and Podolia. This system consists, (not speaking of the reactionary principles) of laws for the unmerciful extermination of all that is Polish and Ruthenian. In these ancient provinces of the Polish Republic, the Poles are undergoing an oppression identical to that suffered under the Prussian dominion.

There can be no doubt about the condition of Galicia, M. Bobrinsky is answerable for it. On October 21 he declared to the "Birjewi Wiedomosti" that Eastern Galicia and Bukowina, incorporated into the Russian Empire, will form three departments: Lemberg, Tarnopol and Bukowina. The incorporation of the Roumanian province of Bukowina, is perhaps an act of high politics, but Roumanians will consider it, as a new proof of Russia's ingratitude. Roumanians already came to the help of Russia officially, at a very critical moment in the Russo-Turkish war (1874). They aided in winning victory for the Russians. Well, to reward them for this assistance, Russia took from them a Roumanian province, Bessarabia. Can Bukowina's annexation be considered as a means of increasing the number of anti-German allies, at a time when the Turks side with Germany?

On the other hand, the projects of the Russian government have been confirmed by the Russian archbishop Antonius. The Ruthenian archbishop, M. Szeptycki, wrote from his exile to Antonius imploring a little pity for his sheep. A sharp answer was given him:—"Galicia was already incorporated in the Russian Empire as an ordinary province, with the policy existing in Volhynia and that all its constitutional liberties were irrevocably suppressed."

* * *

ONE SEES EVIDENTLY THAT A GREAT CRIME WILL TAKE PLACE UNDER THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ALLIES.

Here is a country accustomed for the space of fifty years, to a very liberal constitutional system, granted by the Austrians, "these enemies of the Slavs", that is suddenly submitted to a terrible reaction by which Poles are deprived of every political right, and by which the Polish and Ruthenian languages are banished and by which the Catholic religion undergoes continual persecution and humiliation, and by which the Greek United Catholic religion will certainly, without fail, be violently exterminated.

The United Greeks or "Unites", Ruthenians and Poles, practice a religion which is a blending of Catholicism and Orthodoxy professing allegiance to the spiritual authority of the Pope. This religion which dates back three centuries (1595) made great progress in the eastern provinces of the Polish Republic. Russia wanting to Russify the "Unites" by every means has for a long time past persecuted their religion with great violence. The only

place where the "Unites" could have survived this unmerciful extermination was still in 1870, a Polish province (government of Lublin and Siedlce), in the south east of the Kingdom, inhabited, like Galicia, by Poles and Ruthenians.

One cannot have forgotten in Europe the awful crime committed forty years ago by the Russian government, to compel these defenceless people to abjure their fathers' faith and to embrace the Orthodox creed. Some of us had seen these dreadful scenes, where men, women and children were whipped by Cossacks until they lost their senses and sometimes expired under the eyes of the "popes" and functionaries chosen for this ignoble work.

Hundreds of "Unites" who surrounded their churches to preserve them from the profanation, were shot. Thousands of families, who were courageous enough to resist all these cruelties, were for ever deported to Siberia while their properties were confiscated.

M. Seignobos, describing these attempts of violent Russification says:—"In Poland's ancient provinces inhabited by the United Greeks, the government obliged the people to sign addresses to the Czar, asking him for the restoration of the Orthodox religion (1875). Those who refused to sign were put into prison or deported." — (Seignobos—Contemporary History, Chap. 19, p. 4.)

Here is the fate awaiting several millions of "Unites" who have already fallen into the hands of the Russian reaction, if the civilized countries, who are struggling for justice do not raise their voices against this violation of all the rights of men.

When the chains are well riveted, when thousands of Poles and Ruthenians have been put into prison or deported to Siberia, the newspapers, inspired by the Russian embassies, will announce to the world that the Galicians, after having trodden under foot the charter of their actual liberties, have cheerfully thrown themselves into Russia's arms, the only protector of oppressed Slavs. It will be the repetition of the tragi-comedy of forty years ago, when the Russian government announced to its people, who knew nothing of the atrocities committed against the "Unites" that those who fell under the knout of the Cossacks had implored eagerly the supreme favor of reentering into the bosom of the Orthodox Church.

I have remarked above the indiscretion of Count Bobrinsky who wished to apply to Galicia, in such haste, the political system of violent Russification so dear to Mr. Dornowo, Puryshkiewitsh, Markoff, Sheglowitzoff, Rouchloff—actual masters of Russia. Orders have been given to him to hide his real game for the time being. Seeing the danger of this too hurried and simple sincerity, even the paper of Holy Synod, THE BELL, advised him in a fatherly way to be less zealous for the moment.

We have quoted a few facts which characterize the state of mind of the reactionists who at present are ruling Russia.

One must have not illusions about the attitude of the moderate liberals, the Octobrists, who sit in the center of the Duma and are still far from power. Their chief Mr. Gutschkoff, speaking to journalists, recalled lately with pride that it was while fighting against the autonomy of Poland, after the Russo-Japanese war, that he successfully entered into politics. He recognizes that since parts of Poland like Eastern Galicia, which enjoyed a complete autonomy, will be annexed they will be obliged to make some concessions to Poles. All the big administrations, says he, would probably remain in the hands of Russian functionaries, but the Poles could retain the administra-

tion of secondary affairs, on condition that they behaved wisely and did not ask for much.

He was careful enough to make one understand that if the Poles did not cheerfully submit themselves to their yoke, this comedy would be very quickly ended.

A Russian Ambassador said, the day after the proclamation of Grand Duke Nicolas, that it would be easy to believe in the possibility of giving Poles an autonomy similar to the one they enjoyed in Austria.

Besides one must not forget that there will necessarily be a great number of contestable questions which will be the cause of struggles between the Central Government and the local administration. As a government representing 150 million inhabitants will not yield to a country with 18 millions of inhabitants, it is evident that the autonomy will be at the mercy of a conflict which will end in its entire abolition.

If, in spite of its defects, the autonomy granted to Galicia by Austria, gave real liberty to Poles, it is because of the weakness of the central power in Vienna.

In this respect Finland's history is quite convincing. Here is a very calm and loyal little nation, her autonomy confirmed by many Czars, which since the appearance of the pan-Russist movement, has been deprived little by little, of all its liberties and submitted to a systematical and progressive Russification. The roller of Russification, stopped for a moment in Finland, is working again. Indeed, we read in the *Birzewi Wiedomosti* of November 3, that the Cabinet Council decided the complete **RUSSIFICATION** of all public institutions in Finland. This is the way they understand the autonomy of nations.

I maintain, certain of being the interpreter of the Russian functionaries, of all "true Russians" and of all Octobrists, that in spite of the Czar's best will, Russia cannot assure any lasting autonomy to Poland. All the concessions, given under the pressure of the moment will be quickly suppressed, because the existence of a free nation in the midst of a reactionary great Power is an impossibility. When **VICTORIOUS A REACTIONARY STATE HAS NEVER GRANTED TO HER SUBJECTS ANY POLITICAL RIGHTS.**

* * *

7) IN THE INTEREST OF A LASTING PEACE.

Poland Must Be Independent and Neutral.

When Russia "the secular and interested patroness of Slavism" mobilized for the defence of the Serbian independence, Germany threw herself upon her and would have crushed her, had not France, England and Japan come to her help. Mr. Compere-Morel, a deputy, states perfectly the object of this terrible war when he says:

"There is no longer a fight for a province, for a war indemnity or for the imposition of a treaty, onerous to some, advantageous to others!

"If men fight and die to-day, it is for the purpose of knowing whether the oppressed nations shall be liberated."

For their part the authorized representatives of the French and Belgian workers have proclaimed that "it is with the conviction that liberty's principles and the nation's rights of disposing of itself are being upheld, that we accept the hard necessity of the war." Mr. Vandervelde, a Belgian minister, has asserted the same thing: "We are fighting against atrocities and to support the nation's independence and the cause of civilization."

It is evident that this war is not like others, that it is a crusade for justice and for civilization and the victory of the Allies ought to make the world all the better.

Is it possible that only one power could be authorized not to take part in this splendid act of justice? Can it be allowed that Russia, for whom so many heroes are falling on the battle fields, will continue to oppress the people submitted to her dominion by a brutal power?

Of all the oppressed people, the one who has suffered and suffers the most, is certainly the Polish people. If justice and independence are seriously spoken of, one must first think of Poland. It is by repairing "one of the greatest crimes of history", as M. Clemenceau says, that the work of justice must begin.

Is there any man in the world, with a little logic and conscience, able to defend Russia's right of oppressing a Slav people numbering a part population of 18 millions?

To defend the liberty and independence of little nations like Montenegro (500,000 inhabitants), Bulgaria (5,000,000 inhabitants) and Serbia (6,000,000 inhabitants), a threat of war has continually weighed over Europe. But when it concerns the Slav nation, the most numerous after Russia, the rulers of this world have agreed to leave it in the hands of its oppressors!

How can any one conciliate the just indignation against Alsace-Lorraine's situation with the indifference of certain people toward Poland?

Is it possible to admit that civilized Europe would let Poland continue to bear her yoke and live as a martyr? Will she, once more, put her seals on Poland's tomb? Shall she play the part of Pontius Pilatus on granting her an illegitimate and ephemeral autonomy, with a Bobrinsky, a Pourischkiewitsch, or Dournowo as general governor?

I don't believe it. The destiny of UNITED POLAND will become an international question: the Allies will not renounce the principles of true justice and will support with energy the noble action of Nicolas II.

IN CONCORD WITH HIM AND THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE, THEY WILL WANT TO GIVE BACK TO POLAND HER LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE.

Grand Duke Nicolas says in his proclamation: "The time has struck when the sacred dream of your fathers and ancestors can be realized." But their dream has never been that of an autonomy organized by the pan-Russists and "Black Hands". The dream for which they have suffered, struggled and given up their lives, was the **INDEPENDENCE** of Poland.

To disavow this dream, considered even by Grand Duke Nicolas, as being quite legitimate, would be to disown all the martyrs who gave their noble blood for our country. Abandoning the flag of independence which has been carried so high for over a century by our heroes, at a moment perhaps without precedent in Europe's history, would be betraying the Polish cause.

Poland must be independent and neutral not only for the interest of justice but also for the interest of a lasting peace. We have seen above that amongst the States, including Bohemia and Poland, to engage the interest of Europe after the war, Poland will occupy the sixth place. The question is an international problem of great importance, which must be attacked resolutely and definitely resolved, in spite of the pusillanimity of certain diplomatists, "on unattackable bases," as Mr. Asquith said.

A French diplomat who bears an important and active part in the actual crisis, said last year, to Mr. J. Herbet of L'ECHO DE PARIS: Europe's peace is reposing on a tomb badly closed, the tomb of Poland. In the same spirit Br. P. B. Bourget writes: "One of the monarchs of the coalition said wisely to one of our best ambassadors: 'The

Allies' task is to get back Europe to its anti-Bismarck period. There was of yore a Europe with small States, and whose parcelling out rendered more difficult a monstrous collision of enormous human masses like the one we are witnessing to-day. . . . But, for the possibility of such a Europe the condition sine qua non, is that the respect of the independence of small States should be the first article of its code."

Well, there are two States which ought to gain their independence again: POLAND and BOHEMIA.

In order to assure A LASTING PEACE, the transformation of Poland and Bohemia into neutral States will be of capital importance.

I said above that Germany, however hard may be the condition of peace imposed on her, will at once prepare for a new war, which she will try to make favorable for herself.

The considerable increases of her population and the enormous display of her industry and trade will oblige her to begin again the struggle. In order to diminish and remove the danger of this conflict, one must first suppress all injustice of national order and create as many barriers as possible between the great Powers. By throwing a glance over the European map, one sees of what service Poland and Bohemia can be in this respect. If these two countries were free, Russia would be separated from Germany by a large neutral zone, which would greatly diminish a new collision between these two great rivals. In this manner Europe would find in the East a way of protecting herself against a war which would be otherwise unavoidable and certainly still more terrible than the one we are undergoing now.

THE REAL WAY OF RENDERING GERMANY IN-OFFENSIVE IS TO PUT AROUND HER A ZONE OF COUNTRIES WHOSE NEUTRALITY WOULD BE GUARANTEED BY ALL THE POWERS OF EUROPE. The increase of that number of neutral countries will also diminish militarism in Europe and prepare the triumph of Right over Force, an era of real civilization and progress.

The creation of a free and independent Poland is also Russia's real interest. Instead of supporting again, for long years, a continual and unsuccessful struggle against the Poles, Russia reconciled for ever with them, would become a real protectress of the Slavs and would fulfill an action of high political probity. All the Slav countries would group themselves around her without any mistrust and would form an invincible strength. IT WOULD BE THE GREATEST DEFEAT FOR GERMANY. William and his government saw the danger of this reconciliation; that is why THEY HAVE DONE ALL THEY COULD TO ENCOURAGE THE RUSSIAN REACTION IN ITS POLICY AGAINST THE POLISH NATION. It is perhaps for Russia the only opportunity she has of showing to the world and to the Slavs that her intention of defending the independence of a small Slav nation was generous and disinterested, and that if Europe was drawn into this awful war, it was really for a noble purpose.

Mr. Hanotaux is convinced that Russia, who does not need new provinces, nor new populations, wants only to liberate her Slav brothers and that she acts only sincerely. "If this is true, the resurrection of Poland must also be announced sincerely, openly, without any secret restriction, without any mental reservation", as Mr. Sembac says.



A Public Square in Cracow, which after the Fall of Przemyśl will be the next Objective of the Russian Army.

Plea For Poles Made To World by Paderewski

LONDON, March 28.—The visit to London of Ignace Paderewski on behalf of the suffering Poles has already resulted in the formation of a great relief committee.

The article below was written personally by the great pianist to call the attention of the world to the sufferings of Poland caused by the war.

Among the members of the relief committee are such men as Premier Asquith, ex-Premier Balfour, Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd-George, Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster; Lady Randolph Churchill, Admiral Lord Charles Beresford (retired) and the Russian and French ambassadors.

By IGNACY PADEREWSKI

Is it the death agony or only the birth pangs? is the question which every Pole throughout the world is asking himself as tragedy follows tragedy in the long martyrdom of our beloved nation. You have only heard the details of Belgium, but I tell you they are as nothing with what has happened in Poland.

The scene of operations in Poland is seven times larger than that of Belgium, and she has had to endure seven times the torture. Remember, the battle of Europe is being fought in the east not in the west, and while the tide of battle has reached a sort of ebb along the trenches about the frontiers of Alsace and Flanders, the great waves roll backward and forward from Germany to Russia and break always on Poland.

Our country, in fact, is just as Belgium was called—the cockpit of Europe, and it may now be called the battlefield of the world, if not of civilization.

I have not come over to London, however, to speak of politics. Besides, there is even above the gigantic issues involved the colossal standpoint of a common humanity, in the name of which our committee is appealing to every neutral and all the allies alike. The whole world stands aghast and impotent before Poland, all amazed that it is at once the victim and the culprit.

It is only perhaps we Poles who have known to its utmost depths what this war has really meant. It is not only that there are 10,000,000 human beings on the verge of starvation, nay, actually perishing; there is worse than that.

Remember that both Belgium and Poland are still under the yoke. The Russians, it is true, occupy some 15,000 miles of our country, but this is really nothing, for the Germans occupy five-sixths of it, and the desolation passes all comprehension.

As to actual battles, I can hardly speak of them. It is torture even to think of them. Only consider! Our one nation is divided as it were into three sections, which were thrust each against the others to work out their destruction. It is parricide! It is fratricide, nay suicide! Compulsory suicide! That is what it is.

Listen to what it means to us all. I was told by a man from Austria that an army doctor, a Pole by birth, who was deputed to go over the battlefields and verify identification marks on the bodies, found among the 14,000 dead hardly any but Polish names. He looked in vain for any others, and in the end went mad with horror at the thought of it.

Another story that came to me the other day told of another case of the tragedy of Poland which is almost too terrible for the human mind to contain. The incident took place during a charge. Both armies had been ordered

to attack, and the Poles, as usual, were in the front lines. As they met in the shock they retreated.

One poor fellow as he was struck through by a bayonet cried out in his death agony, "Jezu Maria! I have five children! Jesu Maria!" — the words went straight to the brain of his conqueror as a dagger to the heart and killed his reason.

Somewhere among the madhouses of Europe there is a lunatic. He is not violent, but he never laughs. He only wanders about with the words of his dying victim, "Ah, Jesu Maria! I have five children. Jezu Maria!"

Again, in the fierce battle in Galicia during an interval which had been agreed upon by both sides as a momentary armistice to bury their dead and attend to their wounded, the doctors from either side first of all advanced and exchanged cards.

Every slip of pasteboard bore a Polish name, while the feeling that ran silently through each breast was the same. Can Poland survive? Gratitude to Russia? Is it the death agony or is it but the birth pangs? To-day who knows? I only know the present, and unless that present is saved the future is lost.

That is why I have come, no longer to charm others but to beg for my countrymen. I speak not of art but of human life, and it is this that I plead for.

The promise of Grand Duke Nicholas that Poland shall be a nation once again went straight to the very heart of every one of our 25,000,000 fellow countrymen. That one promise has been sufficient to change the whole mentality of the nation and fill their souls with new hope.

It has cleared up any doubt that might have existed in the minds of the Poles in Austria and Prussia as to what it is that the allies are fighting for—namely: the principles of nationality for which we have suffered, ah! how many centuries!

One thing which stands out prominently above every thing else to-day, however, and which I feel that I must mention, is the wonderful self-control and behavior of the Russian in Poland. It is wonderful and it is just their grand divine sense of pity for us all that wins every Polish heart over to-day.

I do not wish to touch on politics. Though I would be untrue to my whole soul did I not say this much: All I want is that the thousands who are dying of hunger should be saved, and that is the main object of our committee, which I may mention incidentally, is the first representative body in the full sense of the word which has sat since the partition of Poland, and with headquarters at Geneva.

It contains Austrian Poles, Russian Poles, Prussian Poles, as well as Catholics, Protestants, and Jews, all working for the same broad humanitarian work.

So much is this recognized even in Germany that we have been assured by the authorities that all sums of money and gifts handed to us for that purpose will be scrupulously applied to the relief of the Poles.

It is at once a work of piety and pity, one in which the whole world can and will join. The only question is, will we get sufficient help? Will even that help come too late?

It is to the great instinct of common humanity that I would make an appeal to the country which has been so generous to me in the past—the United States. It will not, I feel sure, be ungenerous when in my sorrow I plead on behalf of the future of my race.

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To Editors and Publishers

The Polish Question is a timely one throughout the world. The contents of this publication will furnish, we hope, adequate material for use at opportune moments.

A Polish Joan of Arc

LAST SUNDAY, April 11, we witnessed the departure of several Chicago women, all of whom are delegates of the Women's Peace Party. The Polish organizations are represented by Miss Emily Napieralski, general secretary of the Polish Women's Alliance.

"The Woman's Peace Party", said Miss Jane Addams, "represents those women of the world who cannot stand by and watch the European war go on without attempting to stop it. We do not expect to stop this war at once, but eventually we hope to bring about peace."

The international peace conference will be held at The Hague, April 28-30, inclusive. Miss Napieralski will render another valuable service to the Polish cause if she reminds the delegates, who represent the various nations and nationalities, of the Polish Question.

On general principles, Miss Napieralski can urge the governments of the belligerent countries to define the terms on which they are willing to make peace.

She can urge that future international disputes should be referred to arbitration or conciliation.

She can insist that foreign politics should be democratized and should include the equal representation of men and women.

She can point out that the nations in their future dealings with one another should rely upon truth and fair play.

She can propose that no province should be transferred from one government to another without the consent by plebiscite of the population; for Europe must give up the idea of compelling large racial units to accept a government which is hateful to them.

She can declare that no peace can be durable that does not provide in some way against the causes which have brought about the present war.

Miss Napieralski can do away with the swaggering masculine conception that war spells the defense of wives, mothers and children, by portraying the misery, suffering and horrors brought about by the present war.

For example, the whole of Poland is a mass of ruins. There is wholesale destruction of life and property. Her population is homeless, helpless, hopeless. Her sons, ("these Poles", as Herbert Corey repeatedly calls them), are doing their full share in the German, the Austrian and the Russian armies. Blood, a whole ocean of it, is again soaking into the soil—so often the battleground of Europe.

Miss Napieralski, then, can well emphasize the fact that the solution of the Polish Question is essential to the maintenance of peace in Europe.

Miss Napieralski has a worthy mission to perform. And we can rest assured that she will do her duty with a womanly conscientiousness and grace that shall be devoid of masculine bluster and braggadocio.

"Love Thou Thy Land"

TENNYSON exhorts his countrymen to love their land "with love far-brought from out the storied Past, and used within the Present, but transfused Thro' future time by power of thought."

Patriotism is a good thing. It measures the real vitality of a race. Only it must be properly conserved and must not lead astray by preaching Jingoistic doctrines.

To the Jews, although they ceased to be a nation politically long ago, the Talmud is a source of solace and inspiration. Dr. Robert Tuttle Morris, in his recent address on "Warfare as Natural Victory" at the Cornell Club, in New York City, said: "There is nothing in Zangwill's melting-pot theory. It is absurd biologically. The Jews or Semites are not going to cross with the Aryans; they are not melting away. A sort of racial feeling that they must come again to rule the earth keeps them together." Dr. Morris should have added that nowhere is this "racial feeling" of future domination any better expressed than in the sacred books of the Talmud. That is why we say that to the Jew the Talmud is his source of solace and inspiration.

Likewise, the vitality of the Polish race is remarkable. Many of our social workers and writers in America have branded the Pole as being unpardonably "clannish", not thinking that this clannishness is his redeeming feature. For it prevents the Pole from being a parasite and makes of him an ideal citizen of this great Republic.

Despite their loss of national independence the Poles have always maintained an ardent patriotism and have successfully resisted for a century and a half all the efforts of their conquerors to assimilate them. They have never surrendered their language, their religion or their racial coherence.

The modest dream of an independent reunited Poland is to the Pole what the ineffably aggressive Talmud is to the Jew.

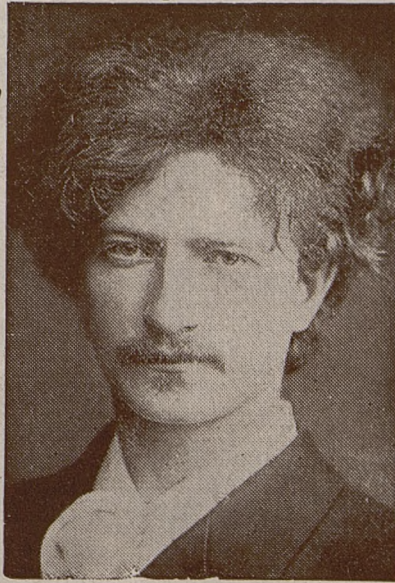
Therefore, love thou thy land, and everything that stands for your racial coherence. That feeling is something which is sacred and justifiable, and Dr. Morris can give you a biological interpretation thereof. But at the same time do not forget to pay more heed to the mutual-dependence theory of Darwin instead of the survival-of-the-fittest idea. "Then", says the brilliant doctor, "we would have sap channels of trade reestablished with Dr. Butler's 'international mind' flowing through them and destruction would cease."

* * *

of money for any purpose in which he might be interested. No other musical artist has been more successful in inducing the public to open its purse. Wherefore his appeal for stricken Poland is all the more pathetic. "How can I play", he cries, "when my countrymen are dying?" Since the war began, Paderewski declares, he has not touched the piano, he has given up composition, his mind has been obsessed by the devastation of his native land. After seven months the desolation is as great as years of war formerly caused. Poland has often suffered, but never like this, and her great virtuoso is so deeply affected that he cannot employ his skill as a musician in her behalf.

"But after all, with his best efforts, what he could

Courtesy "Dziennik Związkowy"



IGNACY PADEREWSKI

The Wizard of the Pianoforte, who, above all, is a Patriot.

Can you combine your "international mind" with sane patriotism? Well, Paderewski, the wizard of the pianoforte, is doing it. He cannot play because he hears the cries of his wounded and dying countrymen across the sea constantly in his ears.

"This is," observes the *Des Moines, Iowa, News*, "no mere outburst of empty sentimentalism. It is not the yellow vociferation of a hired press agent. It is an impressive illustration of the nearness of musical art to genuine depth of feeling—an art which can never be given its proper interpretation unless it comes from the heart."

In this connection the *New York Times* beautifully remarks:—

In ordinary circumstances Paderewski would never be at a loss for means by which to secure a large sum

earn for Poland would be little in comparison with the vast sum needed to succor her people. The world is just beginning to realize that the Pole is getting the worst of this awful conflict. He is fighting on both sides, brother against brother, and, as Paderewski says, "always in the front line." The horrors of the war have transformed the famous musician into a psychological figure. He typifies the tortured soul of a nation of 17,000,000; his joy in his perfect art has fled, and, having done what little he could to relieve suffering, he has gone to other lands to plead for aid. All the world knows Paderewski, has seen him in his triumphs, has felt the spell of his genius. Paderewski in distress, Apollo deprived of his lyre, Orpheus without his flute, stands for the helplessness of non-combatant Poland while war rages. His words are eloquent and must have effect, but the spectacle of his own plight is also irresistibly pathetic."

"POLONIA"—By Jan Styka, 1891

Courtesy "Dziennik Dla Wszystkich"



The Painting is an Allegory of Poland, representing the stirring Scenes before the final Partition—such as the Proclamation of the Constitution of the Third of May 1791, the Victims of the Struggle for the Independence of Poland, the Confederations of Targowica and Radom which sided with Russia as against the best Interests of Poland, the Massacre of the Prague, a Suburb of Warsaw, and the Exile to Siberia. The Painting was bought for the Municipality of Lemberg (Lwow) to commemorate the centennial Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Third of May.

On your Left you find the representatives of the Confederation of Targowica who were corrupted with Russian Gold.—To the Right of Targowica you see the soberly minded Sons of Poland, who protested against the Reign of Tyranny, such as Korsak, Reytan, Ignacy Potocki, Andrew Zamiatowski, Wybicki, S. Malachowski, K. Sapieha, then Dąbrowski, Poniatowski, Kiliński, the kneeling Figure with drawn Sword, the Rev. Marek, praying, Sawa, Casimir Pulaski, Kosciuszko. On your Right, Poets and Writers are represented by Mickiewicz, Garczynski, Krasinski, Goszczynski, Zaleski, Kraszewski, Ujejski, Slowacki, Lenartowicz. There is Claudia Potocka, the Seer Wernyhora, and on the extreme Right, you find the Mystic A. Towiański, K. Rozycki, the Rev. Dunski, the Philosophers and Historians A. Cieszkowski, Libelt, Lelewel, Szajnocha, the Composers Moniuszko, Chopin, Oginski; Fredro; the Painters Kossak, Grottger, Matejko; the Poets W. Pol and Romanowski; and Mokryna Mieczysławska.

An Account of the Partition of Poland

By *SIR JAMES MacKINTOSH*

(Originally Published in the *Edinburgh Review*, Vol. XXXVII.)

(Continued from *FREE POLAND* No. 14.)



IN HIS return to Berlin, he accordingly disclosed it to the King, who received at first with displeasure, and even with indignation, as either an extravagant chimera, or a snare held out to him by his artful and dangerous ally. His anger lasted twenty-four hours. It is natural to be desirous of believing that a ray of conscience shot across so great a mind, and that he spent at least one honest day; or, if he was too deeply tainted by habitual king-craft for sentiments worthy of his native superiority, it may be, at any rate, supposed that he shrunk for a moment from disgrace, and that he felt a transient, but bitter, foretaste of the lasting execration of mankind. Of whatever nature his feelings of resentment or repugnance were, it is but too certain that they were short-lived. On the next day, he embraced his brother, as inspired by some god, and declared that he was a second time the savior of the monarchy. He was still, however, not without apprehensions from the inconstant councils of a despotic government, influenced by so many various sorts of favorites, as that of Russia. Orlov, who still held the office of Catharine's lover, was desirous of continuing the war; Panin desired peace, but opposed the Partition, which he probably considered as the division of a Russian province. But the great body of lovers and courtiers who had been enriched by grants of forfeited estates in Poland, were favorable to a project which would secure their former booty, and, by exciting civil war, lead to new and richer forfeitures. The Czerniczevs were supposed not to confine their hopes to confiscation, but to aspire to a principality, to be formed out of the ruins of the republic. It appears that Frederic in his correspondence with Catharine, urged, perhaps sincerely, his apprehension of general censure. Catharine answered: — 'I TAKE ALL THE BLAME UPON MYSELF.'

The consent of the Court of Vienna, however, was still to be obtained—where the most formidable and insuperable obstacles were still to be expected in the French alliance, in resentment towards Prussia, and in the conscientious character of Maria Theresa. Prince Henry, on the day of his return to Berlin, in a conversation with Van Swieten the Austrian minister, assured him, on the part of Catharine, that if Austria would favor her negotiations with Turkey, she would consent to a considerable augmentation of the Austrian territory', Van Swieten asked, 'Where?' Henry replied, 'You know as well as I do what your Court might take, and what it is in the power of Russia and Prussia to cede to her.' The cautious minister was silent; but it was impossible that he should either mistake the meaning of Henry, or fail to import such a declaration to his court. As soon as the Court of Petersburg had vanquished the scruples or fears of Frederic, they required that he should sound the Court of Vienna, which he immediately did through Van Swieten. The state of parties at Vienna was such, that Kaunitz thought it necessary to give an ambiguous answer. That celebrated coxcomb, who had grown old in the ceremonial of courts and the intrigues of cabinets, and of whom we are told that the death of his dearest friend never shortened his

toilet nor retarded his dinner, still held some regard to the treaty with France, which was his own work, and was divided between his habitual submission to the Empress Queen and the court which he paid to the young Emperor. It was a difficult task to minister to the ambition of Joseph, without alarming the conscience of Maria Theresa. That Princess, since the death of her husband, passed several hours of every day in a funereal apartment, adorned by crucifixes and death's heads, and by a portrait of the late Emperor painted when he had breathed his last, and by a picture of herself, as it was supposed she would appear, when the paleness and cold of death should take from her countenance the remains of that beauty which made her one of the finest women of her age. Had it been possible, in any case, to rely on the influence of the conscience of a sovereign over measures of state, it might be supposed that a princess, occupied in the practice of religious austerities, and in the exercise of domestic affections, advanced in years, loving peace, beloved by her subjects, respected in other countries, professing remorse for the bloodshed which her wars had occasioned, and with her children about to descend the greatest thrones of Europe, would not have tarnished her name by cooperating with a monarch whom she detested, and a female whom she scorned and disdained in the most faithless and shameless measures which had ever dishonored the Christian world. Unhappily she was destined to be a signal example of the insecurity of such a reliance. But she could not instantly yield. Kaunitz was obliged to temporize. On the one hand, he sent Prince Lobkowitz on an embassy to Petersburg, where no minister of rank had of late represented Austria; while, on the other, he continued his negotiations for a defensive alliance with Turkey; and duly notified, that his Court disapproved the impracticable projects of partition, and was ready to withdraw their troops from the district which they had occupied in virtue of an ancient claim. He soon after proposed neutrality to Prussia, in the event of a war between Austria and Prussia. Frederic answered, that he was bound by treaty to support Russia; but softened the harshness of that answer, by intimating that Russia might probably recede from her demand of Moldavia and Walachia. Both parts of the King's answer seemed to have produced the expected effect on Kaunitz, who now saw his country placed between a formidable war and a profitable peace. Even then, probably, if he could have hoped effectual aid from France, he might have chosen the road of honor. But the fall of the Duc de Choiseul, and the pussillanimous rather than pacific policy of his successors, destroyed all hope of French succor; and disposed Kaunitz to receive more favorably the advances of the Courts of Berlin and Petersburg. He seems to have employed the time, from June to October, in surmounting the repugnance of his Court to the new system.

The first certain evidence which we possess of a favorable disposition at Vienna towards the plan of the two powers, is in dispatch of Prince Galitzin at Vienna to Count Panin, 25th October 1771, in which he gives an account of a conversation with Kaunitz on the day before.

The manner of the Austrian minister was more gracious and cordial than formerly; and after the usual discussions about the difficulties of the terms of peace, Galitzin at last asked him—"What equivalent do you propose for all that you refuse to allow us? It seems to me that here can be none." Kaunitz, suddenly assuming an air of cheerfulness, pressed my hand and said, "Sir, since you point out the road, I will tell you;—but in such strict confidence, that it must be kept a profound secret at your Court; for if it were to transpire and be known even to the ally and friend of Russia, my Court would solemnly retract and disavow this communication. Their Imperial Majesties, convinced of your good disposition to cement the friendships between the two Courts, have expressly charged me to confer confidentially with you on the present state of affairs." He then proposed a moderate plan of peace—but added that the Court of Vienna could not use its good offices to cause it to be adopted, unless the Court of Pe-

conference passed in a quite different tone and manner. On the 30-th of October, Galitzin writes that Kaunitz in his new style of kindness, had assured him, "that the intercourse should be concealed from Versailles, and communicated only to Berlin.

Panin, in his answer, 16th December 1771, to Galitzin, seems to have perfectly well understood the extraordinary artifice of the Austrian minister, who, by a formal declaration for the integrity of Poland, intended to draw from Russia an open proposal of dismemberment.' "The Court of Vienna", says he, "claims the thirteen towns, and disclaims dismemberment. BUT THERE IS NO STATE WHICH DOES NOT KEEP CLAIMS OPEN AGAINST ITS NEIGHBORS, AND THE RIGHT TO ENFORCE THEM WHEN THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY! and there is none which does not feel the necessity of the balance of power to secure the possession of each. To be sure, we must not conceal that Russia is also in a con-

VIEWS FROM THE BURNED CITY OF KALISZ



KALISZ — The City Theatre.

tersburgh would give the most positive assurances that she would not subject Poland to dismemberment for her own advantage, or for that of any other; provided always, that their Imperial Majesties were to retain the county of Zipps, but to evacuate every other part of the Polish territory which the Austrian troops may have occupied. 'I observed that the occupation of Zipps had much the air of dismemberment. This he denied; but said that his Court would cooperate with Russia in forcing the Poles to put an end to their dissensions. I observed that the plan of pacification showed the perfect disinterestedness of her Imperial Majesty towards Poland and that no idea of dismemberment had ever entered into her mind or into that of her ministers.' "I am happy", said Kaunitz, "to hear you say so;" and then went into commonplaces on the difficulties and dangers of dismemberment. The whole

dition to produce well-grounded claims against Poland and that we can with confidence say the same of our ally the King of Prussia; and if the Court of Vienna finds it expedient to enter into measures with us and our ally to compare and arrange our claims, we are ready to agree." Galitzin, on the 29th January 1772, answered, in which he acknowledges the receipt of the former despatch, containing "an invitation to this Court to accede to a treaty for the Partition of Poland." Kaunitz said that it might be "necessary not to confine the partition to Poland, but that, if that country did not afford means for an equal partition between the two Courts, territory might be taken from some other which might be forced to give it up." He concluded that it was "necessary to keep the negotiation a profound secret from France and England, who might make a joint effort to prevent the dismemberment."

So rapid a progress had Austria made in her new system, that we find it proposing a new Partition, which could only relate to Turkey, with which she had concluded an alliance six months before, and whose territories she had solemnly bound herself to reconquer from the Russians. The fears of Kaunitz for the union of France and England were unhappily needless. **These great powers alike deserters of the right of nations, and betrayers of the liberties of Europe, saw the crime consummated without stretching forth an arm to prevent it.**

In the midst of this conspiracy between Kaunitz and Gallitzin, a magnificent embassy was sent from France to her ally, which arrived at Vienna early in January 1772. At the head of this mission was the Prince Louis de Rohan, long after unfortunately conspicuous, then appointed as a diplomatic pageant to grace the embassy by his high birth, while the business continued to be in the hands of M. Durand, a diplomatist of experience and ability, who had the character of envoy. Contrary, however, to all reasonable expectation, the young prince discovered the secret which had escaped the sagacity of the veteran minister. Durand, completely duped by Kaunitz, warned Rohan to hint no suspicions of Austria in his despatches to Versailles about the end of February. Rohan received information of the treachery of the Austrian Court so secretly, that he was almost obliged to represent it as a discovery made by his own penetration. He complained to Kaunitz, that no assistance was given the Polish confederates, who, under the command of French confederates, had at that moment brilliantly distinguished themselves by the capture of the Castle of Cracow. Kaunitz assured him that "the Empress Queen never would suffer the balance of power to be disturbed by a dismemberment which would give too much **preponderance** to neighboring and rival Courts." The ambassador suspected the intentions that lurked beneath this equivocal and perfidious answer, and communicated them to his Court. On the 2nd of March, he gave an account of the conference; but the Duc d'Aiguillon, either deceived, or willing to appear so, rebuked Prince Louis for his officiousness, observing that "the ambassador's conjectures being incompatible with the positive assurances of the Court of Vienna, constantly repeated by Count Mercy, the ambassador at Paris, and with the promises recently, made to M. Durand, the thread which could only deceive must be quitted." Some time afterwards, when the preparations for the seizure of the Polish provinces became too conspicuous, the ambassador had a private audience of the Empress Queen on the subject. That Princess shed tears at the fate of the oppressed Poles; but her words were as ambiguous and jesuitical as those of her minister. She entreated the King of France to rely on the negotiations of his faithful ally! for bringing matters to such an issue as should give peace to Poland without causing convulsions in Europe. The Prince gave an account of this audience in a private letter to M. d'Aiguillon, to be shown only to the King, which contained the following passage:

"I have indeed seen Maria Theresa weep over the misfortunes of oppressed Poland; but that Princess, practised in the art of concealing her designs, has tears at command. With one hand she lifts her handkerchief to her eyes to wipe away her tears; with the other she wields the sword for the Partition of Poland." It may be mentioned, incidentally, that the letter produced some remarkable effects. Madame du Barry got possession of it, and read the above passage aloud at one of her supper parties. An enemy of Rohan, who was present, immediately told the Dauphiness of the attack on her mother.

That young Princess was highly and naturally incensed at such language, especially as she had been given to understand that the letter was written to Madame Du Barry. She became the irreconcilable enemy of the Prince, afterwards Cardinal de Rohan, who, in hopes of conquering her hostility, engaged in the strange adventure of the diamond necklace, one of the secondary agents in promoting the French Revolution, and not the least considerable source of the popular prejudices against the Queen, which produced such injustice and barbarity towards that unfortunate Princess

In February and March 1772, the three powers exchanged declarations, binding themselves to adhere to the principle of equality in the Partition. In August following the treaties of dismemberment were executed at Petersburg; and in September, the demands and determinations of the Combined Courts were made known at Warsaw. Their declarations are well known; and it is needless to characterize papers which have been universally regarded as the utmost extremity of human injustice and effrontery. An undisputed possession of centuries; a succession of treaties to which all the European States were either parties or guarantees, nay, the recent, solemn, and repeated declarations and engagements of the three governments themselves, were considered as forming no title to dominion. In answer to all these titles of sovereignty, the Empress Queen and the King of Prussia appealed to some pretensions of their predecessors in the thirteenth century. The Empress of Russia alleged only the evils suffered by neighboring states from the anarchy of Poland. The remonstrances of the Polish government, and their appeals to all those states who were bound to protect them as guarantees of the treaty of Oliwa, and as deeply interested in maintaining the sacredness of ancient possession, were equally vain. When the Austrian ambassador announced the Partition at Versailles, the old King said, "if the other man (Choiseul) had been here, this would not have happened"; an observation which had probably some foundation in truth, and which certainly conveys the highest commendation on that powerful minister.

(To be continued)

Hymn of the Polish Exiles

God! Scorched by battle fires we stand
 Before Thee on Thy throne of snows;
 But, Father in this silent land,
 We seek no refuge nor repose;
 We ask, and shall not ask in vain,—
 "Give us our heritage again!"

Thy winds are ice-bound in the sea;
 Thine eagle cowers till storms are past;
 Lord! When those moaning winds are free,
 When eagles mount upon the blast,
 O breathe upon our icy chain,
 And float our Poland's flag again!

'Twas for Thy cause we once were strong;
 Thou wilt not doom that cause to death!
 O God, our struggle has been long;
 Thou wilt not quench our glimmering faith!
 Thou hear'st the murmurs of our pain,—
 "Give us our heritage again!"

HARRIET MARTINEAU.

A Sore Place in Europe

OF ALL the numberless tragedies, national and individual, involved in the cataclysm now rending Europe, none would have more subtly moved those great and grim dramatists of the Greek era than that enacted in Poland. Euripides himself could provide no more ironic spectacle, more moving to aching laughter and acid tears, than that now afforded by a State once counted among the greatest in Europe, a nation still great and noble in the arts of peace, a people whose proudest boast is that their nation died (if political death can be called such) for dear liberty's sake.

No record in all the annals of fratricide is so deeply tragic or so defiantly monstrous as this cold and calculated fact of a gentle and cultured people like the Poles forced to face each other on those infamous Eastern fields with the call of hate ringing in hearts ready only to love.

In our insular English way we are only too apt, in this woeful business of war, to lose the sense of proportion that alone can save us individually from condemning hastily and judging harshly. Let us keep before our eyes as a most evil example of imperial greed and hate, that one terrible picture of the Polish plains, where, ringed round with the flames of their fired homesteads, shut in (and shut out, as it seems, from hope of earthly peace) by the smoke of ruined towns, the Poles squint along the rifle-sights that bring within firing distance their own brothers, sons of the mother, flesh of her flesh, born of her travail. Let us remember that picture when the lust of blood and hate threatens to overwhelm us utterly. There are many sides to this war, and so far, we have not seen more than one or two of them!

The facts of the dismemberment of Poland are so well known that, like the other things one learns at school, they have been forgotten. They deserve to be written on the walls of every home in our country, so that, in our English pride of race and world-dominion, we seek not to repeat, that criminal partition. The Treaty of Vienna, which confirmed and defined the previous partitions of the country, gave Galicia to Austria, Posen, Silesia and other Polish provinces to Prussia, and the Kingdom of Poland to Russia. The history of the world contains no record of oppression more bitter and bloody than that of the Poles during the intervening century. Insurrection after insurrection revealed their resentment, their passionate desire for the liberty which they cherished before itself; yet each rising served but closer to bind, to render their bonds more unbreakable.

To-day the history of this unhappy nation seems to have reached its climax, its terrible turning-point, that may usher in an era bright with the realisation of almost forgotten hopes, that at any rate cannot lead to any hell worse than Poland knows already. After the war has but begun, two-thirds of original Poland—whose population is over three times greater than that of Belgium, and is not much less than that of Italy—is laid utterly waste. Over five hundred towns, according to Warsaw estimates have been completely destroyed by the German or the Russian guns. Villages without number have vanished, their fugitive inhabitants—such of them as have escaped death itself—added to the homeless millions whose misery we can imagine from our nearer acquaintance with their Belgian fellows in misfortune. The whole fabric of national life which Poland had succeeded, half-surreptitiously, in preserving, has suddenly been rent asunder; trade

and business have disappeared; the lean figure of famine stalks abroad in the land, and whom the cannon spare Hunger soon claims for her own. If you will properly grasp the situation of Poland to-day, look carefully at a colony of ants, some square inches in area, with its assiduous industry, its multitudinous homes, its microscopic fields and forests—then imagine a vast and remorseless boot viciously planted on almost all that tiny kingdom, annihilating at one blow every vestige of life and work and pleasure. That is like Poland to-day!

What of the future? To what new Europe shall we return, after we have ended our killing, and tidied up, as best we may, the vast slaughter-house we have made? Are we going back to the Europe of the old tyrannies, of weakness oppressed and strength enthroned of submerged nationalities and arrogant empires; or to a Europe set free, with the absolute recognition of the rights of every nation as of every individual—a Europe in which a nation shall be free to draw the sword only in vindication of outraged public law, or in defense of a people oppressed?

Justice and liberty call equally on behalf of Poland. Which nation of the three who have enslaved her will hear, and hearing, obey? The records of each Power's relations with Poland make bitter reading. Russia and Germany have been, perhaps, the hardest taskmasters—but, in fairness to Russia, it must be said that her tasks were set but little easier for her own people than for the Poles. Russia, under the leadership of Bismarck, von Buelow, and Bethman-Hollweg, has excelled herself in the war of extermination she has waged against the Poles, a war directed at the very root of Polish nationality—the possession of her ancient soil. Only Austria can claim to have treated her Polish subjects with some justice and liberality; Galicia enjoying a measure of local autonomy, besides adequate representation in the Imperial Parliament and recognition of her national institutions. How much this grace is worth, however, in view of the pressure notoriously exerted on Polish commercial interests in Galicia, is a matter of opinion.

It is obvious from a glance at the map that a more or less independent Poland, under the protection, say, of a Concert of European Powers, would be the greatest possible guarantee of permanent peace in Europe. The Poles are a peace-loving nation, devoted to the arts and sciences, and to the encouragement of their intensely vivid national life. Their notable services in the cause of freedom—that War of the Liberation of Humanity that Heine proclaimed—show them to be as ready as the Belgians to defend their country's integrity and independence. Her very position and natural disadvantages render her insuperable as a vast buffer between the two great military Powers of Europe—Russia and Germany. But her greatest, her unanswerable claim for final independence is made in the high name and for the hallowed sake of that old dream that drove her sons, as it has driven ours—to the gallows, to the prison, to exile in far lands, to loss of fair name—to any hell or hardship so they might not submit to the loss of the liberty that was their life!

G. E. SLOCOMBE,

Secretary of the Polish Bureau,
Granville House, 3 Arundel str. Strand, W. C.



PRIMROSE



By ADAM MICKIEWICZ.

Adam Mickiewicz published his first two volumes of poetry in 1822 and in 1823; they contained his "BALLADY" and "ROMANCE" headed by the poems Primrose (Pierwiosnek) and Romanticism (Romantyczność), the second and fourth parts of Dziady (In Honor Of Our Ancestors), and Grażyna. This selection is from Paul Soboleski's POETS AND POETRY OF POLAND.

I.

SCARCE had the happy lark begun
 To sing of Spring with joyous burst,
 When oped the primrose to the sun—
 The golden-petaled blossoms first.

II.

'Tis yet too soon, my little flower,—
 The north wind waits with chilly breath;
 Still capped by snow the mountains tower,
 And wet the meadows lie beneath.

III.

Hide yet awhile thy golden light,
 Hide yet beneath thy mother's wing,
 Ere chilly frosts that pierce and blight
 Unto thy fragile petals cling.

Primrose.

"Like butterflies our monuments are;
 They pass, and death is all our gain:
 One April hour is sweeter far
 Than all December's gloomy reign.

"Dost seek a gift to give the gods?
 Thy friend or thy beloved one?
 Then weave a wreath wherein there nods
 My blossoms—fairer there are none."

'Mid common grass within the wood,
 Beloved flower, thou hast shown;
 So simple, few have understood
 What gives the prestige all thy own.

Thou has no hues of morning star,
 Nor tulip's gaudy turbaned crest,
 Nor clothed art thou as lilies are,
 Nor in the rose's splendor drest.

When in a wreath thy colors blend,
 When comes thy sweet confiding sense
 That friends—and more beloved than friend—
 Shall give thee kindly preference?

Primrose

"With pleasure friends my buds will great,—
 They see spring's angel in my face;
 For friendship dwells not in the heart,
 But loves with me the shady place.
 Whether of Marion, beloved one,
 Worthy I am, can't tell before?
 If she but looks this bud upon,
 I'll get a tear—if nothing more!"



Kalisz Dworzec

KALISZ — Railroad Station.

The Destruction of Kalisz

(As told by Mr. Bukowski, former Mayor of Kalisz.)

While much has been written regarding the events on the western theatre of the war, very little authoritative news has come to us of the happenings in the eastern sphere. The following is a translation of an article, appearing in the "Russkia Vedomosty", a very independent and progressive Russian newspaper. Kalish, the capital of the province, is a town of 50,000, situated in Russian Poland, just over the German frontier, which accounts for its early occupation by the German army.

The account of Mr. Bukowski, former mayor of the city of Kalisz, follows:

The 2nd of August, the last Russian troops departed from Kalisz and the city was left to its fate. About 400 citizens assembled and elected me President of the city. This was necessary, because many bandits and pickpockets began to pillage abandoned shops and railway depots.

The advance guard of the Germans, 7 Uhlans and 8 cyclists, came in two o'clock in the afternoon, while at midnight a battalion of infantry and a hundred Uhlans arrived under the command of a Major Preusker.

At the major's invitation, I called on him, as president of the city. I was alone and did not offer him bread, salt and keys of the city, which are customary signs of welcome; I merely answered his questions.

After billeting his men in schools and other public buildings, the major again ordered me to come at 2 a. m. to the "Hotel de l'Europe", where he had taken up quarters together with his 25 officers. Major Preusker then ordered the city to furnish provisions of meat, bread and coffee for 820 men on the following day.

The next day the Germans confiscated the city treasury containing about \$15,000 in money and some valuable papers, which they promised to return the next day.

August the 3rd, the militia was disbanded and in the evening of the same day rumors came that an unknown column of soldiers was approaching the city and soon we heard the rifle firing of the patrol in the southern part of the city. In fifteen minutes the whole German detachment were in the streets in readiness for the fight and a few minutes later we could hear the sounds of heavy firing of rifles and machine guns. Each minute the volume of firing increased. As we later learned, the victims of this firing were more than 400 inoffensive inhabitants of the city.

The German soldiers stationed in the south of the city ignorant of the cause of this tumult, rushed on the streets, barricaded themselves, opened fire in the dark on other German troops, coming toward them, and thus killed 8 and wounded 29 of their own men. Examination in the local hospital showed, that all the wounds were caused by German bullets.

In order to avoid personal responsibility for this disagreeable incident, Major Preusker attempted to lay the blame for the firing on the inhabitants. At his order, innocent citizens were seized and forced to lie on the pavement, face downwards, with their arms extended. This endured for several hours.

I was taken out of my home at one o'clock in the morning, clad only in a shirt, and was forced to lie down on the street in the position described above. At each movement of the head or body the soldiers beat me,

kicked or struck me with their rifles. At a movement of my head a Prussian struck me such a blow that I fainted. They held me in this position until 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

At last the Major came. He ordered me to get up and showing me two ball cartridges and about half a pound of bird shot, said: "That is your friendship."

I was astonished and asked him, where he had found these bullets. He said that he had found them on the streets of the city; also he said, the first two shots at his men were fired by my own hand.

"It is false!", I cried, indignant at this lie.

For this his officers struck me with the butts of their pistols.

During the time I was lying on the street several officials and two messengers of the City Hall were brought there. One of these last, Wladyslaw Etlinger, seeing my scanty apparel, covered me with his uniform coat. He paid for this kindness with his life; for together with an official of the tax bureau he was immediately shot. I was then released and ordered to report to the Major in an hour.

The city was then given four hours, in which to pay a fine of \$25,000, under the threat of my execution, if not collected.

We succeeded in collecting \$24,000 and I asked the Major, if we could make up the remaining thousand with city bonds. In reply he flourished his pistol, saying:

—"This is my answer, if the whole sum is not collected".

Fortunately we were successful in obtaining the entire amount.

When the money was paid, I was arrested along with 20 other citizens. Among these were the President of the local court, the Canon of the Orthodox Cathedral, a Catholic prelate and two priests and some of the wealthiest citizens of the town.

Some hours later the whole German detachment left the city and we were compelled to follow. We were warned, that we would be immediately executed if there was a single shot fired upon the soldiers.

We had arrived at a railway station, about two miles from the city, when we heard a shot, evidently from a small calibre pistol. The soldiers immediately took to the sides of the street and we were left in the center. They opened fire and the bullets whistled over our heads.

—"Lie down", cried one of them, a Pole, and we obeyed him.

But one of our company, a Kalisz millionaire, Henry Frenkel, did not understand this warning and fell, pierced with the bullet. After this we were lined up by a hedge and told that we were to be shot. We remained in this position about an hour. But they did not shoot us. Instead of this, they marched us farther. Three times this operation was repeated with similar results. At last, we were brought into the German camp, where Major Preusker ordered us to be shot in front of a windmill. At the same time he sent one of our number Mr. Hantke back to the city, to inform the inhabitants of our shooting and to warn them, that if the firing on his men was repeated, the population would be literally decimated.

But again the threat of shooting us was not fulfilled,

and, after half an hour of waiting, we were imprisoned in the windmill, where there was just enough room for us to stand.

Locking us in, the corporal informed us that the council of officers had decided to burn us along with the mill.

Certainly we believed this Draconian threat of the major and I let the reader fancy the state of our minds during the night, which we passed, naturally, without a moment's sleep. We remained, however, three days in the mill without incident, except that we received no food. During these three days the Germans bombarded the city and we were compelled to watch this terrible spectacle without knowing the fate of our families.

At the end of the bombardment, we were sent in a dirty cattle car to Posen, Germany. Here we were led through the streets, amid the jeers and insults of the crowd. We were thrown into the criminal prison and remained there for fifteen days.

every object of value had been taken away in wagons commandeered by the Germans from local farmers and landowners. Every house, after being sacked, was set on fire, the best hospital of Kalisz had also been bombarded, in spite of the big Red Cross flags flying from the roof of walls.

During my imprisonment, Major Preusker had ordered to seek out the people who had hidden themselves in cellars. About 1660 men were found. They were divided into groups of tens and one of each group was ordered to be shot. In this manner 29 persons were shot. Fortunately for those remaining, these executions were stopped by a German officer, who arrived in automobile and brought the news, that the Kaiser had pardoned them. It is nothing wonderful that the inhabitants fled from the city, which was left to the mercy of criminals, liberated from the prison by the Germans.

Upon my return to Kalisz, I was told that on the day of the fierce bombardment of the city, August 7th, while



KALISZ — The City Hall.

After a preliminary hearing we were told that we would be freed.

Indeed, on the twelfth day of our imprisonment the commandant of the Posen fortress, General von Blehme, visited the prison. He called us into the corridor and made a speech to us, saying that the high German authorities wished us to know that the time had come for Poland to be reunited into a single state (with the exception of the province of Posen.) Therefore, we should manifest our loyalty and sympathy for the Germans, by organizing militia detachments as the Poles had done in Galicia. The General also added, that Warsaw was already evacuated by the Russians (!) and that the German army would occupy it in few days, as well as the rest of the Russian Poland.

At last we were freed and I went back to Kalisz. But what a terror I saw there! Of our beautiful Kalisz there remained only ruins and ashes. All the provisions and

we were imprisoned in the windmill, all the officials and property owners of the city were called together at two in the afternoon in the City Hall under pretence of re-establishment the normal life of the city.

But the assembled people saw that the Prussian soldiers were placed along streets in two rows. All of a sudden rifle firing was heard, and, as by a signal, the soldiers dispersed to all parts of the city and massacred all inhabitants whom they met. Soon there was not a street, where bodies of the slain could not be found.

At five o'clock the City Hall was set on fire, without any warning being given to those inside. On the contrary, all the exits were blocked. My family saved themselves by a miracle, fleeing by a neighboring yard.

I was officially named as major by the Germans, but I fled from this honor and the city.

Later all the environs of the city were fortified by

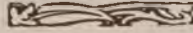
the inhabitants; bound to one another with cords, they were forced to work, in parties of a hundred, for 14 hours every day. At night they were locked up in the city prison.

Many facts in consection with the destruction of Kalisz make it evident, that it was planned in advance by the German army headquarters. There is one subject on which I have no doubts—that our citizens did not fire upon

the Germans. The only shots heard were those fired by the Germans themselves.

It would be difficult to determine the number of those who perished, as hundreds were buried by the Germans without any witnesses. But this number can be estimated at no less than 4000. Whole families were slaughtered, neither women nor children were spared.

(Translated by W. P. KOTCHETKOW.)



Poland

(As Described in Benziger's Geography, for Catholic Schools)

POLAND, a former kingdom of Europe, whose territory is now included in Russia, Austria, and Prussia, previous to 1660 had an area of about 375,000 square miles and a population of about 15,000,000. It extended to the Baltic Sea on the north, to Brandenburg on the west, and to Hungary and Moldavia on the south, while the eastern portion included most of the territory drained by the Dnieper River.

When the final partition of the country occurred, in 1795, its area was but a little over 94,000 square miles, with a population of about 4,500,000.

About six-sevenths of the original area of what is known by the Poles as "The Kingdom" is now included in the Russian Empire; a portion named Galicia belongs to Austria; and the other parts, known as the Grand Duchy of Posen, West Prussia, and Ermland (Warmia), were incorporated in Prussia.

This large and powerful kingdom extended over the basins of the river Warta, Vistula, Dvina, Dnieper, and upper Dniester, and had under its sway, besides the Poles proper, the Lithuanians, the White Russians, and the Little Russians or Ruthenians.

Poland lies in a latitude in which there is a rich and fertile soil, admirably adapted for the growing of wheat, barley, oats, and other grains. Flax, hemp tobacco, and fruits of various description also flourish; horses and cattle are raised in large numbers, and productive forests abound. In the Carpathian Mountains silver, copper, and iron are mined, and at Wieliczka in Galicia are the most extensive salt mines in the world.

Poland was for several hundred years the dominant power of eastern Europe. It carried on many wars under great kings and gained victories over vast armies of invading Tartars, who were then a menace to the civilization of Europe. Under the kings Mieczyslaus, Boleslaus the Brave, the Casimirs (962—1584), Poland extended its power; the Sigismunds and Ladislaus strengthened it. Lithuania was joined to Poland in 1569, and Warsaw became the capital. King John Sobieski, known as John III, saved Vienna from the Turks in 1683 by a splendid victory which he gained over them. For this great achievement, which saved Europe from being overrun by the Moslems, Poland received the title "Bulwark of Christendom."

The kingdom's power, however, declined through interior dissensions among the nobility, the ruling class, and through the interference of Russia and Prussia. This resulted in Poland being at last reduced and dismembered. The first partition of the country took place in 1773; it finally went out of existence in 1795. The insurrections of 1831 and 1863 were unsuccessful, and many Polish patriots, rather than owe allegiance to Russia and Prussia, left the land of their birth for new countries.

A visitor to those parts of Europe which at one time constituted the kingdom of Poland will still find millions of Poles, speaking their native language and living in the hope of Poland's eventual restoration to power and independence. It is estimated that there are 25,000,000 Poles now scattered over the world.

Warsaw (Warszawa), the capital of Russian Poland, is situated on the Vistula. It is a beautiful city, with a population of 756,500, and is a center of wealth, culture, and learning. A great variety of goods, such as glassware, cotton, linen, and woolen cloths, are manufactured here.

Cracow, which for five centuries was the capital of Poland, is situated on the left bank of the river Vistula, which is navigable up to this point. It has a population of about 111,000 and contains many beautiful buildings and imposing towers. Among the former are the places of the kings, and the great cathedral, where rest in a silver casket the remains of Poland's patron saint, St. Stanislaus, bishop and martyr. Here also many other renowned men are buried, among them Kosciuszko, who, in endeavoring to save his country in 1794, was wounded and fell into the hands of his enemies.

Near this city is Kosciuszko Mound, built as a monument to the hero from soil gathered on the battlefields of Poland by its grateful people. A fort built there affords a splendid view of the city and the valley of the Vistula. Near Cracow are Bochnia and Wieliczka. The latter has rock salt mines extending into the earth more than a thousand feet and containing an amusement hall, a chapel, statues, chandeliers, etc., all cut out of salt.

Odessa, on the Black Sea, is an important market and the chief grain-exporting seaport. It is also a large importing city. Its principal industrial establishments are sugar refineries, flour mills, oil mills, tanneries, tobacco factories, and breweries. It was the scene of much fighting during the Crimean War.

Kiev, on the Dnieper River, is located in an agricultural district; it is now a strongly fortified city of Russia. It has extensive manufactories for sugar and tobacco, and exports much grain, cattle, honey, etc.

Lemberg has extensive manufactures and is the seat of government in the crownland of Galicia. It has a population of 160,000. It is the only city in the world in which there are three archbishops and three cathedrals, one for the Catholics of the Latin rite, one for the Greeks, and one for the Armenians.

Posen is in the eastern part of Prussia and is a strongly fortified city, with a population of 137,000. It became the seat of a bishop in the tenth century, and was the home of the early Polish kings. The city contains numerous churches, among which is the cathedral, with its golden chapel and bronze statues of the first two Christian

kings of Poland. It has also an old town hall, which was rebuilt nearly 600 years ago.

Vilno is the main city of the province of Lithuania. It has a population of 163,000 and is situated on a branch of the river Niemen, or Memel. The provinces on the Dnieper River and its branches are very rich in corn and cattle; among the latter are the famous Padolian oxen.

Lodz, which is seventy-six miles southwest of Warsaw, is an important railroad and manufacturing center for silk, cotton, and woolen goods. It contains breweries, dye works, machine works, etc., and has a population of about 352,000.

Danzig, in Prussian Poland, is situated on the bay of the same name in the Baltic Sea. It is an important seaport, and has many manufacturing industries, such as iron foundries, machine shops, steel works, and various sorts of mills.

Gnesen, six miles north of Posen, is an historic town. It contains the remains of St. Adalbert. The order of the Polish White Eagle was originated here.

Riga, on the river Duna, or Dvina, is one of the principal seaports. It is a great market for timber from the White Forest. Its chief exports are corn, hemp, oats, tallow, leather, and tobacco.

On the river Warta lies the famous sanctuary and shrine of Our Lady of Czenstochowa, long venerated and visited by immense numbers of pious pilgrims.

For a comprehensive account of Poland's great wars, the heroic exploits of its sons, and the character of its people from aristocrat to peasant, one cannot do better than read some of the excellent writings of Henry Sienkiewicz, which have been translated into many languages. His books, especially those entitled "Fire and Sword", "Pan Michael", "The Deluge", "The Knights of the Cross" are deservedly popular.

In the United States there are about 4,000,000 Poles,

and their number and wealth are steadily increasing.

The first Polish bishop in the United States, the Rt. Rev. Paul P. Rhode, D. D., was consecrated in 1908.

There are 527 Catholic churches and about 600 Catholic priests serving the spiritual needs of the Polish people in the United States.

There are 80 Polish newspapers published in the United States. In Chicago there are 240,000 Poles, with 27 churches.

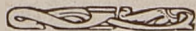
In the archdiocese of Milwaukee there are 75,000 Poles, with 20 churches.

In Pennsylvania there are 382,000 Poles.

The Polish population of the diocese of Buffalo is 70,000, of Pittsburg 67,500, of Detroit 66,000, of Grand Rapids 45,000, of Newark 43,500, of Hartford 31,000.

Among the Religious Orders of Women who are doing noble work in the field of education for Polish children are the Felician Sisters, the Sisters of Notre Dame, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, the Sisters of the Resurrection, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis.

The Polish people of the United States do not forget their country's history, its heroes and saints, its poets, painters, and musicians. There are monuments raised to Kosciuszko and Pulaski, who fought for American independence. Kosciuszko has been called the "Father of American Artillery" and Pulaski the "Father of American Cavalry." Celebrations are held in honor of men like Mickiewicz, Slowacki, and Chopin. Some of the finest churches and schools in the land are erected by the Polish people in honor of their national saints, St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert, St. Josaphat, St. John Cantius, St. Hedwig. The Polish national songs resound in many cities, with no detriment, however, to the enthusiasm displayed in the singing of American anthems in this land of the free.



Prof. F. A. Ogg on Polish Aspirations

THAT the present European war may result in the complete, or at least in a partial, restoration of nationality and independence to Poland, was the statement of Professor F. A. Ogg of the University of Wisconsin before an assemblage of students and faculty in the auditorium of the law building.

"Poland," said Professor Ogg, whose brilliant article on the subject appeared in the March number of *Munsey's Magazine*, "first made its appearance in history during the tenth century. They are Polish in race and came from the valleys of the Danube. They were early converted by Roman Catholic missionaries which separated them in sympathy from the other Slavs who are Greek Catholic.

"Poland disappeared from the map in 1795. In the middle ages, however, she was more powerful than any of the three countries which absorbed her. She reached the zenith of her power in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; but even then her power was impaired because she was composed of a number of practically independent principalities speaking different dialects.

"Aristocracy arose. The election of kings was accomplished by bloodshed and revolt. The principle of 'liberum veto', which required that no law could be passed without the unanimous consent of all the members, prevented the Polish diet from passing wise laws; corruption

flourished and foreign intrigue came into Polish politics. The day of dissolution was near."

The speaker went on to show how Russia, Prussia and Austria cold-bloodedly divided Poland among themselves, while the rest of Europe looked on with complacency. He showed how Poland bravely but ineffectually resisted this crime which was described as the "most audacious robbery in the history of European international relations."

The Polish spirit, however, was not broken by the partition. Many Poles enlisted under the banner of Napoleon, hoping that the latter's victory might mean independence for Poland. In this they were disappointed; Napoleon did not feel for their cause. After his defeat the greater part of Poland, which was made a part of Russia, was given a constitution by the czar. But in 1830 Poland rebelled, was defeated, her constitution taken away, and a military rule installed.

"Today," concluded Professor Ogg, "ten million Poles still speak the Polish language, and are in the strictest sense Poles in spite of the efforts of Germany and Russia to absorb them. Three quarters of a century of intolerant administration has not broken their spirit.

"The fate of the Polish national aspiration promises to be one of the real interesting things to watch when after the present war draws to a close, Europe faces the problem of national and international reconstruction."

From the Memoirs of a Teacher

By HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ
(Translated By Casimir Gonski.)

(Concluded from FREE POLAND, No. 14.)

"Because what, Michas?" I asked astonished.

Instead of answering he clinched his teeth, and at last burst out with such intense weeping, that I could not quiet him for a long time.

I asked Owicki for the cause of this occurrence. But he could not or rather would not tell me. However, that was easily guessed. There was not the slightest doubt that a Polish pupil in a German school had to hear many things which wounded his feelings. On most boys such remarks left no impression, beyond an ill-feeling towards their professors and their nationality. But a little boy like Michas felt them sensitively and did not dare to contradict them. The two guiding forces which a child is bound to obey and which, for that very reason, should be harmonious, were dragging Michas in opposing directions. What one force bid to cherish and love, the other force condemned as silly sentimentality; what was virtue with one, was fault with the other. In this anomaly the boy followed that guidance to which his heart drew him, but he had to pretend obedience to the opposing force, he had to simulate from morning till night, he was compelled to live under these conditions for days, weeks and months. What a dreadful situation for a child!

Michas' fate was a strange one. The dramas in life usually commence a little later, when the first leaves begin to fall from the trees of youth. For him everything that makes misery: moral compulsion, hidden remorse useless effort, struggle with difficulties, gradual loss of hope, all this began in his eleventh year. To sustain such burdens, neither his delicate physique nor his mental power was sufficient. The letters of his mother, although tender and loving, were adding weight to the strain.

"God has gifted you, Michas, with unusual abilities"—the mother wrote—"I expect then that you will not betray the hope I have in you, and that you will do honor to your country and me."

When the boy received for the first time such a letter, he grasped my hand and with tears in his eyes asked me: "Oh, what shall I do, Mr. Vavryk, what shall I do?"

Indeed what could he do? What could he help that he did not come to this world with a gift for the acquisition of languages and the pronunciation of German?

The feast of All Saints came and with it a short vacation. The quarterly testimonial was not satisfactory. In three very important studies the marks were low. At the most urgent requests of Michas I did not send it to his mother.

"My dear sir," he said, folding his hands in supplication,— "mama does not know that I get marks at this times and till Christmas,—perhaps God will have mercy on me."

The poor boy was hoping against hope that he could improve the low marks; I too, hoped. I thought that he may become accustomed to the routine of school life, that he would acquire fluency and the proper accent in German and above all things, that he would need less time for studying. Otherwise, I should have written long ago to his mother telling her the true condition of affairs. It seemed

that our hopes should realize. Shortly afterwards Michas received three highest marks, one of which was for Latin. He was the only one in the whole class who knew that the *perfectum of gaudeo was gavisus sum*, and he happened to know it, because he had received on the preceding day two "excellents" and he asked me what the Latin was for "to be glad." I thought the boy would go mad with joy. He wrote a letter to his mother beginning with these words:

"My darling Mama! Do you, dearest mother, know what the *perfectum of gaudeo* is? I don't think that you or little Lola know it, because I am the only one in the whole class who knew."

Michas idolized his mother. From that time he asked me for all kinds of *perfecta* and *participia*. To maintain his high marks became the task of his life. But the happiness was of short duration. His unfortunate Polish accent destroyed what his studiousness had built up and the great number of studies precluded the possibility of devoting so much time to them, as his overtaxed memory required. Something happened which added to his failures. Michas and Owicki forgot to tell me about an essay which they failed to prepare. With Owicki this mattered little; he as the *primus* was not even asked about it, but Michas received a public censure connected with a threat of dismissal.

His professor actually supposed, that he had purposefully not mentioned the essay so as to escape the work and the boy, who was utterly incapable of telling the slightest falsehood, had no means of proving his innocence. He might have said in his defense that Owicki, too, had forgotten the essay, but his sense of honor would not allow that. To my assurances the professor answered that I encouraged the boy in his laziness. I felt very much grieved at that, but was especially worried when I saw Michas on the evening of that day. He pressed his hands against his temples and whispered, thinking, that I could not hear him: "Oh, it hurts so very, very much!"

A letter from his mother, which came a few days afterwards and which showered praises upon him for his good marks, was another blow to the unfortunate boy.

"Oh, what a nice surprise this will be for her!" he cried, covering his face with his hands.

The following day when I put the knapsack on his shoulder he swayed and nearly fell over. I wanted to keep him home but he insisted on going and asked to escort him to school. He returned at noon with another low mark received in a lesson which he knew well, but according to Owicki, he became frightened and could not utter one word. His professor regarded him as a boy "imbued with wrong principles and instincts", dull and lazy.—

He lost finally all hope in himself, all confidence in his ability; he became convinced, that all efforts and work were for naught, that he could not study, but at the same time he thought what his mother would say, what sorrow it would be to her and how it would ruin her delicate health.

The chaplain of Zalesina, who wrote sometime to Mi-

chas, was a very sympathetic man, but not farsighted; every letter ended with these words:

"Remember then, Michas, that not only the happiness but the health of your mother depends on the progress you make in your studies and morals." — Yes, he remembered it, remembered it too much, for even in his sleep, he repeated with supplicating voice "Mama, mama!" as if asking her forgiveness.

But the marks he received were becoming worse and worse. Meanwhile Christmas was at hand and we had no sanguine expectations as to the testimonial; I wrote to Lady Mary to forewarn her. I told her frankly and decisively that the boy was sickly and overworked, that in spite of his most strenuous efforts no results could be obtained and that after the holidays he should be kept home, in the country, to recuperate his health. Although her answer betrayed that her maternal pride had been touched, she wrote like a sensible woman and loving mother. To Michas I did not say a word about this because I feared to excite him. I only told him that whatever might happen, his mother knew that he had studied earnestly and that he could satisfactorily account for the lack of success. This eased his mind considerably, and he cried to his heart's content, something he had not done for a long time. Weeping, he repeated: "how much sorrow I give mama." However, the thought that soon he would go in the country and see his mother, little Lola and Zalesina, made him smile through his tears. I, too, was very anxious to return to Zalesina, because I could no longer endure the condition of the boy. There awaited him a mother's heart, the good will of the people, quietude and recreation. There, study would have a different aspect for him. The very atmosphere would be homelike and pure and it would bring health and life to the little body. I yearned for Christmas as Michas' salvation and I counted the moments which separated us from the holidays and which brought more and more worry to Michas. It seemed that everything had combined against him. Again he received a public censure, for "demoralizing" others. That was just before the holidays and the more significant. How a child, ambitious and impressionable, must have felt a rebuke, I will not undertake to describe. What a chaos must have been in his mind! His childish breast was rudely torn and before his eyes,—instead of light, he beheld darkness. He bent like a reed before the wind. The face of this eleven year old boy finally assumed a truly tragic expression. At times his eyes looked like those of a bird in captivity. Then a strange drowsiness would possess him, he seemed to lose control over his motions and his voice was sleepy. He became unusually quiet and automatically obedient. When I told him that it was time for our walk, he did not oppose, as formerly, but took his cap and followed me in indifference, but I knew that it was exalted, painful resignation. He sat down to his lessons and studied them as usual, but from mere habit. It could be noticed that he recited his conjugation mechanically thinking of something else or rather of nothing. Once, when I asked him, whether he had finished everything, he answered slowly, with a sleepy voice: "I think, sir, it is all to no use." I was even afraid to mention his mother to him, lest I might fill to overflowing the cup of bitterness which his youthful lips were draining.

The state of his health gave me grave concern. He had grown very thin, I might say almost transparent. A network of delicate veins which formerly appeared on his temples when he became excited, was now there permanently. Yet, he was as beautiful as a picture. It was pitiful to look at that little head, which seemed like a

wilting flower. There was no definite sickness, but he was losing strength, disappearing.

He could not any more carry all the books in his knapsack, so I put in only a few, and carried the rest myself, for I escorted him now every day to and from school.

At last the holidays came. The horses from Zalesina had been waiting two days, and with them had come a letter from Lady Mary, telling us, that we were expected anxiously. "I hear that it is a very hard struggle for you, Michas,"—the letter ended,—"I only wish, that your teachers would think as I do, that you have done everything in your power and that by good conduct you have endeavored to offset your poor progress."

But the professors thought different in every respect, and even this slight hope was not to realize. The last public censure touched directly the boy's conduct of which his mother had also a wrong impression. In the opinion of the professors only such pupils deserved a mark for good conduct, who would join in the ridicule of Polish "barbarism", language and traditions. In consequence of these ethical conceptions, and Michas not giving promise of deriving advantage from studying further, while uselessly occupying some one's else seat, he was dismissed from school. He came home with that decree in the evening.—It was dark in the room; there being a heavy snow-fall outside, I could not distinguish Michas' face very clearly. I only saw, that he went to the window and absentmindedly gazed at the snow-flakes whirling in the air. I did not envy the poor boy's thoughts, which, like the snow-flakes, were whirling in his head, but I preferred not to speak about the testimonial. In this way a quarter of an hour passed in painful silence and meanwhile it had grown dark in the room. I began to pack our things in the trunk, but noticing that Michas did not stir from the window, I asked him at last:

"What are you doing, Michas?"

"Is it true" he answered with a trembling voice, hesitating at every syllable—"that-mama-sits-now-with-Lola-in-the-greenroom-before-the-fire—thinking-of-me."

"Perhaps. But why do you tremble so? Are you ill?"

"No, it's nothing, sir, only, I am very cold."

I undressed him and put him to bed; doing so I looked with heartfelt pity at his emaciated knees and arms which were as thin as a tiny reed. Then I gave him hot tea and covered him with all the bed-cloth I had.

"Are you warmer now?"

"Oh, yes! my head hurts a little!"

Poor little head, no wonder it hurt! The exhausted boy soon fell asleep and in his dreams breathed heavily through his narrow chest. I finished packing and not feeling very well, also retired.

About three o'clock after midnight I was awakened by a light and the well known, monotonous murmur. When I had opened my eyes, my heart beat uneasily. The lamp was burning on the table and at it, stooped over a book, sat Michas, clad only in a night-robe. His cheeks were burning, the eyes were half closed as if the better to memorize, his head was reclining backward and a sleepy voice repeated:

"Conjunctivus: amem, ames, amet, amemus, ametis—"

"Michas!"

"Conjunctivus: amem, ames———" I shook him by the shoulders:

"Michas!"

He woke and blinked with his eye in astonishment, apparently not recognizing me.

"What are you doing my boy?"

"Sir," — he said smiling—"I am repeating everything from the beginning, I must get an "excellent" tomorrow.

I lifted him up and carried him to bed, his body fairly burned me. Fortunately a doctor lived in the house and I called him immediately. He did not diagnose very long. For a moment he held the boy's pulse, then his forehead—Michas had inflammation of the brain.

His condition soon became alarming. I dispatched for his mother and when on the second day the bell was violently rung in the ante-room, I knew she had come. Opening the door I saw underneath a black veil a face as white as linen; her fingers clutched my shoulders and her whole soul shone through her eyes when she asked abruptly:

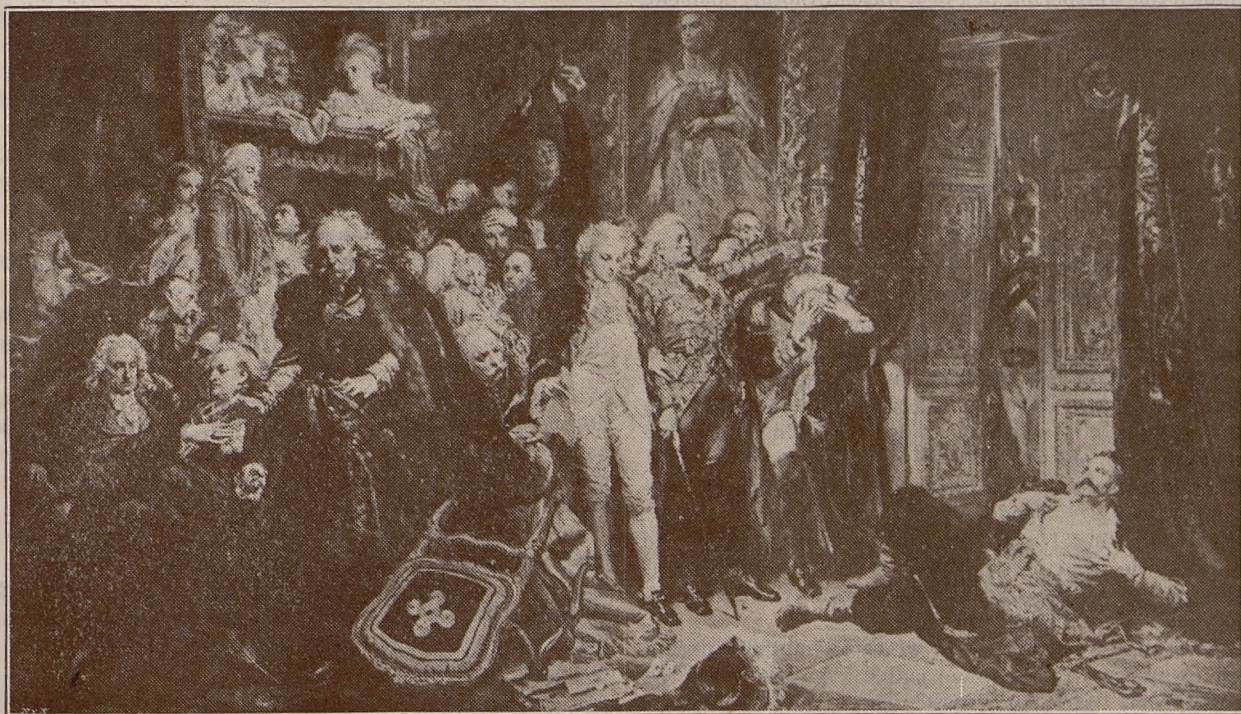
"Alive?"

"Yes the doctor says that he is improving."

"True, I forgot to take off my hat." When she did take it off, my heart cramped with pity: in her blond hair, which beautified a young and handsome head, there was many, many a silver thread. Three days ago they were not there, perhaps.

She, herself, changed now the ice and gave him medicine. Michas followed her with his eyes wherever she went, but again did not recognize her. Towards evening the fever increased. He declaimed an elegy by Niemcewicz, sometimes he recited or conjugated Latin verbs. I left the room very often, because I could not listen to it. When he was well he had secretly learned by heart some Latin psalms, to surprise his mother when he came home, and I shuddered now when in the stillness of the evening and death hovering about us, this child of eleven years, repeated with a faint, dying voice: "Deus meus, quare me repulisti, et quare tristis incedo dum affligit me inimicus!"

TADEUSZ REYTAN—By Jan Matejko (1886)



Under Russian Pressure, the Polish Diet met in 1773 in Warsaw, in order to ratify the first Partition of Poland, against which Tadeusz Reytan, member to the Diet, and one of the noblest of Men in Polish History, protested with all the Vehemence of his ardently patriotic Soul—all to no Purpose.

She threw back her veil on which her breath had crystallized, and she hastened to her child. I had lied, Michas was alive but far from better. He did not recognize her even when she sat down on the bed and took his hands. But when fresh ice was put on the forehead, his eyelids began to twitch and he looked intensely into the face above him. Evidently his mind was laboring and struggling with fever and unconsciousness; his lips quivered, he smiled,—once—twice, and at last he whispered:

"Mama!"

She held his hands and sat on the bed for several hours, not having changed her traveling dress. When I called her attention to it, she said:

I cannot tell what a tragic impression these words made on me. It was Christmas Eve. From the street reached us the hum of many voices and the merry jingle of the sleigh-bells. The city was assuming a garb of festivity and gladness. When it had grown quite dark, through the windows of the house opposite us could be seen a Christmas tree, flooded with light and laden with glittering golden apples and nuts. And around it children's heads, fair and dark, with flowing hair, jumping up and down as if on springs. The windows glared with light and the rooms reverberated from the joyous shouts of happiness. Among the voices that reached us from the streets, there were none but merry ones, and gladness was every-

where. Only our little one repeated, as if in deep sorrow: "Deus meus, quare me repulisti." Carol boys with a little manger halted at the door-way and soon their song reached us:

"Lying in the manger,
Who will come to praise Him *)

The night of Nativity had come and we trembled, lest it be the night of death.

For a moment it seemed that he had regained consciousness, because he was calling for *Łola* and his mother, but that did not last long. His short breath stopped at times entirely. It was useless to hope! His little soul was ready to take its flight. His mind had gone, and he himself was about to enter the dark infinitude.—He neither saw nor felt anybody, not even his mother's head which lay at his feet. Every breath seemed to remove him further from us. The fever extinguished his life spark by spark. His hands lay inanimate on the bedcover, the features were accentuated and had an expression of cold dignity. His respiration grew steadily weaker and finally resembled the whispering tick of a watch. Another moment, one more sigh and the last grain of sand would fall in the hour-glass: the end was to come.

About midnight we surely thought it had come, he gurgled and groaned like one drowning and then he became quiet. But a mirror, which the doctor held to his mouth, clouded a little with his breath. One hour later the fever fell suddenly; we all thought he was saved. The poor mother grew faint.

For the next two hours he improved steadily. I had watched at his bed-side for many hours and as my cough was giving me serious trouble, I went to the ante-room and laid down on the couch, falling soon asleep. The voice of *Lady Mary* woke me, I thought she was calling me, but in the quiet of the night I heard distinctly: "*Michas!* *Michas!*" My hair stood on end when I understood the terrible accents with which she called the child. But before I could jump up, she ran into the room covering the light with her hand and with quivering lips she whispered:

"*Michas* is dead!"

In a twinkling I was at his bed.—It was true. The position of the head on the pillow, the eyes staring motionless at the ceiling, the muscles rigid,—there was no room for doubt: *Michas* was dead.

I covered him with a spread which his mother, tearing herself away from the bed, had pulled from his emaciated little body and I closed his eyes. Then I had to give attention to his mother who had fainted. Christmas day

*) A beautiful Christmas custom in Poland, where carol boys with a little manger and figures representing the Nativity, go from house to house, singing Christmas hymns.

passed in preparations for the funeral, rendered the more painful for me, because she did not want to leave the body, She fainted when the men came to take the measure for the coffin; again, when they dressed the body and again when they put up the catafalque. Her despair clashed every moment with the indifference of the funeral servants who are accustomed to such scenes. She herself put the shavings in the coffin underneath the silk, talking deliriously, that the child's head was too low. And meanwhile *Michas* lay on the bed dressed in black with white gloves, cold, indifferent and serene. Then we put the body in the coffin, placed it on the catafalque with two rows of wax tapers on either side.. The room in which the poor child had conjugated so many Latin verbs, had prepared so many lessons, looked now like a chapel. The closed blinds did not admit the light of day and the flickering tapers gave to the room a solemn, ecclesiastical aspect. Never, since the time when he received his last "excellent" have I seen his face so serene. His delicate profile had a gentle smile, as if the boy had begun to like this eternal reaction of death and was happy in it. The flickering lights gave to this smile a semblance of life and dream.

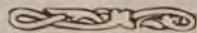
Gradually, the little colleagues, who had not gone home for holidays, began to come. Their eyes opened wide with astonishment at the sight of the tapers, catafalque and coffin. Perhaps these little scholars wondered at the dignity of their clas-mate. Only a short time ago he was among them, bent like they were, under the burden of the knapsack overloaded with books, received poor marks, scoldings and public censure; any of them could pull his hair or ear,—and now he was so much above them, solemn, serene, surrounded by tapers. They drew nearer to him with reverence and a certain fear,—even *Owicki*, the primus, was nothing in his presence. The little fellows nudged each other with their elbows, whispered to each other, that he did not care for anything now, even if the "*Herr Inspector*", should come in, he would not rise, he would not be afraid, that he would smile just as serenely, for he could do just as he pleased, "up there" could make all the noise he wanted and talk to the little angels with their wings on their shoulders.

So whispering, they neared to the row of tapers, knelt and prayed: "May he rest in peace."

The following day they put the cover on the coffin fastening it; then they took the coffin to the cemetery and lumps of clay mingled with snow soon covered it before my eyes—forever.

To-day, writing this, almost a year has passed, but I remember thee and I still pity thee, my dear, little *Michas*, my flower, prematurely wilted. O do not know where thou art, whether thou hearest me, I only know that thy old teacher coughs more and more, he is lonesome and soon will follow thee, whither thou hast gone

THE END



Will Poland's Bad Luck Turn?

WHEN Thackeray in "Punch" warned the Londoners not to cheer Czar Nicholas I on his visit to England in 1844 he sought to arouse their resentment toward Russia by recalling the unsuccessful Polish revolt of 1830—31. "When the Guards with their silver trumpets play the Russian national air—beautiful as the melody is", wrote Thackeray, "let no man cheer. Remember the trumpets

that played it when the Cuirassiers of Paskewitch rode into burning Warsaw."

That revolt of 1830 was the last serious effort of the Poles to re-establish their national life—although there were later insurrections, notably those of the generally revolutionary period of 1846—8.

The Poles of 1830 followed the lead of the French

revolutionaries who overthrew Charles Tenth. That was in keeping with Poland's traditional bad luck. "Gentlemen of Poland," said the Russian General Dibitch to the Polish envoys, "your revolution has not even the merit of being well timed. You have risen at the moment when the whole force of the empire was on the march toward your frontiers, to reduce to order the revolutionary spirits of France and Belgium."

And yet the Poles made a brilliantly successful campaign until their factions got to quarreling among themselves—again with the traditional ill luck that had caused their national downfall. Then the important battle of Ostrolenka was lost to the Russians; and finally, in September, 1831, Warsaw surrendered. "Sire, Warsaw is at your feet", wrote Paskewitch (or Paskiewitch) to the czar. The exceptions to the so-called "amnesty" that was granted were terrible. Practically all the leaders and instigators of the attempted revolution were shot; 5,000 Polish families were transported to the Caucasus; vast amounts of property were confiscated; the Polish language was forbidden to be taught in the schools and in the university; no local diet (parliament) was permitted, and all officials were appointed from Russia.

But the French historian of Russia, M. Rambaud, from whose history this account is condensed, tells that Polish provinces did get the measure of good out of the misfortune that they were freed of the exactions of Polish nobles and permitted to pay only fixed and reduced maximum rents.

Since the time of the first Nicholas here have been other relentings in the treatment of Poland by Russia — although it still requires a great deal of optimism for Poland to accept at par the promises of the second Nicholas under the pressure of this war. *Kansas City, Mo., Times.*

The Appeal For Poland

POOR POLAND:

Henryk Sienkiewicz makes in behalf of his suffering country an appeal which we print on this page in all its impassioned grief.

For more than six months seven millions of opposing soldiers have been fighting back and forth across her soil.

This means that she has not even had the "armed peace" that can come under an army of occupation. She has had to face not only starvation but the constant devastation that accompanies the actual operations of war.

Her case is so pitiful that the hearts of all countries must bleed for her.

America already has its heavy burdens of war relief. This country has given of its riches to Belgium in so generous a degree that thousands of innocent lives have been saved.

The appeal of Poland is no less harrowing, no less just. Can we not do something to meet it?

To Chicago the opportunity presents itself thru the Polish Central Relief Committee. All contributions collected in America are sent to the Swiss National Bank, Lausanne, Switzerland. The American address is John F. Smulski, Treasurer, Northwestern Trust and Savings Bank, 1201 Milwaukee avenue. — *The Chicago Post.*

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Polish Merchants, Chicago.....	5,700.00

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