

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

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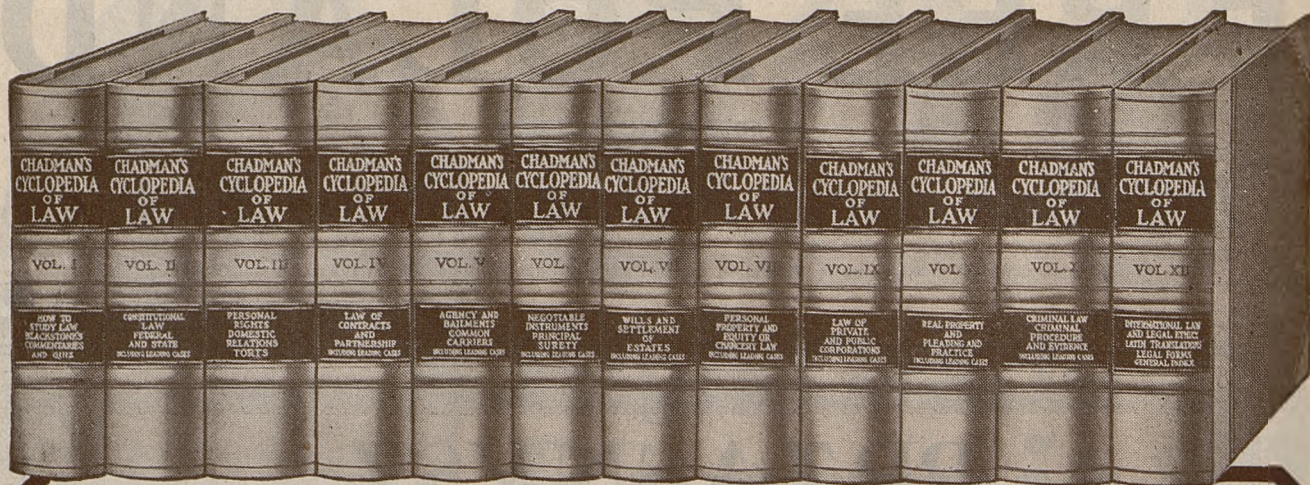
JULY 1, 1915

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PRZASNYSZ



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The Polish Nation

T is almost unknown outside of Poland that the peculiar and apparently unique position of the United States of America among the nations of mankind is only a development of a similarly peculiar and really unique position held by Poland for centuries before the American war for independence.

Of America dream all the oppressed of other countries as of a safe refuge of liberty, and when they cannot stand the iniquity of their governments, they go to America, trusting to find there a perfect freedom not only for their thoughts, but also for their words and actions.

At a time when America was unknown, it was Poland as the only great republican commonwealth of Europe, that received all refugees. The Jews concentrated in greatest numbers in Poland, which became their chief home for many centuries, while they were persecuted in the rest of Europe.

If America is now the field for all kinds of daring and social enterprise, for communities of different types and aims, so was Poland in the times of its independence, containing many peculiar states and products of self-government within one free commonwealth. If America is now famous for its democratic spirit and enlargement of franchise, so was Poland, extending the rights of citizenship to an extent never known before anywhere else.

The more one studies the history of Poland and the present condition of the United States, the more it becomes evident that the United States are carrying out on a wider scale and with therefore better success an experiment started in Poland.

That experiment began in Poland in the 14th century by the election of Prince Jagiello of Lithuania to be a life-long King of the Polish-Lithuanian-Ruthenian United States of Central Europe, called the Polish Republic. That experiment consists in the participation of increasing numbers of citizens in the political affairs of the State and in the increasing limitation of the power and authority of the State officials. Once this identity of principle is recognized, the Americans must look upon the Poles as well as upon the old citizens of democratic Attica, as being their political predecessors. It is easy to study Attica and its old democracy, based on the slavery of a great majority of the inhabitants. Whoever has at heart to compare democratic and aristocratic governments will find many useful lessons in the struggle between Athens and Sparta. But when we then proceed in the historical review of the past, towards more recent times and want to know the truth about the greatest medieval democratic commonwealth, Poland, it is much more difficult to ascertain the truth, though the number of witnesses and documents increase considerably.

This difficulty is very little known for falsehoods about Poland have been widely circulated everywhere and often without the slightest contradiction, so that they had all the appearance of truth. There is certainly no

other country, nor any other nation as much slandered as Poland and there are very clear motives which explain this inevitable falsification of history going on for the last hundred years.

Never before in the history of mankind was a powerful and large state suddenly divided between three neighbors. Often a nation conquered another nation's country, but never before has the conqueror been so radically different from the conquered as the dynastic, bureaucratic Prussian, Austrian, or Muscovite differs from the democratic Pole.

Thus it became for three great centralistic, dynastic, bureaucratic governments an imperative necessity to conceal the truth about their victim, in order to justify their aggression and to misrepresent their lawlessness as the real rule of law and justice, and Polish liberty as anarchy and disorder!

They used every available means for that purpose. They found good scholars, famous for their erudition and trustworthiness in their studies on other subjects who either for honors or for money, or made blind by the apparent greatness of their employers, used all the appearances of scholarship and historical research to misrepresent the past and present of Poland.

From the works of German professors these falsehoods have penetrated into seemingly impartial French and English essays or encyclopedias, so that I could count on a single page of the "Encyclopedia Britannica" not less than forty mistakes of fact in the article on the great Pole Mickiewicz.

Three hundred years ago there was no Prussia nor Russia outside of Poland. Prussia was a northwestern province of Poland since 1466, and Russia a southwestern province since 1386. Our next western neighbors were the princes of Brandenburg and one of them being a nephew of the Polish king was entrusted in 1525 with the administration of the province of Prussia under the condition that all his successors would for ever remain vassals of Poland. When however nearly two centuries later another prince of Brandenburg had the ambition of calling himself a king, he did not dare to use the name of Brandenburg, for Brandenburg belonged to the German Empire and the German Emperor, who then was not a Hohenzollern, might have objections. So he used the name of the Polish province Prussia, recently wrested from Poland more by intrigue and artifice than by the force of arms, and he called himself king of Prussia, extending the name of Prussia over his German territory, so that now the true meaning of this name is nearly forgotten, and all the northern Germans are called by the non-German name of Prussians.

A perfectly similar thing happened in the East of Poland. We had there as our neighbors and hereditary foes the Muscovites, vassals of the Tartars. When the Muscovites had emancipated themselves and the power

over Muscovy came into the hands of Peter "the Great", who had the advantage of a western education, used the name of a province, part of which had been conquered from Poland, "Russia", and extended that name over his Muscovite dominions, so that now all the Muscovites are called Russians.

The Prussians, Austrians and Russians having in every respect been opposed to the Poles and in many points similar to each other had a natural tendency to join their frontiers over a subjugated Poland, and after perpetrating the crime of Poland's partitions, attempted by all means to deceive all Aryan nations as to the real motives and consequences of their action. They are now inventing constantly new calumnies. They teach a falsified history in their schools, which have become obligatory for Polish children, they keep a large venal press actively engaged in clever distortions of historical truth, they publish false official statistics, they hire the services of sophists as University professors at home and abroad, or as diplomatic agents of their own or other countries. They mix as artfully truth with falsehood as cotton is mixed with wool in cheaper tissues, so as to give every appearance of wool to the mixture.

This has been done generation after generation and unanimously by the three most centralistic and bureaucratic governments of Prussia, Russia and Austria. Falsehoods obstinately repeated during centuries and unopposed, by the victims,—such falsehoods attain all the authority of well established historical truths.

The victims have little leisure for historical research, they are forbidden the use of books, from which they could learn the truth, they are reduced by spoliation to poverty or economic slavery, they use most of their forces in actual struggles and have no leisure to discuss history. Libraries are burnt or carried away, documents stolen or falsified, old names of places are changed, children are torn from their parents to be perversely educated as the most efficient persecutors of their own race and nation, even the use of the language is forbidden in public gatherings and becomes restricted to the unsafe privacy of a constantly disturbed family life.

Never have been such manifold means used to conceal and to transform the historical truth about a nation, because never such a fact of an almost sudden and very unexpected partition of one of the largest states of Europe had happened. Poland was larger or more populous than any single one of the partitioning powers, but could not resist three simultaneous attacks in time of peace, when no war had been prepared or expected. From three sides the small numbers of those who still dared to resist were surrounded by an enemy closing upon them.

Besides the strong interests of Prussia, Russia, and Austria, and the unscrupulous means, by which the partitioning powers served their interests, there are still other reasons of the great and exceptional difficulty to learn the truth about Poland and the Polish nation.

Poland is the centre of Europe: if you find on a map the old city of Cracow (Kraków) which has been and even now remains the most important centre of Poland's intellectual and artistic life, you will find that it is about equally distant from the chief points which determine the political outline of Europe.

This central position of Poland has been obscured to the minds of the historians by the circumstance that they have heretofore devoted much more attention to the Germanic and Romanic nations than to the Slavs, who have begun later a historical career among the nations of Europe.

Poland is the centre of Europe not only geographically but also ethnographically.

If we go north of Poland, we cross four different nationalities; Lithuanians, Finns, Swedes, and Lapps. Equally south of Poland, we find four chief nationalities: Hungarians, Rumanians, Bulgarians and Greeks, without counting the Turks who do not belong to Europe. East of Poland we have the Ruthenians, Muscovites, Tartars, Cze-remis,—while west of Poland we have either the Germans, Frenchmen, Spaniards and Portuguese in south-western direction, or the Germans, Belgians, Dutch, and English in north-western direction. Wherever we go from Poland towards the border of Europe, we meet three to five chief nationalities.

Poland in its narrowest sense is the country between the western Carpathian mountains and the Baltic Sea, chiefly the basin of the rivers Vistula, Niemen and Warta,—with Lwow (Lemberg), Krakow (Cracow), Warszawa (Warsaw), Poznań (Posen), Gdańsk (Danzig), its chief towns. This country is inhabited by one, and the same nation since immemorial times, and there is no historical tradition of the Poles coming from elsewhere, or having been assimilated by a foreign nation.

This central and intermediate position of Poland had its drawbacks, besides obvious advantages. The Poles had to deal and to quarrel with not less than nineteen different neighbors, and for centuries. Only four of these neighbors were Slavs, the Czechs or Bohemians in the west, the Slovaks in the south, the Ruthenians in the south-east, and the White Russians in the north-east. Thus the Poles were not only in the centre of Europe, but also in the centre of the Slavic population, within which the Polish State had grown.

For the last hundred years we have had an additional difficulty to learn the truth about Poland, — and this is the secrecy of national life under oppression. The real leaders of the nation remain in the shade, to avoid too frequent imprisonment. Many witnesses of the most important political events die in exile or in prison or have not the leisure to put into writing their memories. The great material success of our enemies impresses even the most impartial witnesses, as for instances the late U. S. ambassador to Berlin and Petrograd, A. D. White who disbelieved the possibility of Poland's independence... Such men judge according to the visible results and admire the material power of Russia or Germany, believing there must be a corresponding moral power behind them.

The Prussians are considered as foremost Germans and organizers of the German Empire, though their name denounces their foreign origin and reminds us, that most of them are simply the weaker elements from among the Slavs, living once between the rivers Elbe and Oder, the descendants of those, who betrayed their country and their language and underwent therefore a superficial Germanization. The Prussians, as renegades or descendants from renegades, are thus the most fanatic persecutors of their own kin, fulfilling the usual fate of renegades, who hate most the cause, which they have betrayed. Neither the Prussians are Germans, nor the Muscovites are Russians, and their military victories are not yet a definitive measure of their real power. They have succeeded to implant in the minds of European readers many calumnies about their victim Poland, and these calumnies are sufficient to conceal the real importance of the Polish nation and the necessity of its independence for the welfare of mankind.

As an example of their calumnies may be quoted the constantly recurring statement, that Poland was in a state of anarchy and that it was for the sake of introduc-

ing order and justice that the partitions became necessary. This, as we shall see in a detailed account of the partitions, is a great lie, for nowhere in Europe was life and property safer than in Poland at the time of the second partition, and it is since the partitions that order and justice have disappeared from the country inhabited by the Poles.

A second even more impudent calumny is the common assertion, that the Poles were an aristocratic nation and oppressed the peasants. Quite the reverse is true; nowhere have the people enjoyed so many rights and liberties as in Poland, no nation of Europe has extended in old time the franchise and the full rights of citizenship to such great numbers of its members as the Poles. Already in the 18th century the numbers of full citizens in Poland was fourteen per cent of the inhabitants, while in Germany half a century later the electors formed two per cent of the population and had much less liberties and rights than the Polish citizens.

Just before the second partition the Poles had decided by their Constitution of the Third of May 1791 that each Diet would grant the full rights of citizenship to a certain number of inhabitants, until all were equal.

is Polish quite extremely Polish, as is equally the less-known music of Moniuszko, and as is also the musical expression of Paderewski. Who knows anything of music will find this Polish spirit, as revealed in Polish composers is singularly variable and intensely emotional.

The singing of Reszke and Sembrich-Kochańska, the acting of Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska) were again Polish and have manifested the same exquisite impressionability and emotivity, which characterizes Chopin.

The pictures of Matejko, Chelmoński, Grottger, Tetmajer, Stachiewicz, Siemiradzki, Malczewski, Kossak, Wyspiański, are open to the eyes of all lovers of art, and they give more information about Polish life and Polish national spirit than any English spoken words could tell.

As the works of art in music, painting or architecture are accessible to all, and need not to be translated, they are the safest means of forming an opinion as to the Polish national character.

But Polish poetry, which of all arts in Poland has flourished most, and is most characteristic, remains beyond the reach of foreigners. Its works are as dif-



FORMER AUSTRO-RUSSIAN BORDER

Poland, like any other country of Europe, had not reached universal suffrage, but while in all other countries the citizen rights depended chiefly on income or taxation, in general on economical conditions, in Poland alone the very poorest citizens became nobles, if they had done individually or collectively something for their nation.

Thus also the great number of nobles in Poland is not due to aristocratic prejudice, but simply to the endeavor of making all men as equal as possible.

Even those who know Poland best cannot easily tell all they know, first, because they cannot betray the secrets of national organization, and second, because the peculiarity of Polish character and life makes it impossible to express them in any other language except Polish.

However, there is one way of studying and admiring Polish genius, and this is through Polish art. The music of Chopin, which differs so much from every other music,

is difficult to translate, as for the other reasons are Walt Whitman, Kipling or Browning. They are extremely peculiar to the race and to the nation which is the ripest branch of this race.

As to books in English on Poland, there are very few that can be recommended. One of the best has been written about 1830 by Moltke, who later became the famous field-marshal of Prussia, — and this work is well translated into English: "Poland, an historical sketch by Field-marshal Count von Moltke, authorized translation, London 1885."

It is an important testimony in our favor by an enemy of our nation and an advocate of our partitions. We cannot imagine a more interesting account of Poland by an adverse witness, and certain passages from Moltke's book deserve to be quoted here. Nobody has given a more vivid picture of the Polish constitution. Moltke, as a true Prussian, despised this constitution, and this gives greater

weight to his involuntary concession, which will strike the impartial reader as quite extraordinary.

"Poland was a Republic, made up of about 300,000 petty suzerainties, each of which was immediately connected, with the State, and was subject to the whole body alone, acknowledging no kind of feudal superiority or of feudal dependence. No Polish noble was the vassal of a superior Lord,—the meanest of them appeared at the Diet in the full enjoyment of that power, which belonged to all without distinction. It is here that we find the fundamental difference between the Polish constitution and the feudal states of the West and the despotism of the East"... (page 3.)

"It was owing to the spirit of independence that the chief who bore the inappropriate title of "King", was invested with the highest dignity, but by no means with the highest power. The dignity of the crown brought him no privileges beyond the right to appoint the state officials, to distribute the state domains and to administer justice. The election of the king depended upon the will of the assembled nobles."

The democratic character of the Polish Republic is shown by Moltke quite as clearly as the early republicanism of the Poles.

"The general tendency of the constitution shows that the great offices and dignities of the state were elective like the throne, and the repeated efforts to make them hereditary were rendered futile by the jealousy of the entire body."

"Although king and senate exercised the highest power in the state, the real sovereignty rested in the united body of the nobles, who in spite of both, could legally carry out their will, if unanimous at the Diet."

"The king was bound to summon the Diet every two years, if he neglected to call one, the nation had the right to do so." (p. 16.)

"Poland is the only European State which down to the 16th century possessed no military force except that of its armed and mounted nobles." (p. 17.)

"An admirable peculiarity of this warlike nobility was the simplicity of their habits. They lived the greater part of the year on their estates; there they spent their income, practised an extensive hospitality... and remained at a distance from and independent of the court... Good armour and excellent horses formed the sole splendor of the men." (p. 19.)

"The Poles were very tolerant. They took no part in the religious wars, which devastated Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries. Calvinists, Lutherans, Greeks, long lived peacefully in their midst, and Poland for a time was justly called the "promised land" of the Jews. The Poles actually forced their kings to swear, that they would tolerate all sects." (p. 29.)

"Still the Poles were very strict in observing all the ceremonies of the Church, Christianity always seemed too mild for them. They imposed harder privations on themselves..." (p. 30.)

"The intercourse of the nobles was cordial and liberal and no excessive deference was shown to rich and powerful. Owing to the few requirements, poverty was not allied to dependence in those days. The dealings of the nobles with each other bore the stamp of their original equality. Their form of address, which still survives, was "Brother." — The rapid development of other states and their increasing subordination to the will of their rulers, allowed them to act with growing unity. The admirable qualities of Poland's citizens enabled it however, to maintain its place in their midst, and to attain to a high de-

gree of power and influence, in spite of the primitive simplicity of its laws, the unlimited respect paid to the privileges of the individual, and the necessarily slow development of the state." (p. 22.)

"We must add that the Poland of the 15th century was one of the most civilized states of Europe. It is true that the virtues of the citizens had much to atone for in the badly organized constitution of the republic, so that moral qualities had to supply the place of good laws." (Page 22.)

This testimony of a Prussian field-marshal to the virtues of the Poles ought to attract the attention of all the world to Polish history. Of course, as a Prussian he had to call "bad" the laws of Poland, so thoroughly opposed to the centralistic constitution of his own state. For Moltke the ideal is a strong state, not a free nation. — But this makes his testimony as to Poland so much more valuable. The chief features which struck his attention will deserve the attention of every foreigner and could not be expressed shorter or better than in the very words of the Prussian field-marshal.

The greatest difference between Prussia and Poland is shown by Moltke in a short but weighty sentence: "An offensive war was contrary to the constitution and rendered almost impossible by the organization of the state. It was illegal for the nobles to be kept under arms for more than three weeks, or to be led more than three hours march across the frontier." (p. 34.)

The fact that there was not such serfdom in Poland as existed in both neighbor states east and west of Poland, in Germany and Muscovy, is plainly admitted by Moltke; "The peasant did not belong to the lord, he could not be sold. The estate might pass into other hands, but the peasant was not obliged to leave his farm. The peasant was well off, he could raise money on his property and had regular tribunals. He enjoyed the possession of home and land. The Polish peasant enjoyed these privileges at a time when villeinage existed in all the rest of Europe." (p. 51.)

About the Jews in Poland Moltke says in conformity with historical truth: "In 1096 they fled to Poland, where at that time there was more religious tolerance than in the rest of Europe." (p. 66.)

What a magnificent testimony of a Prussian field-marshal to the greatness of the Polish nation, if he admits that already in the 11th century Poland was ahead of the whole Europe in tolerance!

Moltke admits also that the state of Poland lost its prestige and power chiefly through the election of a German as king (Augustus of Saxony), and even under the rule of such a very despicable king "there were always men in Poland, who were never ready to sacrifice themselves for their country." (p. 80.)

If we discount Moltke's inevitable partiality and his Prussian enthusiasm for the military power of a state, his book remains the very best book on Poland and leads to conclusions totally different from his own. If such a state of freedom, democracy, and admittedly high civilization with exceptional civic virtues existed for centuries in the centre of Europe and was finally conquered by three ambitious, military neighbors, then this conquest can be considered only as a temporary invasion, and the Polish nation deserves to be free again to-day, while the cause of freedom is triumphant in Europe.

An American, Mr. Louis E. van Norman, has published also a good book on Poland ("Poland Knight among the Nations, New York 1907"), in which he shows the

great virtues of the Poles, though he does not foresee their emancipation from the yoke of the oppressors.

Whoever wishes to form an independent opinion of the Polish nation, will not succeed without a knowledge of the Polish language and without a long residence in all the chief centres of Polish national life: Cracow, Lwow, Warsaw, Posen.

But certain general truths can be tested by a careful comparative study of foreign books on Poland. And the foremost of these truths is that the Polish nation is Aryan in race and language.

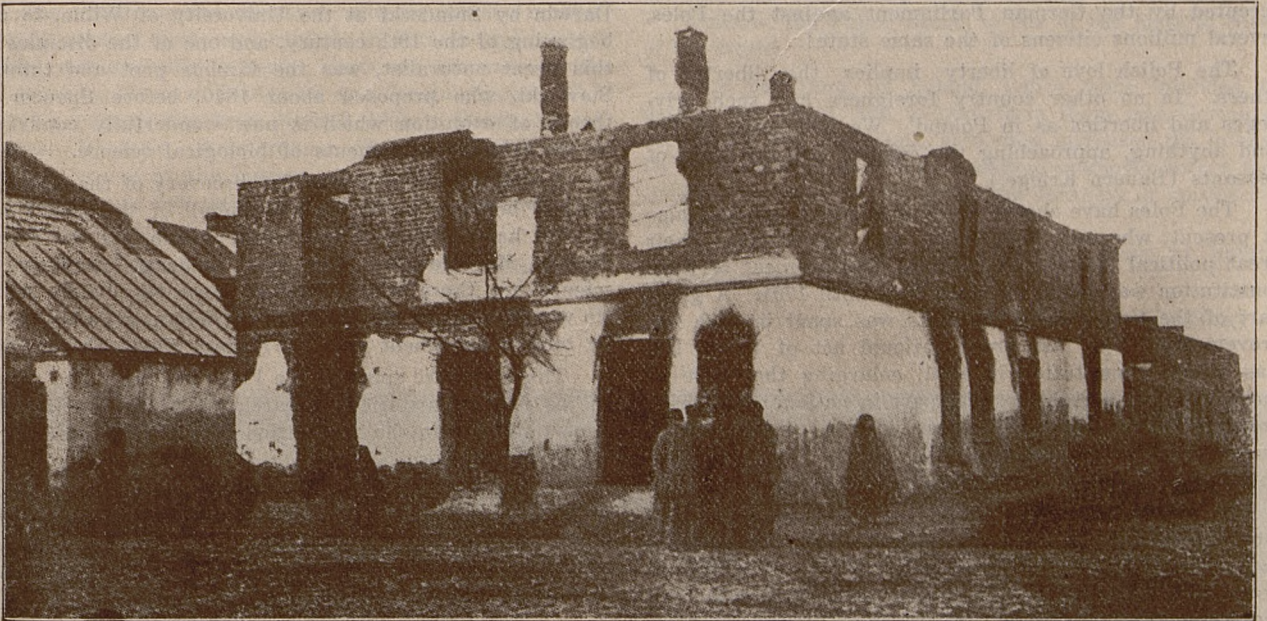
Among all the races of mankind it is the privilege of the Aryans to have introduced into human life the rule of law and the respect for the rights of individuals, as opposed to the arbitrary despotism which prevailed among older races. Many scholars admit now the probability that the Aryans are autochthons of Europe. — Greek philosophy

thoroughly Turanian in feelings and traditions. The Russians have done everything in their power to represent Russia as an Aryan and Slavic country.

Among the Aryans the Slavs may be considered as the most settled and less aggressive of their kind, in great opposition to their aggressive neighbors the Germans. For hundreds of years there was war between German and Slav, and the Germans have steadily extended their domain from the river Elbe to the Oder and Vistula, forming colonies among the Slavs and Germanizing their territory until recent times, when a returning wave begins, and the Slavs are gaining ground on the Germans.

An old German writer, Widukind, said already in the 10th century that the Germans make war for fame and conquest, the Slavs only to defend their liberty and to avoid slavery!... This old definition holds good even now.

The Slavs have always been and remain now an agri-



RUINS OF ZGIERZ, NEAR ŁÓDŹ

and art, Roman law and religion have been the oldest European monuments of the Aryan race.

The Poles are of the purest Aryan race, as they form that part of Aryans, which remained in their original home, while other Aryans, pushing west or south, met there older aborigines of Europe, of which the Basks now seem to form a solitary remnant.

All the characteristic peculiarities of the Aryans are therefore found in the Poles.

The Poles have always granted to the Jews many rights and privileges, and accepting them as citizens. But the Semitic race has a very persistent character and is totally opposed to the Aryans.

A very common mistake in Western Europe and America, is to consider the Poles as a kind of Russians, and to look upon the Russians as being of the same race as the Poles.

The Russians, who ought to be called Muscovites, are of a Turanian race, like the Finns or Hungarians, and the Turanians differ widely from the Aryans. They had Russian princes who introduced among them the present Russian language in the 12th and 13th centuries, and it is due to these princes that the whole passive body of the Muscovite Turanians became Russian in language, remaining

cultural population, settled on land, and strongly attached to their soil. This explains their love of peace and perhaps accounts also for their deep religiosity.

As further traits of the Slavic character we may mention a good deal of natural gaiety, including a great love of dance and song and of society. The Slavs are very sincere, simple and hospitable. And the one thing in which they differ most from their neighbors, Germans and Muscovites, is their great cult for their women. The influence and independence of women among the Slavs is evident from all their traditions.

Among the Slavs the Poles occupied the central position. Poland was probably the original home of the Slavs and there is no evidence whatever that the Poles had come from elsewhere.

While the eastern, western and southern Slavs had been conquered by other nations and had lost long ago their independence, the Poles alone have among the Slavs formed an independent state for a thousand years, and have had an opportunity for carrying out the Slavic ideals of political organization based on brotherhood and freedom.

The greatest and latest literary revival experienced in mankind, is the Polish literary period between 1832-

1848, in which more masterpieces were produced, than in centuries of past national life. This literary activity has expressed the creative originality of the Polish mind at the same time as Chopin composed his music, and a generation before Matejko started his great school in painting. In that creative originality the Poles stand first among the Slavs, and their poetry is a poetry not so much describing emotions as exhorting to action.

The greatest contrast between the Poles and the Germans is the unaggressiveness of the Poles and the respect they had for the liberties of others. Never were the Germans, under Polish government oppressed as they oppress the Poles, never has in Poland existed an analogy to the German ideal of Germanization by "law" and force. And it may be safely predicted, that when Poland will again be independent, with many Germans from Pomerania to Silesia among its citizens, it will be quite impossible to pass on the Polish Diet such inhuman laws against the Germans, as are now and have been always accepted by the German Parliament against the Poles, several millions citizens of the same state! . . .

The Polish love of liberty implies the liberty of others. In no other country foreigners had such privileges and liberties as in Poland. We had never in Poland anything, approaching the famous German wars of peasants (*Bauern Kriege*.)

The Poles have shown in the past and they show also at present, whenever they have an opportunity, their great political talents. A constant improvement of their constitution was going on since 1347 until 1791. A great part of the time during the diets was spent in such improvements. The last great national act of Polish life was a new constitution in 1791, enlarging the circle of those who had a right to take part in national life. This Polish constitution is the oldest written constitution in Europe, and has preceded all the constitutions now used anywhere, except the English and the American.

In one department of public life the Poles have been the first to give an example followed by other nations; they inaugurated in 1773 the first ministry of public national education, which had under one administration all the schools of the country and transformed in one generation the state of public opinion, so that it prepared most efficiently that famous Constitution of the Third of May.

It must never be forgotten that Poland was the largest democratic Republic in Europe since the fall of the Roman Republic, and that it was in past centuries the refuge of all advanced reformers, persecuted in their own countries. The Hussites fled to Poland from Bohemia after their defeat at the White Mountain and felt safe once they had crossed the unguarded frontier of the mighty Polish Republic. The Armenians came from the Caucasus in large numbers, when they could not bear the yoke of the Turks, and they were given their own bishops and archbishops, which continue even now in Galicia their separate jurisdiction.

The Poles organized political liberty not only for themselves, but for all who sought their protection on their soil. Their nobility was not a class, formed by conquest, like the nobility of other countries but a semi-religious open brotherhood, growing to the extent of more than three hundred thousand families, united for the defence of their country against the enemies of Poland, and for the protection of Europe against the enemies of Christ.

Everybody who had shown proofs of valor and wanted to fight, could easily be received into the Polish nobil-

ity, and those who proved themselves unworthy, were expelled, despised and deprived of their privileges.

The synthetic spirit of the Poles has been manifested more evidently in the latter part of the 19th century, but the first great glimpse of a true Polish mind, rising above the prejudice and limitations of his time, was the discovery of Copernicus, a disciple of the old Polish University of Krakow.

It is peculiarly significant and characteristic, that it was a Pole, who rediscovered the old Greek truth about the subordinate position of the earth in the solar system. We owe it to a Pole to know, that the source of light is more powerful than the soil on which grows our daily bread.

So also the Poles are inclined to consider themselves as the centre of mankind, but look towards the whole, of which they form a part, and seek their own right place in the large structure.

The origin of the species was taught in Poland before Darwin by Sniadecki at the University of Wilno, in the beginning of the 19th century, and one of the disciples of this great naturalist, was the famous poet and thinker Slowacki, who proposed about 1840, before Spencer, a theory of evolution which is now wonderfully confirmed by the latest developments of biological science.

A synthetic view is also the discovery of the chemical identity between the green chlorophyll of the plants and the red haemoglobin of the blood, made by the Polish chemist Marchlewski. The most general problems of science are those which interest most the Polish mind. No wonder that in the discovery of radium a Polish chemist took a prominent part — Madam Curie Sklodowska.

This synthetic spirit of the Poles has been also shown on the field of historical research and they have had an important part in the vindication of the European origin of the Aryan race.

And if the total amount of Polish discoveries is much smaller than that of several other nations, this is due to the great difficulties created by their political situation which make the life of the Poles, the oldest settled nation of Europe, now so very unsettled and uncertain.

But doubtlessly the share of the Polish spirit in the progress of human thought will grow with their independence and always in the direction, in which Copernicus started: always enlarging the general horizons of thought beyond past limitations.

The Poles have served Europe and Christianity their own national interests, at the request of Roman Popes. Thus King Wladyslaw persisted at Warna in 1444 in a war undertaken at the instigation of the Pope, when Poland had concluded an advantageous peace with Turkey and had no need to incur new risks.

Sobieski defended Vienna in 1683 against the Turks and concluded the long warfare by a definitive victory, at a time when Poland had nothing to fear from the Turks and everything to gain by the defeat of its ambitious neighbor, the rising Austrian Dynasty. — Austria has shown a century later her ingratitude by participating in the partition of Poland. . . .

In 1609 the Polish General Żolkiewski conquered Moscow, and the Muscovites, asked him to give them a Pole as king. This was contrary to the unselfish policy of Poland, and the Poles, though quite superior in power to the Muscovites at that time, left them in fairness all liberty to elect one of themselves as their Tsar. This decided the fate of both countries for centuries to come.

The unaggressiveness of Poland has encouraged the

aggressiveness of its neighbors, — and all the three states which partitioned Poland had once been at the mercy of the Poles and owed great debts of gratitude to the Polish nation.

In all these facts we see the Polish character, — no political ambition, no greed of power, no pleasure in oppressing others, but love of liberty, of our own liberty and of the liberty of others, fairness and Christian dealings in politics, faithfulness to faith and fairness to the extreme of giving up a conquered empire and tolerance towards all creeds and opinions within our own territory.

It is interesting to know how this nation of creative and synthetic genius, which has to-day no diplomatic representation, no territory on the maps, no voice in the concert of Europe, lives at home under three different governments and how it grows so rapidly under increasing oppression?

The Polish capital, Warsaw, with its 900,000 inhabitants, is greater than most capitals of Europe and inferior on the continent only to Berlin, Paris and Vienna, — without counting Moscow, Petrograd and Constantinople. Warsaw is a greater city than Madrid, Lisbon, Rome, Naples, Athens, Brussels, Amsterdam, Christiana, Stockholm. Warsaw is one of the busiest centres of Europe.

The twenty five millions of Poles, are more numerous than most nations of Europe and America:

4. The Spaniards	50	"
5. The French	46	"
6. The Italians	34	"
7. The Poles	25	"
8. The Portuguese	20	"
9. The Roumanians	10	"
10. The Serbs	9	"
11. The Hungarians	8.5	"
12. The Bohemians	6.5	"
13. The Dutch	6.5	"
14. The Swedes	5.5	"
15. The Bulgarians	5.5	"
16. The Greeks	5	"

Poland possesses in the Carpathian mountains some of the finest scenery in Europe. Its Alpine resorts attract an ever-increasing number of tourists, and Zakopane is a brilliant and fascinating health resort.

Cracow, the Polish Rome, is one of the historic cities of the world.

The partitions of Poland, which were intended to destroy the Poles, and to transform them into Germans, Muscovites and Austrians, have only increased the intensity of their national life to a degree unknown before and enabled the Poles to prepare in the darkness of oppression for their liberty...

And the cause of Poland is the cause of liberty throughout the Globe.

LEONARD DEMBIŃSKI.

1. The English 125 millions
2. The Germans 80 "
3. The Russians 60 "



POLONIA—By Jan Matejko

POLONIA symbolizes the Tortures of Poland consequent upon the Failure of the Uprising of 1863. Muravieff in Vilna and Berg in Warsaw were then most active as Hangmen.

Wiesław

By CASIMIR BRODZINSKI

Casimir (Kazimierz) Brodziński (1791—1835) was educated at Tarnow, later taking part in all the Napoleonic campaigns to the year of 1813. Having taken up his residence in Warsaw (1815), he began his early literary activity by translating from Herder, Goethe, Schiller, and Grillparzer. Brodziński is famous both as poet and as critic. His poetical efforts are mostly lyrical in character, chief among which we find *Pieśni Rolników* (Songs of the Ploughmen), *List o wojskowości* (Letter on Life Military), and *Pogrzeb Przyjaciela* (Funeral of a Friend). His greatest and most popular work is the pastoral *Wiesław*. Written under the influence of Goethe's *Herman and Dorothea*, *Wiesław* is characterized by an ardent love of Polish rural life, nature and people. His most serious works as critic are: *O klasycyzmie i romantyzmie* (About Classicism and Romanticism), *O krytyce* (About Criticism), and *O Egzaltacji i Entuzjazmie* (About Exaltation and Enthusiasm). Worthy of note is also his *Mowa o narodowości Polaków* (Speech On Polish Nationality).

The stirring upheaval following the rape of Poland marked the beginning of a revolt against the restraint and formalism of the pseudo-classical school. Accordingly, we find the younger poets reaching out in various directions to reclaim for poetry sources of inspiration and modes of utterance which had been long forgotten or forbidden. Among these, chiefly Brodziński was the vanguard of that great movement for aesthetic freedom, which culminated the beginning of the nineteenth century in Mickiewicz, Slowacki and Krasiński. Brodziński was first to draw his material from Polish folk-lore. *Wiesław*, therefore, marks the first "return to nature."

WIESŁAW

Old Stanislaw came from his chamber-door,
His wife upon his arm,—two bags he bore;
When thrice a hundred florins he told o'er,
And said, "Take these, my Wieslaw, and depart;
And bring a pair of steeds from Cracow's mark;—
A well-matched pair. — My son was slain in fight,
And grief and grievous age o'erpower me quite:
I've none to trust but thee, the prop, the stay
Of my old house. When I have passed away,
Be thou its head, and if (Heaven grant the prayer!)
My daughter e'er should win thy love, thy care,—
Twelve years—rare beauty—thou mayst wait;—my tongue
Must not betray my heart; but thou art young.
"Yes! Yes!" cried Bronislawa, "'tis for thee
I watch and train the maiden tenderly."
(She smoothed Bronika's cheeks while this she said;
And deeply blushed the young and simple maid.)
"I have no sweeter thoughts for her; — and this
Were the full spring-tide of a mother's bliss;
O! I was twice a mother, God above!
Can I weep out the memory of her love?
The fifth fruit scarce had blossomed;—she was reft,
And not a solitary vestige left.
Twelve wintry winds have stripped the forest tree,

And still her visions haunt that memory.
When war had ravaged Poland,—when its brands—
Tired our low cots, and razed our smiling lands,—
When even the forests perished in the blaze,
And terror like a whirlwind met the gaze,
As it all heaven were frowning;—overturned
Our houses; rooted up, and tore, and burned
Our sheltering woods; 't was as if judgement-day
Had gathered all its terrors o'er our way.
'Mid sobs and sighs and shrieks and waitings loud,
Through the wild tempest of the fiery cloud,
Our peasants rushed to save us; while the foe
Fed upon plunder, scattering fear and woe.
Our father's cottage in the smoke-clouds fell,—
And that beloved child,—O horrible!
That sweet, soft maiden, disappeared; no trace
Was left;—'t was all a bare and blazing place:—
I sought her through the villages and woods:
There was no voice in all their solitudes.
No! She was lost for ever! as a stone
Into th' unfathomed trackless ocean thrown;
And I found nought but silence. Year by year
The harvest maidens wreathed with flowers appear,—
But she appears not;—O! she is not there.
Heaven's will shall be Heaven's praise.—I fixed on thee,
My son, her representative to be.
Thou wert an orphan, and of old 't was said,
That he who housed a homeless orphan's head
Should ne'er want comfort;—and perchance my child
May yet have found a home,—and 'neath the mild
And holy smile of a maternal eye
May dwell with other children joyously.
So have I trained thee,—so have I fulfilled
A mother's duties,—and my grief was stilled,
With thoughts that mercy should for mercy pay;
For Heaven's rewards flit o'er our earthly way
In strange and wandering light. Perchance the mound
Lies on her head o'er the dark grave profound,
While her freed spirit in the realms of rest
Sits dove-like on the Heavenly Mother's breast;
And thence by prayers and tears on our abode
Sends down the smiles of angels and of God."
She could no more;—her cheeks were drenched in tears,—
Tears,—the prompt eloquence of hopes and fears;
Her daughter's heart seemed bursting.—Tears deny
Their soothing influence to man's sterner eye.
So Stanislaw, whose soul was full as hers,
Cried, "God in heaven directs weak man's affairs,—
God, whose all-penetrating sight can rend
The curtains of all time and space;—a friend
And ever-present Father. None too mean
For his regards,—he rules o'er all unseen.
Let grief give way to pious confidence!
Provide for Wieslaw now, and speed him hence,
And give him counsel and thy blessing;—youth
Is ever hasty. Boy! some pledge of truth
Thou wilt bring to thy betrothed." — In reverence meet
He bowed, and then embraced the old man's feet;
Then passed the threshold, grateful to high Heaven,
Who to the orphan such kind friends had given.

(To be continued)

Why Poles Fear Germany More Than Russia

TO AMERICANS it came as a surprise to see Poland siding in this great war with her natural foe, Russia. But those who have studied the history of Europe will realize that it was the only wise step for Poland to take. All the Poles want is a free and independent Poland. This idea is strongly impressed on the mind of every Pole. The idea of regaining their liberty by force led thousands of Poles to serve in the Napoleonic legions, to the revolutions of 1831 and 1863-4, and to lose those laws and privileges which they had enjoyed under Russian rule.

The Polish statesmanship was for centuries extremely weak, excepting during the reign of the dynasty of the Jagellon (1386-1572). Nations, like ordinary human beings, seldom profit from their own experiences. They always repeat the same mistakes. But in this instance Poland learned something. History of the last 500 years does not show a single instance of a nation gaining its liberty through uprising without the assistance of another nation.

For instance the United States of America: the valor of Washington and his gallant army would have been in vain if England had not simultaneously been engaged in war with France. Greece would still be under the yoke of Turkey had it not been for the help of England and Russia. Bulgaria, Rumania, and Servia all owe their liberty to Russia. — Spanish colonies in South America to England, although in this last instance one speech of a British Cabinet minister in Parliament was sufficient. Cuba owes her liberty to the United States, Panama to Mr. Roosevelt.

To gain the independence of Poland for the Poles was by no means an easy undertaking, Poland being divided into three parts by her rapacious neighbors—Russia, Prussia, and Austria. Indeed it was a most difficult and complicated task. Fighting three first class powers, short of a miracle, is a physical impossibility.

The sad experience, bought at a cost of hundreds of thousands of men killed on the battlefields of several uprisings—hundreds of thousands of the flower of the Polish nations who perished in Austrian, Prussian, and Russian prisons, or in exile in Siberia,—taught wisdom.

There were two tasks to be accomplished—both gigantic in their proportions: one to unite all three parts of Poland into one, the other to obtain freedom. It was necessary to start with the first task, and that could only be accomplished with the help of Russia, which holds nearly three-fourths of what was Poland in 1772—before its first partition.

Of course argument along this line would only include the leaders of the Polish nation, not the masses. To the masses, perhaps such arguments would not be convincing enough to induce them to stand by Russia in this great war.

There were reasons more convincing and appealing to them, as: The systematic method of persecution of Poles in German Poland through laws directed to their slow but total extermination—the German economical superiority, which would destroy the industries of Poland in case of German victory in this war—and last, but not least, the unpopularity of the Germans in general.

Austria, slave of Germany, has never been seriously considered in Russian Poland. By both Russians and Poles she was not regarded as a military power of any

value. She was looked on as a country existing merely by toleration of its neighbors, like a kind of heterogeneous buffer-state, rather than as a European power.

Besides, Austrian diplomacy has an established reputation for perfidy, having no equal in history among any nation of the world. It will be enough to remember her ingratitude toward King John Sobieski, after he had saved Vienna from the Turks; the first partition of Poland in which she willingly took part, although never having any war or trouble with Poland; the frightful persecution of Poles in Galicia from 1772 to 1867; the terrible massacre inspired by Metternich and executed under the very guidance of the Austrian Governor-General of Galicia, Archduke Ferdinand, in 1846, when the Austrian authorities payed higher bounties for killed members of the nobility and clergy than for wounded and prisoners; and finally, the ingratitude of Emperor Franz Joseph to his benefactor, Czar Nicolaus I. of Russia, who saved for him the crown of Hungary.

All these things were too well known in Poland, outside of Galicia, that even the fact that for nearly fifty years' Austrian Poland enjoyed a limited autonomy could not create a pro-Austrian sentiment.

When, in 1905, the constitution was granted by Czar Nicolaus II, it was said that Russia owed its constitution to Japanese victories, and Austria to Bismarck and Sadowa.

The persecution of Poles in German Poland, with the help of special colonization laws aiming at the slow but sure extermination of Poles in that district are too well known to repeat here. German economical superiority in case of a German victory and the annexation of nine provinces of Poland around Warsaw by Germany, means the extinction of Polish industry, and Polish cities, which even now have a large percentage of alien element, would be German in less than twenty-five years. A glance of the map will convince any one that Germany, in case of victory, would take that part of Poland, for none other than purely strategical motives. This means simply, that a German victory would be the complete annihilation of Poland.

If Germany, holding only one part of Poland, and with always the possibility in sight of a war with Russia, tried systematically with perseverance to persecute and drive the Poles out of the country, what would she do when conqueror?

The fear of German victory is shared not only by the Polish Christians, but also by those of Jewish faith. Why? For the simple, but unexplained fact, that when Prussia first took Poland after the partition, Polish cities were crowded with Jewish inhabitants and industries. Now, in German Poland, there are scarcely any Jews and the industries are very meagre.

In fact all of Germany's industries are in Brandenburg or other parts of Germany, except the coal mines and industries closely connected with mining, which are in Silesia.

The Poles know history. They know that where Berlin now stands was formerly a strictly Slavonic country. Even now, not far from Berlin, are villages in which the people still speak Vendish, and in the Province of Lausitz, Serb. The Poles have no intention of sharing the fate of the Polabians, Vends, and Northern Serbs (in upper and lower Lausitz.)

The third, and perhaps the principal reasons why the Poles fear the Germans and have had enough of German rule—even in Russia—to wish for no more, is: Russia has all the time been ruled not by the Czar, but by the Court Camarilla, in which the German influence has always played the predominant part. Up to the beginning of this war, Germans would, and could justly say that "only such things could happen in Russia to which the Germans don't object, and many that they wish to be done."

Even such a strong-willed and stubborn monarch as Czar Nicolaus I, was under their influence.

The Poles have learned what German officials are from their own experience and at their own expense. After the revolution of 1863 they had von Berg as Governor-general in Warsaw. In Vilna was the terribly savage brute, Mouravief, who was equalled perhaps only by the Austrian butcher of Hungary and Venice, Hainau, but even he looked for inspiration to von Haller, afterwards Governor of Vilna. It was von Haller, who, when Poles were executed for participating in the revolution, personally inspected the executed to see whether or not they were alive before permitting the ropes to be cut, at once reporting to his chief Mouravief.

The most perfidious laws against Poles, as late as 1881, were invented by von Drentelm, Governor-general of Kiev, Volhynia, and Podolia, laws which were afterwards applied by the Russian Government to Lithuania.

Even the Russian and Polish Jews knew what the German officials were, as they were the inventors of most of the anti-Jewish laws. The massacre of Kishinief in 1902 was the work of the Minister of the Interior, von Plehwe and Governor von Raaben, others being mere tools.

The Poles have no quarrel with Russia, but with the Russian Government only, which was composed mainly of German Officials even up to January of this year, when

von Essen, von Korf, and scores of others were replaced by true Russians; whereas the Poles had grievances not only against the Prussian Government but also against the Prussian people, as the laws against them in Germany were voted by the Reichstag.

Then, when it came to a decision between Russia, the Unknown—without German influence, and without Vodka—and Germany, too well known through Russian German officials, and through the persecution of Poles by Prussia, they selected the lesser evil and cast their lot with Russia.

Of course the Poles in Russian Poland, making their decision, could not ask the Austrian and German Poles to express their feelings in the matter, without sending them to the gallows, but notwithstanding that numerically they had the right by majority rule to decide, they were sure that their decision would be agreeable to the others.

That this is already a proven fact with reference to Galicia is proven by the Russian authorities, by the Polish press of Lwow, by the behaviour of the Austrian who ordered the evacuation of inhabitants from the line of fighting, by the refusal of 8,000 young volunteers to join the Austrian colors, and by the arrest of many thousand Poles and Ruthenians, and their deportation to interior provinces of Austria, also by the order of the Austrian authorities punishing even those who happen to have a copy of the Grand Duke Nicolaus' Manifesto to the Poles.

Whether the union with Russia will be lasting and profitable to the Poles depends largely upon the Russian Government. Broad and liberal interpretation of the Manifesto can insure happiness to both nations, help their development, and make them the richest countries of the world. But otherwise, sooner or later, a divorce suit will follow.

A. M. J.



RUINS OF KRASNYSTAW, A TOWN SITUATED BETWEEN LUBLIN AND ZAMOŚĆ, RUSSIAN POLAND.

Treny

By *JAN KOCHANOWSKI*

Jan Kochanowski, called the prince of Polish poets, was born at Sycyn in 1530, and died in 1584. He travelled through Germany, Italy and France, and was afterwards advanced to many high offices in the state; but he resigned them all for the sake of retirement and peace. He translated many of the classical poets of antiquity, published both mirthful and melancholy compositions, burlesque satires and tragedies. His Latin poetry was deemed superior to that of any of his contemporaries. His *TRIFLES*, *Fraszki*, are full of spirit and geniality. He executed a translation of the Psalms.

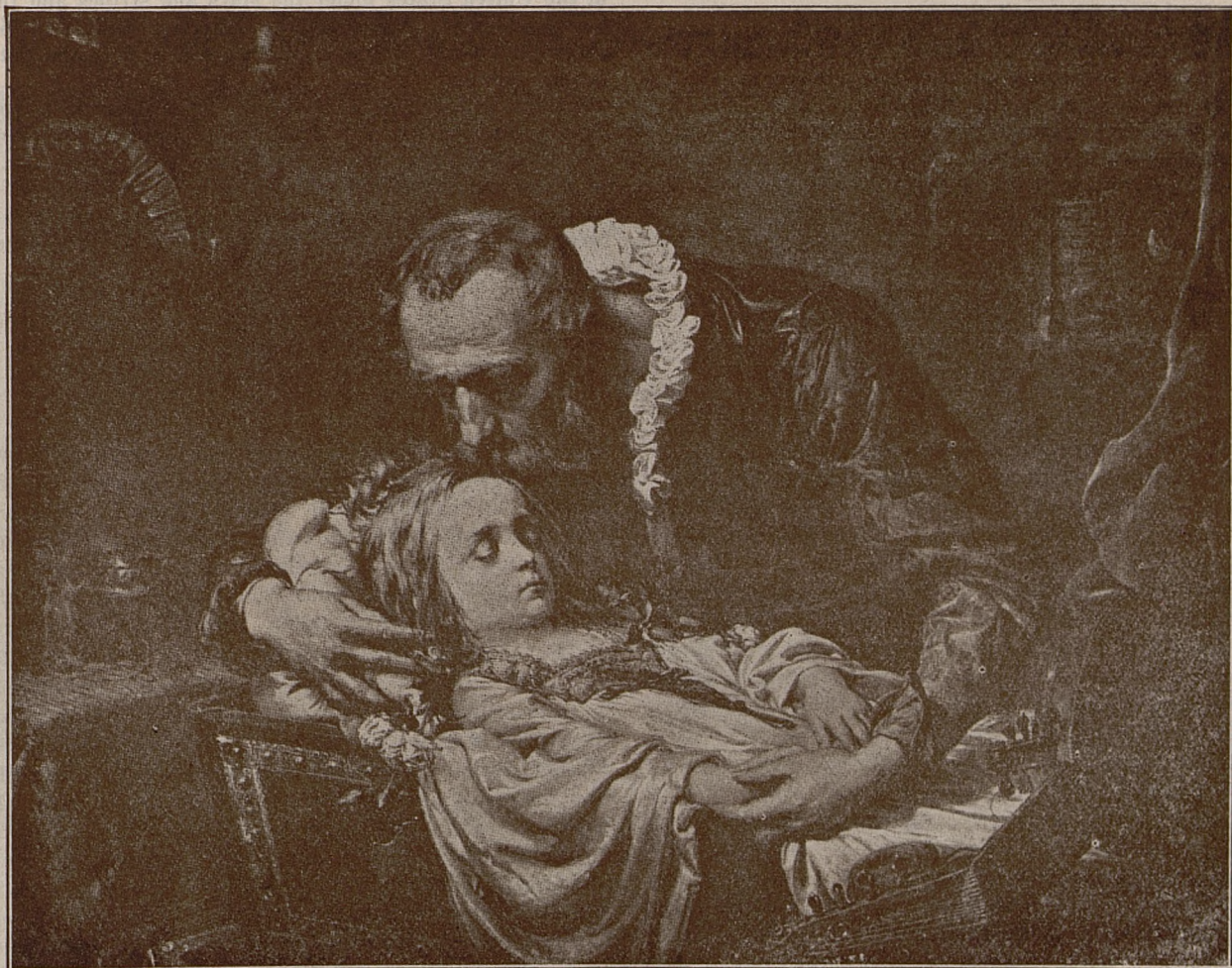
Beautiful is his series of Lamentations, *TRENY*, written on the death of his little Ursula, his poetically gifted, intelligent and lovely daughter. Indeed, the *TRENY* overflow with the expression of passionate grief. We subjoin the opening verse of the Lamentations.

It is to be remembered that Kochanowski also printed a drama, *ODPRAWA DWÓCH POSŁÓW* (The Despatch of the Greek Ambassadors). His prose works also are distinguished for their grace and purity of style. His brother Andrew translated the *Aeneid*; and his nephew Peter published a version of Tasso's *Jerusalem*, and twenty-two books of the *ORLANDO FURIOSO*.

THRENODY I.

Wszystkie płacze, wszystkie lzy Heraklitowe...

Come gather round my dwelling, tears and sighs,
Eloquent woes, and loud-voiced miseries;
All tones of sorrow, anguish and regret,
Hand-wringing grief, and pangs that cheeks that wet;
Yes! gather round my dwelling, all; and join
Your plaint, your passion with these plaints of mine,
O'er that sweet child whom most unholy death
Hath smitten, and in one outrageous breath
Dispersed all joy!—as when a dragon springs
On Philomea's nest, who sits and sings
Heedless, till roused by cries she flaps her wings,
Flutters around her home, and shrieking tries
To arrest the spoiler;—idle strife! she flies
On wearied wing; the abandoned one
Becomes in turn a prey.—I'll weep alone,
Weep bitterest tears. Vain too: 'tis vain, I know,
All is irreparably vain below;—
We only grasp delusions; life's a cheat
Of new deceit, but linked to old deceit.
I know not which is vainer,—if to bear
And struggle with our grief in mute despair,
Or give the anguish passionate bent, as here.



JAN KOCHANOWSKI BESIDE THE CORPSE OF HIS DAUGHTER—Jan Matejko

From Little Falls, Mass.

Val. E. Kasarek was one of the speakers at a meeting held at Little Falls, Mass., to observe the one hundred and twenty-fourth anniversary of the adoption of the Polish constitution. He delivered an English address on "The Poles as American Citizens."

Beginning with a history of the development of modern governments, the speaker told of the attention attracted all over the civilized world by the framing of the constitution of the United States of America. The people of Poland were especially attracted to the new nation by reason of their own struggles, he said, and chief among those who offered their services were Pulaski and Kosciuszko, who served in the Continental army from 1777 to the close of the Revolution.

"History and tradition record not only the services of these men, but of many other Poles who offered their brains and blood, not only in the war of the rebellion, but also in the Civil and the Spanish-American wars that this nation and humanity under God shall have a new birth of freedom", continued Mr. Kasparek.

"Pulaski, while at the head of his legion in 1779, fell at Savannah, Georgia, while Kościuszko, after assisting in the reconstruction of this nation at the close of the rebellion, returned to Poland in 1783 that he could assist in framing a constitution for his native country which was adopted in 1791.

"But this is not all that the sons of Poland have done in this country and for this country.

"History does not record the silent, every-day work that is being performed on the farms, in commerce, art, education, the professions, literature, trades etc. The most important, I might mention, is the opening up of the agricultural resources of this country, state and nation. They have furnished a great deal of the brawn and sinew that transformed this vast wilderness into a happy and prosperous farming community, from which source

this nation draws its greatest of wealth and its most substantial citizens. As a rule, wherever you find a son of Poland on a farm, you see a well cultivated place, for the father, mother, son and daughter all work on the farm. They are not shirkers but are workers and producers and live by the sweat of their own brows and not of their neighbors.

"Under these circumstances we have reason to believe that we are one of the great spokes of the wheel of this nation. Let our past actions serve as a fitting monument of what this nation may expect of us in the future in case of need.

"But let us also be mindful of our obligation that we have taken when we possessed the good fortune to become full-fledged citizens, to uphold the American institutions that offer equal opportunities to all. At present I do not see why anyone in this country, however humble his birth may be, who, in whatever honorable profession or trade he may occupy, if he possesses a clear head, brave heart and honest purpose may not by the light of our public schools and freedom of our laws, rise until he stands foremost in the honor and confidence of his fellow men."

"Just at present we hear a great deal of criticism of our government from our worthy citizens who came here from different parts of Europe, that our government is partial against the interest of their native country. It would be well to remind these people that they are living in the United States under the stars and stripes and that our president is elected by the American people to look after the interest of the American people first and not a foreign nation.

"Our government needs all the encouragement at our command to remain neutral for there is no one that wants war in this country except those that make profit by the war, and any set of men who will quarrel over the war in the over-civilized, over-commercialized, over-populated and bigoted Europe are poor specimens of American citizens."



Tsar Szujski Before Zygmunt III, King of Poland

It was during the reign of King Zygmunt III (1587-1632). Russia was then in a state of upheaval. Demetrius the Impostor claimed to be Demetrius, son of Ivan the Terrible, and with the help of his Polish, Lithuanian, and Cossack followers, he seized the throne of Moscow, his task having been rendered easy by the sudden death of Tsar Boris. Demetrius fitted the role well. His predilection for Western civilization, however, caused a conspiracy to be formed against him, headed by Basil Shuiski (Wasil Szujski), who finally slew Demetrius in the Kreml on the night of the 17th of May in 1606.

The second Demetrius, the Pretender, added to the chaotic conditions in Moscow. Zygmunt III. deemed it high time to interfere, seized the city of Smoleńsk, and despatched Stanisław Żółkiewski, one of his famous generals, to Moscow. Żółkiewski captured the Szujski family and brought them as prisoners of war before the king.

It may be of interest to note that the Muscovites, discouraged by such frequent internal dissensions, offered their crown to Zygmunt's son, Władysław. But Zygmunt

thought Moscow would finally be able to arrange its own troubles—an unaggressive policy which so strikingly resembles Wilsonian attitude towards Mexico. Impatient with Zygmunt's policy of watchful waiting, those Russ who wanted to crown Władysław finally chose Michał Fiedorowicz as their tsar. Thus Poland let slip by this golden opportunity to make Russia subservient to Poland.

Well we know how Russia repaid Poland in 1772, 1793, and 1795! Small wonder, then, that Russia in this war is granting autonomy to Poland. Better late than never. At least the Associated Press reports June 25 that the Russian council of ministers decided to appoint a commission composed of six Russians and six Poles, under the presidency of Premier Goremykin, to deal with the preliminaries necessary to the carrying into effect of autonomy for Poland, which was proclaimed by Grand Duke Nicholas, commander-in-chief of the Russian army, Aug. 14 of last year. How this autonomy can help war-devastated Poland, at present in German hands, remains to be seen. . . .

Ireland Forgives

Ireland forgives England! "England's hour of peril", writes Wm. Canon Barry in THE CATHOLIC COLUMNIAN, "is upon her; and Ireland forgives."

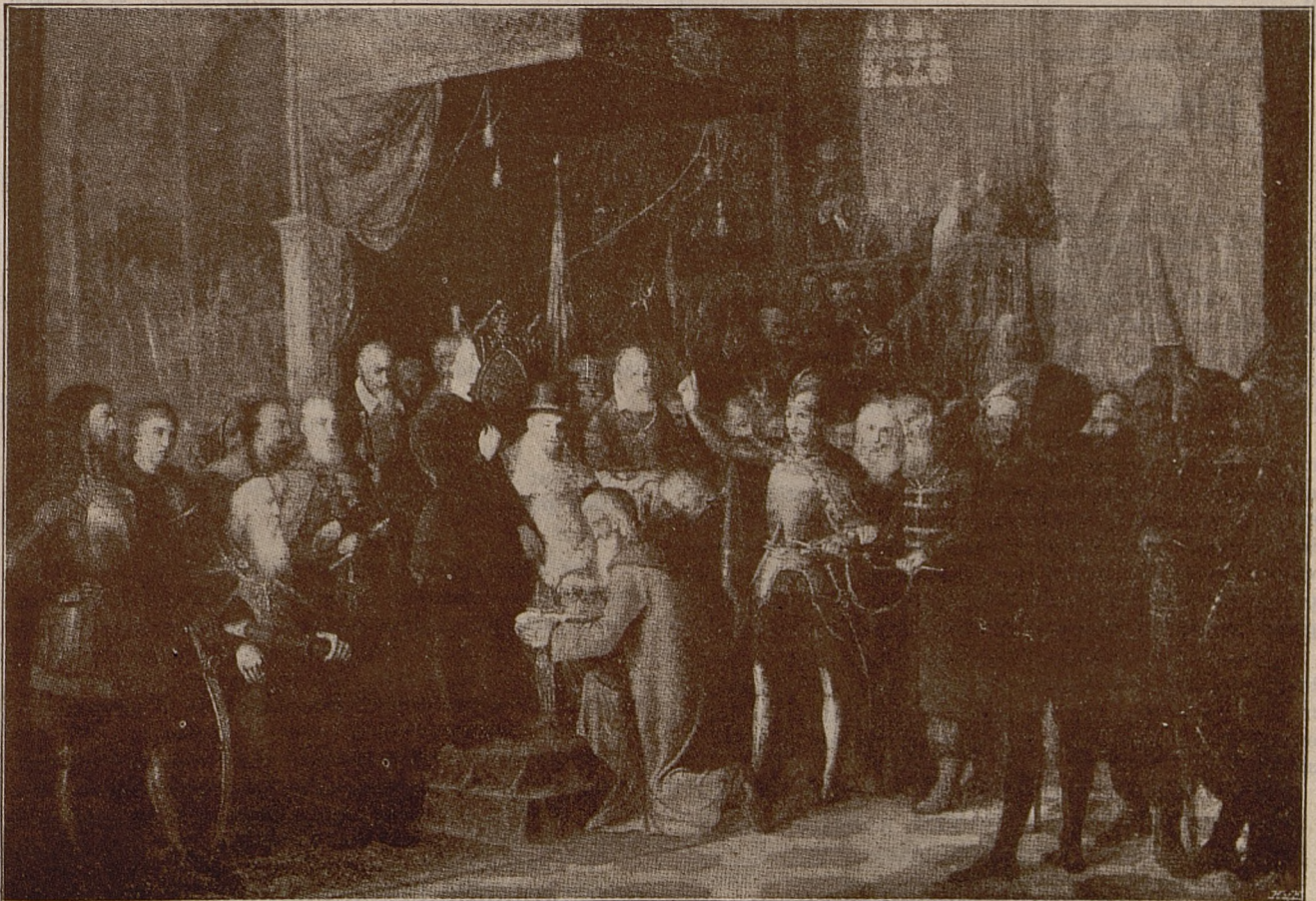
The author then comments on the attitude of Ireland towards Prussia.

"What of Germany???" — he writes. — "For the battle is between conflicting ideas even more than between material forces and interests. Will our American friends consider how Prussia has dealt with freedom? And how with weaker peoples? England has repented of the wrongs done to Catholic Ireland. Has Prussia so much as dreamed of taking her mailed fist off Catholic Poland? It is a most serious question, which I would urge in New York and Chicago to the whole extent of the history and the principles it sums up. Our concern as Irishmen is for freedom all the world over. When have the Prussians been concerned for anything except their own privileges? They are two hundred years behind the British Empire. On Poland they have let loose all the bad old traditions of which even Tory Englishmen are heartily ashamed. The policy of plantation by violence, or forced exile, of suppressing the native tongue and the national religion, is the only one they can yet imagine. They govern Poland by the jackboot. And by the jackboot they would govern Ireland if destiny gave them a chance. It is conceivable I ask, that we Irish Catholics at home or abroad, clergy

or laity, are going to forsake the march-route of freedom, visible on our maps and in our development, simply because we hate England's past conduct, to which the present conduct of Kaiser and Junkerdom exactly corresponds? What is there to hope from Berlin at all superior to what Berlin has ever thought and wrought? Remember Poland, I say. Add to that memory the episode of Zabern. Crown it with Belgium's crown of thorns. Take into your field of sight the choking gases, poisoned wells, torpedoed Falaba and Lusitania. The England you hate is no longer living. But this Germany, which lies even more atrociously the more religious it pretends to be, has made war like a savage and cannot be tied to its own word of honor. Has it any fibre in its composition that thrills to the Catholic faith or to American freedom?

"Ireland has deliberately chosen to throw in her lot with free Canada, free Australia, and the democracy of these Kingdoms. She has done well. She forgives the past. She is confident of a happier future. I would entreat those of our kindred in America whom my voice may reach, and who distrust England, to have faith in the wisdom and the patriotism of the Irish at home. We never have given in to England; it is England that has accepted our terms in exchange for our pardon. Do the irreconcilable want to see a German Ireland, in other words, an Irish Poland? What is the alternative?"

WHEN RUSSIA WAS AT THE HEELS OF POLAND—By Jan Matejko



TSAR SZUJSKI BEFORE KING ZYGMUNT III. (See page 14).

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

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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.

Efficient Aid to Poland

I.

On another page the reader will find described fully the scope and aims of the Polish National Council under whose auspices this semi-monthly is published. Here suffice it to say that the Polish National Council aims to give not only material but political, if possible, aid to war-devastated Poland. The Polish National Council has striven with its limited means to create public opinion in favor of Poland all over the world. It performs its task well.

The Polish National Council is strongly represented at the Polish Central Relief Committee, which embraces all the leading Polish organizations and institutions united for one great humanitarian purpose—succor to suffering Poland. The Polish Central Relief Committee very wisely leaves the telling the truth about Poland and her people to the Polish National Council and simply sets about procuring funds, by every means possible, for Poland.

The Polish Central Relief Committee has recently held a plenary meeting to decide upon more efficient means for helping the war-stricken population. The list of officers and members, completed at the last meeting, is as follows:

Rt. Rev. Bishop PAUL P. RHODE, honorary president.

Most Rev. Archbishop J. WEBER, honorary member.

Rt. Rev. Bishop EDWARD KOZŁOWSKI, hon. member.

Dr. FRANCIS FRONCZAK, president.

PETER ROŚTENKÓWSKI, vice-president.

ANNA NEUMAN, vice-president.

JOHN F. SMULSKI, treasurer.
STANISŁAW OSADA, secretary.

Members of the Executive Committee—

Francis Barc, F. Porzuczek, J. S. Rybicki, H. Setmajer, Dr. T. Starzyński, J. Stryjak, Dr. R. Tenerowicz, Rev. W. Zapała, K. Żychliński.

Members—Rev. T. Bona, A. Czarnecki, I. Czerwiński, A. Dembiec, Dr. Drobiński, A. Dziadul, K. Goński, Most Rev. J. Górczyński, F. Grutza, Dr. Heller, T. M. Heliński, Dr. Kałusowski, S. Kolanowski, J. S. Konopa, Rev. W. Krakowski, P. Lipiński, J. Magdziarz, Rev. J. Manteuffel, R. Modrzejewski, E. Napieralska, S. Napieralski, K. Obarska, M. Osuch, N. L. Piotrowski, A. Rakoczy, W. Sadowska, J. S. Skibiński, Stan. Sz wajkart, A. Tomkiewicz, Dr. K. Wagner, S. Walkowiak, M. Weyna, I. Werwiński, Z. Wołowska, Rev. F. Wojtalewicz, F. Zawadzki.

* * *

These are the times that try men's souls. That in these days of distress we need a representative body which would guard our common interests—whatever our factional differences and party convictions—is indisputable. To unite our forces and resources into a general committee which would help our brethren in distress, is not only laudable but necessary. To alleviate the general curse in Europe not only by mutual offices of compassion, benevolence and humanity, but also by material and financial means, there must be some common ground upon which Poles of all factions can meet.

* * *

We must help ourselves. The Polish National Council must create public sentiment favorable to Poland. Talk about hyphenated Americanism or violation of neutrality is cheap twaddle. For look ye: The American Press itself has declared that to advocate the cause of Poland is to advocate the cause of justice, humanity, civilization, liberty and democracy. Kościuszko, Pulaski and other Poles offered their services and even lives on the altar of liberty for this country.

And we still are neutral cowards—we persist in being more neutral than Uncle Sam himself.

The Germans are organized, and their agitation is almost shameless. The Jews form an international organization to ameliorate their political, social and economical conditions all over the world. And when one Jew is in danger, the world indignant rises in protest.

And we still are timid—when our Polish interests are at stake. If to discuss the Polish Question is to violate neutrality, then those Yankees who look up to England as to their Motherland (like the Astors and others) are traitors pure and simple.

* * *

The Polish Central Relief Committee can be a most useful factor. It sinks party differences and unites both radical and conservative for one grand purpose. It puts a curb on rampant individualism which so strikingly characterized our fathers. It teaches unrestrained individualists the principle of compromise. It is most opportune. For individualism, it seems, is ceasing to exist. The Polish Central Relief Committee shows that the Liberrum Veto has no right of existence in the present state of society. Helping Poland is greater than individual likes and dislikes, individual plans and ambitions.

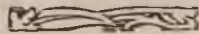
Yet perhaps our former individualism was in a manner justifiable. Chicago Polish Daily of June 26, for instance, avers that the inexhaustibility of the mine of our moral and spiritual resources follows from our for-

mer exuberant individualism. Though it with difficulty subordinates itself to a homogeneous group in authority and fails at unflinchingly pursuing its desired goal,— the **Polish Daily** continues,—yet our individualism has blossomed forth into intensity of feeling, an ardent devotion to what we have lost, a fervent hope of regaining what has been taken from us.

And now, we add, we are fast losing the ardor

of our individualism, as the harmony among our various organization shows, and we have ceased to be, as Bacon says, "so sensible of every restraint, as to go near to think our girdles and garters to be bonds and shackles."

With the far-reaching work of the Polish National Council and the humanitarian endeavors of the Polish Central Relief Committee, there should follow a world of good for Poland.



The Polish National Council of America

For years efforts were made to unite all Poles living in United States in one political body. The aim of such an organization was to help the various Polish colonies in the United States of America to develop properly and also to help the Poles in the old country.

The aggressiveness of many destructive elements made it **i m p e r a t i v e** that the Poles in general people unaggressive and conservative should be organized, for their own benefit, for the benefit of the United States of America and for the benefit of their old country, Poland.

In June 1913 such organization was formed in Chicago, Ill., under the name of the Polish National Council of America.

The following Polish organizations joined it at the outset:

1. The Polish Clergy Association of America, an organization to which over 700 Polish priests belong.
2. The Polish Roman Catholic Union, a fraternal organization with over 85,000 members.
3. Polish Union — a fraternal organization with over 30,000 members.
4. The Polish Association of America — a fraternal association with a membership of over 15,000.
5. Alma Mater, a Polish Fraternal Association of over 5,000 members, and many smaller fraternal and other associations, as well as 57 Polish parishes.

Most Rev. Archbishop WEBER, C. R.

Right Rev. Bishop P. P. RHODE, and

Right Rev. Bishop E. KOZLOWSKI, the most prominent priests among the Polish clergy in America, in approval have permitted to be elected honorary presidents.

The scope of action of this organization is two-fold:

In United States — to organize branches in every Polish parish and every Polish colony, — to control and direct the moral, educational, economic and civic life of Poles.

To collect a capital for Polish national purposes, and to work for the benefit of Poles in Europe in connection with the Polish National Council of Warsaw and similar organization in Austrian and German parts of Poland.

To help the Poles of Europe in their national aspiration and to be able to do so — to create among the Poles of this country a spirit of true patriotism, love of their

old country Poland, the spirit of loyalty towards the state and federal government of this country.

To help the Poles to be good Americans and also to love their country Poland. Of course the Polish National Council of America in American politics is **strictly neutral**.

Towards the political parties of Europe it must abide by the will of the majority in Europe — which it regards as the will of the Polish Nation.

It is prepared to carry the wishes of the old country and not force its own wishes upon it.

Now over 150 parishes have local branch committees of the Polish National Council and every week brings new additions. Out of 3½ million Poles living in the United States, already a very large number were organized — and belong to the existing branches of the Polish National Council.

The officers of the Polish National Council including those recently elected to fill the vacancies, are—

PETER LIGMAN, president.

STANISLAUS SZWAJKART, vice-president.

JOHN S. SKIBINSKI, general secretary.

LAWRENCE FOLLMER, treasurer.

F. J. MEDWECKI, chief of the Press Bureau.

P. ROSTENKOWSKI, pres. of Branch Committees.

The necessity of organizing as many Polish parishes as possible made it urgent to appoint a national organizer, and as such was selected Alexander M. Jasienski, editor of the **GWIAZDA WSCHODU**, The Polish National Weekly of New York City, and also former correspondent of some London (England) leading dailies in Poland.

The war made it imperative for the Poles to collect money for the relief of their brothers and sisters in Poland, and also for the same reason it was necessary to start the publication of a magazine in order to inform the English speaking world about Poland and Poles.

The work of the organizer is to unite all Poles — to show the necessity of unity of action — political and financial — and not to force certain political opinion on them — to acquaint them with the situation in Europe in a strictly neutral spirit while avoiding all controversies, as unnecessary, and to create a spirit of true patriotism.

A. M. JASIENSKI.

Poland of To-Day and Tomorrow



AMONGST the unheard-of calamities of the present war, one problem continually presents itself: What will be the end of such fearful suffering? The same question was put to Europe a hundred years ago during the Napoleonic war. The Congress of Vienna was called at the close of these wars and Frederick Gentz, the shrewd savant who took a prominent part in it describes its work as follows:

"Those who, at the time of the reunion of the Congress of Vienna, had well understood the nature and the aims of this Congress could be under no delusions as to what it would do. High-sounding phrases about "reconstruction of the social scale", "regeneration of the political system in Europe", "lasting peace founded upon a just balance of power etc. etc., were merely bandied about to pacify people and to give this solemn meeting an appearance of dignity and grandeur; but the real end in view was the division amongst the conquerors of the booty taken from the conquered."

Hence it is that the blundering iniquitous deeds of the Congress of Vienna, based upon encroachment on the natural unwritten laws of nations, contained within themselves the seeds of all nature wars.

Will the present war have a like end? Will the peace that concludes it be only the prelude to further wars or will it be a just peace, firm and lasting? That is the question in all its gravity.

To the specialists in the art of war the present struggle affords an inexhaustible source of military experience. Steps are taken on all sides to perfect and multiply engines of destruction; submarines and aircraft; machines for sowing death are invented which make our howitzers look museum curiosities in comparison. Town-workers as well as country laborers will return to their homes and set themselves to rebuild the ruins of their cities; to cultivate the fields that have been devastated; to repair the evil done. And at the same time are formidable cannons to be founded to destroy these towns at a given moment? Will thousands of soldiers be trained still to destroy these harvests? Will the memory of wrongs and sorrows remain green, and political and international acts of injustice have for inevitable accomplishment a war more bloody than the present struggle?

If such were the result, future civilization would resemble the aimless work of ants building again and again in a locality continually visited by horsemen who would destroy their building as soon as it was done. No greater discouragement could be offered to striving humanity than the spectacle she witnesses to-day. Belgium, the fleurion of industrial Europe whose people by their intelligence, their peaceableness and their industry have reached the highest degree of culture, is in the sight of all reduced to ashes, in a couple of months, with all its national prosperity.

Nothing cries out more strongly against the violence done to the unwritten laws of nations than the position of Poland—this nation of over twenty-four million souls situated in the heart of Europe; once a famous nation, valiant still, stricken, powerless and dumb by division and threefold dominion. For more than a century Poland has been buried alive by three kingdoms that have divided her, and she has been gradually forgotten by the other nations. Her very name has not been immune. The title of kingdom of Poland still clung, after 1815, to a part of the old republic. For several years this title has begun to

be replaced in official documents by that of "Country round the Vistula," with the idea of obliterating from the country all trace of history and nationality. In Western Europe it is by no means uncommon to meet people who call themselves educated but who have only the faintest of notions about Poland and consider it as a sort of Russian Brittany or Provence. In the New World, knowledge of Poland seems to fare no better. Journalists and writers often show complete ignorance of Polish affairs. Before this war, the intellectual world was ready to assist officially at the funeral of Poland, and it often happened that in scientific or professional International Congresses, the Poles were not received as a nationality of themselves but only as subjects of the three partitioning States respectively. But immediately the present war broke out, lo and behold! The commanders-in-chief of the belligerent armies on Polish soil bethought themselves of Poland. The Commander of the Austrian troops appeals to the ancient glory of Poland; he calls upon the name of John Sobieski, who freed Vienna from the Turkish menace. Hitherto, the brilliant deeds of the Polish king, the real savior of Austria, as brave as he was disinterested, had been intentionally dwarfed in the official records and souvenirs of the victory of 1683.

Again and again the German generals have declared that they are struggling to liberate the Poles from the yoke of the Russian barbarian. And in this same Germany which has lately been so solicitous for the welfare of Poland, the State policy until very recently toward the Polish race was contained in one single word—extirpation.

The Russian generalissimo makes solemn mention of the victory of Gruenwald in 1410 won by the Poles and Lithuanians over German invaders. And four years ago, the Russian government, jealous of the ancient glory of Poland, forbade the celebration at Warsaw of the fifth centenary of this very victory. It was at Cracow, under the Austrian rule, that permission was given for the erection of a noble monument in commemoration of it. The generalissimo declared that the body of Poland was indeed torn in three, but that its invulnerable soul lived on in spite of all. He swore in the name of the Czar that the three severed parts should be reunited into one body enjoying national autonomy. One month before, dire penalties were inflicted in Russia upon anyone who dared to spread the idea of national autonomy. Such an idea was looked upon as aiming at the dissolution of Russia and embodying an attack upon the very foundations of the Empire.

One might be led to conclude from these important facts that a sudden change is taking place in the Polish question. But are the promises, lavished everywhere upon the Poles, the fruits of late-awakened conscience, a policy definitely grasped, or are they still, as the incurable sceptics claim, only a stratagem conceived and put into motion through the presence of danger? Such is the problem, and the Poles wait its solution with the utmost anxiety. According to the notion of the pessimists, the present position in Poland is somewhat reminiscent of that of 1810 when the two rivals Napoleon and Alexander the First prepared for their decisive struggle and disputed over the favour of Poland. "These two Emperors" says Albert Sorel, "who were but now in dispute over the wording of these two propositions: "His Majesty approves that the words Poland and Poles shall disappear from history," or "The kingdom of Poland shall

never be re-established," are considering now the regeneration of this same Poland, and each of them offers her life provided she will promise to lay it down for him!... They find Warsaw full of passions, generosity, illusions: admirable stuff to work with. It only rest to see which of them shall have Poland for his dupe and her sons for sacrifice."

But whence comes it that we attach this importance, to-day as yesterday, to the sentiments of a nation in chains and reduced to political impotence? We find the explanation offered by another author. It is striking, and though showing its existence to the Napoleonic era, still retains its force during the present war.

"Each of them," says Albert Vandal, in sketching the conduct of Napoleon and Alexander "thinks his superiority depends on the good-will of a nation reduced by oppression, thrice despoiled, with two-thirds of its men in captivity, and yet asserting itself with a principle of life and free expansion. When they turn towards Poland they do not seek so much the buying of another army as the winning to their side of a great moral force: this fact is a blind tribute they pay to the power of thought and of right denied. It is a strange sight, these two potentates, one having at this disposal all the resources of ancient Europe, the other possessing an empire larger than Europe, disputing between themselves the favour of a handful of men who strive with reason to reform a nation. It is as if they imagined that in the balance of so many elements of brute force and of success pitched one against the other, this grain of justice and right might decide the scale."

Can this hidden moral force of violated national law prepare the advent of free Poland after the war? That is the supreme question; not only for Poles, but for all who seek a just and lasting solution to the terrible problem whose crisis afflicts the civilized world today.

In this present war Poland suffers from an evil that never before fell upon any country—the partition of her nation by three contending powers. Polish soldiers, about a million three hundred thousand strong, are fighting at present against one another in the three armies of Austria, Prussia and Russia. Over the vast expanse of Polish territory, from the Baltic to the frontiers of Roumania, they carry on the struggle, enlisted in opposite ranks, brethren pitted against brethren; if they fire on the foe they slay a compatriot; if they fall under a blow, it is a brother's hand that strikes, and they die, for the most part, without the consoling conviction that they are dying for their fatherland. Even at the present time, the Poles are to a certain extent divided morally, a fact which can surprise no one who knows the vicissitudes of Poland and the supremely delicate position—a position veritably tragic—in which she is now placed.

Severed by frontiers and impassible barriers, the Poles could not even come together to agree upon the steps to be taken, a proceeding which would also have presented considerable difficulties from the political standpoint. Evidently the Poles are all united in one desire — to see their dismembered country whole and free; but in the great settlement of this war who will give them a helping hand? Poland has at this moment

a companion in misfortune in Belgium. The war's ravages in devastation and depopulation are terrible in Poland and in Belgium alike; but with regard to the future lot of these two countries, the fortune of Poland seems to be the more uncertain. It appears that two States at least, France and England, are assured to Belgium, and they will do their best to re-establish her independence. There is a traditional conviction that the safety of these two States is closely bound up with the destiny of Belgium. But will Poland find as loyal and as generous protectors? That is the question of tomorrow. The defence of Poland, in her critical hour, by France and England was more theoretical and platonic than practical; still, Poland looks to them, as the allies of Russia, to say something after the war concerning the fulfilment of the promises made by the Czar. Yet it is true that the Statesmen of Western Europe have set the Poles on their guards against relying too much upon promises. Notice, for example, Guizo's warning in his Memoirs: "Since the conscience of Europe has been troubled by the fortunes of Poland, many an alteration has been made, many and diverse masters have disposed of her peoples anew. Monarchy or Republic conqueror or congress, all have failed to endeavour seriously to resuscitate Poland, to cure the wound of Europe. At the time when the murder was committed neither the France nor the England of yesterday did anything to prevent it: and the France and the England of to-day have gone no further; neither the France Revolution nor the Emperor Napoleon made Poland enter upon her heritage, despite the weight and the worth of their proposals. Empty words were spoken, glimpses offered of magnificent perspectives; devotion was worked to death by vain hope; and nothing more. Only an extremity of ill-fortune would borrow any illusion from such falsehoods. To all the world has Poland rendered service, and to her, not a soul."

These words of a great political spoke of the past with no exaggeration. Throughout all her previous history her glorious pages were dimmed by the tears shed over disappointed hopes. It is one of the sublimest tragedies ever played on the stage of life, this continual disillusionment of a nation generous and believing to a fault. And yet, after these words had been penned by Guizot, a fresh wealth of vain hopes was showered upon the Polish insurrection of 1863, fresh vistas of magnificent promise were opened by the deceivers. The Poles were doomed to pay for their confidence and their credulity with streams of blood and the downfall of the last of their national institutions. It is possible that such a deception is to be practised once again upon this unfortunate people? For many a long year Poland has been a skeleton at the feast of well-to-do avaricious middle class Europe. To-day, under the influence of such bloody sacrifices cannot Europe be brought to a sense of honour, to a vivid recollection of the wrongs she has overlooked and to make amends for them in the great Peace? If not, if the peace that concludes the war is but a bungling repetition of the Congress of Vienna, there can scarcely be any hope for a peace firm and lasting, a peace that will put an end to all this strife and misery and scientific immolation of human life.

From THE COLUMBIA, published by The Columbia Reading Circle of the University of Fribourg

Relief Work in Canada

Polish Relief Committee of Canada consists of the following officers:—

SIR DOUGLAS CAMERON, Liet.-Gov. Manitoba, Chirman General Committee.

RICHARD D. WAUGH, Mayor of Winnipeg, Chairman Executive Committee.

Executive

H. A. ROBSON, K. C., Public Utilities Comm. of Manitoba.

A. F. D. MACGACHEN, Winnipeg Mgr. Bank of Montreal.

FRANCIS SEDZIAK, C. E., Secretary.

ALEX. MACDONALD, President A. Macdonald Co.

R. MACKENZIE, Sec'y Can. Council of Agriculture.

LOUIS KON, Publicity Agent.

Committee

HON. T. CRAWFORD NORRIS, Premier of Manitoba

HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP MATHESON.

HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP BELIVEAU.

REV. SALEM G. BLAND, D.D.

LADY J. A. M. AIKINS, Pres. Women's Section R. C.

MRS. COLIN H. CAMPBELL, Prov. President I.O.D.E.

MRS. H. P. H. GALLOWAY, President Local Council of Women.

MR. T. R. DEACON, President Manitoba Bridge and Iron Works.

SIR R. P. ROBLIN.

The Committee issued in Winnipeg, May 29th, the following appeal:

Among the peoples who are suffering from the devastating effects of the present Great War, the tragedy and trials of the Polish nation are nowhere exceeded. Deservedly great as have been the claims upon Canadian generosity of the inhabitants of Belgium and northern France—the victims of the demoniacal outrages of the

German armies—the situation of the Poles makes no less demand upon that charity which knows no limitation of country, nationality or creed.

Their country has been ravaged by the passing and repassing of the vast opposing forces of Russia, Germany and Austria;

Ignace Paderewski, the famous pianist, a noble son of Poland, who is devoting all his time, energy and resources to the succour of his suffering country, telegraphs: "Needs enormous, help urgent, misery indescribable. 200 cities, 7500 towns and villages, 1400 churches, are destroyed;

Our common humanity compels us to do whatever we can to afford relief to the starving mothers and little ones of Poland, who are helpless through no fault of their own. Won't you help them—won't you put forth every effort to help keep these innocent mothers and children for posterity? We know that the calls for help have been great, but the sufferings and want demand of us every assistance we can give.

By the active effort of every organized body in Canada, whether municipal, religious or philanthropic, a magnificent sum may be gathered without in the least reducing the funds available for our more direct war obligations. Canada may thereby still further advance towards the exalted position which it is earning by its unlimited contributions of men and money to uphold the principles for which the British Empire stands, and by its aid to the oppressed of all lands who are suffering from the ravages of the barbarous race now loose upon the world.

Donations to the Funds will be received by any Branch of the Bank of Montreal, and duly transmitted according to M. Paderewski's directions.

By Order of the Committee.

FRANCIS SEDZIAK, Sec'y.

204 Sterling Bank Bldg., Winnipeg.

A VIEW FROM ŁÓDŹ



ŁÓDŹ—THE PUBLIC SQUARE

Jews and Poles

Mr. Bernstein, in his second anti-Polish article in the Sunday Sun of Feb. 21st, starts by repeating George Brandes' accusation in the Copenhagen "Politiken", which is fully answered by Casimir Gonski in the February 1st issue of "Free Poland."

Mr. Bernstein repeats, after the French paper "L' HUMANITE" that

"Even a town like Lodz, the Manchester of Russia, with a population of 500,000 people, while the Russians still occupied it underwent a riot which lasted several days. The Polish Jews are literally outside the law."

But Mr. Bernstein does not explain whether the riot was caused by Russians or Poles. It is not my duty as a Pole—a Polish National Democrat—to defend or explain the doings of Russian officials, but certainly the Poles were not guilty of such outrages. Mr. Gonski says, in "Free Poland:"

"A few days ago the "Hamburger Israelit" contained an article of Rabbi Dr. Arthur Levy, officially republished through the German Press Bureau, in which article Dr. Levy charges the Russian troops with having perpetrated "pogroms" in some two hundred Jewish settlements. But not one word of complaint against the Poles."

There follows an account of suffering of the Jews, owing to the burning of villages and towns, and which is shared by Jews as well as by Poles.

Then again, about Court martial cases. That a lot of people were shot as spies by Russians, Poles, and Jews as well—that base and vile people, irrespective of creed, grasped such a situation to square their previous quarrels, all who know human nature cannot doubt. But some of the details, are not true, as for instance, there is no Cathedral in Myshenetz (Myszeniec). So if any witness said he looked from its tower, everybody would at once suspect the truth of his testimony, as I suspect the truth of Mr. Bernstein's statement.

Then again, the Russians looked on the Jews with suspicion for the reason that Jewish soldiers, taken prisoners, enjoy special privileges in Germany, denied to soldiers of any other nationality. The American Press has several correspondents with the Russian and German armies in Poland and they should investigate this matter impartially.

As far as I know, the Poles, or the Polish Press have never brought the accusation that the Jews denounced

them to Austrians, Germans, or Russians. I am the first to bring this accusation in this article.

Very often, especially to Austria, the Poles were denounced by the Jews. Often the name of the party making the accusation was published, without the addition that he was a Jew. Thousands of Poles and Ruthenians were executed by Austrians, some other thousands arrested, many on Jewish accusation. But the Polish press did not take the matter up, not wishing to make the misery greater by adding to the war and the appalling suffering brought by it, an anti-Jewish animosity which would bring the most frightful consequences.

This is one of the principal reasons why even the papers avoid discussion of questions which may arouse feelings that will tend towards embittering the relations of Poles and Jews.

Professor Milukov asks what the Poles are going to give the Jews, but Professor Milukov forgets to say what the Poles are going to get. The constitution of 1815, if given back does not make and distinction between a Christian Pole, or one of any other creed, so foolish questions are now out of place when the minds of all living in Poland are concentrated only on the main issue—the necessity of defeating the Germans and reconquering those parts of Poland taken by Austria and Germany. Such things as millions of starving and homeless people, frightful as they are, are of secondary importance.

I am at a loss to understand what Mr. Bernstein wants to achieve by his vilification of the Poles. If his aim is to arouse an anti-Polish feeling in America what benefit will he get out of it for the wrong he is doing to the Polish Jews? Such accusations are not liked by the Poles, nor will the Russians be pleased; and the Polish Jews in Warsaw will also have something to say about the matter.

In effect he tries to please the Germans who are always glad to hear anti-Polish and anti-Russian accusations, especially now when their "Kultur" is the talk of all civilized nations. Well, let's hope he wins not only their gratitude, but also their iron cross—but the Polish Jews want neither German gratitude, nor German Crosses, but good, friendly relations with the Poles both now and after the war—and the present time, help for the starving and homeless.

As to the Poles, slander, even of the most rabid kind, cannot do much harm, for have they not been slandered for more than a century by Austrians, Germans, and Russians, slander all of which have come to nought?

Poland's Former Fleet

(Concluded from FREE POLAND No. 18)

It was Zygmunt III that built a fleet and also founded a training school for naval officers. John Chodkiewicz, named Admiral during the war with Livonia, was victorious on both land and sea. In 1609 he occupied Dinamunden and Parnava and seized two Swedish ships. Having bought later a number of ships from the English and the Dutch, he fought with Sweden and defeated their fleet on the Baltic, near the town of Schak. Afterwards Zipelman was admiral-in-chief of the Polish fleet, which now consisted of nine vessels, built with the aid of King Zygmunt

II. On November 28 the Poles engaged in a naval battle with the Swedes possessed of eleven vessels and commanded by Nicolaus Hohenschild. The Poles were victorious, having killed the Swedish admiral and captured two of their craft.

Two years later in a second war with Sweden, the Poles again seized one ship and conveyed it to Danzig. Interested in the repeated victories of the Poles, the Spaniards persuaded Zygmunt III to aid King Ferdinand II in his war with Denmark. In return they promised to help

Zygmunt in his efforts to regain the Swedish Crown. In consequence, the united fleet of Sweden and Denmark attacked the Polish fleet, seized many ships, captured 120 cannon, which was a great victory for the Scandinavians, considering the fact that the Poles were commanded by an experienced officer, Christopher Arciszewski, who had acquired fame in America and Holland during the reign of Zygmunt August (1548-1572.)

King Wladyslaw IV (1632-1648) enlarged the navy, building a number of warships. The docks were situated at Danzig and Puck, and were engineered by Jansen Svan, who received recognition from the king in the form of a silver cup. The king saw the shores of Dalf Island and Hela. Near Puck he aided in the construction of two fortresses, one of which he named WŁADYSŁAWOW, the other CASIMIR. The governor of these shores was required to furnish food for the navy. To defray the expenses, the king ordered the collection of import duties, in the year of 1637. As admirals he appointed Huldenstern and Wladyslaw Denhof. In 1634 Wladyslaw IV published a new set of rules for the Polish artillery entitled: "The Rules of Perfect Artillery given to the officers of rank and other martial men—by his Majesty the King of Poland." In the second chapter of the work we find the following set of rules:—"You ought to promise and swear to your commanders, colonels, lieutenants and captains, to obey and honor them. You ought to be ever ready to do your duty, as is required from you by the King or Commanders in the fortress and everywhere the Polish Crown need it. You ought to give to the enemy on both a land and sea a most stubborn and brave resistance."

The following year (1638) the king's brother, John, travelled on a ship to Spain in order to visit his family. On the way he stopped at the harbor of Marseilles, Toque, and others. As at these points he rather narrowly scrutinized the fortifications, he was viewed suspiciously by the French and finally arrested upon the recommendation of Cardinal Richelieu. He, however, was subsequently released, after having promised the French that he never would fight against them.

In 1639, the cities of Puck and Tschevo were strength-

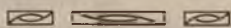
ened, and in 1642 the harbor of Pilava was rebuilt. The inhabitants of Danzig were not satisfied with the growth of the Polish fleet, which interfered with the liberty of sea trade; and they induced Denmark to destroy it. They attained partial success in the seizure of several ships, which Poland could not retake on account of internal disturbances and the subsequent death of King Wladyslaw IV in 1648. With his death vanished also Poland's sea power. The inhabitants of Danzig robbed the arsenal of Puck, and as regards the ships and arms L. Golembiewski writes that "they were lost somewhere."

When Poland was in her decline, King John Casimir tried to rebuilt the fleet, but as his powers as king were limited, his efforts were brought to naught. At those times Poland could profit from Courland, her former suzerainty, which under its Prince Jacob (1644-1682) increased its fleet to 40 ships. They frequently engaged in adventurous expeditions, sailing to Africa, America, as far as the mouth of the Orinoco.

During the existence of the Duchy of Warsaw and the Congressional Kingdom of Poland, and at the time of the Republic of Cracow in 1840, there was no fleet, Poland then having been deprived of the outlet to the sea.

In conclusion it must be remarked that there were attempts at restoring the Polish navy during the insurrection of 1863 and 1864. The "Polish National Government" authorized Col. Lapiński to buy ships and set out from England to the Baltic with 200 volunteers, in order to aid the insurrection in Lithuania. Only one ship was bought and this was wrecked by a storm near Memel (Klaipeda). In 1863, in June, two ships were bought, commanded at first by the Frenchman Magnan and later by Zbyszewski, the latter of whom had been in charge of Russian curvets. By this means the "Polish National Government" had in view to incite an insurrection on the shores of the Black Sea, especially in the Caucasian Mountains. In 1864, in February 14, the Spaniards seized the ship "Kiliński" and her crew, — a capture which brought an end to these feeble endeavors of restoring the former strength of the Polish navy.

(THE END)



England to Help Poland

IGNACE PADEREWSKI wrote the following appeal to the Editor of the TIMES:

Sir:—Five generations have passed away since the crime of Poland's partition, the true cause of this war, was committed. After long years of most cruel oppression after many desperate and vain efforts, a happier future seems at last to await my country. In a noble, supremely beautifully-worded manifesto, a solemn promise has been given to restore complete freedom to the reunited Polish nation.

From the ancestral shores of the Baltic Sea to the southern slopes of the Carpathian Mountains, every truly Polish soul was moved with gladness and with hope. Thousands and thousands of Polish soldiers joyfully gave their lives for freedom's sake.

Now their widows and children, their younger brothers and aged parents, are dying of hunger in the land. Many are no more, multitudes may disappear, and the sun of liberty will rise only to shine upon their graves.

Can the civilized world remain indifferent in presence of such a tragedy?

Nobody knows better than I do the kindness and gen-

erosity of the British people. For five and twenty years I have served the English-speaking public. Whatever may have been my shortcomings, I do not think that any artist could have ever surpassed me in reverence for art, in respect and thankful affection for the audience. My listeners always felt this and bestowed upon me every form of encouragement and appreciation. I never left my platform without the impression that I had spent a couple of hours with kind and good friends.

To these friends, cherished though unknown, I now appeal, asking them humbly to help according to their power, my stricken nation.

. . . I remain, Sir, your obedient servant.

I. J. PADEREWSKI.



A propos this appeal the TIMES published the following Editorial in its issue of March 29, 1915:

We publish this morning an eloquent and moving appeal for Poland from the great Polish musician, M. de PADEREWSKI. Not less than the Belgians and the Serbians, the Poles deserve our sympathy and support. Hist-

orically it is undeniable, as M. de Paderewski says, that the crime of the partition of Poland was "the true cause of the present war." That crime was perpetrated by three German potentates — FREDERIC OF PRUSSIA, CATHARINE OF RUSSIA, and MARIA THERESA OF AUSTRIA. Of the three, Frederic was the most, and Maria Theresa perhaps the least, culpable. She had qualms of conscience, and wept copiously, though, as Frederic cynically said, "elle pleurait et prenait toujours." But she at least foresaw the evil consequences of the conspiracy to dissect and destroy the living body of an ancient people. Despite their errors and misfortunes, the Poles have never lost the hope of national resurrection. A race that had given birth to a Copernicus, and John Sobieski — who saved Vienna from the Turks in 1685, and tasted, like Nicholas I. in later days, the ingratitude of the Habsburgs — a Ladislaus III., a Kosciuszko, and many another hero, could not resign itself to lasting dismemberment. "Not yet is Poland lost", run the first words of the hymn which Poles, the world over, have sung for generations with impassioned faith. The Grand Duke Nicholas, whose proclamation to the Poles on the outbreak of hostilities first struck the keynote of national freedom and redemption

that runs through the terrible symphony of this world war, rightly declared that "the soul of the country is not dead. It continues to live, inspired by the hope that there will come for the Polish people an hour of resurrection and of fraternal reconciliation with Great Russia."

But in the process of rebirth Poland has been ravaged and ruined, her towns destroyed, her villages burnt, her fair fields laid waste, her population decimated. Thousands of her sons have gladly given their lives to the sacred cause, fighting in true brotherhood-in-arms by the side of their Russian fellow Slavs. Thousands more will die ere victory and reunion be achieved. The Polish peasant-women have tended with loving care the wounded soldiers of the TSAR without distinction of race or language. Russia has done much to alleviate the inevitable sufferings of the population; but, as Russia's Ally, and as the old and proved friends of the Poles, we owe it to ourselves and to them not to be behindhand in the work of charity to which M. de Paderewski calls us. We therefore recommend wholeheartedly to our readers the cause which he advocates, for it is scarcely less our cause than his.

THE VICISSITUDES OF WAR



Retreat of the Austrian Army through the Dunajec in the Beginning of the Russian Campaign in Galicia.—Now the Tables have turned and the Russ are practically driven out of that Province.

Result of Melba's Concert

The star of Melba is still in the ascendant. The diva financially broke all records at the Town Hall last night in connection with her concert on behalf of the distressed Polish nation. The audience was an immense and representative one.

The takings, including donations and sales of souvenirs, amounted to no less a sum than £6382, exceeding Melba's Polish concert in Melbourne by about £180. Several people combined and bought the Union Jack for £2000, "It is our beloved's King's birthday", said Mme. Melba, "and I thought it would be nice of the flag could be hung in the Town Hall as a memento", which sentiment was warmly applauded. The Polish flag was bought by Mr. Sam Horden for £150. The new Russian Imperial flag donated by the Russian Consul, fell to Miss Edith Walker for £125. "Our new Ally", said Madame Melba, holding up the Italian flag, "a modest little flag; but it means a lot to us." This appeal ran the flag up to £75, the purchase of Mr. Hugh D. M'Intosh, and a second one became the possession of Sir Allen Taylor for £55. Mr. George Harp gave 125 guineas for the Belgian flag, and £65 for the Japanese. Sir Thomas Hughes bought the Irish flag for £75, and it was resold to Mr. Neville Mayman for £50. The Scotch flag found a buyer in Miss Danger for 65 p. st., the Welsh flag realised 30 p. st., and the Australian 50 p. st. A flashlight photograph of the audience, taken early in the evening, was bought for £100 by Mr. Hugh D. M'Intosh, and a photograph of Paderewski was bought by Mr. Neville Mayman for £50. Much excitement was aroused over the sale of the bulldog. Four gentlemen (Messrs. Sam. Hordern, Anthony Hordern, George Harp, and Hugh D. M'Intosh) combined to buy it at £2000, and made it a present to Madame Melba. Many other objects were donated, and largely increased the proceeds, which, with the New South Wales Government subsidy, will amount to nearly £13,000.

No one will be more deeply gratified at this result than Paderewski, who called upon Madame Melba with such superb faith and confidence for a great effort on behalf of his stricken nation. Paderewski, we are told, will have to play again to earn money; like others, richer and poorer, he has lost nearly all. He has hopes that the result of the war will be the unity and autonomy of Poland. The Czar's manifesto, says the great pianist, "moved with gladness and hope thousands of Polish soldiers, who joyfully gave their lives for freedom's sake. Now their widows and children, their younger brothers and aged parents are dying of hunger in the land. Many are no more, multitudes may disappear, and the sun of liberty will rise only to shine upon their graves." The responses to such efforts as Madame Melba and others are making, are an earnest that Australia is not indifferent in the presence of such a tragedy.

Quite an imposing musical function preceded the pro-

gramme proper. The Vice-Regal party, which included the Governor-General and the State Governor, were ushered to their seats to the accompaniment of the Highland Society's Pipe Band, which played in compliment to Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson the "King's Own Scottish Borderers." Madame Melba then appeared on the platform and sang in ringing tones the first verse of the National Anthem, which was then taken up with vigor by the vast gathering. Then followed the Polish National Anthem, played on the organ by Mr. Ernest Truman, who later in the evening played the National Anthems of the other Allies, the audience standing throughout the performance.

The occasion was naturally an inspiring one. Madame Melba scarcely felt the handicap of the severe cold she was suffering from, and in consequence completely charmed her audience as usual. She is not only an incomparable singer, but a musician who always ennobles the art of singing, and this, when one comes to think of it, is the highest mission of the artist. The outstanding feature, perhaps, was the exquisite and tender "Depuis le Jour", from Carpentier's "Louise;" it proved a veritable Corot landscape translated into tones. In place of the "Mad Scene" from Ambroise Thomas' "Hamlet," a loss exacting choice was made in Ardit's "Se Saran Rose;" the graceful valse was delightfully sung, and was supplemented by Landon Ronald's "Down in the Forest", a fragile flower of a song, and presented with a beauty of interpretation peculiarly appealing. Finally, in Bishop's "Coloratura" classic, "Lo! Hear the Gentle Lark", the singer displayed that absolute sovereignty over the voice which has placed her among the queens of song. The contest with the flute (played by Mr. John Lemmone) possessed a buoyant charm and vitality. This brought the performance to a close, a salvo of cheers greeted the artist, and a further demonstration followed the singing of the National Anthem.

Mr. Robert Parker appropriately opened the programme with the "Pagliacci" prologue, finely enunciated. The baritone was in excellent voice, and his singing of Tschalkowsky's "Don Juan" serenade is a thing to be treasured up in the memory. The difficult accompaniment was played with artistic perception by Mr. Frank St. Leger. The encore was "Mother o' Mine." Mr. John Lemmone's fine flute tone and "nuances" gave beautiful color to the music of Brun's "Romance," and to "Flora Macdonald's Lament", the latter was given as an encore to the player's own composition. "The Elves", a caprice in which the flutist displayed his old-time fluency. Mention should be made of the excellent work of Mr. St. Leger, who accompanied throughout with sympathy and surety.

The hall decorations were conspicuously brilliant.

Madame Melba wore a graceful gown of black charmeuse, designed with a mermaid train and a corsage of black tulle, relieved with white tulle and bordered with diamonds. With this she wore a dainty white tulle scarf, diamond jewels, a grey stamped velvet evening coat trimmed with chinchilla fur.

W. FRED'K BROWN,

5 Park View Road

Manly, N. S. W., Australia.

From Cleveland, Ohio

An organization with the main object of uniting all Cleveland Poles for a concerted fight for Polish autonomy was formed at a meeting in the Polish Home, Fullerton Avenue, E. S.

The meeting was the culmination of months of efforts by leading Poles to bring together on common ground the various elements of the nationality in the city. The necessity of a central body to represent all Cleveland Poles in their common interest is said to have been realized some time ago by a group of leading Poles, who have since concentrated their efforts to achieve this object.

Every Polish organization in the city was represented at the meeting.

The new society will be known as "Komitet Pracy Polsko-Narodowej" (Polish National Welfare Committee) and besides working for the freedom of Poland, will seek to promote the welfare of all Poles. Through it, joint efforts in the interest of Polish war sufferers are to be made.

It is particularly proposed to foster interest for the cause of Poland among the members of the younger Polish set and to prepare them for the task of giving their aid in securing Poland's freedom. According to plans,

representative young American Poles are at the proper time to be sent to Europe to give their active assistance.

In a resolution which was unanimously adopted, the organization pledges its support to the Poles of Europe, its readiness at any time to give its moral and financial aid in restoring order in Poland, and if necessary, to send leading Poles abroad to that end.

The following officers were elected:

Attorney J. F. Sawicki, president; Dr. Conrad Filipiak, vice president; Frank Zbolinski, vice president; L. A. Kujawski, vice president; J. Niedzielski, recording secretary; M. A. Ruszkowski, financial secretary; Theodore Dluzinski, treasurer.

The educational committee is composed of: B Zielinski, editor, Polonia newspaper, chairman; Dr. J. B. Sawicki, Joseph Missal, Leon Podojski, F. Lewicki, M. Skowronski and J. Niedzielski.

ENGLISH PRESS COMMITTEE: John M. Pindras, chairman, A. F. Kotowski and Frank Pawlowski.

POLISH PRESS COMMITTEE: Frank Zwolinski chairman, and M. A. Ruszkowski.

COMMITTEE ON POLISH EVENTS: B. Filipiak, chairman, T. Olsztynski, J. F. Sawicki, F. Lewicki and M Skowronski.

Another View from Łódź



Ulica Piotrkowska—Petrikauer Street

The Land of Romance



HERE is always the touch of romance in any thought of Poland. It is the appealing, pathetic romance. Poland, like Scotland, is a vanished land of romance. But Scotland is sturdy, vital, masculine; moreover, she has dominated to such an extent the country which annexed her that conquest is turned into conquering. Poland is gentle, sad, feminine; and Poland has been extinguished by those who made the Partition. Yet, while Scotland, forever free, will never again be independent, Poland, dependent and downcast for more than a century, has now its possible opportunity to become free.

The world has been absorbed in the pathos of Belgium. It has fixed its resolve that Belgium shall again be Belgium, an independent kingdom, worthy of its knightly king, Albert. To this end the world has contributed millions of dollars. This dual city community has sent half a million in actual money and in foodstuffs. Yet Poland has the same right to be free, if it has endured a century of wrongs, and if it would be difficult to find the rightful Stanislaus to the throne. And to the end that Poland may be free, and that there should continue to be Poles who can re-establish the kingdom, our country is but beginning to contribute, and the Twin Cities community has contributed very little.

And certainly here is opportunity, even if we are capable but of contemporary help, to feed Poland as we are feeding Belgium. "The Polish relief commission", reads as though it should be dated "1772". But it is here, it is organized in branch in St. Paul. And to-day it makes its appeal. If not answered in such abundance as we are answering the appeal for Belgium, the answer yet should be given. And those to whom appeal can be made in the name of history, and romance, and in the name of art, in the names of Chopin and Paderewski and Mme. Modjeska, should especially heed this appeal.

* * *

Paderewski is in this country, may come to these cities in order to secure American recognition and relief for Polish sufferers. And, tragedy out of this war, Paderewski has not only lost his fortune, invested in a great estate in Poland, where his aim was to give employment, to a great number of his countrymen in order that these might serve as a little nucleus of Poland, but he has lost the magic whereby he made this fortune. Paderewski, whose very name brings back the most exalted memories, when Chopin and Liszt and Schubert spoke as it is not mere pride in generation to say they had never before spoken, when the divine language of rhapsodies and nocturnes and serenades was caught by human ears magicked into understanding—Paderewski has lost his magic. Broken in fortune, he is broken in genius. He may never again touch piano. And if he does it will be but to evoke the ghost of former glories. War kills more than the body.

Poland has contributed to the life and the inspiration of America, more than Kościusko or Paderewski. It has been and is the harbor of many refugees from political and from social wrongs.

One of the interesting colonies established in this free

land by those escaping from oppression—there will be more—was that at Anaheim, in Southern California, a sort of Brook Farm community, where certain distinguished and to be distinguished Poles united their fortunes in banishment. Sienkiewicz came hither, the Polish novelist whose stories have in all truth made us forget the beloved and absurd "Thaddeus of Warsaw," once dear to our romantic hearts, the Sienkiewicz who the other day, accepting the contributions which Americans had sent to Poland, and remembering the days of his exile, declared, that American generosity has saved thousands of unfortunates from starvation, but the task of America is not yet accomplished. With God's help she will in a few years become the conscience of the world."

* * *

The Community, in which Sienkiewicz took so important a part, included the more distinguished Helena Modjeska, who fled from the intrigues of theatrical circles in Warsaw, and happily for America, found life in the California colony so far from the dream it had seemed in Poland, that she turned to the American stage, and became, she the Pole, with ever the lingering accent, its most exquisite exponent of the English drama. And the colony included also the young lad, Ralph Modjeski, who had urged upon his mother this migration because he had been reading of the Centennial Exposition, but above all of the possibilities of the Panama canal. In 1876 the Panama canal sprang eternal in the breast of every engineer, and the young Modjeski had determined to become an engineer, he then determined to build the canal. He did not accomplish this particular destiny, but he has built bridges over separations as difficult of crossing as those of the canal in digging. East and West he has bridged the chasm which made for division in this country—in a democracy it is important that there should be no divisions, that even rivers and chasms should not be admitted as symbols of division—and he is now constructing that crossing of the St. Lawrence at Quebec, a feat in which the preceding builder failed fatally, a feat which in its kind is not less an achievement than the building of the canal.

Poles have a particular genius. They are important to the world, to America especially important in balancing of those splendid-ordinary qualities we receive from the Saxon, whatever his country. The Poles must be saved. Poland should be re-established. — THE LOOKOUT in the St. Paul, Minn., Despatch.

MRS. HELENA STAŚ, representing Free Poland, is authorized to receive subscriptions for FREE POLAND in the State of Wisconsin.

JOHN ROSZKOWSKI, 4138 17th St., San Francisco, is our Representative for the State of California.

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The scope as set forth by the Publishers follows: "There can be no doubt of the important role which will be played in the history of the world by the peoples of Slav blood. "The coming of the Slav" is a phrase which has been a fascinating one for consideration by historians, educators and economists for a generation or more. We of the Western World know that the Slav is coming and that he is a fascinating figure of great potentiality. But we know very little about him.

"Historically and in the arts of peace the Slav has already taken hold of the world's imagination. The great struggle in the Old World has added further momentum to the movement of the Slavs into the forefront of human interest. The little kingdom of Serbia has won general admiration for its heroic resistance to a great military power. Russia, by becoming the faithful ally of Republican France, and of Britain, the Mother of Parliaments, has done much to reinstate herself in the opinion of the Western World which heretofore had little sympathy with the policies of the Czar's empire. Poland, the great commonwealth of yore, stretching in the time of her glory from the Baltic to the Black Sea—Poland, the Niobe of modern nations, hopes that the days of her sorrow and expiation will soon be at an end, and that her political and economic resurrection will be one of the auspicious results of the meeting of the nations in this year of war.

"We of the west had begun to realize our limited knowledge of Slavonic peoples and their history when swiftly and dramatically, on August first of last year, a new epoch in the history of these Slav peoples was inaugurated. There will have to be a revaluation of things in Europe, and the English speaking peoples must be prepared to understand the moves of the chess board. It is to prepare the facts and figures for this new Slavic Balance-Sheet that the SLAVONIC PUBLISHING COMPANY has been started.

"THE SLAVONIC CLASSICS is the presentation in idiomatic English translations of the masterpieces of Slavonic literature, illustrated by the masters of Slavic art. The contents of this storehouse cannot fail to appeal with force to the cultured Slavs themselves, to the Slavophils all over the world and to that ever increasing section of the English-speaking folk which desires to become acquainted with the great literary and art work of other nations.

"Why not acknowledge it frankly? The second, and in many instances the first, generations of our European fellow-citizens show an all too great haste to throw themselves into the vast American melting-pot, disdaining altogether, or, certainly not appreciating at its genuine value, the great intellectual and spiritual heritage of their forebears. This is a real loss to us as well as to them. We want them to become American citizens but we cannot well afford to lose these gifts of the mind and spirit. Variety, not monotony, is the true password of civilization and culture.

"There are, however, hundred thousand and more Polish, Bohemian, Ruthenian and Serbo-Croatian families who speak our language, feel themselves one with our institutions, but are loath to tear from their hearts their

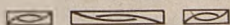
love for the history, literature and art of their own or their fathers' country. These we are persuaded will be grateful to the Slavonic Publishing Company for the possibility now offered to them of becoming familiar with the chefs d'oeuvre of their great native historians, poets, dramatists, novelists, painters and sculptors.

"Could there, further, be imagined a greater opportunity offered to the small but influential group of Slavophils among us than this presentation of the poetic and artistic soul of the Slavonic peoples by its most illustrious interpreters?

"Finally: sad, as it may appear to many of us, it is a fact that not one in a hundred of our college graduates has an adequate notion of the merest outline of Slavic achievements in the past and in the present. The projectors of the Slavonic Classics submitted the list of authors and artists reproduced in this prospectus to a dozen American college-graduates, professors, attorneys, physicians, magazine editors and publishers. Not more than eight of the more than 200 names, every one of them celebrated Slav writers and artists—part of the world's heritage of great minds and souls—were known to these educated Americans. Is not this in itself a proof of the need of such a work as is contemplated?

"In brief, we trust the founders and directors of the Slavonic Publishing Company will find both on the part of our educated and well-to-do Slavic fellow-citizens and the American public at large, the necessary encouragement in their efforts to establish before the world the genius of the Slavic race and to thus enlarge the field of vision of the Anglo-Saxon world.

THE SLAVONIC PUBLISHING COMPANY."



The Prostration of Poland

William E. Nies had a talk with the Count Maurice Mycielski, a prominent member of the Polish aristocracy who had very recently come from Poland to Lausanne. He asked him for some information about how they lived in Poland. Count Mycielski said:

"Live! They don't live. Everywhere myriads are dying of hunger. Our country that has been spared from the backward and forward shifting of the fighting, is now no more than a desert sprinkled with tombs and smoking rubbish. The inhabitants left wander among these, stupefied, hardly comprehending what has come upon them. While waiting for help, which comes so slowly as Poland seems to all the world so very far away, they are keeping themselves alive as best they can on roots and carcasses, shivering in their rags night and day; for they are without any shelter.

"We have committees established at Posen, Cracow, St. Petersburg, Moscow, in Switzerland (Vevy), and in America, but these committees, up to the present, seem to be all but powerless as against the vastness of the need. The area of Russian and Austrian Poland actually invaded and suffering the ravages of war by the Germans and Austrians on one hand and the Russians on the other, is as large as six Belguims combined, and the victims numerous in proportion. The two Polands, Russian and Galician, have a combined population of 21,000,000 Poles, out of which no less than 17,000,000 are directly in the zone of the war. They are so many and their ruin so complete that people cannot be made to take

in their situation in this part of the world war. More than two hundred cities have been destroyed, and more than eight thousand villages and hamlets burned, without counting the farms and the isolated chateau and factories.

Muriel Dowie on the Jew in Poland

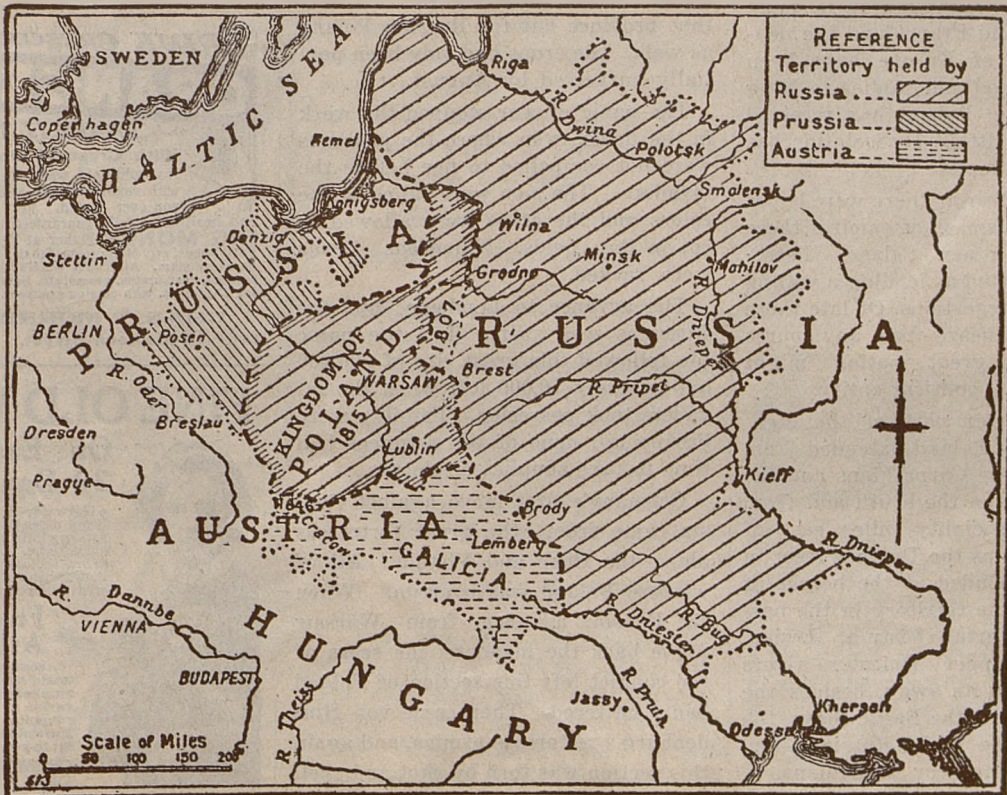
A propos of the slanders that are being hurled against the Poles regarding their treatment of the Jews it is well to recall what Menie Muriel Dowie, an unbiassed observer, has written in "A Girl in the Karpathians."

"Whatever may go on beyond the Russian frontier", she says, "the Jew in Poland has a very fair time. He may live where he pleases, is not hemmed into a slatternly quarter by a certain hour at night, has his own schools, may follow what trade he likes, controls the money affairs in whatever quarter he is found, and is at liberty to pursue indefinitely his religion. This he does in a praiseworthy manner, sitting at his window all Saturday afternoon, making yarns of prayers, and walking on the Rialto in the neatest thin black shoes and the whitest of cotton stockings when the day is done. For the rest, he is at liberty to best, outdo, cheat, and take a mean advantage of his less sharpened Christian brethren all the other days of the week. This is surely as much indulgence as any one has a right to expect in any country."

The Partitions of Poland—1772, 1791, 1793



Further Divisions of Poland—1807, 1815, 1846



Worse than Belgium.

Like Belgium in the west of Europe, Poland in the east is the battle ground between the armies of Russia and the Teutonic allies. Worse than Belgium, however, Poland has been fought over many times as the battle lines on the eastern front have swayed back and forth.

The desolation of that strip of Flanders that has been battered to pieces by the shot and shell of both sides along the Yser river marks the condition of the greater part of Poland lying in a broad sweep west, southwest, and northeast of Warsaw.

The ruin wrought by war in King Albert's country has affected 7,000,000 people. In Poland twice that number have been rendered destitute. Not less than 15,000 villages have been laid waste, burned, or damaged in Russian Poland alone. The loss in property has been estimated at \$500,000,000, but may reach double that sum.

In Galicia the conditions are reported to be equally appalling.

Not even the satisfaction of fighting for principles of national existence has been the scope of the Poles. They have been absorbed into the armies of Germany, Austria, and Russia, and have been sent against one another in the trenches. While the United States has been sending aid to the amount of \$21,000,000 to Belgium and England and France and the neutral countries of Europe have been contributing food and supplies to King Albert's people, Poland has received comparatively little. Its isolation has been almost complete.

Early in the war there were hopes that out of the smash of empires there would evolve a new Poland. Petrograd was reported as lending a willing ear to these suggestions. Of late there has been little heard from any source that this once great nation might again become a political entity.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century Poland extended from the Baltic to the Carpathians and the Dniester river on the south and from a point about eighty miles east of Berlin to west of the Dnieper river in Russia. It included at the height of its power all the territory in the basins of the Warta, Vistula, Dwina, Dnieper, and upper Dniester rivers and had under its sway, besides the Poles proper and the Baltic-Slavs, the Lithuanians, the White Russians, and the Little Russians or Ruthenians.

The maps on page 29 show the kingdom of Poland in the latter part of the eighteenth century and the effects of the various partitions that extended from 1772 down to 1846, when the last of its power was absorbed by Petrograd. The boundaries of the divisions of Poland taken by Prussia, Russia and Austria, and as they are held to-day were fixed by the congress of Vienna in 1815.

By far the greater portion of the old Polish nation now lies within the confines of Russia. Galicia was Austria's share, Posen and the western portion of East Prussia fell to Germany or Prussia, and all the remaining territory to the czar.

Without any direct interest in the present great conflict, the unhappy Poles found themselves impressed into the armies of these three great powers and fighting against their own racial brethren. That meant brother was to fight against brother, and as the stress of the war increased and the age limit was raised to 38 years and even higher, nearly every able bodied Pole was impressed into service.

Almost the first move of the Russians at the outbreak of hostilities was to invade Galicia. This brought with it instantly all the horrors of war. Embracing as it does a large share of the grain growing district of the Polish peoples, the devastation of Galicia meant suffering for not only that province but for Russian Poland as well. The crops had only been partially harvested by August.

The panic of war stopped the work in the fields, even where the peasants were not compelled to flee before the invaders. The men were called to the colors and the crops were allowed to rot in the fields. Numerous towns were sacked.

The advance to Lemberg by the Russians was swift. In the panic the followed this great city of 200,000 had scarcely 70,000 left when the invaders took possession. Families were broken up; none of the refugees had time to take supplies or clothes.

Germany's first move against Russia came from the great fortresses along the Oder and Vistula. All of western Poland was overrun. When the Russian advance from Warsaw drove back the invaders, the scars of the conflict left this section of Poland badly battered. Then came von Hindenburg's victorious armies, and again this section was torn by shot and shell

and wasted. While some of the larger places, such as Lodz, Plock, Lowicz, Tchenstochow and Petrokow, were spared, the smaller towns, villages, and hamlets in the direct line of battle suffered equally from the defenders and invaders.



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How Long, O Lord, How Long?

All the section to the northeast of Warsaw between the East Prussian frontier and the Bug, Narew, and Niemen rivers has suffered even a worse fate, as the bitterness engendered by the devastation worked by the Russians in East Prussia led to reprisals that even the strict discipline of the German army could not curb. Not only were the peasants' homes pounded to bits by the opposing artillery fire, but the armies as they fought back and forth took all the cattle, horses, and stock that came to their hands. Disease has added to the suffering of stricken people.

In Belgium the invading Germans, while they destroyed all obstacles to their military operations, have done everything possible to bring about normal conditions in the portion of the country held by them. This has worked to their military advantage. But in Galicia and even Russian Poland itself the czar's armies have had no such military necessity. To make Poland a waste would fit in better with their plans to increase the difficulties of the Germans.

Now the German drive into Galicia and the consequent expulsion of the Russians out of that Austrian province have brought in their wake terrible loss of life and property. And the untold sufferings of the people who can adequately describe? How long, O Lord, how long?

FROM MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Driven from the village where they had lived for years, the parents of Miss Nellie Szczubialka, 1923 Sixth street northeast are in hiding in a forest in Poland while their daughter is trying to help raise funds to relieve the suffering of the Poles.

In a letter Miss Szczubialka received from her sister yesterday the flight of her parents and sister from their village home in Nadbrzezcie is told.

"The Russians came three times to our village", read the letter. "The first time the villagers and father and mother fled to the forest two miles away. They stayed there without food for eight days. When the Russians found away we returned. Later

they came again and we went to the forest and hid for 10 days. They left again and we were in the forest 14 and we went back. Then they came days. They burned the village and left. Where we shall stay we know not nor what we shall eat. We are hiding in the forest and have sent this letter to you to help get us food and clothing, if possible, dearest Nellie." Miss Szczubialka came to this country two years ago from Nadbrzezcie.

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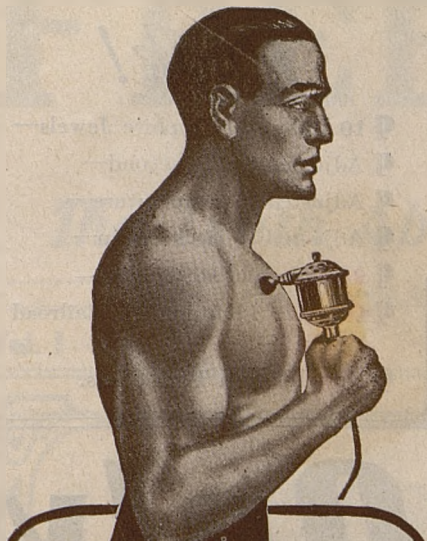
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