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PITEOUS POLAND.

A Narrative of Sad Events.

How "Order Reigns in Warsaw"—A Story of Modjeska and the Students—Description of the Burial of a School-Boy—The Compressive System of Education imposed by the Russian Government in Poland.

The following unpretending, but very interesting, communication has been submitted to the ALTA by order of the Polish Society of California :

The Russian Nihilists are, it is true, bold, bitter and implacable in their hatred and vengeance to the Government. Those assassinations and attempts upon the life of the Ozar which are now of frequent occurrence, may justly inspire with some horror. But on the other hand, taking into account the ruthless system of that Government, and especially the cruelties, unjustifiable oppression and chicaneries practiced by the officials and hirelings of the Ozar, not only in Russia at large, but in inoffensive Poland, verily the most devoted to the cause of order and law, or the most indifferent, cannot fail to discover that there are real grounds for general discontent and for justification of those desperate acts of conspirators.

The relentless treatment to which even students, for trifling offences, are subjected by school authorities may be gathered from the following incident, which has occurred recently in Warsaw, capital of Poland :

Everybody is familiar with the name of

MRS. HELENA MODJESKA,

And her brilliant career as an actress in this country. On her return to her native land, which occurred at the end of the last year, from her first appearance upon the national stage, after a prolonged absence, she won unlimited sympathies from all classes of Polish society. In Warsaw she created a regular *furor* in the principal female roles of "Frou-Frou," "Romeo and Juliet," "Anthony and Cleopatra," etc., etc., translated into Polish—when about the middle of January last she acted the title role in "La Dame aux Camellias." Then there were no bounds to enthusiasm, and applause, and wreaths, etc., in which the youthful portion of the audience, and especially the students of the University, as a matter of course, took the most lively part. Those youthful admirers of her genius, not satisfied yet with their plaudits, availed themselves of the opportunity, and presented the great actress with a magnificent and elaborate floral tribute, adorned with emblems, ribbons in national colors—red and white. At the same time they delivered to her an appropriate address.

This demonstration, boyish and innocent in itself, which really had no other purpose than to do homage to the genius of a lady who was the pride of the nation, excited the utmost

IRE OF THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES,

Who, with their lynx eyes, detected in it a spirit of revolt, high treason, or something of that kind, which, according to their cowardly notions, should not be tolerated. Therefore they immediately insti-

tuted a minute inquiry, and after short deliberation, resolved to expel from the college all the principal leaders and originators concerned in the demonstration, and moreover, to deprive them of all privileges of further instruction. Among those who took the most conspicuous part was a certain Eg. Neufeld, a lad of Jewish parents, aged about 17 years. Being the only son of his widowed mother, upon whom she built the only hope for her support in her old age, and being thus suddenly expelled from the school and deprived forever of his future career—without any hope for redress—on hearing this terrible sentence, the boy got so exasperated that he

IMMEDIATELY COMMITTED SUICIDE.

The news of this sad occurrence spread like wild fire, and the whole city of Warsaw was thrown into a feverish excitement. A kind of electric shock benumbed the whole population for many days, to the exclusion of all other news. The affair formed the only subject of conversation. At the funeral of the unfortunate boy there were over a hundred thousand people in attendance, without any regard as to station, rank, creed or nationality. Even some prominent Russians outside of official spheres, and in sympathy with the people, took part in it. The coffin which contained the remains was borne on the shoulders of his former school comrades to its last resting-place at the Jewish cemetery.

Throughout all the ceremonies of the obsequies, the utmost order and a sort of mournful quiet prevailed amongst the whole mass of population, although there were none of the policemen on watch. But this spontaneous movement shows how deep a feeling exists among the hitherto quiet, law-abiding, down-trodden and long-suffering people.

It would not be amiss to explain the

SYSTEM OF EDUCATION,

As introduced by the Russian Government in Poland, since the last insurrection; not to mention the suppression of numerous colleges and time-honored national institutions, and the dismissal of teachers and professors, highly esteemed men of learning, enjoying high reputations, to make room for ignorant and uncouth individuals, generally military men who have no idea of education—it is absolutely prohibited to students, under a severe penalty, to speak Polish among themselves, even on private matters. Moreover, the religious and other school books on the history and geography of Poland are prepared in Russia by a special committee, whose duty seems to be to distort and misrepresent the historical facts to suit the views of the Government, and thus impress them upon the youthful minds. The late notorious General Witte, who was at the head of Public Institutions, was the chief promoter and the most active agent in this scheme of

DENATIONALIZATION AND DEMOBALIZATION

Of the Polish youth. It was he who, before a meeting held at Cheim, with a diabolical satisfaction pronounced these memorable words: "I feel proud to be the first to thrust a knife into the very heart of Poland." After his demise every well-meaning person felt more at ease, and flattered himself at being relieved from such a monster in human shape, and all hoped for the better. But, alas! their expectation was of short duration. He was succeeded by a man named Apurhtiz, who, by a special ukase of the Czar, was appointed Inspector-General of Instruction in Poland. This individual, when not equalled, almost overreached, by far, his predecessor in his

HATRED TOWARD POLAND,

And studied perseverance for the destruction of the last spark of its nationality. He not only enforced the prohibitory laws to speak Polish within the walls of the colleges, but he established a systematic espionage among the pupils, and caused them to be watched over during their innocent boyish plays, and the least infringement to his severe regulations was punished as a crime, generally by expulsion.

This characteristic thirst, or rather rage, of a savage for destruction gained soon the lower and the lowest ranks of subordinates, who vied with each other in the work of annihilation of everything which was national and dear to every Pole. The most conspicuous amongst that set of people was a certain Cheroshefski, Director of the V College of Warsaw, who, with an ardor worthy of a better cause, did not disdain to examine in person the scraps of waste papers daily swept out of the school, in order to see if there was something impetuable.

A. B.

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