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"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward Men."

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A Sublime Text, and a Poetic Comment.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—John iii. 16.

O Love divine! Harp, lift thy voice on high! Shout, Angels! Shout aloud, ye sons of men! And burn, my heart, with the eternal flame! My lute, be eloquent with endless praise! O Love divine! immeasurable love! Stooping from heaven to earth, from earth to hell, Without beginning, endless, boundless Love! Above all asking, giving far, to those Who nought deserved, who nought deserved but death!

Saving the vilest! Saving me! O Love Divine! O Saviour God! O Lamb once slain! At thought of Thee, Thy love, Thy flowing blood, All thoughts decay; all things remembered fade; All hopes return; all actions done, by men Or angels, disappear; absorbed and lost All fly, as from the great white Throne which he, The prophet, saw, in vision wrapt, the heavens, And earth, and moon, and starry host, Confounded, fled, and found a place no more.

Eternal Love, Harp, lift thy voice on high! eternal Love, Eternal, sovereign love, and sovereign grace, Wisdom, and power, and mercy infinite, The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God, Devised the wondrous plan; devised, achieved, And in achieving made the marvel more. Attend, ye heavens! ye heaven of heavens, attend!

Attend and wonder, wonder evermore! When man had fallen, rebelled, insulted God; Was most polluted, yet most madly proud; Indebted infinitely, yet most poor; Captive to sin, yet willing to be bound; To God's incensed justice and hot wrath Exposed, due victims of eternal death And utter woe.—Harp, lift thy voice on high! Ye everlasting hills! ye angels bow! Bow ye redeemed of men!—God was made flesh, And dwelt with man on earth! The Son of God, Only-begotten and Well-beloved, between Men and His Father's justice interposed; Put human nature on; His wrath sustained; And, in their name, suffered, obeyed, and died; Making His soul an offering for sin, Just for unjust, and innocence for guilt, By doing, suffering, dying, unconstrained, Save by omnipotence of boundless grace, Complete atonement made to God appeased; Made honourable his insulted law, Turning the wrath aside from pardoned man, Thus Truth and Mercy met, and Righteousness, Stooping from highest heaven, embraced fair Peace.

That walked the earth in fellowship with Love, Saviour of men! henceforth be Thou my theme; Redeeming love my study day and night!

—Pollok.

[Written for the Visitor.]

RUSSIA.

BY A. H. MUNRO.

(Continued.)

THE HOUSE OF ROMANOFF OF RUSSIA.

- 1. MIKAEI, 1613, A. D. 8. IVAN, 1740, A. D.
- 2. ALEXEI, 1645. 9. ELIZABETH, 1741.
- 3. FEODOR, 1676. 10. PETER 3rd, 1762.
- 4. PETER, GREAT, 1682. 11. CATHERINE 2d, 1763.
- 5. CATHERINE 1st, 1725. 12. PAUL, 1796.
- 6. PETER 2d, 1727. 13. ALEXANDER, 1801.
- 7. ANNE, 1730. 14. NICHOLAS, 1825.

The above is a list of the Russian Sovereigns of the present dynasty, with the date at which each reign began. It extends over a period during which Russia has merged from a confederation of barbarous tribes into one of the great powers of the world. To write this portion of history, is to record the successive steps of that national progress, which was far more gradual and less owing to the labours of any one man, than is commonly supposed. The world loves marvels, and it pleases popular fancy to say, that Peter the Great found his subjects savage and left them civilized. But this is more wonderful than true. Peter, like our own Alfred, has received credit for more than his due, for improvements that existed long before his day. Much was done to improve his people before he ascended the throne, and vastly more has been done

since he left it, and still the Russians are the least civilized and refined of all Europeans.

Mikael, on coming to the throne, proved himself not unmindful of the influences to which he owed his elevation. His father he made Patriarch of the Church and his own confidential adviser on all affairs of state; ample security being thus given for the paying of due attention to the wishes and interests of the clergy. The Swedes and Poles having invaded and gained possession of portions of his territory, Mikael procured peace with the former by the surrender of Smolensko, and terminated war with the latter in similar humiliation. He better consulted his own honour and his country's welfare by sending Ambassadors to England, Holland, Denmark, and other countries, with which he effected advantageous treaties. The latter part of his reign was marked by a second Polish war as bootless as the first. Mikael died in 1645 and was succeeded by his son.

Alexei was a man of different stamp from his father. But the events of his reign will speak for themselves. The circumstances which led to his renewal of the war with Poland; introduce to us a people who are the embodiment of the romance of modern war, and the most ruthless participators in its bloodiest tragedy. We allude to the Cossacks, with whose peculiar traits the French made so fearful an acquaintance in the memorable retreat from Moscow in 1812. It is interesting to note the first appearance of these nomadic warriors on the stage of European politics. A body of them left the north bank of the Dneiper and travelling further south placed themselves as a tributary people under the Tartar Khan, who then held sway in Russia. After the overthrow of this power they allied themselves with Poland, then one of the most powerful kingdoms of Europe. Becoming disgusted with the Poles, in consequence of compulsory attempts at proselytising, they once more changed masters, and this time, in favour of the Russian Czar. Alexei received them with open arms, and soon after demanded from the Poles the restitution of the territory ceded to them by his father.—The refusal of this request was followed by a war, in which the United Russian, and Cossack forces were highly successful.

We must not omit to notice another incident which occurred in this reign in connection with the Cossacks. Some of the tribes resident on the banks of the Don, feeling aggrieved by the rigour with which one of their officers had been treated, rebelled. Radzin, who headed the revolt, found himself leader of the immense force of two hundred thousand men. But this was only a vast undisciplined rabble. From whatever cause Radzin was induced to accept peace on the terms offered by the Czar, which were to lay down his arms and appear at Moscow. As he approached that City he was met by a wagon bearing a gibbet, upon which, without further delay, he was hung. To the same fate twelve thousand of his followers had to submit.

Leaving the reader to make his own comments on these two events, associated with the early coalescing of the races effected by them, we remark the singular truth that each of these circumstances, causing as it did a real accession of strength to Russia, involved her in war; but each time with a different power. Sweden, from jealousy of the augmented influence of Russia, which arose from her alliance with the Cossacks formerly united to Poland, engaged in a war, which ended without any decided advantage to either belligerent. The Turks, after the entire subjugation of the Cossacks of the Don, naturally entertained fears for the loss of the Crimea, of which they then held possession. They were not long in determining upon war with Russia. Indeed, from the manner in which

they began, one would almost conclude that their preparations had been somewhat hastily made, or that there existed a slight mystification as to whom they were going to fight, for it is an undeniable fact that they commenced by an attack upon the Polish frontier. This may have been merely a whetting of their swords preliminary to greater operations; just as gentlemen of the last century used to take bread and cheese and brandy before dinner, to give them an appetite. The invasion of the Ukraïn by the Turks seemed more consistent with their supposed object. There they proved themselves vastly superior to the Russian forces, and won continued triumphs, till checked by the Poles, under Sobieski. The war, however, did not end till the death of Alexei.

More than one improvement for which Peter the Great has been applauded, was introduced into Russia, by Alexei. He, it was, who improved her internal administration, and gave her a code of laws composed of the least objectionable of those of his ancestors. To him also belongs the honour of opening the trade with China—since so important a part of Russian Commerce. Without waiting to mention other particulars of a similar kind, we will conclude by narrating an anecdote highly characteristic.

Among the privileges enjoyed by the old Russian nobility, in the time of Alexei, was that of guarding certain limits adjacent to their respective estates. This guardianship implied not only the duty of defence from foreign aggression, but also internal judicial authority. Besides the very extensive power which was thus conferred, the office was rendered still more tempting, by the connection with it, of remuneration from the imperial treasury, for real or supposed outlay. In many parts of the empire, rival families laid claim to the privilege of which we are speaking. The disputes between them being referred to Alexei, for adjudication, he ordered the archives of all the nobles of Russia to be brought to Moscow. A small wooden building, by his command, was erected to receive them. The precious documents having been carefully secured in this receptacle, a day was named for holding the Court, and the litigents were notified to attend. But, on the morning of the day appointed for the commencement of proceedings, the little wooden building caught fire, and all its documentary treasures were destroyed. Over their ashes, Alexei pronounced this requiem: "Gentlemen," said he to the poor nobles who stood confounded by the awful calamity which had befallen them, "henceforth your rank, privileges and courts are the nation's. Your rank is not private, it is national, and attached according to the services you are actually rendering." Since that day, the government official has had the precedence of the mere noble in Russia. Oh! that Alexei's mantle had descended upon the shoulders of some of our Lord Chancellors, and become their robe of office. How much wrangling it would have saved the Lawyers, and from how many ruined fortunes and broken hearts would it have saved the clients?

Judson's Imprisonment at Ava.

Having entered upon a residence in Ava, the metropolis of Burmah, in the beginning of 1824 with encouraging prospects of success, having Dr. Price, a medical missionary as his associate, Judson was alarmed by the intelligence that war was breaking out between the Burman empire and Great Britain. It was known that the missionaries were not Englishmen but Americans; yet, like all other foreigners they were regarded with suspicion. A letter written by Mrs. Judson to her brother gives an interesting account of events which preceded an announcement that Rangoon was taken, soon followed by an an-

gry order for the immediate arrest of the teachers. "On the 8th of June," says Mrs. Judson, "just as we were preparing for dinner, in rushed an officer, holding a black book, with a dozen Burmans, accompanied by one, whom, from his spotted face, we knew to be an executioner, and a "son of the prison." "Where is the teacher?" was the first inquiry. Mr. Judson presented himself.—"You are called by the king," said the officer—a form of speech always used when about to arrest a criminal. The spotted man instantly seized Mr. Judson, threw him on the floor, and produced the small cord, the instrument of torture. I caught hold of his arm.—"Stay," said I; "I will give you money.—"Take her too," said the officer; "she also is a foreigner." Mr. Judson, with an imploring look, begged they would let me remain till further orders. The scene was now shocking beyond description. The whole neighbourhood had collected; the masons at work on the brick house threw down their tools, and ran; the little Burman children were screaming and crying; the Bengalee servants stood in amazement at the indignities offered their master; and the hardened executioner, with a kind of hellish joy, drew tight the cords, bound Mr. Judson fast, and dragged him off I knew not whither. In vain I begged and entreated the spotted face to take the silver, and loosen the ropes; but he spurned my offers and immediately departed. I gave the money, however, to Moung Ing to follow after, to make some further attempt to mitigate the torture of Mr. Judson; but instead of succeeding, when a few rods from the house, the unfeeling wretches again threw their prisoner on the ground, and drew the cords still tighter so as almost to prevent respiration.

"The officer and his gang proceeded on to the court-house, where the governor of the city and officers were collected, one of whom read the order of the king to commit Mr. Judson to the death-prison, into which he was soon hurled, the door closed, and Moung Ing saw no more. What a night was now before me! I retired into my room, and endeavoured to obtain consolation from committing my case to God, and imploring fortitude and strength to suffer whatever awaited me. But the consolation of retirement was not long allowed me, for the magistrate of the place had come into the veranda, and continually called me to come out, and submit to his examination. But previously to going out, I destroyed all my letters, journals, and writings of every kind, lest they should disclose the fact that we had correspondents in England, and had minuted down every occurrence since our arrival in the country. When this work of destruction was finished, I went out, and submitted to the examination of the magistrate, who inquired very minutely of every thing I knew; then ordered the gates of the compound to be shut, no person to be allowed to go in or out, placed a guard of ten ruffians, to whom he gave a strict charge to keep me safe, and departed.

"It was now dark. I retired to an inner room with my four little Burman girls, and barred the doors. The guard instantly ordered me to unbar the doors and come out, or they would break the house down. I obstinately refused to obey, and endeavoured to intimidate them by threatening to complain of their conduct to higher authorities on the morrow. Finding me resolved in disregarding their orders, they took the two Bengalee servants, and confined them in the stocks in a very painful position. I could not endure this, but called the head man to the window, and promised to make them all a present in the morning, if they would release the servants. After much debate, and many severe threatenings, they consented, but seemed resolved to annoy me as much as possible. My unprotected, desolate state, my entire uncer-