

"CRUELTY TO HIS SUBJECTS IS THE CRIME OF A MONARCH."

ness, replied in anger. This was sufficient provocation. Ivan gave vent to his rage. Schuisky was made prisoner, and shortly afterwards was turned out into the public streets and worried to death by dogs!

On arriving at the age of fourteen, Ivan put several more of his evil councillors to death, and proclaimed himself king, assuming, for the first time, the title of Czar, a distinctive appellation which has since been retained by the emperors of Russia. This event was shortly after followed by his marriage with the Princess Anastasia, a lady of great virtue and goodness, who, by her influence and example, endeavoured to reclaim him from the habits of indolence, sensuality, and cruelty which he had contracted. In this attempt she was partially successful—Ivan for the first time in his life realising the obligations imposed upon him as a ruler of a vast empire. He began by destroying the Tartar power, first conquering Kasan, and then Astracan, and so gradually placed the whole of Tartary in subjugation to his sceptre—the success of this great achievement being due to the wise reforms which he infused into the army. Nor in domestic affairs was Ivan less energetic. He promoted useful and just laws, introduced the art of printing into his dominions, and endeavoured to spread education amongst the people, in opposition to the prejudices of the age. Unfortunately, the good genius who had effected this wondrous change in his nature did not live long to continue her beneficence, for she died in 1563, and the pent-up fury of Ivan again broke loose with unrestrained violence. Every law and instinct, human and divine, was broken and set aside in order that his thirst for blood might be gratified. Sons were forced to kill their fathers; brothers were compelled to murder brothers, their wealth and possessions being seized

"Preserve my faithful servant," cried the czar. "I have jested a little too hard with him!" "So hard," replied the physician, "that only God and your Majesty can restore him to life: he breathes no more!" Ivan looked contemptuously at the dead body, called the physician a dog, and returned to his amusements.

It is also related of Ivan, that he would occasionally go through the public streets on horseback, attended by his courtiers and foreign ambassadors, and whenever he turned round, every one uncovered his head, and bowed low. By some chance, however, one day the Italian ambassador forgot to uncover, when Ivan, looking round, said not a word—but as he passed a smith's shop, he stopped and ordered a large nail to be put through the ambassador's head, which killed him on the spot. But the greatest sin of Ivan's life was the murder of his eldest son, by blows from an iron bar, in a fit of insane passion. This son he loved most dearly; and remorse for this fearful crime hastened his death, which took place in 1584.

The impartial historian should not, however, omit to record that the good qualities of Ivan, displayed during the lifetime of his wife, showed conclusively that but for the misfortunes attending his early training, he might have been one of the most renowned instead of the most despicable of monarchs.

Additional Notes to September.

THE DISCOVERER OF GALVANISM.

(9).—ALOYSIUS GALVANI, celebrated as the discoverer of Galvanism, was born at Bologna in the year 1737. He studied medicine under Galeazzi, whose daughter he married; and it is said to have been through her quick observation of the circumstance of the leg of a frog, placed near an electrical machine, becoming convulsed when touched by a knife, that her husband was first led to investigate the science which has since become identified with his name.

In 1762 Galvani became lecturer on anatomy at Bologna, and obtained a considerable reputation by the many new ideas he brought to bear on the subject. By repeated experiments on frogs he discovered that all animals are endued with a peculiar kind of electricity; and he followed up this discovery with so much perseverance and success, that his system of physiology excited universal attention. His first publication on this subject was entitled *De Viribus Electricitatis in Motu Musculari Commentarius*. Galvani was greatly attached to his wife, and on her death in 1790, he fell into a state of melancholy, and died in 1798.

The famous Volta followed Galvani in his researches, and made further discoveries in this branch of science; and many were the experiments afterwards made by eminent medical men in pursuit of additional knowledge respecting animal electricity. In the Surgeon's Theatre, in the Old Bailey, London, the following occurrence took place, and which is narrated in the *Annual Register* for 1803:—

"The body of Foster, who was executed for murdering his wife, was lately subjected to the galvanic process by Mr. Aldini (a nephew of Galvani), in the presence of Mr. Keate, Mr. Cowper, and several other professional gentlemen. On the first application of the process to the face, the jaw of the deceased began to quiver, and the adjoining muscles were horribly convulsed, and one eye actually opened. In the subsequent course of the experiment, the right hand was raised and clenched, and the legs and thighs were set in motion; and it appeared to all the bystanders that the wretched man was on the point of being restored to life. The object of these experiments was to show the excitability of the human frame, when animal electricity is duly applied; and the possibility of its being efficaciously applied in cases of drowning, suffocation, or apoplexy, by reviving the action of the lungs, and thereby rekindling the expiring spark of vitality."

"Such is the notice in the contemporary publication of the day;" (says Timbs, in his *Doctors and Patients*) "but the most important part of the proceedings is not here told. It has been stated by those who were present on the occasion, that when the right hand was raised, as mentioned above, it struck one of the officers of the institution, who died that very afternoon of the shock."



and appropriated to the Czar's own use. It is said by historians that this brutal Czar murdered thousands of his subjects by the most horrible tortures. Regarding every sense of decency and religion, he broke one of the most sacred usages of the Greek Church by marrying seven wives, a crime in the eyes of that community of horrible magnitude. Besides this, he assumed the attributes of the Deity, compelling his servile courtiers to pay him the reverence due only to the Almighty.—the royal palace presenting a strange scene of blasphemy and debauchery.

One of Ivan's chief diversions was the loosening of savage and hungry bears, procured purposely from Novogorod, amongst groups of harmless citizens collected in the streets—their rapid flight and cries of terror causing him intense pleasure and enjoyment. Another of his entertainments consisted in a company of jesters, whose especial business it was to divert him. The jesters, however, frequently suffered dearly for bad jokes. One of the most distinguished of the court mimics was prince Gorsdorf. On one occasion Ivan, being disappointed in a joke, poured the boiling contents of a soup basin over the prince's head. The unfortunate jester, in great agony, attempted to retreat from the table, but the tyrant struck him in a vital part with a knife, and he fell senseless to the ground. A physician was immediately sent for.