

## What May Happen to Russia.

THE greatest enemy of the Russian Government is not the Japanese army facing General Kuropatkin, but rather the army of discontented people at home within the empire itself, whom governmental oppression through long years of evil-doing of all sorts, in all parts of the vast monarchy, has raised up as an implacable enemy.

In this large and powerful body of malcontents we should place first the subjected races, peoples in a perpetual state of harassment on the part of the St. Petersburg authorities. But what weakens still more the present government in its home policy is the presence of a new force, which is beginning to take on an organized form and to loom large on the Russian political horizon. We refer to the Liberal Party, representing and including all the various strata of the nobility, municipal bodies, district governments, the burgher classes of the cities and the liberal professions, which, after a long—too long—period of passive opposition, more platonic than practical, are now coming forward to help organize a great political party and to demand political reforms, or, rather, political reform—that is, liberty. For the first time since a century this party has an organ in the press, the *Osvobojvenie* (The Emfranchisement), well supplied with money and good writers. It is carrying on a legal propaganda, criticizing the wrongful acts of the government and bravely exposing every vexatious and illegal measure of the authorities.

This Liberal movement, which is making rapid progress and becoming really strong, was enough to frighten M. de Plehve himself, who made this statement to an unfortunate writer who went to him to ask why he was to be deported, since he was not an extremist. "Yes," explained,

cynically, the Minister of the Interior, "I know that you are not a Revolutionist. But it is no longer the Revolutionists whom we fear, for we have a million of bayonets to turn against them. It is you Liberals who are a danger, and especially those of you who do not go outside the pale of the law in your opposition to the present regime." A government which, by the mouth of one of its chief ministers, makes such a confession as this—that it fears especially those who do not violate the laws of the land—such a government making such a confession signs thereby its own death warrant.



GENERAL DRAGOMIROFF.  
One of the Russian Generals.