

and abdomen were horribly mangled, so that he died in an hour or two. One Rosakoff was immediately arrested and will likely be convicted and put to death. The crime was instigated, it is supposed, by the Nihilists; a class of insane desperadoes who are opposed to all governments and to the principles of society generally. Personally the late Emperor was of humane disposition. He followed however the barbarous traditions of the Empire. Hundreds of wretched prisoners were annually deported to the Mines of Siberia for political offences. The will of the Emperor was law. His rule was absolute. He governed his vast realms without a parliament or representative council of any kind, and did what seemed good in his own eyes. Twenty years ago he liberated the Serfs so called, or peasants, amounting in number to some millions, and gained great glory thereby in the eyes of English humanitarians. The Nihilists maintain however, that his object was not the welfare of the toiling millions, but to break the power of the nobles, and to introduce the conscription of the army. Up to that event each noble was required to furnish and equip a certain number of soldiers according to his wealth and the number of Serfs or slaves occupying his domain. And as the nobles depended for their wealth upon the income derived from their Serfs which was paid in kind, they were naturally reluctant to supply a large number of men, and thus leave their fields uncultivated, and thus it happened that some check was placed upon the absolutism of the Czar. His

enemies have maintained that he liberated the Serfs in order to fill his armies by conscription independently of the power of the great nobles. It is worthy of note that eighty years ago his ancestor the Emperor Paul was killed in a midnight attack by a conspiracy of nobles whose sole outlet for the produce of their vast estates was closed by the action of Paul in joining with Napoleon in the confederacy of the North to close all European ports against the commerce of England.

The late Emperor is succeeded by his son Alexander. From the killing of Emperors we naturally turn to consider the state of Ireland, and the condition of Irish Landlords more particularly. The Coercion Act has already accomplished much for the quieting of disturbances. We take it as a good augury for Ireland that the president of a great Atlantic Steamship line lately congratulated the Company on the passing of the Act as it would load their boats with Fenians, "White Boys," Land Leaguers, Boycotters, Bog Trotters, and politically maledict reprobates of all kinds, escaping from the cruel clutches of the British Lion. Parnell and his associates are still troubling the House of Commons by their obstruction of business. What these agitators want is not very clear. We doubt if they know themselves. It cannot be rebellion, for that would be sheer madness. Possibly their action may in some measure be accounted for by the fact that no Irish representative could long hold his seat in Parliament without occasionally treading metaphorically on the tail of the British Lion.