

resist the three united nations. In 1793 occurred the total dismemberment of Poland. Russia desiring to gain more of Poland, had used her influence to place on the Polish throne Stanislaus Poniatowski, a creature of her own, who received his instructions from St. Petersburg. The people, being naturally dissatisfied with this state of affairs, desired to retrieve the fortunes of their falling land, and under the gallant Kosciuszko, rose in arm against the Russians. Their success was but short lived; Kosciuszko was captured and placed in a Russian prison, and Poland lay at the mercy of her traditional enemy. In 1831 occurred another insurrection against the misgovernment of Russia. Again the patriots were defeated, and the country was laid waste with fire and sword. In 1863 occurred the last insurrection. Again the patriots suffered defeat. But Russia put down this last outbreak more rigorously than any preceding one. Her persecution was so cruel and far-reaching that even to the present day the elderly Pole tells with trembling voice the horrors perpetrated by the ruthless Cossacks. 50,000 men of the best of the nation either perished on the scaffold or were sent to Siberia to languish in the most rigorous confinement. After this staggering blow the nation sank into a moral stupor, from which it has yet to recover. On the night of June 15, 1863, 2,000 patriots out of Warsaw's population of 18,000 were taken from their beds and forcibly enlisted in the Russian army. In 1793, in the streets of Warsaw, 4,000 Poles were massacred in one day by the Russian soldiers under Marshal Suwarrow. Again in 1863, 50,000 Russian soldiers camped and made order in the streets of Warsaw by firing with cannon on men and women who knelt in the snow and sang the Polish national anthem. Such an act of barbarity could be perpetrated in the last half of the 19th century only by such a nation as Russia.

The Russification process, in its two phases of mechanically crowding out Poles with Russians, and in attempting to kill the Polish language, has had some bye-products, probably not looked for by even its advocates. The legal immunity of the Russian element in Poland from abuses of governmental and social rights has brought about a complicity between police and wrong-doers of all kinds, which is almost incredible. It has, moreover, made everything in Poland which is worth while doing an evasion. Of course the Poles teach their children Polish despite the law. They study with a Russian book on top of the desk and a Polish one beneath. It is at the point of attempted forcible conversion by the Orthodox church that Russification arouses the greatest hostility of the Polish peasant. The proseletyzing activities of