

**Assassination of  
Empress of Austria**

One of the most shocking crimes of recent years was committed at Geneva, Switzerland, on the tenth inst. The Empress of Austria, leaving the country, while about to embark on her ship, was deliberately murdered, stabbed to the heart by an Italian anarchist. In reflecting on this foul deed our mind becomes disconcerted with mingled feelings of abhorrence of the unnatural fiend that perpetrated it and of tender regard for the unhappy victim. Empress Elizabeth's domestic afflictions had broken her heart. The tragic death of her son, Crown Prince Rudolph, and the sad fate of her sister, Duchess d'Alençon, in the Paris bazaar fire, coming upon her in her old age, caused her to withdraw from her royal duties and seek a spiritual seclusion. She gave up her social obligations, and devoted herself to a course of charitable work among the poor. Her kind ministrations were so fruitful that she endeared herself to her subjects, in a manner unequalled by any other European sovereign. The disposition to retirement, which afforded solace to her afflicted heart, led her to many places without the necessary precaution of protection for her royal person. She travelled with confidence in human nature, and a feeling of consolation in humbling herself. It is sad, therefore, to think that so noble a woman was so unmercifully stricken down, and simply because she was a queen. The base, cowardly assassin who plunged the dagger into her generous heart, had no grudges against her individually, but hated the class to which she belonged. He had been searching for men of high rank, and failing to find them exposed, he vented all the hatred of his diseased mind on a woman, who was already weighted down by an uncommon portion of life's sorrows. I cannot conceive the utter unnaturalness of the man who committed this crime, and would like to comfort myself with the belief that such heartless beings are not numerous. But the frequency with which these outrages occur, and the rabid demonstrations against law and order in European cities, together with the constant danger that surrounds royalty, compels me to the belief that their number is terrifyingly large. When they band themselves together in anarchistic associations there is no limit to the cruel, malignant designs that animate them. Their individual