

The street scenes of the capital are very picturesque—knife-grinders, blind beggars, mujiks, porters, and other types shown in our woodcuts. Of the peasants, 22,000,000 were serfs, sold with the soil, partly belonging to the Crown, partly to the nobles. By an Imperial manifesto, proclaimed in all the churches, March 3rd, 1861, these were all freed and enfeoffed with from five to five-and-twenty acres of land. But many of them have become the victims of usurious Jews, who have inveigled them out of their land by selling vile brandy, and lending money at exorbitant rates of interest. The rage of the peasants finds vent in terrific outbursts of persecution against these blood-sucking vampires.



RUSSIAN PEASANT TRAPPING GAME.

The government from the times of the early Pauls and Peters has been a "despotism tempered by assassination." The social fabric is honeycombed with nihilistic socialism, a stern system of repression casts into prison or deports to the mines of Siberia all political offenders, and refuses the ameliorations of constitutional government or representative institutions. A thin veneer of civilization conceals the inherent barbarism of the race. If you scratch the skin the Tartar appears. Society in St. Petersburg has the pomp, the splendour, the brilliance of the court of Louis XIV. But there slumbers beneath this glittering splendour volcanic forces akin to those which, in the dread Reign of Terror, overturned both throne and altar in the dust and for a generation made France the outlaw of Europe.

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