A ST. PETERSBURG LETTER.

ALEXANDER III.'S DEATH DESCRIBED AS BEREADING THE CZARDOM.

The State in which his Assassination has Left the Empire—Warring Parties at Work—Measures Advised by the Russian Press.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 28.—A very strange spectacle is this huge Czardom. For years the desperate, though uneven struggle has been going on. On one side there is the autocrat and absolute sovereign of one hundred millions of people, supported by over two millions of soldiers, guarded by hundreds of thousands of members of the triple police, served by multifarious officials, and daily prayed for by one hundred thousand priests. On the other side, there is, we are told, a handful of mere boys and girls; but they are audacious, persistent, undaunted, firm in their fanaticism, and dare heaven and hell. And now what is the result?

The monster army of the Czar is inactive and paralyzed. His ubiquitous and omnipotent police has been struck, as it were, deaf, dumb, and blind. His many-wheeled bureaucratic machine serves his foes rather than him. And the prayers of the priests and Bishops remain unanswered. At last, under the noonday sun, in the heart of his own capital, in the midst of his soldiers, though often warned, he who held in his hand the lives of millions, who alone made and unmade laws for all the Russias, has been brought to the dust, and, as they say here, by two youths.

No, this assertion is utterly untenable. A mere handful of young miscreants could not bring about the complete anarchy from which Russia has been suffering of late years. They could not terrorize the strongest Government that ever existed upon the face of the earth; they could not paralyze industry, stop trade, and cause an economical and financial crisis in the largest of empires. It was not the conspirators who did that, but it was the Government of the late Czar who for twenty-five years has been zealously contriving the anarchy which we now behold in Russia, and which is very likely to last for years to come although a new ruler is seated on the Czar's throne. The conspirators themselves are only the inevitable result of the Czar's policy.

Czar Nicholas, when he poisoned himself, bequeathed to his son, the late Czar, a typical Czardom, in which the will of the autocrat, transmitted, as it was, even to the lowest civil official, soldier, and policeman, has been the supreme law of the country. Whatever we may think of the stern rule of Nicholas, we cannot deny him logic and consistency. Alexander II., on the contrary, tried to be a liberal ruler and a reformer; but he was a bad Czar. More than that, it was he who dealt the death blow to Czardom.

By his famous act of emancipation the late Czar deliberately beheaded the nobility, the very class that made Czardom possible. The nobles, being serfholders, played the rôle of Czars in their estates. Their interests being identical with those of the Czar, they enlisted, soul and body, in support of Czardom. Now there are no serfholders in Russia; but among the nobles there are also no loyal and faithful Czarists.

The nobles Czar strangled he nobility he failed to bring to life the new State element, the peasantry. Although set free the peasants were denied the necessary means to develop themselves into a State power that could replace the justly overthrown nobility. And so the very substance of Russia—the nobility and peasantry together—was deliberately undermined by the Czar himself. That was the negative effect of the act of emancipation; its positive side is yet to be seen. Nekrasoff, the great poet of Russia, expressed this idea in these words: "A great chain has been broken, and lore asunder, and it struck, O God, the serf-holder and the serf—both peasant."

The Czar—the Reformer—went further. There are in Russia fifty provinces, each of which has been governed absolutely by its Governor. Now, by a single stroke of his pen, the Czar, said were, bedecorated the Governors by establishing the elective, or representative principle of administrations. These, though they were fully able to neutralize the despotic power of the Governor, were not strong enough—that is, had not enough authority—to establish order and prosperity in the provinces. And so it came to pass that, in spite of all the grand reforms, the Russian provinces yet lie torpid.

Further on, the Czar beheaded his much beloved administrative order. This was composed of the triple police, and knew no laws. But trial by jury, introduced by the Czar, threatened the very existence of the administrative order, though the new courts were without authority or power to enforce their process. A desperate struggle ensued between the newborn judicial babe and the old crippled monster, and both of them were strangled nearly to death. Thus Czardom, which has been for a long time there has been no law and no justice, brute force began to rough in the decaying Czardom—the right of fist, of bayonet, of gibbet, of poison, of dagger, of pistol, of the mine, and of the bomb!

The large, disciplined, and strong army was not forgotten by the Czar in his destructive experiments. Under his new plan of military reform, the educated youth of liberal and radical opinions at once invaded all the ranks of the army, thus rendering it, instead of a disciplined body, a reasoning body. The "nihilistic" element was set loose, and the Russian army is now paralyzed, at least so far as loyalty to the Czar is concerned.

The late Czar created a free press in order, possibly, to have something else to behead. As a means of literary talent attracted by the free press, the Czar, however, made themselves known in the public press, they were seized upon and exiled, and since then until this day the Czar's literary executioners, called here the censors, have had their hands full of press offenses. The press is gagged and bound, and the people have no legal means to express their demands and inform the Government of their urgent needs.

The late liberal Czar committed a great act of self-destruction by his royal hands he squeezed life out of the Czardom so well that afterward his whole court of gendarmes, and despotic Governors generals, and chiefs of Dvornikki (orders) and urlnikki (judges of consistories), prayers of the priests, could bring it back to life.

Though the Czar himself had undermined the very pillars that supported his throne, yet he was not willing to relinquish that throne. Unhappy delusion! The Czardom, in its original form, was long ago the Czar's throne was but a shadow, and it was left for the Russian people to see the terrible event of March 13 crowned the destruction of the autocratic power in Russia. Then we beheld a beheaded Czardom.

Indeed, what a moral and social chaos now represents the Czardom. There is a young and vigorous Czar, and there are loyal and faithful Czarists. There are audacious and determined conspirators; but there are no soldiers brave enough to shoot them, no police zealous enough to seize them, and no public ready to betray them. And the conspirators go on with their secret printing, digging of mines, and manufacturing of dynamite and bombs.

The report of the two bombs exploded on March 13 produced here an indescribable consternation. The New Times said: "A period of panic, of such significance a dreadful crisis is spreading. Indeed, the Czar is gone and the Government has here like a ship on the sea, to use a Russian saying, 'have not Czar at the head.' A fortnight has passed since the assassination, and the chaos is not the least clearer. The press the people are long and the Government divided into somewhat inimical camps. Indecision, instead of firm, vigorous action, is heard everywhere, and no definite political programme is established.

The Moscow Telegraph of March 26 proposed a war against the Liberals, and the Moscow News of St. Petersburg declared nihilism to be accomplices of the Nihilists, and styles the press the principal nest of conspiracy. It seriously advises the new Czar to transfer his residence to the sacred city of Moscow, the Holy Jerusalem of Russia, and the Moscow Telegraph says that the same paper says that the existing revolutionary movement is not the work of a few misled and unwerdy criminals, but of the Liberals and Poles, who are still enemies of the Constitution.

The Moscow Telegraph supports the proposition of its namesake of Moscow. It says: "It is a fact of the first magnitude, which proves an idea of the dissolution of Russia, that it is the residence of the bureaucracy, those who serve those who pay them best, regardless whether their employers belong to the right or the left political party."

The News of St. Petersburg comes up to the demand of the Liberals. Order! it exclaimed in a strong leaf to the Moscow Telegraph. "If we have the servants of repression, who dressed in the clothing of the Executive Committee; if it is a fact that the state of things which kills the young man, fills the prisons and mines, and sends people to Siberia, your falsehoods are false, and your crimes are enormous, and we have no answer for them. And now, Moscow publicists!"

Indeed, terrible times reigns. The Moscow Telegraph sides with the official world of land and "in mind." The Bee, the organ of the popular Asaksh of gods even further. It says: "In the cultivated classes of Russia lack hearts and sound sense." The lowest classes of the people clearly sense of treason in the cultivated classes; and the police of the University thus fear that the students and the educated people in general will be assaulted by the populace.

What advice does the new Czar receive from the Russians who regard themselves as leaders of some of the various parties? The St. Petersburg organs of the Liberals, the Golos, the Novoe Vremya, the Molva, and the others, humbly ask for the Constitution. While the Moscow organs of the Rassophiles and Slavophiles, the Moskovskie Vedomosti and the Rus, explicitly say that the Constitution, being an imitation of rotten Europe, should bring only ruin to Russia; instead of the Constitution, they demand the establishment of the Zemsky Duma, or the representative advisory councils, characteristic institutions of olden Russia. But there are many orthodox people who have no faith either in the new talking institutions (so the Russians call Parliaments) or in the old ones, and they piously suggest that the whole country shall be submitted to a stringent obligatory Lent for a whole year. Canonization of the martyr Alexander (the late Czar) is also suggested as a means to implore the mercy of God, who turned His face from sinful Russia, and punished her with famine and epidemics, war and sedition. No human device can save the country from some untold evil," says a Moscow paper; "a large red planet appeared on the horizon just on the eve of the Czar's assassination. Mercy upon us!"

But the skeptics are far from giving up "human devices." For the sure and final extermination of the nihilistic they advise organization for national defence at home and international quarantine abroad. The residents of St. Petersburg, Moscow, and the other large cities must, they say, establish patrols, whose duty it would be to search all houses and to examine all the residents. Landlords should not harbor suspicious persons under penalty of confiscation of their property by the State. This, means of course, terrorization for the city residents, but it is proclaimed to be the only way by which landlords can be made to watch their tenants and to observe what is going on in their cellars.

Even Czars and their officers have been wont to warn the people "never to interfere in State affairs." But the late Czar was unable to exercise his prerogative here; he repeatedly called on the public to cooperate with his police in establishing order and tranquility in the country. And now the Czar's palace, in view of too a vast one evidence of its other incapacity to cope with the Nihilists, humbly begs private citizens and subjects to defend themselves, the city, the Czar, and the police, too! That is what has become of the holy Czardom and of autocracy.

As to the international campaign against the revolutionists the Russian diplomatic writers see no difficulty whatever. First of all they intend to have a settlement with the Swiss republic. "We may demand from Switzerland," says the Novoe Vremya, "that she shall expel all the Nihilists, Socialists, Internationalists, and revolutionists generally; under penalty that Swiss citizens shall be expelled from Russia, and that the importation of Swiss goods into Russia shall be forbidden. If that should not produce the desired effect, then we may hint to Germany that Russia will not object to annexation of the Swiss republic, or at least of its German cantons, to Germany, as the German empire. This, no doubt, will put an end to the revolutionary machinations at Geneva." It is proposed, further, that the authorities of Paris and London shall be vigorously "instructed" not to harbor the revolutionists. The broad Atlantic does not stop the warlike zeal of the Nihilist-eaters, and they go even to New York. But there they propose a different policy. "Having in view," they say, "the close friendly relations existing between all the Russias and the United States, the recent proof of which we have had in the dispatches of the President of the United States Senate, and of the Assembly of the State of New York, and remembering the gratitude of the American people to his late Czar for the great services rendered by him to them during the civil war, we shall respectfully request the Federal and State Governments of the republic to expel at once all persons of regicidal tendencies, who can bring nothing but dishonor to the as yet glorious republic."

What do you think of the international anti-Nihilist campaign? I asked a Russian friend, a well-known writer.

"It is nothing else but hunting for a mote in our neighbor's eye and overlooking the beam in our own eye; or, in plain Russian, it is barking at the moon. The tragedy of the situation is—we are the moon. The Czar's court, 'Olympus' as the Nihilists and we will annihilate them, will tear them to pieces, and will blow them to dust.' But that is the main difficulty—how to get them, we search for them in the ground, hunt for them in the hiding of men, and squeeze them out of the hearts of women. No, the Czarists have not such power, and so the Czardom is well nigh gone. Vechnaia Pamiat (eternal remembrance) to it!"

LOSS OF THE FRED BROWN.

The Collision off Cape Cod in which Seven Lives were Lost.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., April 11.—A full account of the loss of the schooner Fred Brown of this city, with her Captain, mate, the mate's wife and three children, and one seaman, which was caused by collision with the schooner Nathaniel H. Skinner, off Cape Cod, on Tuesday morning last, has just been obtained. The sole survivor of the Fred Brown proves to be a Norwegian named Nicholai Jeremiahsen, who was shipped from New York city by Capt. Small. Jeremiahsen says that the lights were burning on the Fred Brown. The mate, H. H. Lyons, trimmed them, and he (Jeremiahsen) placed them in the rigging. The schooner was under full sail at the time. Just previous to the collision all the crew were on deck, and had taken a reef in the mainsail. Jeremiahsen and the mate then went forward to lower the jib, and as they did so were startled by a terrible crash. The Skinner had struck the Brown amidships, and had cut into her as though her sides were of paper. Jeremiahsen, seeing that there was no time to spare, jumped for the shrouds and clambered on board of that vessel. He says that the mate could have saved himself the same way, but instead of doing so, ran toward the cabin where his wife and three children were sleeping. After the collision a man was heard to exclaim: "For God's sake give us a hand, we are sinking." The voice was recognized by Jeremiahsen as that of Capt. Small. In another moment life lines were ordered thrown alongside by Capt. Thrasher. One one of these was seized, and that by Capt. Small, who was hauled nearly to the Skinner's deck, but at the very instant when a helping hand was extended, he fell back into the waves and was drowned. Then the Fred Brown went down like a shot and all was still. Capt. Thrasher, hoping that some of those on board the Fred Brown had come to the surface and were clinging to the wreckage, requested his men to lower a boat and cruise about for them. The sailors refused to do so on account of the heavy sea and high wind, which made it unsafe to attempt to use a long boat. He then laid to for an hour, but could see or hear nothing of the missing ones.

The collision occurred at 12½ on Tuesday morning when the vessels were eight or nine miles off shore opposite Cape Cod light. Head winds and a high sea kept the Skinner off Chatham or Vineyard Haven until last Friday, when she was enabled to make port, and the particulars of the disaster were made public. Capt. Thrasher, while maintaining that the Fred Brown did not show any lights, expressed great sorrow, and cried like a child while telling Mr. Andrews, the owner of the sunken vessel, of the loss of the Brown and the people on board of her. The Brown was uninsured.

Anti-Monopoly in Jersey City.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the issue of the Associated Press Dispatches of Jersey City, I thank you for the very full, fair, and comprehensive statement in The Sun of April 4, of the grievances and expectations which we notice. There is no city in the United States which has the burden to bear which is entailed upon us by these existing railroad corporations, which are doing their best to kill us off, and make us a city of want and destitution.

Required to hold these questions at the bar of public opinion, we submit the following, which we think are tenable:

1. Whether a State has not the right to decide what is its own business, and what not.

2. Whether a State cannot compel a corporation to pay its equal share and to the percentage paid by the private citizen.

3. We hope to have it decided whether a Legislature elected by the people of New Jersey which has passed laws in accordance with the wishes of the people, and contrary to the best interests of monopolists.

4. We are emphatically anti-Monopolists. We have formally protested against the proceedings which the Legislature of New Jersey is about to establish. We have appealed to the Governor of New Jersey. We have appealed to the people of New Jersey. We have appealed to the Legislature of New Jersey, and we have appealed to the people of Hudson and Essex counties, and we have now shown our determination to carry our protest to the Supreme Court of the United States, and we have instructed our counsel to do so, and we have made our appeal to the people of the United States, and we have appealed to the Legislature of New York, and we have appealed to the people of New York, and we have appealed to the people of the United States, and we have appealed to the Legislature of the United States, and we have appealed to the people of the United States, and we have appealed to the people of the United States, and we have appealed to the people