

# **RUSSIA'S WEAKNESS.**

**Entirely Encircled by Foes or  
Doubtful Friends.**

**A WALL OF WEAK BLOCKS.**

**Seven Million Sullen and Revengful Poles—  
The Exposed Black Sea Frontier—No  
Safety on the Asiatic Side.**

*[Correspondence New York Sun.]*

ST. PETERSBURG, May 8th.—“Ours is the great country in the world,” a Russian General said to me. “but her size is her great weakness. Tell me at what point of her immense frontier line she could not be easily invaded by an enemy? On our borders we are to-day as defenceless as we were seventy-five years ago. It looks as if we still

would tempt our foes to come on to Moscow.”

The German-Russian frontier is virtually in the hands of the Poles, who, as yet, cherish a vain hope of restoring an independent kingdom of Poland. These are 7,000,000 of Poles, and all of them of the Roman Catholic faith. There are a number of fortresses in Poland, but they are considered as quite insignificant in the face of the formidable German fortresses on the other side of the frontier. There are several Russian regiments stationed at and near Warsaw, but their officers are mainly Poles or Russians Polonized. It is an undisputed fact that the Polish society, with all its anti-Russian sympathies, holds its own in spite of all pressure from the autocratic Government. Though conquered, the Poles to-day look down upon Russians as they were wont to in the golden period of their history. In his capacity of Governor-General, the well-known military leader, Gen. Gourko, is the chief of all the Polish provinces. He is as good as a General as he is poor as an administrator. He might in a twinkling annihilate all the Polish rebels ; but he is quite powerless to cope with the aristocratic conspirators in their *salons*. In case of a war between Russia and Germany—and such an affair is very possible, notwithstanding the interchange of courtesies between the two courts—the Russians would speedily have to vacate Poland.

#### THE AUSTRIAN-RUSSIAN FRONTIER

Is in the hands of Jews in general and of the Jewish smugglers in particular. To them patriotism is something foreign. The highest bidder is all they care for. The Czar's Government knows no means to control its Jewish subjects. The Roumanian-Russian frontier, as well as the northern shore of the Black Sea, is under Jewish control. The Jews not only control all exports and imports, but even deal in white slaves. The *Novoe Vremia* has recently stated that in some harems at Constantinople there were found several Russian Christian girls, who as they say, were sold there by Jews.

As to Odessa, Queen of the Black Sea, Sebastopol, which up to this date is described in Russian text books of geography as being "an impregnable fortress;" and the Crimea in general, these are at the mercy of any foreign man-of-war. The costly tubs of Admiral Popoff are looked upon even by Russians as being only poor scarecrows. The majority of the Crimeans are Tartars of Mohammedan faith, and in case of need they are not to be trusted. For the glory of the crescent they will gladly do mischief to the worshippers of the cross.

In the Caucasus, too, the Mohammedan population outnumbers the Christian. That mountainous ridge between the two inland seas has cost the Russians hundreds of thousands of men and millions and millions of roubles, yet they are not safe there. Lately a fanatic Mullah appeared near Baku and began to preach "Death to the Christians!" Some oil wells were set on fire, and there were rumors that the Trans-Caucasian Railway was undermined. A panic was spread there among the Christian population, and the *Moscow Vedomosti* and other Russian newspapers now demand that the Caucasus be pronounced in a state of seige, and that absolute power be granted for a time to the Governor-General Prince Don-dokoff-Korsakoff.

#### THE NEWLY ACQUIRED TRANS-CASPIAN REGION,

With the Turcoman robbers: the Turkestan, with the Bocharians and Khivans, and the Kirghiz hordes will yet require for years to come a good regular army in order to keep them in peace and subjection.

In Siberia, on the Chinese border, and on the Pacific shore Russians have no means of defence. There are Russians who, having made a thorough acquaintance with the Celestial empire, affirm that Europe may yet see another invasion of the Asiatics like the one that took place in the middle ages. Imagine, they argue, the Celestials provided with modern improved arms, and well drilled, pouring down on Europe through the Ural gates! What power on earth could stop them? In view of such a horrible calamity, the Czar's Government is going to send to Siberia one more Governor-General, thus making three. Western Siberia and Eastern Siberia have each a Governor-General, and now the Pacific shore and the Amour region up to Lake Baikal will have a third one. Lieut.-Gen. Baron Korf is appointed to reform

to Saghalien.

Curiously enough, the Empire of the Czar is indeed encircled by non-Russian nationalities. The Finns, Swedes, Germans, Poles, Jews, Greeks, Tartars, Tcherkassians, Georgians, Armenians, Turcomans, Turans, Kirghizes, Samoyeds, Buriats, and numerous other Siberian tribes, with Laplanders in the end, complete the ring of the Great Bear's huge country. And where is the Russian? In the hole.