

THE PROPOSED RUSSIAN ALLIANCE.

The proposed alliance between the United States and Russia is naturally regarded with alarm and indignation by the Poles and their warmest friends in this country. It is simply just that both sides should be heard, and all the arguments pro and con presented, before public opinion takes a final shape upon the subject. An earnest advocate of Polish independence, and, it is hardly necessary to add, a hearty opponent of Muscovite domination and policy, sends us a communication, deprecating the proposed alliance, and contending that it will injure rather than assist our Government in the present emergency. We select the principal points of his argument for publication :

The questions for America are: "How shall we con-

The questions for America are: "How shall we conquer the rebellion? How shall we reconstruct the Union? Where are the allies of the Government? Where are her enemies? Misguided politicians say that France and England are enemies of the United States, and that Russia was and is her friend. I beg leave to differ. The United States, to the unprejudiced mind of the world, represents freedom and civil liberty. The Southern rebellion embodies hierarchy, privilege and slavery. Every freeman on this globe must be with the Union. Every oppressor and aristocrat must and does sympathize with the rebellion. Now, who is the foremost despot under heaven, if not the Autocrat of Russia? Which are the nations most advanced in civilization and civil liberty? Undoubtedly, France and England. The special argument of those in favor of Russia—that she has liberated her serfs—will not stand a serious and conscientious examination; neither will it make of Russia a liberal power. It would be easier to prove that Louis XI., of cruel memory, who, however, liberated a million of his subjects, was a benefactor of mankind—a Trajan or a Washington. No. A partial and conditional liberation of Russian serfs does not make of Alexander II. a Titus; nor does it make of those serfs a free and enlightened people.

Besides, as long as a dozen unhappy nations shall be crushed under the iron heel of the Czar—as long as the desert of Siberia shall be stocked with the flowers of learning, virtue and nobility, the very choice of his subjects, by thousands, daily—as long as the executioner shall not stop his bloody ax in Warsaw, and the hangman his atrocious work on the Caucasus—so long no reasonable man will believe in the philanthropy of the Czar or in the liberality of Russia. Let us see now what benefit, what practical advantage, may arise for America from the alliance with Russia in view of the enmity of France and England. Every nation has two powers—moral and physical. America possesses them both in a supreme degree. America represents in the world the freedom of the people, and every aspiration of every liberal man in every country, every wish of every noble and generous heart, is identified with her welfare. Her cause is the cause of mankind. On the other hand, Russia was, is, and for many long years yet will be, the bulwark of aristocracy and despotism in Europe. Who nullified the liberal ameliorations in Poland? Russia. Who destroyed the tree of liberty in France, sprung from the popular element in Napoleon the First? Russia. Who lately stifled the aspirations of freemen in Germany, in strangling noble Hungary? Russia, again. Who now, this very day, is shedding the blood of brave Poles, who are fighting for their nationality and liberty? Russia. And this is a fit ally for free and noble America! Beware, free Americans! The day that this monstrous alliance, by the visitation of God, shall take effect, all free hearts in the world will mourn, but certainly will turn aside from America and look for another idol to worship. Then your moral power will be at an end.

Now let us examine the physical power of the proposed allies—America and Russia. America, notwithstanding her present cruel war, with her twenty millions of hardy people, with her thousands of cities, with her flourishing agriculture, with her manufactures, with her inexhaustible mineral wealth, her immeasurable coast, with her enormous commerce, and especially with her unique geographical position, which, in fact, shelters her from any serious attack, under certain conditions may and can defy the whole world, and fight it successfully. But one of those conditions is, that freemen everywhere must be for the stripes and stars! Now for Russia. What is her physical power? Where is her capital for this extraordinary partnership? Russia has a trade almost insignificant on the seas. Her navy cannot possibly cope with the fleets of the French and English divided. But she has an army of one million of men! It is a big thing, of course, but this million of soldiers is only on paper. Everybody who has been in Russia, everybody who knows anything about Russia, knows that the men on the rolls in Russia are not living men—that we should reduce this million of troops to six hundred thousand armed men, if we would approximate the truth. In those six hundred thousand there are two hundred thousand Poles, Caucasians, Courlanders, etc., etc. whom it will not do to trust. And the officers are still more unreliable. Among them the disaffection is more general and more dangerous. No General will trust such an army. The patent proof of the correctness of this statement is this fact, that the most energetic of the Russian monarchs could never send against his enemies more than two hundred thousand soldiers. It was so in Poland in 1831—in Hungary in 1848—in the Crimea in 1854. So this enormous giant at a distance diminishes considerably under a closer inspection. Add to this that the heroic Poles—the marrow of this empire—are under arms and keep two hundred thousand of the Czar's best troops nearly besieged in the cities and strongholds, and it will be seen that Russia is not a great power in Europe, and quite a small one in America. She is perfectly powerless to render any real service to her ally. So, American statesmen, on one side you have an alliance with helpless Russia and a war with civilized Europe, minus the sympathies of freemen; on the other, an alliance with humanity and civilization—the noble leadership in the cause of liberty—the continual adoration of all lovers of freedom in all lands and in all climes.