

THE POLISH QUESTION.—While the uprising of the Poles is constantly assuming more formidable proportions, the foreign organizations for the promotion of the cause are becoming

more active and widely ramified. Polish Committees have been established in New York, Washington, Albany, Chicago, St. Louis, Leavenworth and the Pacific coast. The Central Committee at New York has received information of the raising of the sum of \$200,000 in Ireland to aid the struggling Poles, and the organization of an Irish brigade of sharpshooters for service under the standard of the White Eagle. Sympathy with the countrymen of Kosciusko and Pulaski is almost universal among Americans. In some instances the expression of this feeling is restrained, because of a desire to avoid giving offense to Russia. In other cases erroneous impressions prevail in regard to the nature of the present struggle. This brave, heroic contest, which has been continued against overwhelming odds for the past six months, has been spoken of as a partial revolt of an aristocracy against the rightful authority of the Russian Czar, who by his policy of serf emancipation has shown himself the friend of humanity and political equality. The fact is that all classes of Poles are represented among the insurgents. There are partisans of aristocracy and partisans of democracy among the Poles. Mieroslowski is a member of the Democratic Committee representing the revolutionary party of Europe. But in this struggle partisan differences are lost in contending for nationality. The Polish peasantry have since the promulgation of the Constitution of the 3d of May, 1788, occupied lands upon a labor tenure; but their condition was easier than that of the Russian serfs. If they were not still further elevated in the social scale, where does the responsibility rest if not upon that power which has ruled the country with a rod of iron? The inauguration of the present revolution was marked by the issue of a manifesto guaranteeing the complete enfranchisement of the peasantry. But this was not all. They

might have received merely the freedom to starve. The National Committee, which constitutes the real National Government, also guarantees to the Polish peasant the homestead he occupies in fee simple forever, and the great landed proprietors, with an Archbishop at the head, confirmed the grant which dispossessed them of half their property. These facts were published to the world by the European journals. Efforts have been made to induce the peasantry to believe that the proprietors are not sincere and to incite them to hostilities against the insurgents, but these efforts have generally failed, and if this class of Poles determine to fight they give battle in behalf of that nationality which is consecrated by glorious traditions, and will be henceforth identified with progressive freedom. Russian rule in Poland, whatever it may have been elsewhere, was a scandal to civilization, unworthy of the countenance of any intelligent, liberty-loving American.