

AUGUST 14, 1891.]

DARKEST RUSSIA.

5

THE EXPULSIONS.

A PRIVATE letter from Vilna says that the emigration of the Jews from that town is increasing, and that the railway station is continually crowded with them—men, women, and children, old and young alike.

In Minsk, vast quantities of furniture are being forcibly sold by the Jews, who have to leave.

The expulsion of Jews from Moscow continues. From five to seven hundred have frequently had to leave in one day. The number arriving at Hamburg alone *en route* for America and elsewhere, is said to exceed 5,000 per week. At Cracow the Jewish Committee lately assisted 194 Jewesses in one day.

The expulsions on the frontier of Russia are carried out by Cossacks. On the 20th July, eight men, roofers and slaters, together with their families, were driven across the frontier by these troops. They had lived in Russia, near the frontier, from twelve to fifteen years, and were allowed but thirty-six hours' notice to sell what they could. Unfortunately they could not realise their property, nearly all of which fell into the hands of the officials.

While some repairs were being made in the house of a Jewish citizen of Homly, the Police Inspector with three officers suddenly appeared, and inquired if the necessary permission had been obtained from the authorities. The legal authorisation was produced, but the Inspector demanded a sum of money for his trouble. This was refused by the owner—an old man, who was then and there thrashed by the three officers. The old man's son came to the rescue of his father, but was himself so unmercifully beaten that he was obliged to keep his bed for some time. He has since arrived in England.

Extract from the letter of a Russian correspondent:—

On the 1st of June many of the Jews inscribed in the town of Kischeneff were expelled. From two villages in the same district upwards of 200 families were likewise expelled. Some of these lived in houses, the value of which was between 1,000 and 5,000 roubles, and for which no purchasers could be found even at a quarter of that price.

About 300 waggons laden with furniture left the town, for there was no one who would purchase the goods. Many families that were formerly well-to-do left the villages in utter destitution, having not even the wherewithal to pay for waggons. There are upwards of 500 families who have no money to pay for a loaf of bread or for rent. Men who had been householders are now dying of hunger, for they have not been accustomed to stretch out their hand for alms.

The *Königsberg Hartung Zeitung* reports the case of a highly respected and learned man, fifty years of age, who had for many years kept a school in Odessa. He received notice of expulsion, and was compelled to leave the city, his school being broken up.

It also publishes the following two cases:—

"A woman, who was under orders to leave, was refused a few days' grace, though she expected to be confined at any moment. She was compelled to move at once, the consequence being that she was confined on the journey, and now lies dangerously ill in Oswiecin."

"A family of agriculturists, who had held a farm for sixty-six years, and were in easy circumstances, were summarily evicted. They had to sell their effects for a trifle, and leave whatever they could not take with them."

The following cases of victims of the persecution, *en route* for America, have been communicated to us from Leith, by the Hon. Sec. of the Russian Refugees Relief Society, Edinburgh:—

"A woman, with five children, who had kept a small inn in a village near Odessa, received police orders to leave. The villagers petitioned that she might remain. The police, however, drove her and her children out at midnight. With the scanty remnants of her means, she is now proceeding to America, where she has friends.

"A young lawyer, from Moscow, was offered the alternative of joining the Greek Church or leaving the country. He preferred the latter. He had passed all his examinations.

"A master tailor, who had employed fourteen men, had to give up business at a day's notice, and quit the country, or be sent away by *étape*.

"A widow, from Nishni-Novgorod, received notice to quit the country; she was threatened by the police that she would be robbed if she remained. The following night people entered her dwelling and took everything they could carry away, and broke up the remainder.

"A young man, strong, well built, and intelligent, lived at Wilna. He had been an engine-driver for six years and a half. He was dismissed with all the other Jews on the railway. He was in receipt of 50 roubles per month, and was offered double that amount and permission to remain if he would adopt the Orthodox Greek faith. He elected to leave.

"A young man, with six children, had resided for seventeen years in Ufa. He was a watchmaker, and had a good business. He received orders to leave, but after much bribing of high officials he was allowed to remain. Eventually his funds were expended, and he was forced to go.

"A middle-aged man, with large family, a fish merchant, had lived in the Caucasus for many years. He was sent out by *étape* in a perfectly destitute condition, and had to beg his way from the frontier.

"A middle-aged man, with large family, machinist. He was doing a good business, employing twenty hands. He received an order of expulsion, and had to sell his machines, which cost 200 roubles, for 12 or 15 roubles each, thereby realising only enough money to go with his family to America.

"A woman from Moscow, whose husband had met with an accident, and was obliged to have his foot amputated, went to the hospital to see him. She was not allowed to do so, nor even permitted to remain any longer with her friends. She was forced to leave Moscow without seeing her husband, who died shortly afterwards.

"A young man, shoemaker, from Kowno, was, with his widowed mother, ordered to leave at twelve hours' notice. They did so, leaving their small effects behind them."

The following are among the ordinary cases of expulsion which have lately come to our knowledge; some of the persons named have wives and children:—

- Moses Kamentsky, aged 18, lithographer, from Minsk.
- Hirsch Spierlin, aged 22, teacher, from Porozowa.
- Moses Liboff, aged 20, from Minsk.
- Mordecai Koslovsky, aged 17, from Molivar.
- Wolf Kraftzoff, aged 29, tailor (5 years a soldier), from Wilna.
- Joseph Friedman, aged 36, tailor, from Kovno.
- Moses Zuweiss, aged 35, shoemaker, twelve years resident at Odessa.
- Heinrich Laufer, aged 21, tailor, from Shinowar.
- Haim Sherman, aged 17, waiter, from Kieff.
- Shir Ehrlichbericht, aged 23, from Odessa.
- Bairisch Kopin, 14 years of age, an orphan, whose father only lately died, was driven from Grodno by the police. Having no means, he wandered about for two weeks, till he was helped by a few poor Jews to make his way to the frontier.

Haim Berk, 23 years of age, tanner, was, with his family, driven out of Warsaw by the police. Being without means, he was obliged to leave his wife and three children on the road, but hopes to be able to send them money so that they may follow him.

Shem Goldstein, 50 years of age, was expelled from Minsk, and had to leave his wife and children on the road for want of money.

Mendel Lipner, a dyer. His parents owned a house and draper's store in Tornogrod, and had received twenty-four hours' notice to quit. They were unable to sell their property in so short a time, and at its expiration the police came and forcibly ejected them. Placed in a cart they were escorted by the police some distance from the town. They were all reduced to the utmost misery. Their property was left a prey to the authorities.

Markuse, a watchmaker, of 5, Italjanskaja, St. Petersburg, who had resided there seventeen years, was ordered to quit the metropolis because his profits for the month, when the inspection of his books by the police took place, only amounted to 60 roubles. The police officers declared that he probably did some other business besides watchmaking, as it was impossible for him and his family to live on 60 roubles a month, the rent of the premises being 40 roubles. Markuse told them that, owing to the season, nearly all his customers had left the city for the country, and that his profits had therefore decreased. Notwithstanding his protestations he was ordered to leave St. Petersburg within twenty-four hours—on the 15th July.

Zuchy Hurowitz, a young man, had his goods taken from him by the assessor, and driven out of Jacobstadt with his young wife at twenty-four hours' notice.