A RUSSIAN LEAR. From the Pall Mall Gazette.

The current number of the Vyestnik Beropui contains a story by M. Turgueniest which is as remarkable for the insight it gives into some of the stranger phases of Russian life as for the great artistic merit which it possesses. There is no better guide for any one who wishes to become acquainted with the real characteristics of Russian society than is afforded by M. Turgas-nieff's writings. His portraits are like photo-graphs, or rather like skilful drawings after photographs, just as his descriptions of scenery are so faithful that, to any one who is facalliar with the districts to which they refer, they seem, poetic as they are, to be careful studies of actually existing scenes. In all probability the persons of the terrible domestic drama which he has now brought before the eyes of his readers once played their parts, at least to some extent, in real life. And yet their behavior, in some respects, seems to an English reader almost incredible; for real life in Russia has, or at least used to have, some features which must appear at first sight unreal in the extreme to speciators who look on from the outside only. We know what strange ideas spring up, how strongly prejudices become confirmed, even at home, in perons who live in remote districts apart from the healthy friction of society and the useful restraint of public opinion. But we can have but little idea of the extent to which such ideas and prejudices may have become developed in the remote districts of so vast and stagnant a country as Russia at a time when a social system prevailed under which a passionate or over-bearing man found himself free, so far as the majority of the persons who surrounded him were concerned, from most of the restraints on the will and the passions to which we are accustomed to trust for safety. In the case of the atory now before us, its general outline may easily be conjectured from the title it bears. The self-sacrifice of a father, whether he be a King Lear or a Perc Gorlot, and the ingratitude of his children, are themes upon which many a domestic tragedy has already been constructed. But the particular form in which the Russian Lear's resentment manifests itself and the posi-tion which is finally occupied by the Regan of the story—one in which no Cordelia figures are so extraordinary that no amount of fami-liarity with the incidents to which Euglish family quarrels may have given rise can assist the reader in predicting them.

The Slavonic counterpart of the ill-starred King of Britain is the owner of a property in the interior of Russia. Martin Petrovich Kharlof is a man of huge proportions and of immense bodily strength. In appearance he is more like a bear than a man, bulky, clumsy, prompt to anger, and terrible when aroused to wrath. He never boasts of his thews and sinews, but he is beyond measure proud of his wisdom and his strength of will, and his love of independence amounts to a passion. Of one power alone he stands in dread:—this giant with a hero's heart is afraid of death. At times he is liable to attacks of melancholy, and then he shuts him-self up in his room, and gazes at a picture of which he has a high opinion, representing a lighted candle which the winds—human heads with puffed-out cheeks-strive to blow out, with an inscription under it, "Such is the life of man!" When he is not in a sombre fit, he turns the picture to the wal!; but when gloomy feelings invade him, he turns it back again, shaking his head with an air of conviction over it, and deriving some coasolation from listening to his favorite servant, who reads aloud to him in a strange sing-song from the only book he has in the house, a periodical called "Diligence in Repose," such phrases as, "But the man who is a prey to his passions deduces from that solitary position which he occupies among created things com-pletely different conclusions," etc. To religion, owever, even in his melancholy moods, he seldom turns, excusing himself for appearing very rarely in church by saying that he is afraid a man of his size would inconvenience the other

nch is the man who suddenly takes it into his head to disembarrass himself of the cares which attach to property by dividing all that he has between his two daughters. He has received a warning, he says, that death is at hand. While he lay asleep he dreamed that a black colt bounded into his room and fell down upon him, crushing his left side beneath its weight; and when he awoke he found that side numb, and he felt sure that in the form of that black colt he had seen his own approaching death. So he calls his triends and neighbors together to witness the transfer of his property to his daughters, made with all due formality in the presence of the legal functionaries of the district.

The transfer scene is a very strange one, and is admirably described. Kharlof occupies the chief place, conspicuous by his colossal form, arrayed in his 1812 uniform, with a medal on his breast, and a sabre by his side. Near him are his two daughters: Anna, the elder, slightly built, with thick yellow hair, and small light blue eyes and thin lips; and Evlampia, the younger, tall and largely framed, with masses of flaxen hair, and immense dark blue eyes, expressive of a somewhat wild, untamed nature, The elder sister is accompanied by her husband, a handsome, Jewish-looking young man, Slyotkine by name, whose characteristics are an incessant thirst for gain and a servile obedience to the commands of his father-in-law. Evlampia

is still unmarried. A deed of renunciation is read aloud by Slyotkine. By it Kharlof divides all his property between his two daughters, reserving to himself only the right of continuing to live in the rooms actually occupied by him, and of receiving his "natural provision" and ten paper roubles (about as many francs) a month for shoes and clothing. The last sentence of the act Kharlof reads himself-"And this my parental will must be carried out by my daughters, and kept intact as a command. For I, next to God, am their head, and to no one have I given, nor am I bound to give, any account. And if they carry out my will, then my parental blessing shall be upon them; but if they do not carry out my will, then my parental malediction shall be upon them, now and for ever, Amen!" At the end he life the above his head. Anna and her husband fell on their knees before him, and bend their foreheads to the ground. But Evlampia does not move till her father turns to her with a "Well, now, what are you going to do?" Then she flushes up, but makes her obeisance also to the One of the magistrates then proceeds ground. to read a formal deed-that which had been read aloud having been a florid and informal composition of Kharlof's-and afterwards goes out on the balcony in front of the house and exclaims what has taken place to the peasants of the comain, apostrophizing them in this style, "Lister, devils! understand, demons!" On which "they all bowed together, as if at a word.

of command, each of the 'devils and demons' holding his hat tight in both hands, and never taking his eyes off the window at which Khar-lof's figure appeared." Then a priest and a sub-deacon appear, dressed in threadbare vestments: the odors of inceuse arise from an old brass thurible; a service is performed, at the end of which the two daughters again kneel. before their father, and bend their foreheads to the ground; and finally all who are present sit down to breakfast, at which the magistrate proposes first the health of the "fair proprietresses." and then that of their "eminently respectable and supremely generous" father. On hearing the word "generous," Slyotkine jumps up and attempts to kiss his benefactor and father-in-law; but at this moment the brother of Kharlof's dead wife, who is present, and who is vexed at not having had anything done for him by his brother-in-law, takes it into his head to predict loudly that Kharlof will repent of his "generosity" some day, when his daughters "turn him, the servant of God, barebacked, out of the house, and into the snow.'

An uncomfortable scene ensues. Slyotkine begins a reply, but is silenced by Kharlof with a "Hold your tongue, whelp!" Anna looks dag-gers, but Evlampia merely smiles, in the dis-dainful way peculiar to her. Kharlof gets up to make a speech, but stops, and hits the table such a thump that the whole room shakes. Anna tries to pacify him, making loud protestations of love and obedience, but her sister sits still and bijes several years ago. They were says nothing. Kharlof utters a few augry words in clay at a depth of four or five feet."

and disappears, thus bringing the festivities to a | A LABORATORY FOR CHEMICAL

Time passes, and when Kharlof is next seen he is an altered man. All his pride has left him, his strength of will is broken; he has become an old man of whom no one takes any heed; who passes the greater part of his day in fishing, or pretending to fish, in a neighboring pond. A friend who goes to look for him finds him sitting on the bank fishing with a line which has no hook to it, and scarcely recognizes the giant who used to be so proud of his strength both of mind and body in the broken, grey-bearded old man who crouches there, gazing on the water with lack-lastre eyes. On this occasion Kharlof will say nothing about himself, but a few days afterwards he suddenly makes his appearance at the house of his chief friend, a lady whose life he had saved some years before

The day on which he comes is one of wind and rain, and when he reaches the house he is wet through, and so covered with mud from head to foot that he looks more like a bear than ever, and a bear which has fallen on evil days. It is some time before he can speak, but when he is able to do so he tells a tale that is very sad. He had long been subjected to cruel per-zecution, it seems, by his daughters and his son-in-law. They had taken away his favorite servant from him, sold the horse on which he had always been accustomed to ride, gradual him his eating and drinking, and kept back from him his little monthly allowance of money. But he had endured all this patiently, not being able to bear the idea of confessing to the world how mistaken he had been. But at last his children have turned him out, he says—have taken the room in which he has lived so long and sent his bad upstairs into an atic. And this insult has broken down his patience; so he has left the accursed dwelling in which the ingrates live, and taken refuge under the roof of his old friend. She treats him with the greatest kindness, and he seems consoled and pacified for a time. But after a while he is suddenly stung to madness by the taunts of the brother of his dead wife, who had predicted that he would some day be turned out of his house, and who now exults in the fulfil-ment of his prophecy. In a paroxysm of rage he rushes away from the kindly refuge he had sought, exclaiming that as his children have driven him from under their roof he will leave them no roof to cover them-a threat which is no mere figure of speech.

The scene in which his wild proceedings are described is a strange one indeed. Kharlof climbs to the top of the house that once was his, and applies all his enormous strength, now fully restored to him, to destroying the root. From below a terrified crowd gazed at the madman, who is wreaking his vengeance on all that he can lay hands on. The covering of the slightly built dwelling soon yields to his mighty efforts, and down come tumbling portions of a flimsy structure which bears but little likeness to a firm English roof. The peasants swarm into the yard, but none of them show any inclination to interfere with him, however much they are ordered or entreated to do so by the wretched Slyotkine, who rushes about in a state of frenzy, yellow with terror, brandishing a gun, with which he threatens to shoot his father-in-law. Anna runs in and out of the house in a state of distraction; Evlampia leans like a statue against a wall, never taking her eyes off her father. By her side stands an old bareheaded priest supporting a large gross with both her. priest, supporting a large cross with both hands, and now and then in silent despair holding it forth towards Kharlof. At last Siyotkine levels his gun and is on the point of shooting when Evlampia strikes up his arm. Then she turns to her father, calls to him that she and her sister have sinned, entreats him to pardon them, and to come down and live with them again. But he, standing there on high, with hands all torn and bleeding, and blood streaming through the rents in his clothes, and his white hair and beard tossed about by the wind, only cries that it is too late, and heaps abuse on his son-in-law down below, who is again preparing to fire at him, when suddenly a part of the woodwork which Kharlof is pushing gives way, and he falls headlong with it from the roof to the ground. In a few minutes he breathes his last. We pass on to the last two scenes in this domestic tragedy. Some years after Kharlof's death, the narrator of the story pays a visit to the house in which that victim of filial ingratitude used to live. It is in perfect order, and the roof-an iron one-is in thorough repair. Kharlof's elder daughter, now a widow, lives in it with her children. Her sister, Evlampia, had disappeared soon after her father's death, tak-ing with her merely a small store of money, and no news had ever been heard of her. Anna evidently leads a very happy life. Her health is excellent, her children are handsome and strong, her estate is in admirable order. An air of quiet and of substantial comfort pervades the whole house and its belongings. Her neighbors, who, among themselves, make no secret of their belief that she poisoned her husband, show her unfeigned respect. For them she is a truly great woman, one who, if she had been placed upon a throne, would have been "a

Semiramis or a Catherine the Second. Four years later the narrator is out on a shooting excursion in the neighborhood of St. Petersburg, and he passes a strange-looking house, almost hidden behind a high and close paling, only its steep red roof being visible from the high road. This house, he is told by his companion, a man who is acquainted with everything that goes on, belongs to some of the mem-bers of one of the wildest and most favatical of the Russian sects, and in it dwells their head, the being whom they hold most sacred, their mystical "Mother of God." The house exercises a strange influence upon him, he knows not why, and he often finds himself near it when out shooting. On one occasion the gate opens as he passes by, and a carriage comes out, drawn by a mighty horse and driven by a strikingly haudsome young man in a merchant's By his side sits a tall woman, erect as a dart, in whom the sportsman to his utter stupe-faction recognizes Evlampia. Her face has grown longer and thinner, her complexion has become darker, and she has wrinkled a little; but the principal change which has taken place in her is to be found in her expression, which has become one of unalloyed pride and self-confidence. Her look is now that of a woman who lives surrounded not so much by worshippers as by slaves—who has long forgotten any time at which her every wish was not instantly accomplished. Her old ac-quaintance calls her by her former name, but her companion lashes his horse, the carriage darts away at full speed, and in a few minutes she is out of sight. Nothing more is ever heard of her, and the mystery is never cleared up as to how she became recognized as a "Mother of God," a sacred being from whom a Messiah is some day to spring.
Such is a bare outline of M. Turguenieff's

story. With what dramatic skill and grace of diction it is told may be easily imagined by all who are in any degree acquainted with his writings.

-A young man named Holcomb was recently arrested in Georgia for falsifying the census returns of Liberty county. As he was to be paid so much per hundred, he thought he should make a good stroke of business by setting down the population at just double what it really is.

-George S. Contant, of Rosendale, in New ork, who had been robbed of \$1400 about fourteen years ago, while asleep, was lately notified by an anonymous letter; that he would find the amount in a package at the Kingston Express office. He went there on the following day and received it. It was directed in such a way that it would be impossible to trace out the thief through it.

-The Detroit Post says:-"Wooden water pipes were recently taken out in Woodward avenue, laid there forty-three years ago. The wood is apparently as sound as ever, showing to signs of decay, even retaining the bark, and on entting through it into the wood the timber was found as bright and as sound as ever. The pipes were made of tamarack logs, about sixteen feet in length and eight or ten inches in diame-ter; bore of log, three inches in diameter. The pipes were disconnected from the distribution

RESEARCH.

BY PROFESSOR ALBERT R. LEEDS. In a recent number of the Revue des Deux A ornies will be found an article by an eminext French author, containing among a number of other comparisons, all favorable to Germany, one relating to the, laboratories of Prussia and of France.

The writer earnestly calls the attention of his countrymen to the great superiority of the German Universities respecting their facilities for theoretical investigation and practical application in the departments of Physics and Chemistry. He dwells especially upon the great Friedrich Wilhelm Laboratory at Berlin, recently completed at a cost of a million and a half of francs, and of the similar laboratory at Benn, which cost a half million of francs. The former, under the charge of the illustrious chemist Prof. Hofmann, more resembles in its external appearance, in its lengthy corridors, frescoed halls, and spacious lecture room, some museum devoted to art, than the dingy accommodations which were long thought adequate to the wants of

The laboratory of the Ecole des Mines impressed me the most favorably of those which I saw in Paris. It is restricted, however, to metallurgical operations. But the laboratories of the Ecole Polytechnique, of the Jardin des Plantes, the antiquated and dismal apartments of the Ecole Centrale, and even the newly-erected addition to the Sorbonne, are much inferior in the facilities offered to those of Berlin. And the practical effect of this inferiority is manifest in the relative condition of the physical sciences in the two coun-

A great French chemist begins a philq-sophical treatise, recently published, with the declaration that "Chemistry is a French science." But the greater bulk and importance of the contributions which have been and are being made to chemistry by German authors sufficiently disprove this arrogant assumption. And, moreover, the fact that German, rather than French, is becoming the general language of science upon the continent, is evidence of the most convincing kind. Not many years ago the proceedings of the Royal Academy at Berlin were pub-lished in the latter language; now, this and all other contributions from Prussia are in

Of late years the importance of these studies has so deeply impressed the public mind in some portions of our own country, that the course of collegiate and academic instruction has been revolutionized. As, for example, at Cambridge, where the capacities of the college laboratory are at present being enlarged to such an extent as to accommodate elghty students with desks and all the para-phernalia of manipulation. Their course is intended to combine the practical with the philosophical in such a way as not only to enable the students to do but to think. They commence at once with manipulatory chemistry, using for the purpose the elaborate treatise of President Elliot and Prof. Storer. Then the students enter upon the study of the admirable *Chemical Philosophy* recently published by Prof. Cooke, which taxes their thinking powers quite as much, perhaps, as Hamilton's or Mill's Logic. At the same time they attend a series of chemical lectures, and finally enter upon a course of analysis. Likewise, a special laboratory is provided, where, during the last twelve years, a number of investigations have been made by young American chemists, which are highly creditable to our national scholarship, and have been recognized as such abroad.

A similar institution is now being organized at Hoboken under the presidency of Professor Morton, and supported by the munificent bequest of nearly three-quarters of a million of dollars, which was made by the late Mr. Stevens. The student will find there several spacious laboratories for investigations in physics and chemistry. These will be provided with every appliance which the exactitude and intricacy of modern science demand; and the student who has mastered previously-acquired knowledge in these departments may pass to the glorious work of solving new problems and exploring what is

yet as land unknown. I do not wish herein to detract from the excellence of the instruction imparted in our own city at the University and in our Medical and Dental Colleges. So far as lecturing and text-books can give a knowledge of physical sciences these institutions do admirably, and the courses of lectures delivered by their eminent professors are worthy of the highest Neither do I desire to say anything is not of the most favorable character with regard to the few colleges and private laboratories where facilities for a practical knowledge of qualitative and quantitative analysis and of metallurgy are afforded. But I wished to draw attention to the fact that a city which once stood foremost in this country in point of scientific activity, and which is now perhaps the largest producer of chemical wares, has at the present time no general laboratory at all adequate to the wants of investigators in the physical sciences. I think I am representing the feeling of a large number of students clustered around the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Franklin Institute, the Philosophical Society, and our various colleges, in saying that any movement upon the part of our public institutions, or any act of private munificence which would give the students in Philadelphia as fair a chance for researches in physiology, physics, and chemistry as are enjoyed by those of Berlin or Cambridge, would meet with the deepest gratitude, and would, in itself, result most beneficially to the higher interests of this great manufacturing city.

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