

views because I cling to the principle of fair play, and I would deem it wrong to myself to see those who combat my own views hampered in any way or put to a disadvantage. My critics are to me friends who help me find my mistakes; and if I am mistaken they do me the favor of pointing out my errors. I want to know when I am wrong; I want to discover my illusions even if they are dear to me. I consider every one of my critics as much in search for truth as myself; they help me in my quest, and so I am grateful to them.

#### DEVASTATIONS IN RUSSIA.

When Napoleon entered upon his victorious Russian campaign in 1812, the Russians lured him into the interior as far as Moscow and followed the principle of laying waste the country so thoroughly that the invaders could



A BRIDGE IN GALICIA BLOWN UP BY THE RETREATING RUSSIANS, BEING INSPECTED BY GERMAN ENGINEERS WITH A VIEW TO RECONSTRUCTION.

not find sustenance for their army. The result was that Napoleon was forced to withdraw from the burning Russian capital in the middle of winter, and his retreat developed more and more into a hopeless flight.

In the present campaign the Russians are bearing in mind their former success in this respect, for they are following the same principle, leaving behind them a hopelessly devastated country. Our frontispiece represents one of the villages of eastern Poland after the Russian retreat. It remains to be seen whether the German advance will be seriously checked by these destructive methods.

One thing seems certain, that this practice is at least as hard on Russian subjects as it is on the German army, for the inhabitants have been expelled

from their villages by force, and large numbers of homeless people are crowded together in cities farther eastward, facing exile and starvation. It is hard to see what will be the outcome of these terrible conditions. The Russian tactics certainly hinder German progress into the interior of the country, but it is difficult to see how the breakdown of the empire can be averted thereby. It is remarkable how the Germans keep themselves supplied with provisions by building temporary railroads as they find the country devastated, thus guarding against a repetition of Napoleon's experience. The loyalty of Poland to the Czar is certainly not strengthened by the Russian disregard of the property and lives of Russian subjects.

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#### A GERMAN PROFESSOR ON TREITSCHKE.

Dr. Rudolf Leonhard of the University of Breslau who studied under Treitschke in his youth writes as follows in a personal letter with reference to the editorial article on Treitschke in the July *Open Court*:

"I was twice a pupil of Treitschke, and he had more influence on me than any other of my teachers. So I know that all that you say about him is absolutely true. We say: 'A professor is a man who always has another opinion.' Thus Treitschke, who had been a member of an Anglomaniac party under the influence of a Jewish press, became an enemy of Albion and of the Jews. Although I loved and admired him very much, I always protested in my heart against his hatred, which seems to me to have been an unconscious inheritance from Slavic ancestors. Such a feeling was not consistent with his fondness for ennobling sentiments, which were a consequence of his liberal desire to transform the mob into a gentry, as Ibsen's Rosmer wished to do. It is very curious that the same Englishmen who are justly proud of their old families have now stirred up the democratic feelings of the American people against the Prussian 'Junkers.' But these excellent warriors who have spread the contagion of their readiness to die for their country among the whole German people, have fulfilled Rosmer's program in this war. When I explained at Columbia University the value of some of the principal ideas of feudalism, I expected to be censured. But on the contrary I observed that the Americans understood me very much better than many people of my own country did at that time. After the war the feeling in Germany will be different.

"But Treitschke's hatred against England is hard to account for. Perhaps he was a follower of Schopenhauer, believing that the English regarded themselves as a chosen people like the Jews of the Old Testament. But the Jews are not the only people to despise all their neighbors. Every young nation has done the same. And Treitschke did so from patriotic motives.

"You are right in saying that modern German hatred against Albion has nothing to do with Treitschke and that his publisher ought to pay a royalty to the English press for making such a fuss about his influence. The modern hatred arose only when England sent black and yellow people against our brethren, and when she instituted her policy of starvation. America could do very much to diminish such an intense hatred, which our chancellor has justly condemned on the ground that what the rulers of a nation do during a war cannot be attributed to their subjects who must obey. Unfortunately not