

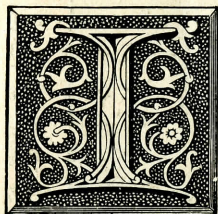


LITHUANIAN JEWS—TYPES.—Drawn by V. Foulquier.

tion of 1863, and the Russian government was wise enough to discover the true solution. The landed properties were broken up by a process almost as violent as that which characterized the proceedings of the French Revolution a hundred years ago, and the serfs became landowning peasants. Hard is that historical problem which thus at intervals confronts the student, whether the bet-

what the centuries have agreed to perpetuate—or whether, without regard to the personal hardships of those who have never sinned themselves, their landed estates shall be broken up without mercy and distributed without cost to the peasants who for ages have worn out their lives in making those estates what they have become. In such questions precedent goes to war with humanity.

CHAPTER XCVI.—THE RUSSIANS PROPER.



EF one should take a general view of the European kingdoms during the last three centuries, it would present a strange recession at one extreme

and a striking emergence at the other. The recession is in the Spanish peninsula. The emergence is in Russia. The latter was the last of the great kingdoms to arise out of barbarism. It was only as yesterday when we might say "The Muscovite has come." This movement, the appearance and expansion of a mighty power

Emergence of the Russian race in Northeastern Europe.

over all the northeast of Europe, has continued steadily until the present day. All European history and every question of international law has, since the age of Peter the Great, hung about the relations of this extraordinary power to the other principalities and kingdoms of the West. There can be no doubt that the

The Black sea was the place for mercantile and national intercourse with the rest of the world. It has cost the Russian race an enormous sum in treasure and life to rectify the error, and the process of rectification has been the outline of Russian history during the more important part of its career.

The smallness of European monarchies territorially considered, and even in their population, has been frequently remarked. As we progress to the western coast, everything seems

Vastness of territorial areas occupied by the Russians.

narrowed to a span. But in the northeast, everything opens out as if to infinity. The Russian empire embraces an area of eight million five hundred thousand square miles, being equal to about one sixth of the entire land surface of the globe. If we look at the earth as a whole, including all oceans and seas, the entire geometrical superficies, the Russian empire is equivalent to one twenty-third. Yet it is without