NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Although, owing to the censorship which just now is enforced with especial rigor, it is difficult to obtain precise information concerning the disturbances in central and southern Russia the outbreaks are known to have agrarian aims, and they indicate that a revolutionery spirit has at last been communicated to the peasantry. Hitherto the agriculturserfs emancipated in 1861, and who I expect." constitute a vast majority of the Russian population, have exhibited a kind of religious faith in their "Little Father," as they call the Czar, Holmes might be deceived if he beand, consequently, have been looked upon as the bulwark of the absolutist system. Their loyalty has proved unshakable, although the economical be. I remember once myself-but it's situation of the village communities rather a long yarn, and you may be has been far from satisfactory, because of the severe pressure of an increasing population on the allotments of land made forty years ago, and because the redemption payments for those lands, exacted in the form of rents, have been acknowledged, even by the candid bureaucrats, to be somewhat irregular "past." Then & Co., the big West-end jewellers ly resembling the first in appearance excessive.

the revolutionary party have turned to account the trust imposed in the Czar by the peasantry, and have circulated a report that the "Little ing over the paper when I came upon Father" has ordered that the lands, which in 1861 were reserved for the nobles, shall be divided among the emancipated serfs. In many parts of good manners and appearance to central and southern Russia the peasants have credited this report, and have proceeded to act upon it, distributing among themselves the lands and movables of the neighboring proprietors. It seems that the proceedings were orderly and peaceful so long as no resistance was offered by the proprietors or their resident agents, but, when the civil and military authorities were called upon for protection, riot, incendiarism and bloodshed ensued.

put down by the military power at the disposal of the bureaucracy cannot for a moment be doubted, but the shrewd upholders of the absolutist system will recognize an omen of grave future danger in the fact that the feeling of discontent and the fe- oughfare in the vicinity of the Adelverish desire of change, which had already spread from the students in universities to the workmen in factories and shops, have come to be shared by the tillers of the soil. from whom at least nine-tenths of the rank and file of the standing contained two chairs, a hed, and a army are recruited. It was demon- table strewn with newspapers. strated in Germany in 1848 that, from the moment that the revoluthe officers and soldiers will sooner or later be infected in their turn, and will cease to be the docile instruments of an autocratic Government. It is, in truth, only a question of some share in the management of poid and conservative moujiks indicates that the time may not be distant.

We do not attach much credit to the report that the young Czar Nicholas II. proposes to adopt the it's not filled. There have been covers he's been had. That won't panion stirred, and opening his eyes bacco trade than to one's wits for scheme of constitutional government conceived and nearly carried out by Loris Melikoff in the spring of 1881. There is no doubt that a charter giv- deserving case by next Monday, and swindle me, Mr. Ilford, and you must ing self-government to Russia had their object in advertising was to be content with what I offer-if you that's all. We'll soon be in now. been signed by Alexander II., and find someone who'd get it for can earn it, that is." was being printed on the day when them." that sovereign was murdered. After At this I looked fixedly at Mr. swered, gloomily. Suppose the gaged in conversation till we reach- They used to sell them in the streets some hesitation, however, his suc- William Mynfield, and observed that. compartment's full of people ?" cessor, Alexander III., repudiated the in spite of his light and airy way of "Not likely to be this time of the "I'm hanged !" he repeated. "The ped it.-London Tit-Bits. document, and throughout his reign speaking, he was evidently trying to year; besides, Codicot has a theory sea air must 'ave overcome me to pursued a reactional policy. We do determine what kind of a man he -that a person travelling with valu- send me off like that. Sea air and a not believe that a change of heart had to deal with. So I resolved to able luggage shouldn't attract no- little somethin' else, eh?" has been experienced by the bureau- give him a lead. crats, who, during the last twenty "Mr. Mynfield," I said, "I'm a bit care of it. As likely as not he'll put tinued confidentially. "You see, years, have brought to naught most of a physiognomist, and-well, I the bag on the rack, or at least on ain't accustomed to 'olidays. Travel of the preceding reforms, and who don't gather from your face that the seat beside him. Of course, if first, good clothes on, good liquor. even at one time contemplated a re- you're quite so philanthropic as you he keeps hold of it all the time it'll and the very best cigars. Twice introduction of manorial rights, make out. I haven't much faith in make your job a little difficult, es- year I 'ave a day in Brighton, in which would have constituted a step societies whose operations are con- pecially if there should be anyone February before people begin spring toward the revival of serfdom. Neith- ducted from a fellow's bedroom; else in the compartment." er have we any evidence for the as- and, in short, I reckon you're the "I should just think it will," I autumn ditto; guess why, ch? Well sumption that the present sovereign more than usually undeserving case rejoined. "However, I can't afford I don't mind tellin' you I'm a chimis capable of the broad, humanitar- yourself." ianism and of the inflexible resolves for which his grandfather was distinguished. So long as the Russian mission for the benefit of suffering can do. If I succeed, so much the "Yes, you can call me sweep, if "I am yours," she hastened to Emperor is a man possessed of only humanity is for your own benefit, better for both of us ; if I don't, you like. I ain't proud, though on ordinary strength of purpose, a eh?" Loris Melikoff is far more likely to "What then?" he said. "You any big risks, mind." share the fate of a Turgot or a Neck- can't separate the individual from Mynfield wanted me to pay the who I saw at the station, but who er than to succeed in introducing the mass." drastic and regenerating reforms. "No," I agreed ; "but now that way on the point and handed me me to-morrow, when I take back unlikely to be kept.

Engagement.

"Well," I said, addressing Harry Ilford as the door of his shop closed behind a departing customer, " should have thought that a swell like that would have been able to run to something better than a ists, who are the descendants of the three-halfpenny Manila. Out of cash

Harry smiled. "Possibly," he replied, 'but it may be merely a question of taste or of stinginess. one can never tell. Even a Sherlock gan making deductions as to a man's social or financial position from the brand of cigars he smokes. I don't say he would, but he might in a hurry, sir."

"Not a bit of it," I said, lighting a fresh pipe and settling myself comfortably in the chair Ilford provides for loungers. "I hope," I added, "the yarn deals with the-the interesting period of your life."

He nodded assent, fully understanding my delicate reference to his interrupted only by an occasional customer-for the night was wet and hurriedly, under painful circum- ary black leather bag and smoking made over a fitted lining, has an excheerless and few people were about Now it appears that the agents of |-he told me the following story :just before my poor, forgiving old dad died and left me this business, I was sitting in my diggings lookan advertisement that ran, as nearly as I can remember, like this :-

> WANTED.—Immediately, for a few days only, a young gentleman of undertake a mission of some difficulty in the interests of suffering humanity. A large honorarium given at the conclusion of the enterprise.—Apply by letter to X., 15a, Embankment Court, Charing Cross.

Well, I thought to myself when I'd read the thing through two or three times, I wonder what the game is. Something risky, probably; anyhow, it'll only cost a penny stamp to try Will you take it on ?" and find out. With which I sat down and wrote a letter applying for the post advertised there and then.

A little later on I went out and dropped my missive into the nearest pillar-box, and next morning I re-That the present uprising will be ceived a reply, signed "William Mynfield," asking me to call after six the same evening.

> Accordingly, a few minutes after the hour named, I dismounted from a Favorite 'bus at the corner of Northumberland Avenue and soon found myself in Embankment Court -a narrow, out-of-date-looking thorphi arches. Making my way to No. 15a, I had scarcely knocked before the door was opened by a youngishlooking man, who inquired in a low tone whether I was Mr. Ilford, When I had answered in the affirmative he conducted me upstairs to a small back room on the first floor, which

> "Sorry we're so untidy," he remarked, when we were seated, "but]

to-morrow." stopped.

forgot you didn't know. I'm the down the fakes and a crossed cheque I waited a few minutes, then cau- med full of glittering sovereigns. secretary of the Society for Benefiting the Undeserving. You see"-as time when Russia, like the rest of I was about to interrupt-"the de-Christian Europe, will have to ac- serving have plenty done for them knowledge the right of the people to and, after all, they're in a minority Mynfield paused, "that so much de Having felt that my friend's bag -a small minority, perhaps-so that pends on me that fifty pounds is a contained a box-shaped article. it is only right the others should ridiculously inadequate payment for which I was quite satisfied was Lady litical and economical affairs, and have a look in. At least, that's my my services. Suppose I were to Gwelton's jewel-case, I put it on the and I never saw him again. the present upheaval among the stol- view; don't you agree with me ?" stick to the jewellery instead?"

advertised is not already filled."

plenty of applicants, but none of hurt me, however, for I've already looked blinkingly towards me.

"Oh, I-," he began.

Seductive promises may, indeed, be we're beginning to understand each the money together with the bag he this 'ere furry coat to 'im to mind. Stranger-'What do you do all made from time to time at St. Pet- other let' us come to the point. had spoken of. Then, with a pro- 'E'd got one like it on 'imself to- day here?" ersburg for the purpose of allaying What's the game and what's the mise to meet him, as arranged, at cay-blessed if 'e 'adn't. You see, it Native-"Watch the tide come in." popular commotions, but when the pay? Out with it; you needn't be Victoria Station on the following suits me to let uncle 'ave my best Stranger-"But when you're not storm blows over the premises are afraid. Good gracious, man, I sus- evening, and a joke about the com- clothes to take care of, as I only doing that ?" pected some swindle was afoot from ing dissolution of the Society for want them twice a year. 'E keeps Native-"Watch t' tide goin' out."

your advertisement else."

you're to be trusted."

you good evening."

again."

I complied, with a shrug of the shoulders. "The pay?" I asked. "Fifty pounds, if successful."

"Ah, and the work ?" Mynfield again looked at me dubiously, but a moment later cried, suddenly, "Very well, I'll trust you. Time presses, and I can't do otherwise. The job must be done to-morrow, and it's one that needs a smart man. I bet you'll manage it, though if you'll only follow my instructions."

"I'll do my best ; fire away." in the first place that until a fort- ed casually round the room. night ago I was for some years confidential assistant to Mr. George sight, for there, coming through the Codicot, head of the firm of Codicot door, was a second individual, closeand pawnbrokers. I left his service and attire, carrying also an ordinnow, but before doing so I took a dilemma, indeed. How on earth was the front and a fitted strap about One morning about a year since, few useful notes as to his future I to identify my man? movements. To-morrow he goes to since it obviously can't be mine, to made up my mind how to act. compartment, and manage somehow or other to substitute the small black bag I shall give you to-night at Victoria, where I shall await you and in exchange I'll hand you lifty will be finished. What do you say?

"Supposing I were to say 'yes, how should I know my man ?" "Easily enough. I'll describe him. He's a fellow of medium height, trimmed with astrachan; will pro- ond was on the point of finishing

be the bag to look out for.' "H'm. Altogether I understand | Well, to make a long story short that emits an aroma of opulence,

"You've put it well."

and several smaller articles, all was on the point of starting and

"How do you know as much?" "Because the things come into whistled off. Codicot's possession about this Before we had reached Preston Mynfield into believing I'd brought time every year. They belong to Park I had come to the conclusion Lady Gwelton, who is a widow and that I was in for a nice soft job to try, and when I'd given up my lives at Brighton, and whose income after all. The difficulties I had ex- ticket and found him duly waiting I this is only a temporary office. The is paid to her annually in May, but pected, and some of which I had whispered, hastily :tionary spirit animates a whole pop- society will soon be more conve- don't last the twelve months out. come prepared to meet, had not ulation, from the highly educated niently located, I expect. In fact, So she's arranged with Codicot to arisen. On the contrary, what could classes down to the laboring millions our tenancy of this room terminates supply imitations, and advance her be better than that the bag I want- happened. We'd better part as soon a big enough sum on the originals ed should be on the rack opposite to as possible. Got the coin ?" "Society," I murmured, as he to keep her going till her next pay- me, while its owner reclined against "Yes," he said, "of course. But I the fourth year, I think, he will take asleep? and bring back-well, what he will tiously but swiftly I took down my actually get home with depends on own bag from the rack above me.

"It seems to me," I remarked, as effected.

"I'm not sure yet," I replied. Mynfield laughed. "If you tried to sleeper, in the hope that he would proves that a man's position can't "Go on. I'm anxious to hear all get rid of it in this country you'd not awaken until the train was be judged from his cigar, and when about the difficult mission you want precious soon find yourself in nearing its destination. undertaken. That is, if the place chokee," he said. "You may bet Here again the matter fell out as Codicot won't wait long before rais- I wished, for we had left East Croy- of "combines" and things of that He laughed. "Oh, no," he said, ing a hue and cry directly he dis- don behind us when at last my comthem will take the job on. Listen ! made arrangements to bolt to the | His first remark, however, gave me, The society requires a thousand Continent to-morrow night-never a sort of shock. It was simply pounds for a more than usually un- mind where. No, you mustn't try to 'Well, I'm hanged !"

tice by appearing to take unusual He gave a hoarse chuckle, and con-

to let the chance of making a bit ney-cleaner, that's what I am." go by. Pay my first class return I grouned inwardly as he proceed-"And," I interrupted, "that the fare to Brighton and I'll see what I ed, with a self-satisfied air.

fare myself, but eventually gave wouldn't see me. Daresay 'e'll see

the first. I shouldn't have answered Benefiting the Undeserving, I took

my departure.

"H'm," he remarked, "the other Well, sir, I need not describe my chaps who've been here were down- proceedings on the following day in at-heel mugs who thought me mad, detail. It will be enough to say but you're evidently sharp enough, that I went down to Brighton by a Mr. Ilford. Your dress and appear- morning train, and, although the ance, too, are all that could be month was February and the air wished. I should really think my | cold. I passed several pleasant hours advertisement had not been wasted, in the King's Road. Just after six after all, if only I could be sure o'clock I turned into West street, and, making my way to the station, I rose as if to go. "If you can't entered the refreshment room, where take my word for it, we may as well I obtained a bun and a glass of part company," I said. "I'll bid beer. Carrying this frugal fare from the bar counter, I placed it with "Don't be a fool," he cried, with a my bag on a small table near the sudden change of manner. "Sit down door and sat down to watch and

At ten minutes to seven I was rewarded by seeing a bearded man pass me, who wore a coat trimmed with astrachan, carried a bag like mine, and seemed in every other respect to tally with Mynfield's description. "Codicot, without doubt," I murmured, as I saw him advance to the bar and, removing his cigar from his mouth, give some order to the barmaid. The next moment a small glass, apparently containing whisky, was set in front of him. "Codicot, without doubt," I mur-"Very well, then. I must explain mured again, as I turned and glanc-

I was met by a most unpleasant stances that need not be entered into a cigar. Here was an unexpected quisitely shaped yoke, tucks down

I thought of the "aroma of opu- to have considerable work on her Brighton, and it will be your task, lence" I was to look for, and I soon shirt-waist cannot do better than to shadow him-on his homeward jour- would go behind the two men in pattern is eminently adapted to any ney, that is; it'll be better to keep turn-for the second, like the first, of the light woolen fabrics and also out of the way till then. He'll leave | was drinking whisky by this time- to silk. Brighton by the 7.10 train, which and I would shadow him who was Quantities of material required .runs right through to Victoria with- indulging in the more expensive Thirty-two and thirty-four bust out stopping, and he'll travel first smoke. It seemed impossible to im- measure will require four and oneclass. You must get into the same agine that a well-to-do pawnbroker half yards of silk twenty inches could possibly affect any brand but wide. Thirty-six bust measure will the best-impossible!

for a similar one he'll have with sir, that my poor father had brought eight and forty bust measure will him. The latter you'll hand to me me up to the tobacco trade, and require five and one-fourth yards of that before I quarrelled with him silk twenty inches wide. and went astray for a time I'd acpounds in gold, and the transaction quired quite enough experience to tell

task proved an easy one, when I say that the first man who had entered makes 'im grumpy." the refreshment room was smoking wears a beard, and an overcoat a twopenny Mexican, while the sec- more than nod; but seemingly quite bably be smoking a cigar, and, as high class Havana. I naturally at likely as not, will have a drink in once decided that Mr. Codicot No. the refreshment room before the 2 should be honored with my at- the first and last time for six train starts. Then of course, there'll tentions-of course, supposing that months. Only thing now to get he went by the 7.10 train.

Mr. Codicot to be the sort of chap he did go by that train, and when I had seen him get into a first-class compartment, and settle himself in one of the farther corners, I pretend-"Now as to the contents of the ed to be a friend of his and bribed the guard to put nobody else in the into silence. A few minutes later we "Jewellery. A tiara, a necklace, compartment. Then, when the train placed together in a brown leather had seen the other fellow also in- jumping from the train, with a stalled in a "first" some distance to muttered good-night to its owner, the rear, I jumped in, and we were ran along the platform, wondering

and in a twinkling the exchange was and putting it in my hand.

rack and sat still watching the

"No," I said, "you've been asleep, hope you've had pleasant dreams ?' "I don't know that I can," I an- I meant, if possible, to keep him ened Victoria.

cleanin', in August before they start

one ; yes, even as old three balls,



An elaborately designed shirt-waist the neck. The woman who desires I follow the Hermoine design, and the

require four and three-quarter yards I may perhaps remind you here; of silk twenty inches wide. Thirty-

a good thing from an inferior in the moths out and so forth. Codicot the bloke's name is; 'e was robbed You will understand then, that my by one of 'is chaps a week or two back, so I've 'eard; p'rhaps that

I was much too agitated to do contented to do the talking himself the chimney-cleaner went on :-

"Yes, I've done the gentleman for ome, give my sister the shell workbox I've got in any bag up there-I ain't got a missus, but I always take my sister a little soovceneerand then to work again."

With which he gave another chuckle and, to my relief, subsided

arrived at Victoria.

I seized the sweep's bag and. whether I should be able to bluff him the cargo he wanted. I meant

"It's all right, but hurry along ; the bounder may discover what's

"Yes, yes," he answered, evidently ment becomes due. To-morrow, for the cushions underneath it fast as anxious to finish the business as I was, and he opened a purse cram-"You'll find fifty there, sure enough," he added, closing the purse

"Thanks, thanks," I replied, as I gave him the bag. "Good luck and

good-bye."

He disappeared in the darkness

Well, sir, I think my adventure you've heard the end of it I expect you'll agree with me that, in spite sort, it's better to look to the toa living. When I got home to my diggings

that night and opened the purse which Mynfield had given me, I had the pleasure of discovering that its glittering sovereigns were made of brass and bore the effigy, not of Queen Victoria, but of Mr. Kruger. at a penny each till the police stop-

SHE CAPITULATED.

"May I dream that you will be mine ?" pleaded St. Clair Maginnis, addressing the fair Minerva Mc-Gillicuddy.

"Really, Mr. Maginnis," replied the stately girl, "I should not presume to exercise a censorship over your dreams. Dream as you please ; but do not fail to remember that dreams go by contraries."

"Thank you for the suggestion, Miss McGillicuddy. I had not thought of that. I shall dream that

you will not marry me." so much the worse. I shan't take a day like this I'm as good as any- add, for she saw it was useless to

A WORKER.