

POBIEDONOSTZEFF RESIGNS.

**Chief Procurator of the Holy Synod
Most Hated Man in Russia.**

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 31.—Constantine Petrovitch Pobiedonostzeff, Chief Procurator of the Holy Synod, has resigned.

Constantine Petrovitch Pobiedonostzeff, now in his seventy-eighth year, has been a prominent factor in the internal life of the Russian Empire for the last fifty years, and is the most hated man in Russia to-day.

Since his appointment as Procurator General of the Holy Synod, in 1880, he has persecuted the Jews, Lutherans, Catholics, and other dissenting sects with an unswerving fanatical zeal. From 1890 to 1902 he caused 6,000,000 Jewish families to be expelled from Russia and sent thousands of Poles to Siberia. His watchword was "Russia for the Orthodox Russians." Cossacks were ordered to surround the Catholic churches in Poland and shoot down the congregations as they came out.

Numerous attempts have been made upon the life of Pobiedonostzeff. He professed to be a victim of calumny, and said that he had been dishonestly denounced to the people. The last attempt was at the Tsarskoe-Selo Station, on July 20, when a student drew a revolver, but did not have time to fire it. A desperate attempt to kill the Procurator General was made in March, 1901, when a Russian official from the Baltic Provinces got into his library and fired five shots at him point blank, none, however, taking effect.

Pobiedonostzeff had the power to make new laws, and also to veto them. He fought steadily against the people, and was one of the most powerful factors in restraining the Emperor from giving them liberty. The Czar and the nobles feared him. He was against education for the masses because they could not use it in their calling, against the Parliament because it represented the personal vanity of the representatives, and against freedom of the press because he considered that it was already the most powerful and despotic thing ever conjured up by the brain of mankind. His religious persecutions earned for him the title of "The Modern Torquemada."