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EDITORIAL

POUREN INVOKES THE SHADES OF LINCOLN.

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“MURDERER”, “incendiary”, “robber”—such and similar were the terms applied to the Mexican refugees by the Government of Napoleon III in its applications to the Government of the United States, during the years ’62-’64 of the French intervention in Mexico, for the extradition of the Mexicans who sought asylum across the Rio Grande from the soldiery of Lorencez, Forey and Bazaine, and from the “constabulary” of the alleged Emperor Maximilian—just as the Czar’s Government is now doing.

That the Mexicans complained about had killed, was quite certain; that they had burned down houses, was true; that they had helped themselves to other people’s property was more than likely. This notwithstanding, the cabinet of Lincoln stoutly denied the conclusion that those men were murderers, or guilty of arson, or robbery. The reason was obvious—their acts of violence were committed in the course of the guerilla warfare to which they were driven by the invasion of their country by the French troops, who sought to impose an Emperor upon the Mexican people by force of arms.

To all practical purposes the “crimes” now alleged by the Russian Government against the Lettish refugee Jan Janoff Pouden, in its application for Pouden’s extradition, fall under the identical category with those alleged against the Mexican refugees of the sixties.

Russia, today, like the Mexico of the sixties, is convulsed by a gigantic political struggle. In Russia, to-day, as was the case with Mexico, only one resort is left to the combatants for freedom—to answer force with force. In Russia, to-day, as in Mexico before now, such is the military power of a combined lay and clerical despotism that no regular army can yet be set in the field against oppression, and

the guerilla is the only form of opposition possible. Where the guerilla rises it constitutes the strongest indictment against the powers that be: It is a symptom and evidence of the suppression of the civilized methods of civil dispute: it is an evidence of popular power and of governmental impotence, bolstered up with the bayonet. Where the guerilla becomes necessary, its consequences are inevitable, and none but the Government against which it raises its head may be held responsible.

So did the cabinet of Lincoln hold.

The shades of Lincoln are to be invoked to save this country from the act of perfidy that the Muscovite reign of Terror, aided by its hired lawyers in America, is seeking to beguile this country into—the perfidy of surrendering a refugee to the political prairie fire from which he happily escaped.

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