

The Commoner.

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and signed the treaty of Skimonoseki in a sullen and discontented mood. Russia at once demanded a quid pro quo for the material aid it had given China. The dowager empress and her advisers were speedily compliant, and a lease of a strip of territory across Manchuria, which included Port Arthur and Tallenwan, was made to the St. Petersburg government. This lease has still about eighteen years to run, and is renewable, and of course has always been resented by Japan. This has been followed by continued Russian aggression and by intrigue at the Korean capital. There was another uprising at Seoul five years ago, when the king fled for protection to the Russian embassy. He declared that he feared violence at the hands of the Japanese, but this charge the mikado's government declared to be unfounded. However, the king remained under Russian protection more than a year."

AFTER EXTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS A treaty was signed January 30, 1902. The Record-Herald writer says that this treaty caused astonishment throughout the civilized world; that its opening sentence gives the import of the notable compact, and discloses that it was especially aimed at Russia, and reads as follows: "The governments of Great Britain and Japan, actuated solely by a desire to maintain the status quo and general peace in the extreme east, being moreover specially interested in maintaining the independence and territorial integrity of the empire of China and the empire of Korea, and in securing equal opportunities in these countries for the commerce and industry of all nations, hereby agree as follows:" Then, declaring their rights as to China and Korea, and asserting it to be admissible for either of them "to take such measures as may be indispensable in order to safeguard those interests, if threatened either by the aggressive action of any other power or by disturbances arising in China or Korea," the compact continues: "If either Great Britain or Japan, in defense of their respective interests as above described, should become involved in war with another power, the other high contracting party will maintain a strict neutrality and use its efforts to prevent other powers from joining in hostilities against its ally." This is followed by the significant declaration: "If in the above event any other power or powers should join in hostilities against that ally, the other high contracting party will come to its assistance and will conduct the war in common, and make peace in mutual agreement with it. The high contracting parties agree that neither of them will, without consulting the other, enter into separate arrangements with another power to the prejudice of the interest above described."

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the religious spirit he defines as "such a belief in God and such a feeling of responsibility to God as will manifest itself both in the worship of the Creator and in fellowship with the created."

During the course of his conversation he touched on some of the problems with which the various nations have to deal. Of course he is opposed to war under all circumstances, and regards the professional soldier as laboring under a delusion. He says that soldiers, instead of following their consciences, accept the doctrine that a soldier must do what he is commanded to do, placing upon his superior officer the responsibility for the command. He denies that any individual can thus shift the responsibility for his conduct. In speaking of soldiers, he expressed an opinion that indicates his hostility to the whole military system. He said that soldiers insisted upon being tried by military men and military courts, and added: "That is amusing. I remember that when that plea was made in a case recently, I reported that if that was so, why was not a murderer justified in demanding a trial at the hands of murderers, or a burglar in demanding trial by a jury of burglars. That would be on all fours with the other proposition."

He is not a believer in protection, and regards a tariff levied upon all of the people for the benefit of some of the people as an abuse of government and immoral in principle. I found that he was an admirer of Henry George and a believer in his theory in regard to the land tax.

He is opposed to trusts. He says that the trust is a new kind of despotism and that it is a menace to modern society. He regards the power

IT IS FURTHER POINTED OUT BY THIS same authority that Russia considered at this time that some show of respect for the rights of China would raise her in the esteem of the nations, and she made a pretense of being ready to evacuate Manchuria. A convention was signed at Peking April 8, 1902, by which it was agreed that Manchuria was an integral part of China and subject to the administrative powers of Peking. The period of evacuation was reduced from three years to eighteen months. Russia agreed to withdraw from the Great Wall to the Lias river within the first six months of the signing of the treaty; from the east of the Lias river, including the remainder of Mukden and Kirin, within the second six months, and from the Heh-lung-Kiang province within the third six months. Russia further agreed to evacuate New Chwang as soon as the Tien-Tsin provisional government should be abolished, or in any case within the second six months. Parts of these agreements were carried out, but the Chinese officials complained that in departing Russian troops had carried everything portable from the railway lines, and further that soldiers had only moved to the concessions along the roads. In fact, Russia seemed to be immovably installed in Manchuria and continued its aggressions in Korea. The mikado determined upon strong measures, and August 12 last sent a formal protest to St. Petersburg, with a demand that Russia sign a treaty stipulating the independence of Korea. The answer from St. Petersburg was long delayed, but finally it came and was couched in conciliatory terms.

THE ANSWER REFERRED TO CONTAINED a significant counter proposal. This was to the effect that the czar would agree to the independence of Korea if Japan should grant a free rein to Russia in Manchuria. This was further taken to mean that Russia asked a free hand with regard to all China. Japan at once declined the proposal. She knew she was bound by the treaty with England to preserve the independence of China, and even had she not been enmeshed by treaty ties she could not agree to the Russian proposals. She insisted upon a settlement of the Korean question without any reference to conditions in China or Manchuria, but Russia insisted to the last that she should at the least enjoy as much influence in the hermit kingdom as did the Japanese. Japan declared that Korea was vitally necessary to her, as a demand for the evacuation of Manchuria was asserted a measure of protection of her Korean rights. The czar could not see the force of this argument, and the tension increased until Russian troops were landed at Chemulpo January 6 and sent to Seoul. The answer of Japan was to draw the sword that so

long had been clinking eagerly in its scabbard, and the war was on.

WASHINGTON DISPATCHES ANNOUNCE that reports received from Santo Domingo show that "the condition of affairs there is semi-barbaric." It is also announced that drastic measures will be taken by this government to end the anarchy; that continued violation of international law, destruction of American property and disregard for foreign interests has convinced American officials that affairs in San Domingo can be best improved by force. Authority has been given to the navy to deal with the situation, and Rear Admiral Wise has been given "wide latitude in the course he is to follow." Washington dispatches say: "Rear Admiral Wise has been told, in a word, to protect by force American interests and to deal with each case on its own merits."

MONG THE MANY INTERESTING INCIDENTS relating to the Baltimore fire is the story that comes from the Baltimore correspondent for the Chicago Tribune. According to this story, Chief Justice Harlan of the superior court bench distinguished himself as one of the heroes of the fire. With James P. Bannon and James P. Kines, and others, Judge Harlan for many hours fought to save the collection of books and paintings, valued at more than \$100,000, which was housed in the library on the upper floor of the northwest corner of the court house. Facing the fire, which threatened them for hours, Judge Harlan and the others operated a line of hose like firemen. Tonight they are being congratulated upon having saved something of which Baltimore has been justly proud.

A PROPOSITION WAS RECENTLY MADE by United States Consul General Gowdy to the American chamber of commerce in Paris, that a suitable building be erected in that city for a permanent commercial museum, where all kinds of American goods and products could be kept on exhibition. It is proposed that such a museum should be managed and controlled by the chamber, and that it would do more to extend the trade of the United States with France and other European countries than millions expended in other ways of advertising would do. According to the Paris correspondent for the Washington Post, Consul General Gowdy reports that the year 1902 was the greatest in the history of exports to the United States from Paris. Last year, he said, shows a decrease of \$1,046,600, but when compared with 1895, the corresponding year before the presidential campaign, and under the former tariff law, it shows a net increase of \$8,372,512.

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that it gives men to oppress their fellows as even more dangerous than its power to reap great profits.

He referred to some of our very rich men and declared that the possession of great wealth was objectionable, both because of its influence over its possessor and because of the power it gave him over his fellows. I asked him what use a man could make of a great fortune, and he replied: "Let him give it away to the first person he meets. That would be better than keeping it." And then he told how a lady of fortune once asked his advice as to what she could do with her money (she derived her income from a large manufacturing establishment) and he replied that if she wanted to do good with her money she might help her work-people to return to the country, and assist them in buying and stocking their farms. "If I do that," she exclaimed in dismay, "I would not have any people to work for me, and my income would disappear."

As all are more or less creatures of environment, Tolstoy's views upon religion have probably been colored somewhat by his experience with the Greek church. He has, in some instances, used arguments against the Greek church which are broad enough to apply to all church organizations. He has not always discriminated between the proper use of an organization, and the abuse of the power which a large organization possesses. While animated by a sincere desire to hasten the reign of universal brotherhood, and to help the world to a realization of the central thought of Christ's teachings, he has not, I think, fully appreciated the great aid which a church organization can lend when properly directed. In the work in which Tolstoy is engaged, he will find his strongest allies among church members to whom the commandment "Thou shalt love thy

neighbor as thyself" is not merely sound philosophy, by a divine command. These will work in the church and through the church, while he stands without, raising his voice to the same God and calling men to the same kind of life.

His experience with the arbitrary methods of his own government has led him to say things that have been construed as a condemnation of all government. He has seen so much of violence and injustice done in the name of the government, that it is not strange that the evils of government should impress him more than its possibilities for good. And yet those who believe that a just government is a blessing, can work with him in the effort to secure such remedial measures as he asks for in his letter "To the Czar and His Assistants."

Tolstoy's career shows how despotic is the sway of the heart and how, after all, it rules the world, for while his literary achievements have been admired, the influence which they have exerted is as nothing compared with the influence exerted by his philosophy. People enjoy reading his character sketches, his dialogues and his descriptions of Russian life, but these do not take hold upon men like his simple presentation of the doctrine of love exemplified in his life, as clearly as it is expressed by his pen. Many of his utterances are denied publication in Russia, and when printed abroad cannot be carried across the border, and yet he has made such a powerful impression upon the world that he is himself safe from molestation. He can say with impunity against his government and against the Greek church, what would be perilous for others to say, and his very security is proof positive that in Russia, thought inspired by love is, as Carlyle has declared it to be everywhere, stronger than artillery parks.

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