

by other religions, and accepts all that can be incorporated in other cults. Anything which is humane, which can be proved by reason and can be accepted by believers as well as non-believers. He laid a foundation for a universal religion in which all men can unite and which contains nothing spiritual, mystical or dogmatic but which embodies a similar guidance to all men, but contains nothing that reason, knowledge or science would reject, a religion that a Christian, Jew, Mohammedan, Buddhist, naturalist or philosopher could stand on or meet on common ground. As loud as Tolstoy is denouncing the church for its dogmas and priesthood, he no less emphatically attacks the state and its institutions, chiefly militarism and money power, with all its greed and avarice, seeing in the former, or in both, the root of all evil.

In the last years Tolstoy has also written considerably in fiction, aiming chiefly to enlighten the masses. His stories became very popular. His genius of imagination and creation is truly wonderful. For instance, his story of "How Much Land is Required by a Man" is powerfully artistic, and the "Death of Ivan Yljtch" is a masterpiece without any equal in Russian or any other literature.

In order to give his ideas still wider scope, and broader field to spread, he wrote for the stage, and his powerful drama, "The Power of Darkness," is a living portrayal of the life of the peasant with all its suffering, privation and drudgery. His "Fruits of Civilization" is another play written in comical strain. You all know the "Kreutzer Sonata." The novel theme of this wonderful book where he preached against marriage and advocated celibacy, has attracted such universal attention, created such wide discussion and raised such a terrific storm that the literary style of the book was entirely lost sight of. He afterward retracted his idea about celibacy. But no stronger accusation against marriage for mere superficial infatuation has ever been flung in the face of society as it was in "Kreutzer Sonata."

"The Resurrection," the latest cre-

ation of that inexhaustive genius, is also familiar to you and fresh in your memory. It was remarkable for a man in the seventies to depict love with all its emotions, variations, sentimentalities, painful happiness or heart throbbings, as are described by Tolstoy in "The Resurrection." Many a young writer would have risen to fame with even half the artistic qualities of which Tolstoy was possessed at his advanced age. The fountain of youth was still working with fierce power, and the power of imagination is still fire was still burning fiercely in the old octogenarian.

The questions raised in "The Resurrection" are manifold. The social, political and moral questions propounded, are not only for Russia to answer, but for the whole civilized world. Has society the right to judge Maslova? Is it reasonable to maintain the system of prisons and tribunals as practiced in the present generation? Is the system of punishment correct? These and many others are the questions that are forcing themselves upon our minds and are awaiting answers not only from Russian society, but from the world over, and these questions have laid the foundation for this masterful creation, "The Resurrection."

No man since Rousseau has stirred human conscience as Tolstoy has with his moral writings and teachings. It remains to be seen what fruit his philosophy will bear. Only time will tell if his universal religion founded upon reason, supported by science, will stand the test. The future will show if Tolstoy's religion will be the true guide to moral life, and if it will lead to the solution of all the great social problems that are stirring the whole world.

Tolstoy fiercely took up the moral aspects of all the burning questions of the day even if belated at times, and put them before the public in such a forceful fashion that the answer in some way or other must follow, and the answer must come, not from his country alone, but from all the nations of the world. And therefore Count Tolstoy is not a Russian character exclusively but belongs to all mankind.

Omaha, Nebraska.

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## :-: Washington News :-:

Invoking the rules of the senate, Senator Hale forced a delay of at least twenty-four hours in the introduction of Senator Cummins' resolutions regulating the consideration of the tariff legislation and providing that when an amendment to any schedule of the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill is under consideration no amendment to any other schedule of the law shall be in order. The first move to be made in the present session of the house to have a change made in the tariff law was by the introduction by Representative Sulzer of New York of a bill "to repeal the duty on meats and cattle."

Carrying a total of \$8,160,985, the Indian appropriation bill, the first of the big supply measures introduced at this session of congress, was reported to the house by Chairman Burke of the committee on Indian affairs. The amount exceeds the former estimates by \$14,723, but is \$851,663 less than the total for the Indian service for the current fiscal year. The larger items are: Survey and allotment work, reimbursable in part, \$215,000; irrigation system on Indian reservations and allotments, \$300,000; irrigation projects reimbursable, \$625,000; suppression of liquor traffic among the Indians,

\$70,000, and pay of Indian police, \$200,000; relief of distress among the Indians and for prevention of disorder, \$60,000; support and civilization, including purchases of food and supplies, \$935,000; educational purposes, approximately \$3,900,000; provision for treaty stipulations other than educational, \$990,560.

An Associated Press dispatch says: "A counterfeiting plot extending over two continents has been discovered by the secret service. Chief Wilkie's men arrested Czare Poletti as he stepped from the steamer Italian in New York. The secret service men found on Poletti 2,000 national bank notes on the National Bank of New York. The counterfeiters had been made in Italy, it is alleged."

An Associated Press dispatch says: "The possession of one-sixteenth negro blood brings a person under the classification of 'negro,' according to a decision of the district court of appeals in the case of Isabel I. Wall, 8 years old, against the board of education. The girl was admitted to a white school more than a year ago, but afterward was excluded on the ground that she was a negro.

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The evidence showed that the girl had one-sixteenth negro blood in her veins, and Justice Wright, in the district supreme court, upheld the action of the board in excluding the child from the white school. Chief

Justice Shepard, of the appellate court, affirmed that decision."

Washington dispatches say that Secretary of the Treasury Macveagh held a conference with Senator Ald-