

TOLSTOI ANSWERED THE CHURCH.

Denounced Excommunication Writ as Unjustifiable, Mendacious and Libelous.

Paris—Count Leo Tolstoi has replied to the writ of excommunication launched at him by the Holy synod of the Greek Orthodox church. He starts out by quoting Coleridge: "He who begins by loving Christianity better than truth will proceed by loving his own sect or church better than christianity, and end in loving himself better than all." That, Tolstoi contends, is exactly the position of his assailants. He himself has pursued the contrary course.

"I began by loving the Orthodox church more than myself; then I loved Christianity more than the Orthodox church; now I love truth more than all else."

He says the writ of excommunication is illegal, arbitrary, unjustifiable, mendacious, libelous and calculated to promote evil sentiments and unworthy deeds; that its issue has already so stirred the hatred of bigots that he is daily threatened with assassination.

"I have renounced the church that calls itself Orthodox," he continues, "because I wished to serve God. I followed every precept of the church * * * and am now convinced that its teaching is theoretically, an astute and noxious lie, and practically a mixture of gross superstition and witchcraft. That is why I inserted a request in my will that no priest should be allowed to approach my body.

"Yes, it is true, I deny an incomprehensible trinity and the fable regarding the fall of man, which is absurd in our days. It is true I deny the sacrilegious story of a God, born of a virgin, to redeem the human race. But God-spirit, God-love, God, the sole principle of all things, I do not deny. I believe in eternal life, and I believe that man is rewarded according to his deeds, here and everywhere, now and forever.

"It is said I deny all the sacraments. That is perfectly correct. The marriage of divorced persons seems to me in formal contradiction with evangelic teaching. Periodical forgiveness of sins encourages immorality.

"The teaching of Christ is disfigured, transformed into grossest sorcery—ablution, unction, movements of the body, incantations, deglutition of pieces of bread—all of which has nothing to do with that teaching, which only commands men to love one another, not to render bad for evil, not to judge others, not to kill.

"Yet, those who make a business of lies declare in their books, their newspapers and their catechisms, that Christ never forbade swearing (taking the oath); that he never forbade murder (capital punishment and war), and that

the doctrine of non-resistance to evil is an invention, a Satanic ruse of the enemies of Christ.

"They behave like the brigand who murdered a whole family of five or six persons in order to steal an old cloak and forty kopeks.

"If Christ should come back He would sweep them out with their ikons and other instruments of witchcraft.

"I believe that the will of God was never so clearly, so precisely explained as in the doctrine of the man, Christ; but one cannot regard Christ as God and offer prayers to Him without committing the greatest sacrilege. If another doctrine were to arise that satisfied me better, I should not hesitate to adopt it, for nothing matters to God but truth."—New York World.

END OF KANSAS POPULISM.

Refusal of Democrats to Unite in a New Party a Death Blow.

TOPEKA, KANS., May 17.—The populists have proposed to form a new political party called the Union party, or something similar, and to include in it both the populist and democratic organizations. The attitude of the democratic press and leaders, toward the movement indicates that there will continue to be two distinct party organizations. The democrats positively refuse to give up their name, as it would cut them off from the national organization, while the populists despair of taking any considerable majority of their followers into the democratic camp, conditioned on giving up their name. The populists in their formal proposition to the State Democracy agree to submit the selection of a new name to the electors if the democrats will consent.

The Chairman of the State Democratic Committee makes this formal reply to the populists:

"The general feeling among the democrats as far as I have been able to ascertain, is that we have tested in this state pretty thoroughly the merits of 'fusion;' that the last two campaigns have proven that it is futile of any good results to the people, those who are in earnest as to genuine reform; that the democratic party of this state has, in the interest of reform measures, already surrendered everything except its name, and when it is asked to do that, I think the majority of the democrats would consider that it was going too far, and I believe myself that it is something entirely beyond the jurisdiction, province, or function of our committee to take up and pass upon."

The failure of the populists to unite with the democrats as a single party will end their influence in this state, for without fusion there can be no possibility under present conditions of their securing a majority of the voters.—New York Evening Post.

TARIFFS.

The ordinary, or smaller manufacturers who are largely dependent upon the great trusts for raw materials are organizing, in their various localities, largely for the purpose of asking for free raw materials and for the removal of duties on trust-made products. They are suddenly beginning to realize that free, raw materials are necessary to prevent their extinction by their larger competitors.

Our manufacturers, both large and small, are being driven out of foreign markets by retaliatory, tariff duties. Many of them are now willing to swap some of their tariff privileges here, for better market privileges abroad.

Protection is becoming more galling to thousands of our citizens, who are just beginning to realize the wide margin between the prices charged to them and those charged to foreigners by our protected manufacturers.

Important interests are asking that our tariff be adjusted to the changed conditions, due to the necessities of trade with our new possessions.

Each of these new interests is important. Combined, they are strong enough to compel a revision of our tariff schedules in the near future, when there is substantial agreement as to what changes should be made.

It is the province of the Tariff Reform Club to stimulate and encourage these various interests in their efforts to secure lower duties. This it can do by supplying information, facts and arguments to newspapers and congressmen.

With our manufacturers, beginning to control the world's markets "protection" has not a leg, left to stand on; its cause was never so weak, and the case against it never so clear as now; it produces but little revenue, and is today wholly unnecessary and without excuse; it simply enables the protected interests to extort from our citizens several hundred millions of dollars annually. We believe it will be easier than ever before to make the people see these facts and act upon them.

AMONG THE THINGS THAT WERE.

Passenger agents of western railroads anticipate that the volume of this summer's tourist business will send the records of former seasons glimmering down among the things that were. The large number of conventions, for which reduced rates have been made, are certain to create considerable travel. The Epworth League meeting in San Francisco in July, and the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo throughout the summer, are the two most important occasions for which rates have been reduced, but Detroit, Chicago, Cincinnati, Louisville, and a number of other cities are also to be favored with very attractive rates. The Colorado resorts will doubtless be well filled by the tourists traveling on the uncommonly low rates announced by the lines from the east.