

## RUSSIA IN REVOLUTION.

BY ROBERT MACLEOD.



R. JOHN MORLEY has said in his volume on Burke that practical politicians and political students should bind about their necks and write upon the tables of their hearts the famous passage from the "Memoirs of Sully," that "The revolutions that come to pass in great States are not the result of chance, nor of popular caprice. . . . As for the populace, it is never from a passion to attack that it rebels, but from impatience of suffering." This is strikingly illustrated in the recent history of Russia. Spreading by secret propaganda with amazing rapidity among university professors and students, and "intellectuals" generally, Nihilism was met with counter vigilance by the Government. From sixteen thousand to twenty thousand persons were sent annually as exiles to Siberia, and yet, so far from Nihilism being checked, organized missionary effort was attempted to win over the mass of the peasantry. Then was seen the strange phenomenon of

young men and women abandoning their homes and studies to "go among the people,"—so ran the catchword. They entered the peasant's fetid hut and strove with words of sympathy and hope to make converts; but with little apparent success. The suspiciousness ingrained by centuries of slavery was proof against the allurements of the Socialist; and inherited devotion to the person of the Czar, together with some slow sense of gratitude to their liberator, were too deeply rooted to be eradicated by the teachers of what Mr. Skrine calls "the sombre gospel of negation."

The cold deliberate ferocity of the Government as it plied the instruments of despotism—condemnation without trial, long exile, torture and imprisonment—was successful in arresting and driving underground the liberal and Nihilist propaganda; and then followed a period of comparative quiet for the autocracy. Still, we cannot doubt that the seed found congenial soil in many outside the student population. Buried deep, it survived the numerous droughts of reaction, and brought forth its kind, mostly in secret places, propagated itself continually, and is to-day bear-

\*The world is witnessing to-day the most stupendous revolution it has ever known. It threatens to be infinitely worse than the French Revolution of 1789, which overthrew both throne and altar in the dust. It affects the vastest territorial empire in the world, with a population of one hundred and thirty millions of people. The oppression of this dumb, weltering mass has been far greater than that of even the hapless peasantry of France. The awful story of the many thousands of exiles to the tundras of Siberia has haunted the world like a nightmare. Things has gone from bad to worse. Of twelve hundred edicts against the Jews in two hundred and fifty years more than half have been issued in a single recent reign.

Moreover, this great tragedy takes place under the very eyes of Christendom. We read its tragedy every day and its scenes are kodaked for us in the illustrated papers. "On horror's head horrors accumulate." A hundred years ago the news filtered only slowly to the ears of mankind. We are studying the greatest social and political problem in European history. We therefore give considerable space in this number to the most authentic information we can procure on this colossal tragedy. We abridge herewith from the last number of the London Quarterly, the highest organ of British Methodism, this tremendous indictment drawn from and fortified by official documents of the great anarchism of the great Russian despotism.