

anist in return for a life of various indulgence and wild licence.—*London Times.*

AN EMPEROR OF RUSSIA—IVAN THE TERRIBLE.

—This monster was without touch when he succeeded to his father's provinces; but his mother Helena reigned during his minority, and such an example to her sex that Mossalina was pure by comparison. The boy was trained to be a savage, to kill animals, to ride over people in the streets. He was taught to be a destroyer; and the Czars of later days have not forgotten the instruction, though they apply it more tenderly. Ivan was only in his teens when he had one of his own attendants worried by dogs in the public highway. The young gentleman thought it excellent sport; and he was encouraged to indulge in it by the Glosky family, who were proud to be the preceptors of a promising pupil. It was that family who seriously taught him that he was an exception to the commandment which said, "Thou shalt do no murder." They inculcated assassination as a virtue in a prince.

He robbed his people, not merely by oppressive taxation, but by vulgar open plunder—a process which Nicholas carries out more politely by forced loans. They who groaned by way of dissent were slain for their audacity, and he joyously compelled parents to slay their children, and children one another; and then, if he were not too weary, slew the survivor, where one was left breathing, and, like Scruh, "laughed scornfully." He placed himself upon that equality with God from which the present Czar has hardly descended, by one shallow step. His devotion was excessive, and he was over exemplarily devout when he was not stupidly drunk. He would rise from his knees to let slip his wild bears among the citizens in the streets; and "the most pious of Czars" finished his prayers as he looked on at the slaughter, pluming himself on his magnanimity when he flung a few small coins among the wounded.

He sometimes suffered, however, from a surfeit of death, and the jesters were then summoned to raise the imperial spirits. They must have addressed themselves to their task with delightful buoyancy, remembering that a bad joke was sure to be strangled in the throat of the utterer, and the latter died with his sorry jest. Too very nobles were not safe. He once flung over Prince Goudof, who had failed in an attempt to be witty, a tureen of scalding hot soup, and as the prince endeavoured to escape the Czar plunged a knife into his side. The unhappy noble fell dead; and Ivan remarking that he had "carried the joke far enough," bade the physician attend to him. "It is only God and your Majesty (said the medical toady) who can restore the prince to life: he is quite gone."

The Czar was a little affected at the event, but he took a pleasant way of forgetting it. A favourite noble happened to meet him and bent in reverence before him. The Czar was delighted to fall in with him, and took hold of him by the ear, just as Napoleon used to do with his arch-favourites; but the French Emperor was accustomed to leave the ear he pinched upon the head of its owner: not so Ivan, who, using his knife, cut off the member, and flung it into the face of his ancient friend, who received the same with many acknowledgments of his master's condescension. Ivan was the husband of seven wives—at once; and this was the only circumstance in his character which the Greek Church in Russia ever affected to blame him in. His offer to espouse our Virgin Queen Elizabeth must have made that gracious lady merry. Ivan himself soon ceased to be so. In a fit of fury he smote his own son dead by blows from an iron bar, and God and outraged nature no longer spared this most hideous of monsters. He became gloomy, but hardly less cruel; and partial madness succeeded to gloom and death at last to both.

This savage was nevertheless one of the ablest of men and of rulers when he chose to let his natural abilities for good have sway over his evil passions. He introduced printing, gave it a code of laws, encouraged religious toleration, and promoted civilization by patronizing the fine arts throughout their brilliant circle with a liberality never, perhaps, known out of his dominions. But he was a Colossus of intemperance and all things, and intemperance beget cruelty, and the indulgence of both led to insanity; and therewith, strange to say, this great incarnation of the "beastly" led a natural death! So strange are all things in the hand of the Czars!—("Traits of the Czars," by Dr. Doran: *Gentleman's Magazine*.)

TESTIMONY OF THE CHURCH TO ENGLAND BY DE CHATELAIN.—I hold the Establishment to be not only a great Christian body, but one indispensable to

the upholding of a diffused Christianity throughout the land. In spite of all imputations and errors which its greatest enemies have laid to its door, we hold that, on the alternative of its existence or non-existence, there would hang a most fearful odds to the Christianity of England. We are ready to admit that the working of the apparatus might be made a great deal more efficient; but we at the same time contend that, were it taken down, the result would be tantamount to a moral night on the length and breadth of our land. We think it might be demonstrated that, were the ministrations of your Established Church to be done away, they would never be replaced by all the zeal, energy, and talent, of private adventurers. Instead of the frequent parish church, the most beautiful spectacle to a true Christian heart, because to him the richest in moral association, with its tower peeping out from amidst the verdure of the trees in which it is embosomed, there would be presented to the eye of the traveller only rare and thinly scattered meeting houses. The cities might, indeed, continue to be supplied with regular preaching; but innumerable villages and hamlets, left dependent on a precarious itinerancy, would be speedily reduced to the condition of a moral waste. Our peasants would again become Pagans; or, under the name and naked form of Christianity, would sink into the blindness and brutishness and sad alienation of Paganism.

The constant boasts of the Roman Catholic Church and press, that England was rapidly being converted to Popery, as well as the late assumption of ecclesiastical titles by the Romish hierarchy, had induced the belief that really very large accessions to that Church had taken place; but the census has just dispelled the charm. Of the seventeen millions of English population, the Pope has not even two hundred thousand subjects, or about one in a hundred, and even that small number is more than fully accounted for by the Irish and other foreign emigration. In fact, taking the Papal immigration in the balance, Popery must have lost more adherents than she has gained. It is evident that all the accounts of the Romish press about the progress of Romanism in England must henceforth be received with extreme caution, and that if the progress of England towards Romanism continue at the same rate, it will take at least a million of years to effect the conversion of the country.—*Christian Intelligence.*

Queen Victoria, the gossips say, is rapidly falling into flesh, after the habit of her family. Her bust has become very large; her robe conceals the stoutest of her person, but that may be surmised from her full face, ruddy cheeks, and unmistakable and decided double chin. The dress she wore on the opening of Parliament, is said to be one of extraordinary richness. The royal attire consisted of a body of silver tissue, the bottom of which, in lieu of a flounce, was a fall of silver bullion nearly a foot deep. A robe of crimson velvet, with tippet and trimmings, and sleeves of ermine, enriched with gold lace, and fastened in front by a massive robe of gold, with large golden tassels hanging down in front, covered the dress. Round her neck was a necklace of diamonds. Her earrings were diamonds also. Her hair, as usual, was in plain braids, and she wore a rich and very becoming tiara of diamonds and pearls.

ANTI-PAPAL ORGANIZATION IN THE U. STATES.

—In a land where the people are taught that they are politically free, as soon, and even before they are capable of fully understanding what is meant by this condition, there is not much ground to apprehend that they will passively permit the pope, to bind their hands and feet, in the exercise of that extraordinary discipline which makes itself felt in the politics of even a free country.

As soon as it is understood that the Romanists are the ready subjects of some Jesuitical influence, which operates in the dark, then associations will not be wanting, among political protestants, whose aim will be, to meet Rome on her own ground, in the use of weapons forged after her own fashion.

This has been, in a measure already verified, in the recent organization and very rapid spread of secret political associations, whose avowed purpose is to put down popery at the polls.

A CONVERTED BAPTIST.—At the late ordination at Wells, Mr. Henry Friend, who has been for upwards of twenty years minister of a Baptist congregation at Bridgewater, was ordained deacon in the Church of England. The *Sherborne Journal* states that on Sunday evening the reverend gentleman preached at St. Mary's, Bridgewater, the town in which he had been a Baptist minister for twenty-five years, from the text, 2 Cor. chapter 5, verse 18—"And hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation"—a most eloquent discourse which was listened to with intense interest.

MORE CONVERSION FROM POPERY.—One hundred and sixty-four more adults have reformed the errors of Popery in St. Paul's, Birmingham, since the last published report of the 5th January last.

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