

them of their services as laborers; and they are looked up to with unbounded veneration by their flocks. In the gradual devotion and cultivation of this established body of spiritual laborers, the true secret of Russian amelioration is to be found. All the efforts of its government should be directed to this object. Doubtless, in the present age, much that may be turned by unbelief into ridicule, is to be found in their customs; but the experienced observer, versed in the ways of human wickedness, surrounded by the profligacy of civilized heathenism, and acquainted with the necessity of impressing the mass of men by considerations or acts which strike the senses, will not slight even the countless crossing on the breast and bowing to the ground of the Russian peasantry. He will acknowledge, in these rites, the invaluable marks of spiritual sway which are thus testified by an illiterate people; he will hope that an antidote to the temptations of the senses may thus be provided; and expect more from a people thus impressed, than from the orgies of infidelity, or the altars of the goddess of reason.

PROMPTITUDE.

To be prompt in action, is a most invaluable qualification. The man who is constantly in doubt is incapable of managing great affairs.—His knowledge may be extensive, his penetration quick, his understanding enlarged, his imagination vigorous; he may be candid and courteous, generous and noble-minded; he may possess every quality which is calculated to fas-

ciate in conversation, and be able to explain difficult cases with such plausibility as to make all who hear him believe there is no better fitted for business: still he is worse than useless in action. He sees clearly the advantages that must result from the success of a scheme; but then he perceives with equal distinctness the obstacles which stand in the way of its execution.

He weighs the one against the other, and over again weighs them; and he cannot arrive at a decision. No man understands all the niceties—the logical distinctions—of a question half so well, or deliberates half so profoundly, as he does; but nobody can be less the better of a piercing reach of thought, and a painful exercise of the faculties of judgment: for with him the end of all is the hopeless exclamation, "What to do I cannot tell!" In the meantime, opportunity flies; and he enters upon the consideration of some other matter, with the same unprofitable waste of thought. It is extremely hazardous to employ persons of this description in any transaction of importance, unless their part in it be such, that, like sailors, they are told "they have no business to think;" but as companions or counsellors, their value is considerable, because they drop numerous hints, which, used by those who know how to use them in time, turn out to be of infinite consequence.

In war, irresolution is especially disastrous. The general, sitting in his tent with his principal officers, may "deliberate in cold debate," until the enemy enter, and call upon them to surrender. Julius Cæsar used to say that great exploits ought to be executed with-