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RUSSIA.

The Kingdom of the Czar and its
People.

A series of notable events which have been
taking place in the Russian Empire have drawn
the attention of the world in an unusual degree
to that country.

The rule of the Czar, always despotic and
severe, seems to have been increasing in stringency,
and as a consequence, the condition of
the Empire is undoubtedly restive and agitated.

Foremost among the recent acts of the Czar
has been the revival of the old restrictive laws
against the Jews, and the addition of new re-
strictions on that portion of the Russian popu-
lation.

A certain part of Russia is set apart where
the Jews are compelled to live, and all Jews
who have resided in any town or village for
less than eight years are forced, under the new
regulations, to remove into this designated
district.

No Jew can become an officer, either of the
army or of civil service. He is not admitted
to the universities. He is confined to certain
mercantile occupations, and by the new law is
forbidden to hold or own real estate, or to have
it mortgaged to him.

It is stated that the new restrictions, added
to the old ones, will deprive two millions of
the four millions of Russian Jews of the means
of earning their living.

These startling facts have aroused indignation
throughout the civilized world, and in
some instances great public meetings have
been held to protest against the persecution
by law of such an immense number of human
beings.

Another act of the Russian Government has
been to curtail the ancient liberties of Finland,
which is under the rule of the Czar as a
conquered nation.

The Finns are a sturdy, honest race, and
have hitherto enjoyed a large degree of political
freedom. But the Czar and his coun-
sellors have, of late, shown a disposition to re-
duce them also to the same iron rule which
holds the rest of the Russian dominions as in
a vise.

The condition of the Russian peasantry is
described by Stepnaik, a Russian exile now
on a visit to this country, and a writer of note
upon Russian subjects, as being deplorable.

He states that the mortality of the peasantry
in some Russian provinces, reaches the annual
rate of sixty-two in a thousand, which is three
times the rate of some American cities; and
that the cause of this large death-rate is the
want of food.

The peasantry, according to this authority,
have to pay one-half of their incomes in sat-
isfying the demands of the Government. As a
result they have had to mortgage their little
plots of land in order barely to exist.

There seems, in view of these facts, to be no
reason for astonishment that the state of the
Empire is one of unrest and discontent, or that
we continue to hear of plots and violent at-
tempts of revolutionists against the Czar's life
and authority. The murder of a prominent
Russian General in Paris, formerly connected
with the police, and the killing in Moscow of
a lady of rank, who is supposed to have be-
trayed the secrets of the Nihilists, are evi-
dences of the continued existence of a formid-
able conspiracy against the Government.

In December five Nihilists, several of them
young women, were tried at St. Petersburg for
engaging in a plot against the Czar, and all
but one were sentenced to death. Mean-
while the Czar has surrounded himself con-
stantly with every precaution, to defend him
from the deadly assault of assassins.

It is well for us not to accept implicitly all
the statements that are made concerning the
tyranny and cruelty of Russia. Yet we can-
not shut our eyes to the fact that they are
guilty of many acts of oppression which re-
volt the civilized world, and the natural result
is to create, in Russia itself, widespread dis-
content and resistance.—Youth's Companion.

BRITISH TRAMPS.

The finest thoughts of many great think-
ers are undoubtedly the more or less direct
result of their communion with the out-
door world, its strengthening winds and
healing sunshine. Certain men of incal-
culable influence over ideas and morals
have been constant lovers of country walks
and it would be difficult to over-estimate
the effect of such solitary rambles on their
habits of thought.

It is calculated that Wordsworth, in his
many years of sauntering, must have tra-

velled a distance of one hundred and eighty
thousand miles. What sights he saw dur-
ing such prolonged and delightful wander-
ings, only those who have the poet's mind
and eye can even guess.

Charles Dickens was a confirmed tramp,
and no doubt acquired his experience of
"life on the road" from actual acquaint-
ance with all sorts of vagabonds and odd
characters, such as frequent town and
country lanes and highways.

One of the most remarkable of unprofes-
sional walkers was Prof. Wilson, the
"Christopher North" of literature. His
fine physique and great endurance prompt-
ed him to the performance of wonderful
feats, which seemed to him entirely a mat-
ter of course. He once walked forty miles
in eight hours, and at another time walked
from Liverpool to Elleray in twenty-four
hours, a distance of eighty miles. It is
good to think of the long, unwearied strides
with which he swung along, his blood
bounding with healthy pulses, and sending
invigorating waves to the active brain.

Henry Fawcett, also, was a tireless
walker, and one who, when deprived of
sight, did not for a moment think of relin-
quishing this among many forms of exer-
cise. He was a familiar figure on the roads
about Cambridge, and there is no exaggera-
tion in saying that few men blessed with all
their senses could enjoy nature more thor-
oughly than he.

Southey, worn and preyed upon by men-
tal application and the practical anxieties
of everyday life, found his greatest relief
in tramping about the country, listening for
what nature had to tell him, and learning
contentment from her stability. John
Stuart Mill delighted in pedestrian tours,
and Charles Lamb, though he loved town
better than country, was one who believed
in sweeping cobwebs from the brain by
brisk and continuous walking.

All these men walked not merely for
profit, but for pleasure; and the profitableness
of the exercise was the greater because
of their pleasure in it. Their example may
be commended to all. It is safe to say that
whoever once forms the habit of regular
tramping will never forego it, except under
some necessity.

The Mountain of Silicate.

The mountain of silicate which is reported
to be found in Canada and likely to revolu-
tionize the manufacture of glass of all kinds,
is as yet in the realms of supposition, as of
course, no one has excavated deeply enough
to absolutely know how far within the moun-
tain the silicate may extend, despite the opin-
ions of geologists, as those gentlemen have
been proven to be not always accurate in their
calculations or the application of the laws of
geology as they are known at this day. This
has been especially displayed in the mistakes
they have made in regard to probable finds of
petroleum, both the Pennsylvania and Ohio
fields having been heavily discounted by the
best geologists in the land, just as they are
now discounting the future of the natural gas
fields. Nature has of late presented many
anomalies against the well defined principles
that learned scientists have laid down for her,
and all signs may fail in regard to the silicate
mountain. The design of the owners not to
let it get into the hands of any syndicate, is a
good one, whether the find prove all that is ex-
pected of it or not, and for the benefit of this
country in its proximity to Canada as well as
for the good of Canadians themselves, we
hope that the outcome may prove as valuable
as the enthusiasts now suppose.—Paint, Oil
and Drug Review.

DEMOCRACY AND INDUSTRIAL FEDERATION.

But, I shall be told, you cannot regulate
industry on a public foundation in a day.
Where are the organs, the functionaries,
equal to such a task? Where is the political
honesty, the sincere and large-minded
patriotism, without which a resumption of
state rights would issue in speculation and
jobbery? My answer is that if democratic
institutions cannot develop such men and
such qualities they are doomed by inherent
worthlessness to corruption and decay.

But they can and will, for the social prob-
lem, which is at bottom that of transform-
ing slaves (by whatever name called) into
free and independent citizens, has arrived
at its present stage under Divine guidance,
and we are not lapsing through capitalism
into the lower conditions from which we
have escaped, but are passing onward to
federation as the crowning task of democ-
racy.—Rev. William Barry in March
Forum.

THE LAND OF THE JAP.

A Strange Country and a Strange
People.

Japan is a land of contraries. Everything
in that country is performed in exactly the
opposite manner to which we, of the West-
ern hemisphere, are accustomed. When
your cook bakes a cake in an ordinary cake
tin it is as certain that, if left to himself, he
will serve it bottom upward. Japanese
books begin at what we call the end. The
lines are vertical instead of horizontal, the
first being at the right hand edge of the
pane and are read downward from the top.
Letter writing, like book printing, advances
by vertical lines from right to left, and is
always on one side of one strip of paper,
which is unwound from a roll as the writer
proceeds, and out off where he finishes. To
fold the letter it is doubled over and over
from one end of the strip to the other.

The postage stamp is affixed on the closed
seal-flap of the envelope, instead of on its
face. As for the modes of address, it is the
exact reverse of ours. People in Japan are
called by the family name first, the indi-
vidual, or what we should call Christian,
name next, and then the honorific. "Mr.
Peter Smith" is in that country "Smith
Peter Mr." The carpenter planes and saws
toward instead of from him, yet his feats of
planing are extraordinary. Japanese screws
are left handed, and Japanese locks "work
the wrong way." At games of cards the
dealer deals to the right, and the play goes
round in the same direction. When travel-
ing you see the hotel servants soon after
your arrival instead of your departure.

Arrows are launched from the right side
of the bow. Babies are carried on the back
instead of in the arms. Candles are blown
out with the hand or a fan instead of by the
breath. The bookkeeper enters his money
figures first, his items below them. In
place of the hot food and cold drinks in
which we indulge at our dinners and lun-
cheons, the Japanese lean to cold food and
hot drinks. Sweets make their appearance
early in the repast. Your host takes the
lowest place. Crests are worn on the cloth-
ing, instead of being graven or painted on
the household goods. Horses are mounted
from the right side, where also are all the
harness fastenings. The mane is trained
over the left side. In the stable the horse
looks outward from his stall, and is fed
from a bucket instead of a manger. The
sail cloths in Japanese craft are vertical in-
stead of horizontal, and laced instead of
sewn.

Strange, too, in other respects are the
ways of Japanese boatmen. They tow their
stern foremost and also haul them up stern
foremost on the beach. In cold weather,
even though on their muscular and splen-
didly shaped bodies there be hardly enough
clothing to swear by, you may at least be
sure of their taking infinite pains to wrap
up, of all features, their noses. In house
building the roof is the first part con-
structed, only to be taken to pieces again
until the structure is ready for it; and the
best rooms, as well as the garden, are com-
monly at the back instead of the front.

Japanese bathe in the afternoon or even-
ing instead of at rising, as we do. Small
children, who have a propensity to stray-
ing, are safeguarded by the simple precau-
tion of hanging labels around their necks,
which give their names and addresses.

A Japanese is said to be one year old on
the last day of the year in which he is born;
two years old on the very next day—the
first day of the new year; three years old
on the succeeding New Year's day and so
on. Hence we find the curious anomaly
that a child born on the 31st day of Decem-
ber is two years old the day after its birth.
Japanese count of time differs from ours.
From Tuesday to Friday is called four
days instead of three, and year periods are
similarly spoken of. For pocket handker-
chiefs the Japanese use little squares of
clean paper, a bundle of which is carried in
the girdle. Paper, again, takes the place of
staining, as you find out when the shopman
ties together your purchases with a binding
deftly rolled up from a strip of paper before
your eyes. Paper also is commonly used
for window panes in Japan, alone of all
countries in the world. As for Japanese
beckoning, the gesture resembles a warning
to be off instead of an invitation to advance.
Two jinrikishas are approaching each other
at speed. One of the men waves his hand
to the right or left, and you take it as a sig-
nal of the course which the other fellow is

to follow. But you are in Japan, where it
means, instead, the side he himself intends
to take.

A POOR LITTLE MONARCH.

The Sad Life and Troubles of Ser-
via's Boy Ruler.

While the infant sovereigns of Spain and
the Netherlands are jealously tended by
mothers who, independently of their feel-
ings of maternal devotion, are impelled to
particular watchfulness by the knowledge
that the death of their children would be at
once followed by loss of rank, wealth and
power, and by a probable expulsion from
the country, the poor little King of Serbia
is passing his boyhood in solitude. No
mother is permitted to smooth his pillow,
to greet him with affection in the morning
and to kiss him good night. He is left
alone to face the dangers which surround
him, and they are many in number. His
father's predecessor on the throne of Serbia
was murdered in cold blood by the Kara-
georgewitch pretenders, who are eager for
the throne to-day as they were then, and
who have even far more to gain now by the
death of Alexander than by the assassina-
tion of Milosh 25 years ago. Moreover, the
kidnapping of Prince Alexander of Bulgaria
in the middle of the night by Russian em-
bassaries affords another demonstration of the
perils to which Balkan rulers are exposed.

The domestic troubles which led to his
parents' divorce and to his father's abdic-
ation in his favor have resulted in his being
debarred from seeing his mother, except on
rare occasions, notwithstanding the fact
that she resides within one hundred yards
of his palace gates. Every effort is being
made by her enemies in general and by her
husband in particular to influence the lad
against her, and only the other day he
was induced by his father to write her a let-
ter in which he declares that he will break
off all relations with her if she persists in
submitting to parliament the disputed
question as to the legality of the divorce
which Milan, by improper methods, secured
against her. Queen Natalie's reply to her
child, to whom she is devotedly attached, is
worthy of being placed on record. It runs
thus:

"I would give much if you had not writ-
ten that letter, my boy. But as I know who
made you write it I excuse. For twelve
years I taught you to love your father, and
to honor him, and concealed the misery of
my life from you. Had King Milan seen
the situation clearly he would have done as
much for me. This must show you how
different are your parents' characters. If I
appeal to the skuptchina I merely make use
of my good right. If you fulfill your threat
you will lose the respect of your people and
of the whole civilized world. Kings are
expected to have hearts as well as other
people. The nation will say: 'He has no
heart for his mother—he will have no heart
for us.'"

Fire Brick Making.

The recent large increase in the fire brick
making industry in the United States is ex-
plained by the fact that it is the largest iron-
producing country in the world. Great Brit-
ain has fallen behind chiefly because of the
shutting down of the furnaces in the West
of Scotland, and the United States has a conse-
quence taken the lead, its output last year be-
ing a trifle over 84 per cent of the entire world
production. The following are the figures in
tons:

	1890.	1889.
United States.....	9,050,000	7,603,642
Great Britain.....	7,950,000	8,322,324
Germany.....	4,550,000	4,524,750
France.....	1,800,000	1,722,480
Other countries.....	3,200,000	3,000,000

"Other countries" include Belgium, Austria,
Russia, Sweden, Spain, Italy, Canada, and
India. In the last ten years the production in
the United States has increased about two and
a half times, that of Great Britain has remained
nearly stationary, Germany has increased one-
third, France augmented slightly, and the ag-
gregate of the remainder has grown one-half.

A Workman Did It.

A calker in a Boston ship yard, working
as a supernumerary at \$1.50 per day, has
invented a calking machine with which one
man can do the work of six. Nearly every
labor saving device has been invented by
laboring men, strange as it may seem.—De-
troit Free Press.