

“Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.” This aphorism is strikingly exemplified in the case of the young Emperor of Russia, who, with his father’s throne, has inherited his father’s troubles. Threatened with assassination, which he knows is no empty threat, he is in a most pitiable condition. His palace is a fortress, surrounded by cordons of soldiers who guard him from his own subjects. It is said that his wife, who is a sister of the Princess of Wales, is almost crazed with fear. The Nihilist conspiracy is strong and wide-spread, and some high in authority and near the throne are implicated in it. It seems utterly vain for the Emperor to think of holding out against the strong current of popular frenzy which is only intensified by the coercive measures adopted to put it down. It would be wise policy in him to yield at once to the inevitable, and grant to his subjects that constitutional liberty for which they are clamouring. Thus, discontent would in a great measure cease, and he would sit quietly on his throne. This, however, he is unwilling to grant, and hence his continued troubles. It is a comfort to know that Messiah reigns, and that He will make the commotions of nations, and even the blunders of cabinets and rulers, subserve the advancement of His own cause, and hasten the full triumph of His kingdom when “men shall be blessed in Him, and all nations shall call Him blessed.”

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The Bradlaugh case in the House of Commons is now, it is to be hoped, finally disposed of. He should never have been allowed to take his seat, but now that he has been unseated, and disfranchized so that he is no longer eligible to a place in Parliament, every true Christian shall cordially rejoice. A Christian Legislature is not the place for an avowed Atheist. The functions of government are too sacred to be in the hands of wicked men of any type, especially those who proclaim their denial of the being of God. Now that British law, as interpreted by the law officers of the Crown, unchangeably demand that every legislator must be a believer in the existence of a Supreme Being, it is to be hoped that we will hear no more of a blaspheming Atheist in any of the British Houses of Parliament.

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From Spain there comes the pleasing intelligence that Senor Antonio Martinez, a preacher of the Gospel, imprisoned for holding a religious meeting of more than twenty persons, has been pardoned and released from custody. We learn also that “the judicial proceedings which had been instituted against several other Protestants have been abandoned, and that the prospects of religious liberty in Spain are much brighter than they were but lately.”

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