

was myself an eye-witness of his whole behaviour. Whatever his life may have been, his death without doubt is a noble lesson of philosophy."

"Philosophy!" Foggio Bracciolini! It is sadder than the martyr's death to read thy word, and see where so fine an appreciation and so candid a heart must stop. Would you could have read the higher lesson of a martyr's faith—of life and immortality!

HOW THEY EDUCATE THE PEOPLE IN RUSSIA.

While the professors of the Greek faith, in Russia, are the most superstitious of the nations of Europe, they are the most headless and contemptuous of their religious chiefs. While the people repeat, in their catechisms, that the Emperor is the Vicegerent of God, a Synod, presided over by a Lieutenant-General, decides upon ecclesiastical affairs. The priests are paid their stipends from the public treasury; they receive rank according to military routine, and, officiating at the altar, they are decorated with the insignia of the military orders. The priesthood, teaching the people that the will of the Emperor is the only law, the only means by which they can be blameless in this world, or saved in the next, are also used to administer to the enormous mass of men constituting the army of Russia, the oath to extend its frontier! The following extracts from the "Russian Catechism" will verify these remarks.

"Q. How is the authority of the Emperor to be considered in reference to the spirit of Christianity? A. As proceeding immediately from God.

"Q. What duties does religion teach us, the humble subjects of his Majesty, the Emperor of Russia, to practice towards him? A. Worship, obedience, fidelity, the payment of taxes, service, love, and prayer; the whole being comprised in the words worship and fidelity.

"Q. Wherein does this worship consist, and how should it be manifested? A. By the most unqualified reverence in words, gestures, demeanor, thoughts, and actions.

"Q. What kind of obedience do we owe him? A. An entire, passive, and unbounded obedience in every point of view.

"Q. In what consists the fidelity we owe to the Emperor? A. In executing his commands most rigorously, without examination; in performing the duties he requires from us, and in doing everything willingly without murmuring.

"Q. What are the supernaturally revealed motives for his worship? (of the Emperor.) A. The supernaturally revealed motives are, that the Emperor is the Vicegerent and Minister of God, to execute the divine commands; and, consequently, disobedience to him is disobedience to God himself; that God will reward us in the world to come, for the worship and obedience we render the Emperor, and punish us severely to all eternity, should we disobey, or neglect to worship him. Moreover, God commands us to love and obey, from the inmost recesses of the heart, every authority, and particularly, the Emperor; not from worldly consideration, but from apprehension of the final judgment.

"Q. What books prescribe these duties? A. The New and Old Testaments, particularly the Psalms, Gospels, and Apostolic Epistles.

"Q. What examples confirm this doctrine? A. The example of Jesus Christ himself, who lived and died in allegiance to the Emperor of Rome, and respectfully submitted to the judgment which condemned him to death."

In the printing of the Catechisms, the words "God" and their "Exegesis," are printed in large letters. The name of "Christ" is small. This was the Catechism, that the Roman Catholic Polish children were constrained to learn, and by which constraint, the treaty of Vienna is wholly violated, even had it been preserved in all other respects.

If any thing can be worse than the Popery of Rome, is it not a system like this?—*Sun. School Teachers Mag.*

THE MODERN PERSIANS.—Persian perfidy and corruption are only to be equalled by Persian cruelty. To this very day the most atrocious punishments are of common occurrence. It is not two years since the blood of the European public ran cold at the recital contained in every newspaper of that inflicted upon some wretched fanatics charged with high treason. But offences far less grave are almost as severely visited, and of this M. Flandin witnessed numerous examples—as for instance, a baker thrown into his own oven for dishonest practices with his bread; a butcher nailed by the ear to his own doorpost for a similar offence.—Cutting off ears and noses is considered quite a trifling penalty, and in numerous instances the Frenchman had the greatest difficulty in preventing its application to persons of whose misconduct he had found it necessary to complain to the authorities. But it was at Ispahan that these horrors reached their height. The motive of the Shah's journey thither, or rather of his march at the head of a large body of troops, was to suppress a great insurrection, headed by the chief of the Mollahs, the Mahometan Primate of Persia, whose ambition, importance, and immense wealth had inspired him with the idea of emancipating himself from the royal authority. He had enlisted under his banner a legion of robbers, assassins, scamps, and lazzaroni, known in Persia under the generic term of *loutis*. These banditti had driven out the feeble garrison of Ispahan, and had since lived there at free quarters daily committing every imaginable crime. On the approach of the Shah's army the greater part of them fled. Some, however, either tardy to escape or bolder than the rest, remained concealed in the city. Search was made for them, they were discovered, and thousands of their victims flocked eagerly to bear witness against

them. The women, especially, who had endured outrage at their hands, came in crowds, imploring, with tears in their eyes, permission to cut off the hands and heads of their ravishers. This would have been a mild punishment compared to others that were inflicted on these miserable wretches. Some were thrown upon bayonets, others were buried to the waist, their heads downwards, in a row, their legs in the air, and tied to each other, so as to form what the Persians call "gardens of vines." Details still more horrible are given by M. Flandin, who reverts to the subject at a much later period of his travels, when visiting the curiosities of Shiraz. Mantoucher Khan, a Georgian eunuch, remarkable for his energy and cruelty, and who was then governor of Ispahan, had been sent some years ago, to head an expedition against the robber Mamacene, whose haunts were in the mountains between Shiraz and Shuster. Having taken a number of them prisoners, he hit upon a plan for striking terror into their comrades still at large. In the plain of Shiraz, near one of the gates of the town, he built a tower, in whose walls were left as many niches as there were captives. These were then placed in the recesses and walled up, an opening being left opposite to their faces, that the sufferings they endured might be visible to all who passed.

CUSTOMS OF THE TURKS.—Here is a whole volume concerning the customs, manners, and habits of the Turks, contained in a single paragraph:

"The Turks abhor the hat; but uncovering the head, which with us is an expression of respect, is considered by them disrespectful and indecent. No offence is given by keeping on a hat in a mosque, but *ehora* must be left on the threshold; the slipper and not the turban is removed in token of respect. The Turks turn in their toes; they write from right to left; they mount on the right side of their horse; they follow their guests into a room, and precede them on leaving it; the left hand is the place of honour; they do the honours of a table by serving themselves first; they are great smokers and coffee drinkers; they take the wall, and walk hastily in token of respect; they beckon by throwing back the hand, instead of throwing it towards them; they cut the hair from the head, but leave it on the chin; they sleep in their clothes; they look upon belauding us a more disgraceful punishment than strangling; they deem our short and close dresses indecent; our shaven chins a mark of effeminacy and servitude; they resent an inquiry after their wives as an insult; they commence their wooden houses at the top, and their upper apartments are frequently finished before the lower ones are closed in; they eschew pork as an abomination; they regard dancing as a theatrical performance, only to be looked at and not mingled in except by slaves; their mourning habit is white; their sacred colour, green; their Sabbath day is Friday; an interment follows immediately after death. The deaths of the women are not registered—those of the men are. Marriages are registered, and with the marriage the woman is virtually struck from existence, so far as the government is concerned. She is not known officially to the government of Turkey. Her 'lord' or husband does with her as pleases him best."

HUMAN SACRIFICES.—Human sacrifices are still offered only a few hundred miles from Cape Palmas, Africa. In a recent instance, a monarch offered fifty victims in consulting the gods, and the answers not being satisfactory, at the direction of the priests, he made offerings at the sepulchres of his ancestors, and it was not till the blood of many hundreds had been shed that they declared the wrath of the adverse deities appeased, so that they would favour the arms of the king.

THE REGION OF THE NIGER.—The Niger, having a course of 2,600 miles, and the Tchadka with a course of 1,500, and which flows into the Niger 170 miles from the ocean, drain, with their tributaries, an extent of country, which is supposed to contain 30,000,000 of inhabitants, and which is the richest and most fertile portion of Western Africa.

D. McLELLAN,

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