

mocked, bullied, and after some considerable time in gaol they were acquitted and released. The clergy protested, and wrote to the Government to re-arrest and punish them without trial or formal accusation. They complained that this release "only increased the people's respect and admiration for the sectarians." The people might also think that the governor himself was won over to the Stundist belief.

After a decided failure in a mission for the conversion of this people, the civil authorities were strongly recommended to quarter soldiers as spies in the private homes of all who were suspected of reading the Bible or engaging in secret worship. They also advised that without trial or accusation all Stundist preachers be relegated to the Siberian mines. These suggestions were backed up by most cunning charges. The government could not afford to overlook them.

Numerous arrests were made; but the law courts frequently acquitted the accused, and after some painful disclosures of priestly "ways that are dark," the church fathers fell back on an old law against heretics. The Stundists were then sent to monasteries for the purpose of "doing penance." The least painful features of this winning mode were the pangs of hunger, intensified by the endless harangues of monks delegated to convert them. Did they succeed? We need not ask.

The Sectarians meanwhile were as zealous in humanizing the fallen of their communities, as their brethren "doing penance" were unswerving in loyalty and faith. The many miraculous conversions, their zeal in good works only served to stimulate and double the efforts of the clergy to root out the "infection." The Stundists petitioned the civil authorities for the right to think, read, and worship in their own quiet way. They were met with a deaf ear and a cruel hand.

The Russian laws are most arbitrary. For swindlers and murderers trial by jury exists, but not so for such questionable characters as those who love the hour of prayer and Bible reading. A stroke of the pen by the Minister of the Interior is sufficient to secure in solitary "preliminary detention" for years their religious or political victims. There is no *habeas corpus*. Frequently an order to exile is issued without the least investigation.