

he is nothing of the kind. Nor is there an absolute Head of the Church on earth there. Both the State and the Church are really in the hands of an oligarchy. The former represented by the land holding aristocratic element, without whom the Emperor would be powerless; the latter by the Holy Synod, which settles all vexed questions. It was an endeavour on the part of Alexander II. to counteract the power of his troublesome barons that led him to free his serfs; while the Holy Synod acknowledges the supremacy of the Holy Scripture, and far from withholding it from the people, sends it out to them by means of its National Bible Society, and gave a free hand to Dr. Lausdell to distribute copies from the B. & F. B. S. throughout his travels in European and Asiatic Russia. An open Bible is quietly working its way among those classes of the people who can read, and there is no reason to suppose that fidelity to the throne and that to the Supreme Spiritual Head of the Church are things in their nature opposite where this liberty exists. No doubt there is dense ignorance, and its daughter, superstition, among the masses in Russia. Many customs still prevail which have come down to them from Pagan times and are even connived at by the authorities. We have only to turn our attention back less than 200 years to our Motherland, when, with an open Bible, witches were burned, and the superstition openly defended by educated people of that time, to suspend a rash judgment upon a people the most recently emerged

from barbarism of the European concert.*

But I will conclude this preliminary chapter with a remark that touches us nearer home. In all the government schools of Russia proceedings are opened and closed with an extremely spiritual prayer and the reading of the Bible. What is Canada doing? Shutting the Bible out, secularizing those places where children receive their earliest and most lasting impressions; often their only opportunity of receiving religious instruction;—and “what will ye do in the end thereof?” And the School Boards in England are doing the same, but the State Church has no part in this folly; they have raised their protest and warning. War is a scourge of God. May not this be one of our national sins that has brought it on us with its already too grievous sorrow and suffering?

C. H. ANDRAS.

A service was held in the chapel of the S. P. G. recently to bid farewell to fourteen of its missionaries who are to sail for India and Japan. These included the Bishop of Madras, the Bishop-designate of Lahore, three priests, two laymen, and seven women, one of the latter being a fully qualified doctor.

*Sir Thomas Browne, M.D., in 1637, published his “*Religio Medici*,” and in 1646 his “*Enquiry into Vulgar Errors*,” which attracted wide attention. Eighteen years afterwards his opinion calmly given, at Bury St. Edmunds, brought sentences of death on Amy Dunny and Rose Callender for bewitching children. The sentence was passed by Sir Matthew Hale, one of the most celebrated English judges. Such sentences were passed for many years after this. The last victims of the superstition were Mrs. Hicks and her daughter, hanged at Huntingdon for selling their souls to Satan, and for raising a storm by pulling off their stockings and making a lather of soap.