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A RUSSIAN SECT.

Count Leo Tolstoy has adopted the

Dukhoborty sect, and is the exponent of

its religious and civil theories, and ap-

pears in The Contemporary Review as its

advocate. These people are Christians

of a very primitive and mystical

sort. They are largely found in the

Caucasus; are excellent colonizers, and

in general correspond quite closely to

the Stundists, who dwell in the Black

Sea districts, and whose paternal

Czar has striven to extirpate in a

fashion as ruthless as were the drag-

onades that Louis XIV. organized to

suppress the heretics of the Covenant

two hundred years ago. In America

they would be regarded as a very

harmless and gentle sort of sectary,

very much as are the Methodists and

Dunkers. They hold the church to be

that mystical body of people in whom

is the spirit of God. They require no

government; recognize no authority of

priest or magistrate. To pay taxes

is to contribute to the kingdom of

darkness—whose official representative

is the Czar, because he is the head

of a secular State. They believe in

non resistance, and will neither support

nor serve in any military organization.

They regard the Christian tradi-

tion of their sect as of equal authority

with the Holy Scriptures, and are as

free in their interpretations of the

Bible as Tolstoy is in his for all

these reasons he likes them.

But their tenets bring them into col-

lision with the Russian Government;

for they are incompatible with its ex-

istence. In one of the Turkish wars

a regiment of conscripts from their

sect, while marching on Pera, in the

Crimea, refused to march to the front

at the roadside and refused to resume

them. Of course, the tax gatherer can

levy on their property, if they have

any, and collect money by impost, but

the things they consume; and they are

then in the position of a conscientious

Quaker who pays his war tax on com-

pensation, and amiable sufferer wrong

rather than do wrong. Were it not in

a time of war in a civilized country

the Dukhoborty's conscientious objec-

tions to bearing arms would hardly

bring him in conflict with the author-

ities, and when it did he could still

bear the penalties of allegiance to his

principles. But militarism pervades

everything in Russia.

The Russian Government does not

come as the harbinger and benefactor

embodiment of order, facilitating the

enterprise and the industry of the

champion of order, facilitating the

case with Charles V. In the Re-

formation, or with Louis XIV. when

Mme. Maintenon and her cabinet

were supreme in the French cabinet.

In such an alliance dissent is of the

nature of treason. The Government

cannot tolerate the Dukhoborty.

The only means of dealing with them

is to suppress them, and true will still be

on the side of the supposedly weaker sex.

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when he, being in some ways a practical

young man, sees himself strong

enough to withdraw it.

If the Socialists in the Reichstag go

unopposed, the Socialists outside

the Reichstag go persecuted, the

avoidance of a conflict can only be a

matter of time, for the

ill will of the unpacified press

will find its vent on the floor of

the protected parliament. Whether

it be such a conflict between King and

Parliament, as France saw in the eight-

eenth century and England in the sev-

enteenth century, will depend upon

whether this bitterly logical young man

has the practical wisdom to be pleas-

antly illogical.

For the House of Hohenzollern cannot

go forever without restocking, re-

capitalizing, having something to show

besides German unity and the glories

of Sudowa and Sedan. It is living on

its past and on its principal.

THE VIOLENCE OF THE PRESENT.

The Violence of the present time have

been unpleasantly active of late,

and as in the Arthurian days,

in the woods of Brocelande, "Fool,"

so we meet to-day with the same echo

as regards the male sex, in the press,

in the gossip and scandal of the press

ing hour. There have been several

studies in the American

newspapers recently, telling the tale

of harpies and of young men, victims

of the feminine tiger. There was a

case of a young man, who was

formerly resident

here—Cuyler Hastings—who stood in

the criminal dock in a New York

court, accused of having ruined a

young girl, and whose defense was

completely overcome, and protested

his innocence. But the testimony of

his alleged victim and of her con-

fession, as they turned

panions—accomplished

that to be—was so convincing, and

Hastings was in a fair way to be sent

to the penitentiary for a long term

of years. Suddenly it was discovered

that the alleged victim, girl, had

been blackmailed many

men. The police looked up her record;

it was found to be phenomenally black.

The girl broke down, confessed that

her story was a lie, and that she had

been blackmailed many

men. The unfortunate man was "honorably

discharged" by the court. But the

fellow's cell and the ruined name

of the woman will never be

forgotten by Cuyler Hastings.

Then there was the break-down of

the legal proceedings against the

Langerman in New York, a criminal

assault upon one Barbara Aub,

a book agent. This girl, told with great

particularity of the assault upon her,

which, she said, was a brutal

assault, and that she had

been blackmailed many

men. The jury, after a long

deliberation, found her guilty of

the crime, and sentenced her to

a term of years. The case was

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THE FARTS CLUB

An Entertainment at the Massey Hall

The Farts Club, the latest of the

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