

tion in some parts, and perhaps some persons will be benefitted by it. But after all, a religion or professed reform movement which requires resorting to such sensational methods of promulgation cannot have within it much of those elements which make it permanent and valuable. Its appeal is not to the intelligence of the individual.

### CUBA'S PROSPECTS.

The resignation of Martinez Campos, governor general of Cuba, and his recommendation that the island be granted home rule, is the brightest indication yet seen for the success of the Cuban revolutionists. It is an open confession that not only is the insurrection not on the verge of being suppressed, but that the Spanish general has given up all hope of victory. So long as there was a chance that the arms of Spain could reduce the Cubans to subjection, Campos would not have relinquished his efforts to do so. Now he says that he is unable to carry out the designs of the parent government, and by advising the concession named expresses the conviction that no other officer can succeed where he has met failure.

With this new development it is not improbable that the Cuban insurrectionists will receive recognition from some of the powers as belligerents. Already there had been a leaning in that direction in some quarters, and this event cannot but hasten such proposed action. Then the Cubans will be able to more easily secure aid from the outside, enabling them to make better progress in the struggle for freedom. The action of Campos seems to indicate the dawn of Cuban independence.

### DOES ELECTRICITY KILL?

The question whether electricity as applied in the fatal chair really kills has been submitted to two of the highest authorities living—Thomas A. Edison and Nikola Tesla. These two differ on some important points and also on this subject. The latter is said to have had a current of 250,000 volts pass through his body without injury, while a voltage of only 1,700 has been applied at Sing Sing.

Mr. Edison explains the deadly effect of a low voltage. He says that unless a current has a certain volume it might have a pressure of 200,000 or even 1,000,000 volts and yet be almost harmless. With 1,700 volts and a volume of two amperes, death is certain to result almost instantly. Mr. Tesla's current was only a fraction of an ampere and hence not strong enough to cause injury. To illustrate: A blow with a knitting needle, or several blows frequently repeated, would not kill a person, while a single blow with an iron bar an inch in diameter might prove fatal. For the same reason, electricity, in order to kill, must have a sufficient volume as voltage.

Mr. Edison said there is no question as to the instantaneous death of the victims in the electric chair. About thirty henchmen are killed every year.

These touch the fatal wire only for a second, are partially protected by their clothing, and often receive a current at a lower voltage than is employed for executions, at which every precaution is taken to make a perfect contact.

As Tesla declined to talk for publication, the opinion of Edison will have to stand until actual experiments are undertaken with a view of ascertaining the fact of the matter—whether criminals in the electric chair died there or under the scalpels of the doctors who conducted the autopsy.

### RICH BUT NOT HAPPY.

It is still in fresh memory how the present ruler of the Russias, at his father's deathbed, promised to marry Princess Alix of Hesse, and also how this lady gradually was forced to accept the marriage through pressure from the German and English courts. Since the festivities in Russia on account of the imperial wedding but little has been heard of the young czarina. It was confidently hoped that her influence would be seen for good in the vast empire, but beyond a few reformatory measures talked of immediately after the accession to the throne of the new czar, everything in Russia seems to follow its own slow course, as carved out by tradition from time immemorial.

Rumor now has it that the czarina is extremely unhappy at St. Petersburg. It is said that the beauty, submissiveness and devotion of this princess at first fascinated her husband, and that, consequently, he was charmed in her presence and listened to her every advice with perfect confidence. At this, it seems, his mother became alarmed, fearing that the power she was used to wielding might slip out of her hands. To her the possibility presented itself that this German princess might be the means of changing Russia's sympathies in favor of Germany, and thus rendering useless the skillful intrigues woven at the court of Copenhagen during the last fifty years. She could not reconcile herself to the thought that her son as husband should be made to ignore his mother's political interests.

A catastrophe is said to have followed. The czar, eager to show his independence, snubbed the English and German ambassadors. The story goes on:

He informed his wife gruffly that he wanted to hear nothing more of her petty relatives and their impotent little court in Darmstadt. He told her one day that her most august relative, the Prince of Wales, was a coward, and her other most august relative, Emperor William, was a cad and a bore. In a general condemnation of the court of London he remarked that the Guelphs were a lot of tea-drinking old women, and the queen was the worst of them all.

It is further related how the czarina on several occasions burst into tears at the breakfast table and hurried away. For weeks she took her meals alone, inaccessible to the appeals from her mother-in-law and from Darmstadt and Berlin and London. To a communication reaching her from the German embassy that Emperor Wil-

liam would regret to lose her high regard and friendship, she replied, briefly, that, if this was a reference to her influence for peace between Russia and Germany, the emperor must not deceive himself any longer, as she was a mere cipher at Peterhof, and could not get a court-martial discharged against the will of the dowager empress.

A few days ago the unhappy czarina became hysterical after he had accused her of various indiscretions at court, and she ordered him to leave her. He remained, however, to continue his reproaches, until her physician arrived and announced that he would never enter the palace again unless the czar departed instantly. The czar objected. The doctor's reply was: "If you have no mercy on her majesty, at least consider your future heir and go at once."

The result of all this is that Czar Nicholas is endeavoring to undo all he once did at the instance of the czarina.

These strange stories from St. Petersburg, if correct in the main, serve to illustrate the character of the present Romanoff and give an indication of Russia's line of policy in the future, in case the empress submits without stirring up England and Germany against her despotic lord. The peace of Europe will not be safe in his hands.

It is curious to reflect how seldom true happiness joins company with that which in the judgment of many is indispensable thereto. When this young princess suddenly was taken from her comparatively narrow surroundings at Darmstadt and elevated to a throne but little lower than that of the czar, one of the mightiest rulers of the world, with all its wealth, influence and power, she was, undoubtedly, the object of envy. Now that sentiment must be changed for pity, for what is, after all, the greatest fortune, if it cannot purchase one day's happiness? Everything considered, true happiness is much more evenly distributed among the children of men than is generally supposed, notwithstanding the apparent distinction in social conditions and material wealth.

### AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

Twenty-five years ago this month the war commenced that resulted in the unification of the German empire, enlarged with two French provinces, and the establishment of the third French republic on the ruins of the third empire. In July war was declared and the first engagement occurred in the first week of August at Weissenberg. Three weeks later, September 2, Sedan fell and Napoleon was carried captive to Germany. On February 26, 1871, the victorious armies marched through the streets of Paris. It is doubtful whether any other conflict ever assumed so gigantic proportions and resulted in so great achievements as this, in so brief a time. It was but one tremendous blow, and all was over.

In Germany the great events of the war will be celebrated with much enthusiasm. And no wonder. For it was the means of once more restoring to that country the