

many Turkish pounds thereby would flow into the empty treasury, and as the Jews as a people are blessed with wealth, the question can easily be settled to the satisfaction of the successor of Mohammed.

Then, England has long befriended Turkey. This power cannot afford to lose the good will of Great Britain. If Lord Salisbury takes this matter up in earnest and gives the Sultan to understand that the English government would like to see Palestine opened as a place of refuge for the Jews, the probability is that the Sultan will be glad to oblige his English friends, as well as obtain the pecuniary benefits that will accrue from the transaction.

Everything seems to be in favor of a speedy solution in this way of what may be called the Jewish problem. Should Lord Salisbury really open negotiations with the sublime Porte on this question, we may expect to see in the not far distant future, a Jewish State established in the mountains of Judea, under the protectorate, perhaps, of the great British lion.

#### THE DEPOPULATION OF IRELAND.

THE last census of Great Britain shows a total population of Ireland of 4,706,162, which is a decrease of 9.05 per cent since 1881.

The decadence of the Emerald Isle has gone on for the past half century and more rapidly than in any other part of the civilized world. The following figures speak for themselves:

"The population of Ireland in 1841 was 8,196,597. By 1851 it had fallen to 6,574,271, the loss of nearly one-fifth being largely by emigration to the United States. In the following decade the loss was 11.50 per cent; from 1861 to 1871, it was 6.65 per cent, and from 1871 to 1881 it was 4.40 per cent. In fifty years Ireland has lost 4,706,162 from a population of 8,196,597, or 48.58 per cent."

Should the decrease continue at this rate, the Irish problem would be solved in another fifty years, by the depopulation of the island.

#### RUSSIA AND THE JEWS.

ONE of the statements which Herr Goldberger makes concerning his experience in Russia is, that the Russian Government, with all its immense agricultural and mineral resources, will sooner or later be forced into a condition of absolute bankruptcy. This statement coming so soon after the gold excitement of a week ago, in which Russia so prominently figured, is rather startling. It is noteworthy that Henry Clews and other financiers see no danger of Russian bankruptcy. On the contrary, Mr. Clews in his last report says that all Europe

is watching the Russian minister of finance, who it appears is a very capable man.

Unfortunately we have no accounts of the process of law, if any, by which the Hebrew merchant is driven from Russia. We are told simply that it is all done because the victim is a Jew, and nothing more. The same ill-fortune follows that unfortunate race in Russia now that attended it in Western Europe 100 years ago. It is just 100 years since France extended to the Jews civil and political liberty. Other countries followed slowly, and it was not until 1658 that England gave the Jews complete emancipation.

Of late a class of apologists for Russia have been springing up in America. One of them, Col. De Arnaud, has written a book entitled "The New Era in Russia." In this he tries to disprove much of what is charged against that country. He was interviewed a short time ago by the *Charleston World* correspondent in New York, as to Russia's treatment of the Jews. He contends that they are harshly treated because they are dishonest bankers and stockjobbers, and that Russia is justified in expelling them. He denies that their religion has anything to do with their expulsion. But he damages his argument by comparing the course of Russia toward the Jews with the treatment of the Mormons by the United States. He says: "They have been driven from one section of the country time and again, and yet the Government sought them out in their seclusion and treated them with rigorous laws enacted specially against them. The Mormons call this persecution. We know better."

If he has no better illustration of his argument than this, he will fail to convince intelligent people in America that the Jewish religion has had nothing to do with the cruelties practiced upon them in Russia. And the parallel which he attempts to draw between the New Orleans lynching and its causes, with the Russian treatment of the Jews, is no fairer comparison than the other.

Notwithstanding the fact that day after day, the newspapers teem with essays, editorials and dispatches about Russia, we know little in reality about the country. Its newspapers do not circulate here. Its language is unintelligible to ninety-nine per cent. of American editors. We rarely, if ever, see a correct translation from a Russian newspaper. Some Russian authors have been translated into English, and have been widely read. What we do learn of Russia usually comes through channels not in harmony with the government. Our great American-

papers do not send reliable correspondents there to ascertain the real situation. And yet we raise a perpetual howl about something we know nothing of.

Russia has a jury system, justices of the peace, established tribunals, provincial legislatures, a national senate and two councils, one of which has legislative powers. It is true there is no written constitution, but there is an abundance of written law.

Nicholas I. established the grand council in 1801. This is composed of the ministers of the Czar, the grand dukes, and all the high civil and military dignitaries. This body frames laws for the Czar's approval and acts as a supreme court in cases of high treason or otherwise, if necessary. There is also a second grand council composed of 120 members, which dates its existence back to Peter the Great in 1711. The third grand council is called the holy synod and sits in St. Petersburg. This is composed of church dignitaries and occupies itself mostly with religion.

These are some of the main features of the government. That the nation maintains its power with such vast interests at stake and with such a complication of influences operating to effect its dissolution is the best of evidence that its organization is vigorous and thorough. The fault is in the kind of government rather than its want of vigilance. As compared with the modern republic their tendencies are on precisely opposite lines. The foremost principle of a pure republic is the elevation of the common people and repression of the aristocratic spirit. The principle underlying the government of the Czar is the strengthening of the aristocrat and degradation of the commoner. The strongest testimonial against Russia is that it will not tolerate the inspection of the world. Like a conscious criminal the head of the nation bolts himself within his castle and with guns and armaments closes his nation against intercourse with progressive intelligence.

#### THE TABERNACLE CHOIR.

While the public are jubilant over the grand success of the Choral society, which so recently proved itself to be worthy of a place high in our estimation—its attainment not being a whit behind that of the world renowned artists hired at the round sum of \$2000 to appear with it—we cannot forget for a moment its great sister organization, the Tabernacle choir, its peer in all respects, its superior in one—the equal balancing of parts. Its appearance every Sabbath has a tendency to cause us to forget, to some extent, how really inspiring it is. Comparatively few people in this world are privileged to hear