

1727 Peter II.....died 1730
 1730 Ann.....died Oct. 29, 1740
 1740 Ivan IV. imprisoned 1741, assassinated 1764
 1741 Elizabeth.....died Jan. 5, 1762
 1762 Peter III.....assassinated July 14, 1762
 1762 Catherine II.....died Nov. 17, 1796
 1796 Paul.....assassinated March 24, 1801
 1801 Alexander I.....died Dec. 1, 1825
 1825 Nicholas.....died March 2, 1855
 1855 Alexander II.....assassinated March 13, 1881
 1881 Alexander III.....began reign March 13, 1881

The dying czar was born March 10, 1845, and in 1866 he married Maria Dagmar, daughter of the king of Denmark and sister to the princess of Wales and the king of Greece. The heir apparent is Grand Duke Nicholas, who was born May 18, 1868, and whose marriage to Princess Alix of Hesse has shone out strangely from amid the solemn surroundings of his dying father's bedside.

THE PRICE OF COAL.

We are now in the closing days of October. Our Indian summer is probably about over. The chilling blasts of November, and the deep snows and biting cold of December, will soon make all of us shiver, and huddle closer around the stove. More than this, the times are hard, money is scarce, and many men who have families dependent upon them have earned but little during the summer and fall.

Many heads of families in and near this city are uneasy, anxious or even appalled, according to the pressure of the times upon them individually, when they recall the price of coal, and the amount of it which they will be obliged to have to keep the frost out of their homes. The coal question is the combined tariff, bounty and silver issues of their domestic economy, and it is an issue upon which they have no vote. In respect to it they are as helpless as they are in respect to the bitter winds that make so keen the necessity for fuel.

There is a tinge of bitterness in their reflections upon it. They realize, alas how well, that wages have been reduced; that the prices of most commodities have gone down; that rents are lower, and margins are narrower all along the lines of life, but that the figure on coal is unaltered. It is the same now as when hod-carriers were paid \$3.50 per day. Prices come and prices go, but the price of coal goes on forever. For one thing only can the coal barons claim the gratitude of the poor man—they haven't raised the price of their product since the panic.

Most freight rates have gone down since the hard times came, and passenger rates are a great deal lower. Then why are the same old boom prices charged for hauling coal? The miners are not paid the wages they used to be, then why is there no reduction in the cost of coal to the consumer? Is cheaper coal to forever remain, like purity in politics, an "iridescent dream?" No. Coal is being laid down at the homes of consumers in this county cheaper than the rail-ways will do it. Large numbers of teams are hauling it. It is cheaper for a man who owns a team to make a trip or two to Coalville and haul his own fuel, than to pay cash for it to a dealer. It is also cheaper for him to haul some for his neighbor, and take

such pay as the latter has to give, than to let his team and himself remain idle. The number of dollars and cents nominally involved in such a transaction is of little consequence. The transaction results in the procuring of the necessities of life, which is the main thing. If the railroads are left out of it the people will not bewail the fact very long or loudly.

EASY CONVERSION.

Conversion, in the true sense of the term, means that complete change which a human being experiences, when, under the influence of the Spirit of God, he becomes a believer in Christ and as a result thereof endeavors to regulate all his life in accordance with the Divine law. It results in faith, repentance and obedience; it is the mental process by which a Saul becomes Paul—the beginning of new life.

Nothing better illustrates the distance between the Christian religion as first taught and as commonly understood, not to say misunderstood, in the present generation, than the triviality with which this matter now is treated. The dispatches have had much to say lately about the conversion of the Princess Alix of Hesse-Darmstadt to the orthodox Greek church, and everything goes to show that in the world the matter of changing religions is hardly any more serious than putting away one pair of gloves and donning another as occasion is supposed to require.

The story may be told in a few words. Nicholas Alexandrovitch is the heir to the Russian throne. He belongs to the Greek church, not through any fault or merit of his own, but because he was born in a Russian palace. A great deal of his youth he devoted to a beautiful actress, as princes often understand devotion, with the full consent and knowledge of his imperial father and the holy synod of the church, too. He became madly infatuated with this actress and insisted upon marrying her, for which reason he was sent on a tour around the world. When he returned his idol had been spirited away.

The prince next falls in love with Princess Alix and is after many negotiations allowed to offer her his heart, fortune and religion. The princess accepts the prince as he is, and with him the necessary appendix, his religion. It is probable that, until her marriage with the Russian heir was talked of, she never offered the Greek church a serious thought in her Protestant home, but all at once she and all her friends discover the beauties of that faith and find it safe enough to be entrusted with the salvation of her soul.

The performance may be only a parody of conversion, yet no severe criticism of the charming princess is called for. How many Protestants in Hesse-Darmstadt, or professed Christians in all Christendom, are there who would refuse to change their religion in a moment, were they induced to do so by the offer of, say, a million dollars? Princess Alix's temptation was greater than that. Yet she merits some commen-

dation. It is the custom of the Greek church on a certain yearly festival, "Orthodox Sunday," to pronounce a curse against all heretics. The Hessian princess has so far refused to approve of this ridiculous ceremony and has even, it seems, obtained a promise by the holy synod exempting her from participation in the farce, showing that she may not be without some influence for good in the midst of bigotry.

The Greek church was originally one with the Roman church, but as the bishops of the Italian capital assumed almost dictatorial powers, the eastern prelates resented and claimed supremacy for Constantinople. Divisions on doctrinal points ensued and the beginning of the schism dates as far back as in the fifth century. Later, renewed efforts were made to effect a reconciliation and these led to a loose union which was not wholly dissolved until in the eleventh century, when Roman legates deposited on the great altar of the church of Sophia at Constantinople a sentence of excommunication against one of the leading patriarchs.

The Greek church still believes in seven sacraments, in the sacrifice of the mass, in the virgin Mary and other saints, images and relics, and in tradition so far as it agrees with the teachings of the first seven oecumenical councils. Among its peculiar tenets are the following: It disowns the authority of the pope and lays no claim to infallibility; baptism is performed by immersion and the sacrament of the Lord's supper is administered in two kinds; it is given to infants immediately after their immersion; the existence of a purgatory is denied, yet the efficacy of prayers for the dead is admitted. It is further claimed that the Holy Ghost does not proceed from the Son but only from the Father. Images in relief or embossed work are not allowed as objects of worship, while reverence may be paid to paintings and engravings. The marriage of the priests is acknowledged if they had entered upon that state before ordination, but no priest can marry a second time, nor is any member of the church allowed to marry more than three times. Such, in brief, is the religion which Princess Alix adopts as an adjunct to her husband.

As a general rule, it may be said, the Greek church represents the Christian religion as it had developed at the time the final separation from Rome took place. Since that period, the eastern division of the church has remained practically at a standstill, while the western division has continually added to its system. No doubt the Greek church has in the hands of Providence had its mission to fulfil. If nothing else, it has preserved that part of the original Scriptures without which Protestantism and liberty in later years would have been impossible. It stands today a monument of the progress of the Christian religion when left without Divine guidance, and furnishes an incontrovertible proof that many of the modern doctrines for which Christian origin and authority are claimed do not even reach as far back as the eleventh century. As such that church has not been without a mission, but its usefulness as a factor in the work of