

as it really is, and not as it appears to those who are biased by false or fanciful views of it. It is therefore not wonderful that many of Tolstoy's works have been translated and are to be found in almost every large bookstore in Europe. It would seem that he has not yet written a line which in death he would desire to blot.

Leon Tolstoy was born August 28th, 1828, and is consequently a little more than sixty-one years of age. His mother died before he was two years of age and his father a few years later. At the age of eighteen he left school and soon after entered the Russian army, where he endured the hardships of a common soldier of the imperial army. For twenty-five years he remained in obscurity, but at length his writings commanded attention, and the Czar raised him to the rank of Count. The testimony of such a man, who has grappled with the stern realities of life and felt the chilling influence of poverty, obscurity and oppression, and yet has arisen superior to them all, is surely worthy of consideration. In reference to the Bible he says:

"For the purpose of opening up a new world to a pupil, and of making him love knowledge before he has knowledge, there is no book like the Bible. I speak even for those who do not regard the Bible as a revelation. I know of no other production which so unites all sides of human thought. Let those who deny the educational significance of the Bible, and claim that it has outlived its time—let them try to compose such a book, and they will soon admit their failure."

It is owing to this man's efforts that the Bible will soon be published in the simple language of the Russian peasantry. The name of Leon Tolstoy should not be confounded with that of the Russian politician bearing a similar name.

The elections in France have certainly had a favorable influence in Russian political circles. The conviction that France has at last found a stable government is increasing. Hitherto, at St. Petersburg, whenever anyone has talked about a Russo-French alliance, the Russians have shrugged their shoulders. How could they form an alliance with a nation whose ministries changed with the rapidity of stage scenes, and where no one knew from day to day whether tomorrow might not see the control of the French Republic in the hands of adventurers and demagogues? So the Russians have said in the past. But if France has at length secured a sober, solid and strong Republican government, the prospects of an alliance between republican France and despotic Russia are greatly increased.

The French have seized every opportunity of showing their Russian sympathies. A few days ago, when the great review of the Paris exhibitors took place before President Carnot on the occasion of the distribution of awards, there occurred a very significant incident. When the English commission carried the British flag past the President he saluted it indifferently.

When the Americans brought their star-spangled banner he greeted it more warmly; but when the Russian eagle appeared President Carnot abandoned the passive austerity of his usual demeanor, and twice over with both hands saluted the Russian standard, amid the enthusiastic and prolonged cheering of the French multitude. Then the Italian flag passed without a salute, amid chilling silence.

The events of the last few weeks have brought President Sadi Carnot into prominence and have shown to advantage the good judgment which has so far characterized his administration. As is well known, he is still a comparatively young man, having been born August 11th, 1837. His family name is one of the most distinguished in the history of republican France. The grandfather of the President was the great War Minister of the first republic in 1793, and virtually Minister of War during the Reign of Terror, and helped to overthrow Robespierre. The President's father was Minister of Public Instruction in the Cabinet brought to power by the memorable revolution in February, 1848, and remained loyal to the republic during the rise of the Second Empire. M. Sadi Carnot, the present President of France, was educated to be a civil engineer and graduated at the head of his class in the *École des Ponts* (School of Bridges), and afterward held a Government engineering post when the Franco-Prussian war broke out in 1870. At the close of the war he was elected deputy to the National Assembly and in 1879 was appointed sub-Minister of Public Works. M. Carnot has long been distinguished as a philanthropist, public and private. To enumerate the benefits he has conferred on charitable institutions and the aid he has given to struggling genius would surpass the limits of this article. President Carnot, though officially a Catholic, is nevertheless in favor of complete religious toleration. Madame Carnot, his wife, is a remarkable woman who takes great interest in the welfare of the poor and in the social movements which tend to the elevation of her sex. Her sons attend the Lyceum or high school, but each evening their mother carefully sees that their lessons are well prepared.

Somewhat like Cincinnatus, who was unexpectedly called to leave the plough and rule Rome, M. Carnot was not a little surprised when on Friday night, December 2nd, 1877, a committee was sent to inform him that he was elected President of the French Republic. His reply was characteristic. He said, "It will go hard with me to quit this familiar house and go and live in that auberge, (boarding house) the Palace d'Élysee." It is easy to see that such a family exercises a salutary influence on the affairs of France.

The visit of the Czar of Russia to Berlin during the past week has been a faithful theme for continental journals. The visit so long promised has at length been paid, but it has been so long postponed that it no longer wears an aspect of significant friendliness. The re-

ception of his Russian Majesty did not lack in ceremonial splendor or even in that personal effusiveness which seems to be the rule when emperors meet. But no "kissings on both cheeks," no blowing of trumpets, no reviewing of armies, no State banquets, no cordial leave-takings, will be able to disguise the fact that the friendship of Germany and Russia, once so strong and so potent, is among the things that are no more. Russia used to be Prussia's good friend and patron. The house of HOHENZOLLERN was once not too proud to lean on the house of Romanoff. But that was before the Franco-Prussian war. Now every passing day brings into more striking relief the fundamental and incurable rivalry of Russia on the one hand and Germany and Austria on the other. Only over the prostrate power of the Austro-Hungarian Empire can Russia march to the fulfillment of its scheme of ambition in South-western Europe. This Germany will not for a moment admit. A hundred times ingenious diplomats have tried to get around this stumbling-block but in vain. It is this that deprives the tardy visit of the Czar of all its value.

The late meetings of the Sanitary Congress have brought forth a large number of facts which it is well for all to remember. It scarcely seems possible that sixty years have not yet elapsed since bath-tubs came into use, and well arranged bathrooms were almost unknown. Then the streets of all the great cities of Europe were more noted for their filth than their cleanliness, and even the boulevards of Paris were littered with festering garbage, and the smells that arose from it were as bad as those of Bagdad in the days of Haroun-al-Raschid. All this is the more remarkable as the laws of the Romans, who once ruled in Western Europe, were so stringent in regard to sanitary regulations. The ruins of the ancient aqueducts in Rome attest how highly her citizens valued a copious supply of pure water. The baths of Julian, the baths of Nero, the baths of Diocletian, and other public baths indicate how highly personal cleanliness was valued by the citizens of ancient Rome. Even amid the ruins of Pompeii her celebrated baths are among the first objects that strike the traveler's attention. This is another proof how fast mankind degenerates under the rule of apostatized Christianity.

J. H. WARD.

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#### GUY FAWKES' DAY.

November 5th, being the anniversary of "Gunpowder Plot," it might be well to refresh the memory of the readers of the NEWS regarding the notorious exploit of Guy Fawkes. On the 5th of November, in the year 1605, one of the most reckless and diabolical attempts to destroy both life and property that we have any record of was made in the city of London. Guy Fawkes was born in Yorkshire, of Protestant parents,