

disorganized—which is the same thing, and that the alleged disorganized Church has never exhibited any signs of dissolution but has lived on, in active performance of all its functions, increasing in stature, in influence, and in power, for the benefit of mankind and for the glory of God, who organized it and has preserved it until this day.

ALL NON-RUSSIANS MUST GO.

THE latest rumors from Russia indicate that the reign of persecution there has only just begun. The charges against the Jews prove to have been only a pretext, not so much to justify the cruelties perpetrated upon them, as to blind the outside world for a time as to the real purpose of the Czar's government in making the movement.

It now comes out that the Czar has concluded that his empire is holy ground upon which none has a proper right to tread save those who will acknowledge him as heaven's agent to prescribe to them the method of worship. The Jews seem to have been chosen because of their general prejudice against their race as the most convenient class on which to open the war, but the plan of proscription seems to include every alien within the borders, the full matter of the ukase being withheld in order to more perfectly arrange for the confiscation of the property of the other victims. We may soon expect, therefore, to learn of a wholesale expulsion of Germans as well as Jews, of which there are vast numbers in the Czar's dominions, and all the rest who refuse to confess the Czar's divine as well as political authority.

Just how the nations of Europe will take this new development in Russianism is a question of more or less concern. One would have reason to presume from such a policy that the monster on the Russian throne had determined to close the gates of his dominion against civilization in general, and with his army and his enslaved subjects, to make his empire his world. The insanity in his blood is cropping out more conspicuously every year, and the salvation of Russia such as it is, might be saved by his ending his reign of tyranny suddenly in a private asylum. Otherwise his empire is liable to be the scene before long of a revolution that will wipe her entire order of loafing nobility from the face of the earth.

The order exists now in the security afforded by the mightiest army in the world. The fate of the would-be tyrant of Chile should be a testimony to them that a mercenary soldier is a good fellow in the barracks, but under the stress of danger and adversity, to-day you have him to support and to-morrow you may have him to fight. The Czar's half a million troops make a splendid exhibition under review, but a single rupture in the face of a struggle in arms would be liable to leave him without so much as an escort for his majesty's person.

A New Bedford man claims to have read the Bible through ninety-nine times; but that isn't the point. How much has he lived it through?

BALLOT REFORM.

ELIHU B. HAYES, secretary of the Republican club of Massachusetts, has a signed editorial in the New York *Recorder*, drawing a contrast between what he terms constructive Republicanism and obstructive Democracy. He says that there is more need of constructive work at present than in any period of the history of the United States. It is a fallacy to assume that everything has been done for the proper management of public affairs. In the political world new appliances must be adopted to meet changed and changing conditions, as in the mechanical world.

No country in the universe affords greater opportunities for constructive work in politics than ours. Unfortunately, there has been a tendency in later years among the better and more educated classes of our citizens to keep aloof from practical politics. This may have been caused by the disposition on the part of the press generally to belittle public life, and to indulge in coarse criticisms of public men. However, at present, there is serious need of intelligent and unselfish public service. And it is the duty of the press and of public opinion, irrespective of party, to learn to discriminate between selfish and unselfish work in public life.

In America as in every country the honest reformer and disinterested politician must expect to meet fierce opposition. But in our country, at least, he has the satisfaction of knowing that if his reforms are wholesome he will ultimately be heard. For a long time the cry has been raised that reform in our electoral method is needed. It has been admitted on all hands that something must be done to maintain the purity of the ballot. But nothing was done until a few determined men in Massachusetts took the matter up, and among them was Mr. Hayes, the writer of the *Recorder* article. The result was a ballot reform law embodying the Australian system, and the first of the kind adopted in this country. It was signed by Governor Ames of Massachusetts, May 29, 1888.

This law involves radical changes in our old system, yet when its efficacy in the way of honest reform was established, it no longer met with opposition. Only three years since it was first adopted, and now it prevails in the majority of the States, while its usefulness is scarcely debated. Mr. Hayes asks, was it not better to adopt this plan of reforming abuses than to stand around and find fault with the disease.

Mr. Hayes thinks that every existing public abuse can be remedied by intelligent and determined action, and that wholesome reforms will be accepted by the people at large, when properly presented. But he thinks that young men should ally themselves to a party to be effective. In his opinion the Republican party affords the best opportunity for constructive work, because it is a party of progress and of wholesome reform, while the Democratic party, he alleges, is one of pessimism and of obstruction.

In our opinion, though Mr. Hayes claims pioneership for the Australian ballot system, the Republicans are no

more in favor of this law than are the Democrats. And wherever opposition has been made to it, it came as much from one party as from the other.

IS OUR REPUBLIC BEING SOUTH-AMERICANIZED?

THE recent troubles in Chile are bringing into notice the system of republicanism which prevails generally in South America. Henry L. Nelson, a Democratic writer in the New York *Recorder*, claims that our country is being South-Americanized. Here is what he says:

"In every republic a chief danger to free institutions lies in the enormous power the executive chief has to control elections and to name himself or some other as his successor. In Chile and other Spanish-American republics it is the custom for the government to set up 'official candidates' and to bring to bear in their favor the entire power and influence of the administration. The practice is one which, in that form at least, we should not tolerate for a day in this country. But in another form we have it in full and pestilent activity. The prostitution of the appointing power to personal and political ends, the manipulation of the civil service as an organized army of administration janiesaries, the farming out of patronage to political 'bosses' in return for their support—all these are but disguised forms of official candidacy both for nominations and for office."

To this another *Recorder* writer named Jefferson replies:

"The practice which you condemn and which I do not want to defend was in full swing in this country during a good many years. Mr. Jefferson made Mr. Madison president, and he in turn handed the Chief-Magistracy over to Mr. Monroe. Andrew Jackson gave it to Van Buren, and James Buchanan did his best to elect his own successor. These are fine old Democratic precedents, but no Republican President has followed them. The country demanded the renomination of Mr. Lincoln. General Grant was renominated by acclamation, and when his second term expired he did not move a finger in the choice of his successor. Mr. Hayes had no voice in the nomination of Gen. Garfield. Three years ago Mr. Cleveland put forth the entire power of his administration to re-elect himself, and he had at his command the most superb political machine that ever tried to influence votes. The country is not being South-Americanized."

Striking a mean between these two, it seems that in our country there is a little too much practice of the theory that "to the victors belong the spoils."

WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT.

It is generally hoped that Mayor Scott will investigate the police matter fully. It is not believed that all the blame rests with the men who hold prominent places in the service. It is easy for subordinates to make complaint against their officers, and a man would have to be pretty nearly perfect to satisfy all his subordinates. It does not follow, because two prominent officers have been adjudged in fault, that the men who complained against them are clear from blame.

The Mayor is rightly clothed with authority to appoint and remove policemen. In the exercise of that power he