

lished and immutable as the law of gravitation in nature.

The Christian mission in the Orient has for years been driven with money, the same as any other business. Not only are the missionaries well paid for their work, but the "converts" are also as a rule more or less surrounded with the blessings of the "god of this world." The Rev. Judas of Kirjoth was a mere greenhorn compared to our modern Christian missionaries; for he did not realize more than \$30 by his sale, while our modern missionaries make more than many thousands of dollars a year out of their sales. But the effect is this: The natives in their ideas generally combine a missionary and money, conversion and profit. They can hardly comprehend that a man can sacrifice his property and travel thousands of miles and come out here preaching the Gospel without remuneration. They think there must be some profit in it.

They think "Christians" here—and "Christians" now-a-days are like the ancient Cretians—have helped the natives to an idea. They have explained that a "Mormon" is a man with many wives, and the natives, having enlarged the idea, now tell each other that there are two missionaries in Haifa who have come in order to find five hundred wives. The poor missionaries have also the reputation of paying liberally for this stock of wives. One individual had got the story the other way. He came to me in the street yesterday and asked if I could not get him a few wives and some money and emigrate him somewhere. He did not care where, he said, for where his wives were, there would he also be. Such startling requests the "Mormons" will have to listen to, and thank their "Christian" friends for helping the natives in circulating the yarns.

God only knows how long this complicated system of falsehood known as Christianity shall play its role upon this earth. But this we do know, that when He rules who has the right, then only shall truth prevail.

J. M. S.

HAIFA, Palestine, Feb. 13, 1889.

EUROPEAN TOPICS.

During the reign of Alexander II. of Russia, many people were surprised to hear that he had emancipated the millions of serfs throughout the Russian dominions and given them a measure of self-government. There are many who declare that the death of this unfortunate monarch was caused by the jealousy of the nobles, some of whom have continually advocated a return to the former system of serfdom. Yet even in Russia liberal ideas are making progress, though slowly as compared with the western nations. Gradually the nobility have ceased their opposition, till now a clear majority are in favor of a larger freedom. The Czar seems to fear this growth of liberal ideas, lest they should prove a barrier to his autocratic rule, and is determined to put a check upon them. The

Czar's intimate friend and counsellor, Count Tolstoi, who holds a position in the Russian Cabinet equivalent to minister of the interior, has lately proposed two measures by means of which all the local government and judiciary of the districts and departments will be placed under the control of military chiefs, and which are curiously enough termed "Reform Bills." M. Pobedonostzeff, who may be described as the Czar's evil genius—no inapt term for the moderator of the Holy Synod—is said to be the originator of these schemes. The evident intention is to deprive the people of what little liberty they possess, bind them hand and foot, and then turn them over to the mild mercies (?) of the military and ecclesiastics; and thus restore as nearly as possible the state of things which existed prior to emancipation. In those halcyon days the serfs were under the heels of the nobility, and gave the government no trouble. On the other hand, when the nobility held property in the serfs they had no inclination to become Nihilists, or indulge in Utopian ideas of liberty. These so-called reforms have met and are still meeting with tremendous and unusual opposition, not merely from the other members of the Imperial Council, but likewise from many of the nobility who are not willing to abandon their dream of freedom, and return to the former condition of affairs. Still the Emperor seems determined to push these schemes and undo all that the Emperor Alexander did. Neither the Emperor, the Count nor the Moderator seem to perceive that they are thus driving into disloyalty the best class of Russian subjects, and probably would be greatly surprised if they saw an effort at revolution as the result of their fine schemes.

The state of affairs in Hungary is beginning to inspire serious concern. Vast processions of the populace march nightly through the streets, sometimes headed by more than a thousand students. On the 14th M. Tisza attempted to address the Hungarian Chamber of Deputies, but his voice was drowned by discordant noises. The president of the chamber could not restore order for more than an hour. Seldom have such disturbances occurred in the Hungarian parliament. If the popular excitement continues the Emperor and Empress will cut short their visit. The prime minister is greatly disappointed. He had anticipated that the influence of the Emperor would dissipate, as if by enchantment, the excitement of the last few weeks. The fact that it has not done so proves amply that the government is losing ground. Hitherto M. Tisza has been as supreme in Hungary as Prince Bismarck in Germany. For twelve years the Hungarian cabinet appeared to the outside world to consist of M. Tisza only. But this popularity has now received a severe shock. It is no secret that this proposed army bill was first framed in Berlin, under the auspices of Marshal Von Moltke and the German general staff. It was

voted by the Austrian chamber because it increased the fighting strength of the nation. M. Tisza wishes it to be ratified by the Hungarian Parliament. One article of the bill requires that all young officers, whether Austrian, Hungarian, Bohemian, Tyrolean or Pole, must pass a rigid examination in the German language before receiving their degrees. The Hungarians are proud of their national language, and in this regard they have the sympathies of the other nationalities that comprise the Austrian Empire. Some of the wise ones are already saying that were it not for the personal character of the Emperor Francis Joseph, the dual character of the Austrian Emperor would soon cease and would eventually resolve itself into a sort of United States of the Danube. Roumania, Servia, and other principalities that are or may be built on the ruins of the Ottoman Empire, would naturally favor such a confederation.

To any one that will take the pains to study the history of France during the past two weeks there is abundant material for reflection. In the midst of her political strife she continues to be the central point of interest in Europe. This may be to some extent, because she contains elements that affect the peace of the continent, but it cannot be entirely ascribed to that cause. True she seems to be the centre of every revolutionary cyclone that affects the barometers of modern civilization, but that is not all. She is still and always the most fascinating and attractive among the nations, and history itself seems to cherish a certain tenderness for the people who can never be counted upon for a day, and yet are so skilled, so witty, so gifted and we might add so necessary to make up the great variety in human society. "Fickle as the French" has long since become a proverb, and yet for a hundred years what perseverance she has shown in attempting to establish a republic. Who would not wish that France might at last enjoy tranquility, contentment and a good government? What could she not achieve with fifty years of peace and order? Her soil is so fertile, her inhabitants so industrious and thrifty, and her capacities so exceptional in art and science, in manufactures and engineering, and in the nameless quality "*chic*" which pervades all and for which her language alone has furnished a name, that had she only peace and rest she would certainly soon become one of the most prosperous and powerful of European lands. In the political order of things, however, she resembles those countries that have earthquakes as a regular institution. A traveler was once asked what kind of a country Venezuela was for agriculture and commerce, and he replied: "It would be excellent if it would only keep still." So it is with our interesting and captivating neighbor; restlessness seems to be her curse; her national life seems to be a fever, with intermittent intervals of dubious calm. Yet France remains France, and still wins from the outside world the