

the press, free exercise of opinion and religious equality, yet it is known by students of Russian politics that it still clings to its root idea. Bakemen says: "God is a lie, and all injustice is hinged on that falsehood! We must abolish everything, and leave the formation of the new order to the natural generation of things." This shows that in the new interpretation there would be little freedom of opinion for God-believers.

That the movement has taken deep hold in Russia there is no gainsaying. Men, women, children, young and old, college students and professors, all alike have joined in the movement. The country is honeycombed with organizations, secret and political. Only a few years ago a young woman waved a handkerchief and the ruler of 100,000,000, Alexander II., fell a victim to nihilistic wrath. Alexander III., his successor, is now living in constant fear of death.

The political condition of Russia is deplorable, and its autocratic ruler may be brutal and tyrannical, but the Russian masses show no sympathy for Jews, and these same Russian people strain their already draconic laws to persecute unfortunate Hebrews according to law. Such a people are not fit to be freemen. It will be well to study the Russian question before venturing an endorsement of Stepniak.

### THE SIOUX SLAUGHTER.

THE conservative press of the country seems to view the conduct of the conflict with the Indians much in the same light as it appears to us. The following is taken from the Philadelphia *American* and expresses the sentiment entertained by many other respectable journals.

"We have now had two so-called 'battles' with the unfortunate Sioux, causing serious losses of life among the United States troops, both men and officers, and entailing, of course, the consequences of wholesale slaughter upon the Indians who were engaged. We say the unfortunate Sioux, because however much justification it may ultimately appear the troops and their commanders had for using the last argument of arms, it is perfectly certain that the Indians are comparatively innocent sufferers. They have neither the advantage of their own mode of life nor of civilized ways. They have found themselves encroached upon and disturbed. Their great reservations they were forced into settling and breaking up—a process which, however necessary from the white man's point of view, was to most of them unwelcome and painful. Finally, having indulged the superstitious hopes awakened by the 'Messiah' craze, they find themselves called on to surrender their guns and their ponies—the extreme form of Indian humiliation—or suffer the penalty of death. It is a gross scandal to the American Republic that this condition of bloodshed should arise, for the Sioux are a people amenable to influ-

ences that would have avoided it. They have the qualities out of which a vigorous civilization may arise. They are hardy, energetic and brave. They have a large intelligence. They are capable of learning. They are easily made industrious. They can be led into Christian ways. Nobody doubts who has had friendly intercourse with them that they are entitled to better treatment than massacre. Nor is it, unfortunately, only the 'bad Indians,' the 'hostiles,' the bands led by Sitting Bull and his lieutenants, who have suffered. As usual, the peaceable bands, including many who were endeavoring to farm, to build, to raise stock, to acquire implements, and to live in the civilized way, have been disturbed and robbed. Many of them, in terror at the approach of the troops, not knowing whether they would be protected or not, abandoned their property, and in the confusion it has been lost, or destroyed or stolen. It is very true, as has been suggested by the Indian Rights Association, in a circular just issued, that the expenditure of trouble in the present Dakota trouble will far exceed the sum which would have served, if used in time, to educate the Sioux to the point where they could not have been influenced by the barbarous and superstitious elements among them. A proper education would have made the "ghost dances" abortive and have restricted the influence of Sitting Bull and other makers of mischief so far that it would have done no serious damage. This, indeed, was largely the revolt of the heathen Indians against the progress and influence of the Christianized and civilized ones, and if there had been a timely educational effort made, the weight of the former would have been trifling in comparison with the latter. It is too soon to judge how necessary it was to let the troops loose; it is not too soon to pity the unfortunate Sioux. Whenever the earthen crock swims with iron ones it is sure to suffer."

### THE COLORADO IMBROGLO.

LATE dispatches from Colorado give a gloomy picture of the situation in the State Legislature. The dispatch says: "Every man was loaded and a false movement, a word or a signal, aye, even the quiver of the lip will cause an explosion of the pent-up feeling and a bloody revolt."

The Capitol is in the hands of heelers, roustabouts, gamblers, hobos, bullies and such kind of hip-pocket, collar-and-elbow statesmen. Shooting is expected to commence at any moment.

This condition of affairs is disgraceful, and augurs badly for the civilization of Colorado. It is such scenes as these that give occasion for the supporters of monarchy in the Old World to curl their lips with scorn at republican institutions. The people should see to it that men are elected to represent them who will have some respect for order and some sense of legislative dignity.

### A BOGUS "JUSTICE."

UNDER the decisions of the Third District Court, one of which is appealed from the Supreme Court of the Territory, and under a decision of the latter

court which settles the general principle involved, six of the present alleged City Councillors are occupying places to which they were not elected. The people of each municipal ward or precinct are entitled by law to elect the municipal officers for that ward or precinct. These incumbents claim their places under the vote of the entire city and the provisions of a law that was obsolete when they were elected. That is a specimen of "Liberal" law and "Liberal" politics. Also an exhibition of the respect which "Liberals" pay for the rulings of courts.

Of course there is nothing new in all this. But there is something connected with it that seems to have escaped general notice. The same law which provides that Councilmen shall be elected by the voters in each ward in cities of the first class, also provides that each ward shall elect its own Justice of the Peace. As two wards have been so far cheated out of their legal representation in the City Council, so they have been hitherto swindled out of their legally elected Justices of the Peace.

There is something more. The Justice selected to sit as Police Magistrate, and who seems to have done very well in many respects, is now absent. His place is filled by a person who has no lawful right to act in it. Mr. Kesler comes from the Third Precinct to act in the Fifth. He was not elected by the voters of that precinct. Therefore he has no legal right to the office of Justice in any precinct.

We do not say his official acts are void. He appears as the *de facto* officer. But it was bad taste, to say the least, to push forward into this important position a person who, while possessing no special qualifications for that office, has no legal right to it if the judicial decisions mentioned above are of any value. But this is another indication of "Liberal" respect for public decency and the rulings of the judiciary.

### UNDER FALSE PRETENCES.

IT is customary for bookmakers, newspaper correspondents, preachers and lecturers who can manage to make the tour of the continent, to call on their way at this city, spend from twenty-four hours to a week or so in resting, looking around and asking questions, and then embodying in their publications, as information gained on the spot, the stuff with which they are crammed by persons who take delight in victimizing travelers.

Communications of this kind to the press are so common, that it would be