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WE SHOULD PROTEST.

Further details are at hand concerning the cruelties to political convicts in Siberia. They come from Stepanik, and are, and are therefore to be received with some allowance because of the known bitterness of the author of "Underground Russia" towards the Czar's Government. There are enough evidences of truth in the story as published in yesterday's Record-Union, however, to make the recital thrillingly horrible. The flogging to death of the delicate woman, Madame Sigida, may or may not be true; that she was lashed into insensibility, and that she soon after died, either by her own hand or as a result of the punishment, seems to be established.

It must be born in mind that all new avenues leading out of Siberia are in the hands of the Russian officials, save only the cipher and secret communications that the convicts manage to forward. In the main these have been found to be correct. For the Siberian exile long since learned that it is essential that he should be accurate in any statements he makes, misrepresentation and exaggeration leading only to a withdrawal of sympathy and seriously crippling all efforts to ameliorate the conditions of exile, besides bringing upon the unhappy prisoners in case of discovery or interception of the message, new and more severe punishments. It is certain, too, that Stepanik, has means of communicating with the exiles which the Russian Government cannot cut off, and that all the Russian revolutionists he receives most dispatches from the prisons and convict mines. It can make no difference whatever in the estimate of the judgment of the civilized world what Madame Sigida's offense may have been. There is no infraction of prison rules that can be conceived of, according to Mr. Kennan, that will justify the flogging of a delicate and refined woman, or of any woman. That three of the companions of the lady should have followed her by suicide, is in itself a strong indictment of the government of the prisons. It is well known that the husband of Madame Karafesky, though admitted to be entirely innocent of any political or other offense, and not in any degree tainted by his wife's political plotting, was sent to a penal settlement on the Pacific side, where he now is. His wife was one of the group that committed suicide to escape the same punishment under which Madame Sigida is said to have died.

There is nothing really new in this flogging of political exiles, and nothing new in the suicide of the wretched sufferers; such things have been going on for years and the civilized world has all along been aware of it. Yet nations whose people are horror-stricken at these brutalities, and who shudder at the bare recital of the monstrous cruelties practiced upon Russia's political prisoners, have continued to smile upon Russia and hold relations with her of the most cordial character. It is not recorded that any one of the Christian nations has had the courage to rebuke the Czar's Government or demand in the name of civilization that it cease to punish her political prisoners with such brutality. It was by no means uncommon when slavery existed in the United States for other peoples to rise up in their wrath and indignation and protest to us that the holding of human beings in bondage was an offense to the civilized world. In England, France and even Germany associations were formed for the express purpose of operating upon public sentiment in this country with a view to bringing about the abolition of slavery. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was translated into nearly all tongues, and everywhere was received as an evidence of our shame. There were not infrequent propositions to foreign Governments by their people to intervene in behalf of the slaves and solicit our Government to consider means for their manumission. There never was any slavery in America that was at all comparable in conditions of hardship and cruelty to the horrible fate of the political exiles of Russia; in our system of human bondage there never was anything calculated to stir the sympathies and rouse the indignation of men as in the condition and treatment of the Siberian exiles. If slavery in the United States justified or excused the protests of the European people what should be their frame of mind in the face of such recitals as these now given to the public to the shame of Russia? Is there not in her treatment of political prisoners, her torture of witnesses, her barbarous punishment of women, her bitter injustice in punishing entire households for the offenses of one member, cause sufficient for protests, accompanied by such intimations of intention to rebuke and recognition to a Government that countenances such outrages, as will tend to secure reform?

Abstractly we have no right to meddle in the affairs of other people; under the code of international ethics it is no concern of the United States what manner of cruelties Russia inflicts upon her own; but there is a code of humanity superior to written law, and accepted rules of international comity that justifies a civilized people in protesting loudly and vigorously against inhumanity wherever and by whomsoever practiced. In the United States we have permitted, nay, approved the formation of associations in behalf of the Irish tenantry; we have without sufficient warrant connived by silence at the raising of money and the collection of arms in their behalf, as against a nation with which we are at peace and that is of our own blood. We received the rebel Kossuth with open arms, and from one

DURING THE BLOCKADE.

end of the nation to the other espoused his cause and loudly denounced the Government that put him under the ban of exile; we still join hands with England and France to suppress the African slave trade, and protest at the mouth of shotted guns for any nation that fosters the infamous traffic. We claim the human right to search upon the African coast, or even upon the high seas, any ship suspected of carrying slaves, no matter what colors she flies. Shall not civilization and common humanity find in the sufferings of the Siberian political convicts even stronger reasons for protesting to the Czar? Is there not in the method of that potentate towards political offenders greater reason for the people of other nations actively manifesting sympathy for the sufferers than was ever found in the condition of the American slaves, the revolting Magyar, or the desire of the Irish peasantry to overthrow landlordism? We echo Mr. Kennan's exclamation, when informed of the latest atrocity in Siberia: "Well may we ask ourselves, standing here in Liberty's chosen land, how civilized nations suffer such things to be?"

THE RIVER DELEGATION.

The Executive Committee of the River Convention has resolved to send a delegation to Washington to consult with the Federal authorities and our delegation in Congress relative to the improvement of the Sacramento and other rivers. Without now considering the wisdom or necessity of this action, let us hope that it will result in something being done in line with the duty of the Federal Government towards those navigable rivers that have suffered serious injury, through its neglect in great part. That the Sacramento should have thorough and systematic treatment is conceded on all sides. As to the methods to be employed, and the amount of money that is necessary to accomplish desired results, those are details we can well commit to the river commission which it is hoped Congress will erect. Just what should be done for the reclamation of the river from its present condition cannot be definitely decided until a thorough examination and re-survey. Generally, it is known that its channel should be deepened, its waters given full scouring capacity, and its navigability generally promoted. Whatever is done must, of necessity, involve heavy outlay, for it would be the merest waste to enter upon any patchwork. What, in general, the stream will be found to need will be thorough treatment during a term of years, according to a well-devised plan for deepening channels, increasing the momentum of the waters and preserving the banks from decay. These may involve the questions of an escape-way for surplus flood waters, the enlargement of exits in the delta of the river, the construction of a system of levees, and possibly the cutting out of certain great bends in the river. But, as said already, these are matters of detail that must be left to the commission it is expected will be appointed. If Congress can be so committed to that policy, we think that the people need have no fear that the proper work will not be done. The Federal Government, by certain acts directed to the law officers of the Government two years ago, confessed its duty towards the river as a free highway, the heritage of all the people, and what is now necessary is to see that the matter of conserving the navigability of the stream is not, by its proper guardian, so long postponed that the cost of river reclamation will be appalling.

It is altogether unlikely that the people of Brazil will recall Don Pedro to the first President. He expresses himself as willing to accept the office if the people unhesitatingly demand it. If he should be elected, he would prove faithful to the trust; of that we can rest assured, for the ex-Emperor is the soul of honor. But he will not be committed to that policy, we think that the people need have no fear that the proper work will not be done. The Federal Government, by certain acts directed to the law officers of the Government two years ago, confessed its duty towards the river as a free highway, the heritage of all the people, and what is now necessary is to see that the matter of conserving the navigability of the stream is not, by its proper guardian, so long postponed that the cost of river reclamation will be appalling.

CRUEL JOKE.

An Imposition Played Upon a Lot of Pretty Typewriters. New York, February 16th.—Some one whose name is not to be given, has advertised in several papers that M. B. Mendham, of No. 60 Broadway, wanted to hire a stenographer and typewriter, and when Mendham saw his own name in the advertisement, he was so much interested that he had not written the advertisement and that nothing was further from his thoughts than hiring a typewriter.

The Emperor Commended.

Berlin, February 16th.—Cardinal Manning has written a letter to the Deutsche Reich with reference to the reports of the Emperor. The Cardinal says: "I think this imperial act the wisest and worthiest that has proceeded from any sovereign of our time. The condition of the wage-earners in every European country is a grave danger to every European state. On the one hand, the Queen's speech praying for the political order of human society will be of no avail if the Emperor's recognition to a Government that countenances such outrages, as will tend to secure reform?"

Want Their Expenses.

London, February 16th.—The News-Lion correspondent says: "Many symptoms show that the Hepatic crisis is in its daily and hourly throes, and that the country may come at almost any moment."

A Mexican Monaco or Monte Carlo.

to be started under railroad auspices, to draw there which now goes to Europe.

LIBERAL CHRISTIANITY.

The sessions, stated very truthfully upon strictly economical grounds, Unitarianism, as compared with many other confessions of belief, was making no noteworthy progress. The writer then, with a clear comprehension for the reason of this, went on to say that Unitarianism represented more especially a mental, or a spiritual, or a moral, or a moral progress, and so any proper appreciation of its usefulness must come from an estimate of what liberal Christianity is really doing in the higher walks of human accomplishment. It has already said that Unitarianism has long since abandoned anything like an attempt to buttress its structure by what may be classed under the general heads of intellectual, moral, or moral progress, and so any proper appreciation of its usefulness must come from an estimate of what liberal Christianity is really doing in the higher walks of human accomplishment.

REV. C. P. MASSEY ARGUES FROM THE UNITARIAN STANDPOINT.

And Marshals Some Authorities in Support of His Denominational Position. At yesterday's services of the Unitarian Society, Rev. C. P. Massey took for his text 2 Timothy iii, 16: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." He said: "What I have to say to you this morning is intended to enforce some general considerations which have now come to be entertained in the world of intelligent thought. The time when liberal Christianity undertook to do distinctively denominational work, the time when it relied upon exposition, comment and controversy for its support, is now happily far distant in the past. In the incipency of the movement, and when the thought of the world was almost universally controlled by considerations of literal interpretation, of limited inspiration, and of local and exceptional miracles, it was hardly to be expected that liberal Christianity even could have emancipated itself from the prevailing consensus of opinion, and should not have sought by appeals to the letter of the word, to have discriminated its confessional and doctrinal positions, and should not have done this with the commendable desire of rearing a structure of faith that would find objective evidence in a material creation. But with the lapse of years the supposed integrity of many things upon which faith was based, and which were held to be necessary to the maintenance of a material creation, came to be seriously questioned, and it was early seen that except as it confirmed some belief made reasonable by a study of things in larger relations, no appeal to the letter of the word could be valuable for carrying conviction to the candid and thoughtful mind. 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