

RUSSIAN LIBERALITY

It has often seemed strange to us that the people of the United States should regard Russia with such admiration and sympathy. There is nothing in her history, or in the spirit and policy of her government, to inspire such feelings. Her people are ignorant and semi-barbarous. The nobles are luxurious, immoral, cruel and arbitrary in their treatment of their dependents. The Czar is a despot, nor can all his patronage of literature and art conceal the arbitrariness and tyranny which have always characterised, and which characterise to-day the severity and cruelty of his government. Frederick II. of Prussia was a patron of literature and of art, but no less a tyrant for all that. And in Russia, whatever efforts are made to advance education, are made, not in the interests of the people, but in those of the Government. The schools and other educational institutions are managed and sustained simply as engines for increasing the strength of the Government. Religion is employed in the same manner. The Russian-Greek "Church" is simply a State organisation, entirely under State control; and for a member of that "Church" to openly abandon and become a Catholic, is regarded by the State as an act of rebellion and treason, as much so as open resistance of any State enactment. Russians may be Rationalists, Atheists, Infidels of any school or class whatever, may live in the most open immorality, and yet, as long as they nominally adhere to the State "Church," are regarded as loyal, Christian subjects; but if they separate from that "Church," and practice, or profess Catholicity, they are treated as rebels and traitors.

The public is familiar with the accounts of almost inconceivably cruel barbarities practiced by the officials of the Russian Government in the past, and up to time quite recent; but it seems to be supposed that, of late years, and under the "enlightened" administrations of the previous and of the present Czar, all this has been done away with. It is not so, however. And if evidence that it is not were wanting, it would be found in the manner in which thousands of Catholics in Poland have been beaten, scourged, and banished, or starved by Russian soldiery, with a view to compelling them to abjure the Catholic religion and practice that of the "Greek Church."

Great account has been made of the emancipation of the serfs by the Government of Russia; but those who are acquainted with the real nature of that step and the present condition of things, know that it was a blow aimed at the nobles with a view to diminishing their importance and power, which the Czar regarded as dangerous to himself, and that the real interests of the serfs was the last thing cared for. The serfs, in fact, have only changed masters. From dependents of the nobles, they have become slaves of the municipalities or communities into which they are aggregated, and they are no more freemen to-day than they were before the decree of emancipation was made.—"Catholic Standard."

WHO DOES OUR THINKING?

It frequently happens that if one individual expresses, boldly and with much assurance, his views upon a subject, that hundreds who in reality never before gave the subject—whatever it be—a moment's thought, profess to be of the same way of thinking. Due deference to the views of those who have carefully investigated a subject, is ever commendable, and whether we bring our minds to think as they do or not, it is well dispassionately to weigh their thoughts and reasons; for no person with brains can have any patience either with ignorance or narrow mindedness which arrogates to itself the ability to judge. But in these days of high-pressure idiosyncrasies, sham, fussiness, and pretence, it is necessary to "have a mind of your own," and not to rely implicitly upon others for opinions—to have a reasonable opinion of your own, and not to be obliged to let some one else do your thinking.

It is sometimes refreshing to see a person tearing right and left at some theory or style of art that does not please his peculiar fancy or long fostered notions. It is pleasant, we say, if the demolisher has strength, wit and ingenuity. But every one who undertakes to tear down should bear in mind the fact, that vituperation is not argument, and that it is much easier to tear to pieces than to build up, poisonous miasma may wither the sweetest flower, and a ruthless hand tear up the plant which has been carefully fostered.

There is nothing, probably, so hard to argue down as opinions with regard to works of art. A person beholds a painting and admires it; to him it is very beautiful, and if he has dabbled a little among the brushes and daubed the canvas himself, he thinks he can tell why the picture has peculiar excellencies. In vain another individual tells him it is a rough specimen; that the artist was an amalgam of oddity, impudence and conceit. He may rightly inform the connoisseur that he is not criticising the artist, but the work, and he is bringing his own optics to bear upon that work. Another person, possessing some musical culture, may admire the composition of some composer, or the style of playing of some virtuoso, and it would be extremely difficult to convince such a person that the compositions were not melodious, or that the performances were not brilliant.—"Church's Musical Visitor."

MANY of our readers will be interested in learning that Mr. J. Grogan—a gentleman well-known and much respected in Dunedin—has commenced business as a provision merchant in the premises lately occupied by Mr. Stohr, butcher, in MacLaggan-street. Mr. Grogan hopes, by strict attention to the desires of his customers, by moderate charges, and promptness in executing orders, to deserve a reasonable share of public patronage; and we have no doubt that his numerous friends in this city will join with us in wishing him success in his new undertaking.

Mr. SAMSON's long-established tailoring establishment continues to maintain its high reputation for the fashionable style and excellent quality of the clothing turned out by it. Severable valuable additions have lately been made to its stock.

MR. CORNELIUS M'CARTHY, a gentleman furnished with high-class testimonials from persons of consideration, as well as from the Educational Board of Victoria, has opened a commercial and classical school in Milton Hall, Stuart street, Dunedin. Mr. M'Carty was for some years engaged in the scholastic profession in Victoria, where he presided with remarkable success over a State school in an important town, and where he gained for himself the reputation of being a thoroughly efficient teacher. His pupils in Dunedin will have the double advantage of the discipline and system enforced in public schools, and the care given to those who attend private classes, and will experience the benefit of being instructed by a master accustomed to prepare advanced students for public examinations, in addition to his acknowledged skill in the ordinary work of a well-conducted school.

HISTORICAL! Vide "Jurors Reports and Awards, New Zealand Exhibition." Jurors: J. A. Ewen, J. Butterworth, T. O. Skinner. "So far as the Colony is concerned, the dyeing of materials is almost entirely confined to the re-dyeing of Articles of Dress and Upholstery, a most useful art, for there are many kinds of material that lose their colour before the texture is half worn. G. HIRSON, of Dunedin (DUNEDIN DYE WORKS, George street, opposite Royal George Hotel) exhibits a case of specimens of Dyed Wools, Silks, and Feathers, and dyed Sheepskins. The colors on the whole are very fair, and reflect considerable credit on the Exhibitor, to whom the Jurors recommended an Honorary Certificate should be awarded." Honorary Certificate, 629: Gustav Hirsch Dunedin, for specimens of Dyeing in Silk Feathers, &c.

"DUKE OF EDINBURGH."—The old wooden structure that did duty as the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, in Russell-street for so many years, has, we are pleased to observe, given place to a new brick building, erected at considerable cost, in order to meet the rapidly increasing requirements of this popular and important part of the city. The present proprietor, Mr D. HARRIS, has spared no reasonable expense in furnishing and fitting the building with every modern comfort and convenience. The situation is extremely healthy, and commands splendid views of the ocean and harbour, and is within easy reach of the business part of the city. Persons in pursuit of a respectable and comfortable residence will do well to go to the "Duke of Edinburgh" Hotel, Russell-street, Dunedin.—[Advt.]

PLOWING.

A PPLICATIONS are invited to 20th NOVEMBER, for Ploughing about 3000 Acres of River-Flat Land (in lots to suit applicants), on the Wantwood Estate.

Horse feed, farrier work, and stores supplied on the ground.

Further information on the station.

P. K. M'CAUGHAN.

TO LET.

18,000 ACRES River Flat Land on the Wantwood Estate, for a term of years, in lots of not less than 300 acres.

Wantwood is on the Mataura River, and is within 10 miles of the Main Trunk Railway at Gore on the one side, and an equal distance from the Invercargill and Kingston Railway on the other, and to each Station there is a good road.

The Land is of exceptionally superior quality; cleared, well drained, and especially suited for growing wheat and root crops.

There are extensive deposits of coal on the property, to which Lessees will have free access.

The Lessor will let the above either in its natural state, or ploughed, fenced, and seed supplied—at the option of applicants.

A fixed rent will be received, or a percentage of the yield per acre of grain.

All further information on the station.

P. K. M'CAUGHAN

NOTICE TO ARCHITECTS.

Competitive Designs will be received on 6th NOVEMBER, for a Three-storey Brick and Plaster Hotel and Shops on the site of the present Glasgow Arms Hotel, Dunedin.

One Hundred Pounds will be paid for the plans, detail drawings, and specifications approved of.

Plan of the ground will be seen at the above Hotel.

MICHAEL MURPHY.

TO BE LET with immediate possession, a **SHOP** with **THREE ROOMS, YARD, &c.**, doing a good business in the Main-street and Centre of Timaru for five or seven years, to be let cheap per week.—Address, F.F.D., Post Office, Timaru.

M R. P. T. F. I. N. N.,
(Late of Victoria),
SOLICITOR,
COMMERCIAL CHAMBERS,
DUNEDIN.