

of excommunication against their disturbers, such as is found in the Canon Law, is, I believe, not met with in any monument of Protestantism. In this profoundly and practically important question, it is Rome, not Protestantism, which emphatically guarantees religious liberty. Therefore to say that the Papacy had never guaranteed religious liberty, is a gross contradiction of Catholic doctrine and history.

General Kuropatkin.

General Kuropatkin, the commander of the entire Russian land forces in the Far East, is undoubtedly one of the cleverest men in the entire European world of arms, as he is one of the most interesting personally. He is often described as 'the Russian Kitchener,' and his methods are very much akin to those of the famous British general. For example, he is most insistent upon the young officers of his army taking their profession seriously, and thoroughly detests the military dude. A short time ago, before the war broke out, he paid a visit to an Eastern Siberian depot, where one night a ball was given and a great effort was made to impress him with a cordial welcome. He left in disgust, but before doing so he made some very strong remarks upon the extravagance of the officers which he had seen displayed, and declared besides that the ladies had no business to dress so expensively as they did, since it was palpable that their husbands could not afford it. The inevitable result, he said, was that the officers would get into debt and that their work would then suffer. General Kuropatkin is a man of about fifty-five years of age, very short of stature, dark, very quiet of demeanor, and extremely reticent, especially about his own achievements.

He Received His Early Military Education

In France, where his abilities were greatly appreciated, and he had much to do with some extensive reforms which were carried out in connection with the French cavalry, being decorated for his services in this respect. Once he was attached to a French expeditionary column in Algeria and took part in a great desert march. He has said that it was in this way he learned tactics which afterwards proved invaluable when the Russians were fighting the Turks. Such was his passion for the study of detail that, though a soldier in the French army, he was whilst thus in France on no fewer than four occasions arrested by gendarmes in mistake as a spy. Another time he was on suspicion turned out of the inn in which he had ordered his dinner and a bed. On that occasion he took his dinner with him and ate it publicly in the open square facing the town hall, and afterwards slept in the open air under a hedge. Later on, in the great Russian operations against the Turks, he was Chief of the Staff to the famous General Skobelev, and after the battle of Plevna was left on the field for dead. He has received many wounds, and to this day carries bullets about with him which the surgeons were unable to extract. After this war he became Governor of the Transcaspian provinces, and his success was such that he was called to St. Petersburg to take up the onerous duties of Minister of War. He is a man of

The Most Prompt Decision

and immediate action. Late one night, when he had been in his bed at St. Petersburg for some hours, a messenger came to him with an anonymous letter, which stated that within twenty-four hours, according to arrangements which had been carefully made, the arsenals at St. Petersburg and Toulon were to be blown up.

Kuropatkin believed the letter, though he did not know his correspondent. 'So he at once got up, dressed himself, and paid a surprise visit to the arsenal in the middle of the night. On his arrival there he ordered

out for inspection the entire guard and every employee down to the humblest menial. When he had eyed them over, saying nothing about what he had heard, he made a short speech in which he expressed his entire satisfaction, and added that as a mark of approval he would given them every one a month's leave of absence to date from that very minute, not a single man being allowed to return to his quarters. Within an hour they had all left the place and a new guard was installed, with instructions that, if any member of the old staff were to put in an appearance later upon any excuse, he was instantly to be placed under arrest. Nothing happened to the St. Petersburg arsenal, but the next day that at Toulon Was Blown Up!

General Kuropatkin is very pronounced in his hatred of the Firms, a circumstance which is said to be due as much as anything to the fact that in many ways they have subjected him to petty annoyances. He has a country house in Finland, and on one occasion when travelling there he was extremely annoyed on reaching the Finnish frontier to find his special private carriage invaded by all kinds of persons with whom he had no acquaintance.

He made a protest to the stationmaster, who somewhat brusquely retorted that as there was no room elsewhere in the train for these travellers they were entitled by the regulations to sit even in the general's private carriage. So they remained there. On another occasion he was staying at this country house when he received a telegram from St. Petersburg summoning him to an urgent meeting of the Council of State. He applied for a special train to take him there, but the railway authorities refused it, a refusal Kuropatkin said he would not soon forget.

He has also an intense hatred of the yellow races, both Japanese and Chinese; but a few years ago he spent some time in Tokio, and got on very well there with his future enemies. He is a keen angler—his only recreation—and he applied to the authorities for permission to fish in the ponds in the grounds of the Shiba Palace, in the Japanese capital. This was granted, and the general caught several fish, which, it is curious to remember now, he sent as a present to the Japanese Minister for War.

General Kuropatkin is a great favorite with the Czar, and all Russia believes in him.

A Little Sister of the Poor once called upon a lady of wealth and asked for aid for her dear people. She was received coldly, and had to listen to a petulant recital of all the claims on the income of the wealthy, which had to be satisfied before the claims of the poor. When the case seemed hopeless, the Sister remembered having a note of introduction which she bore, and at once presented it. The letter told that the bearer was the daughter of Count X. The situation was changed at once. A liberal donation, cheerfully given, was the result. 'Now, my dear madame,' said the Sister, 'you must not lose your reward. This gift is for the Count X's daughter; what are you going to give for our dear Lord's sake?' Another equally generous donation was forthcoming, and a very practical lesson in purity of intention was taught.

The residue of the late Sir William Macleay's estate (£17,371 7s 4d) has just been divided by the executors (Messrs. J. J. Fletcher and H. M. Makinson) amongst the various charities irrespective of creed. Catholic charities have benefited in the following proportions:—St. Vincent's Hospital, £2000; St. Joseph's Hospital and Sanitorium, Auburn, £500; Little Sisters of the Poor, Randwick, £200; Lewisham Hospital, £1000; Ryde Orphanage, £205; Mount St. Margaret's Asylum, £55; Westmead Home, £50; St. Vincent de Paul Society, Hunter's Hill, £25; Waitara Hospital, £50; Orphanage, Kincaid, £25; St. Mary's Poor Box, £18 3s 8d.

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