

MISCELLANEOUS.

FINLAND.

Finland is, properly speaking, not a part of the Russian Empire for it is connected with Russia by a personal union only, which means that the Emperor of Russia is the Grand Duke of Finland, and by a special concession which, however, is persistently ignored, the Viceroy of Finland, appointed by the Crown to represent the Emperor, should always be a Finlander, and not a Russian. The inhabitants are a conservative, law-abiding people, but owing to the tyranny of the Russian government there has always been much restlessness in the country and it is natural that at the present time the world takes a greater interest than usual in its destiny.

Prof. N. C. Frederiksen, formerly professor of political economy and finance in the University of Copenhagen, is perhaps the best authority on Finland, its history and present conditions, and we extract here from a book which he has published on the subject, those passages of the first chapter which refer to the population of the country. In another place of the present number we will give a brief synopsis of the book with special reference to the present condition of the Finnish people.

The civilisation of Finland has been mainly under the influence of Scandinavians at the time when they played a prominent part in the history of the world.

"In the latter part of the ninth century, when the other Teutonic races were becoming to some extent less hardy under the influence of the Christian religion and of a more or less centralised Roman government, the Scandinavians conquered and occupied more than half of England, the islands and part of the coast of Scotland, and the harbors and adjacent country in Ireland. They founded a remarkable colony in Iceland, whence, later, Greenland and certain coasts of America ("Vinland the good," as it is called in Icelandic books) were discovered. From Sweden, Scandinavian warriors founded and ruled the states which later developed into the Russian Empire, whence their fleets went down to Constantinople and the Caspian Sea; while at the same time other fleets were descending on the Spanish peninsula, Morocco, and other Mediterranean countries. Indeed the Scandinavian race, always strong in its freedom, became almost irresistible when it had learned the arts of modern warfare from the nations with whom it came into contact. Their most remarkable contribution to mediæval civilisation was Normandy, the colony which they finally formed, after much devastation, and some other more short-lived settlements, on the coast of France. The Franco-Norman

descendants of these colonists not only conquered England, crossed over to Ireland, and organised Scotland, but also, after founding highly-civilised kingdoms in Southern Italy and Sicily, and thence making further conquests in the Balkan peninsula, in Africa, and even in Asia Minor, were the leaders in the greatest and most wonderful movement of mediæval times, the Crusades.

"About a hundred years before the first Scandinavians spread westwards, the Finns had moved into what is now known as Finland. They came from the heart of Russia, where they had been settled north of the central Volga. There were two tribes, differing in physical appearance and mental qualities; one, the slightly darker and more vivacious Carelians of Eastern Finland and of the adjoining parts of Russia as far north as the Gulf of Bothnia; the other the lighter-haired and square-set Tavasts of the West. Living in the south-west corner of Finland were the Finns proper (*egentliga Finnar*), who were closely connected with the Tavasts. More or less related to these tribes were some other Ural-Altaiic tribes, who remained in the interior of Russia, and also some tribes who advanced simultaneously with these others towards the Baltic—the Coures and the Lives (who were related to the Carelians), and the Esthonians (who were related to the Tavasts and the Finns proper). It has been suggested that the Kajans (*Kainulaiset* in Finnish, *Kvoens* in Norwegian; they are described by Othere, the Norwegian skipper sent northward to explore by Alfred the Great) were another Finnish tribe living in the country, according to the commonly accepted view, before the coming of the Carelians and Tavasts. The name of these Kvæns, which resembles the Swedish *kvinna*, the Danish-Norwegian *kvinde* or *kvind*, and the English 'queen,' has given rise to numerous myths about a northern nation consisting of Amazons, or at least always governed by a woman. We certainly find this tale several hundreds of years earlier in Tacitus. These Kvæns are now generally supposed to be identical with the Biarmians (the modern Permiens), familiar in the old sagas, and either Carelians, or related to the Carelians.

"Long before these migrations took place, it is certain that southern Finland was inhabited. On the coast and on the navigable rivers, and on that part of the Bothnian coast which is now inhabited by Swedes, we find numerous antiquities of the same kind as are found in western Europe, especially in Scandinavian countries. Many belong to the Later Stone Age, a few belong to the Bronze Age, and a large number to the successive Iron Ages. The most eminent antiquarian authorities have now to some extent modified their old theory of successive immigrations, in which an entire people, using stone implements, was replaced by a population using bronze; or they believe at least that for some thousands of years before Christ a Teutonic race inhabited Germany and the greater part of Scandinavia. It is probable that antiquities, found chiefly in south-western Finland and on the chain of islands which connected Finland with Sweden, really belong to an old Scandinavian race. . . . Moreover, while a large number of words of Teutonic origin, found in varying numbers in the different Western-Finnish languages, are to some extent borrowed from the Goths (so that it is obvious that somewhere the Finns have been in close relation with the Goths), yet the greater part have been adopted into the Finnish language from the Scandinavian, before the latter was divided into separate languages.

"While the Tavasts and Carelians did not differ greatly at first, and soon

amalgamated in certain parts of the country, the Lapps, or Lapplanders remained an entirely separate race. Their language resembles Finnish, as it does other Ural-Altaic languages; but they themselves are totally different in physical appearance, mental development, and manner of life. They seem to have got their language from their more civilised neighbors. They are Arctic nomads; while the Finns, even when they first came into the country, had domestic animals and some knowledge of agriculture, as may be seen in their old national epics, the *Kalevala*.

"The Gypsies of Finland are more numerous than the Lapps, but less amenable to control; they came from Sweden in the sixteenth century, and now number nearly two thousand.

"It was the last period of the Crusades which introduced Swedish culture into Finland. In 1006, Olaf Haraldson—St. Olaf, later on a king and popular Saint of Norway—was in southern Finland; and St. Olaf's Saga speaks of old Swedish kings who had power in Finland and Carelia ('Kyrialand'). The 'law-man' Thorgny tells Oluf Stötikonung that the men of Sweden would gladly accompany him to the East, if he would follow the example of his ancestors and go there instead of harrying the Norwegians. Oluf's daughter Ingegjerd is finally married to Jaroslav of Russia, and obtains as a dowry Ingermanland, which is governed in her name by her foster-father, Jarl Ragnvald of Westgötland, the friend of the Norwegians.

"The conversion of the Finns, like all other conversions in those days, was chiefly effected by the sword; but there was one great difference between this conquest and those made by the Crusaders in the East, or in north-eastern Germany, or in the Baltic provinces of Russia. This difference lay in the fact that the Swedes were a nation composed of freemen only; like the Danes in northern England three centuries earlier, they were all free cultivators of the soil, and the freedom of the peasants or agricultural population was from the first the basis of the social system in Finland, as it was in all Scandinavian countries.

"Another peculiarity of the conversion of Finland was due to the differences in language. Not only does the upper class generally speak two languages, Swedish and Finnish, but an entirely distinct Swedish population is settled on the coast of the Gulf of Finland in Southern Nyland, from the Kymmene River westwards, and in Finland proper as far as where the mountain-chain separates the southern coast from the west, and on the groups of islands known as the 'skärgård.' On the other hand the western coast of Finland proper has a population chiefly Finnish; while again on the lower and more fertile coasts of Southern Ostrobothnia, as far north as Gamla-Karleby, there is a large Swedish population. The total number of Swedish inhabitants of Finland amounts nearly to one-seventh of the whole population.

"The preservation of the Swedish tongue among the upper classes (who, however, also speak Finnish) has certain disadvantages; but it has this enormous advantage that the Finnish nation, unlike all other Ural-Altaic people except the Hungarians, has thereby participated in Western culture. Not only did the Finns share in Swedish freedom, but together with the Swedes they adopted the religious reformation of the sixteenth century, receiving the education of the Reformed Church, whose schooling has brought about a better understanding of personal responsibility, individual rights, jus-

tice, and humanity. It cannot be denied that the nations which did not accept this change, but remained part of the Roman Catholic Church, or the Greek Orthodox Church with its dead Byzantine forms, have lagged behind in this respect. The upper classes in Finland, like the relatively cosmopolitan Swedes, were also greatly influenced by the period of free-thought and the zeal for national reform and development which marked the close of the eighteenth century.

"Notwithstanding the frequent frosts, the climate of Finland cannot be called unfavorable to agriculture. This is due to the Gulf Stream, which mitigates the rigor of the climate, though not to the same extent as on the Norwegian coast. Finland is also surrounded by the Gulf of Bothnia, the Gulf of Finland, and the Lake of Ladoga, three great reservoirs which retain the warmth of the summer far on into the autumn. The whole country slopes to the south-west, which leaves it exposed mainly to the warmer winds.

"Finland cannot be compared with America. It is still a poor country and backward in many respects. Also its progress is not quite on American lines. Still it reminds us in many ways of the great country which is progressing more rapidly than any other of modern times. Scandinavian emigrants of the peasant class very seldom return to their country with the intention of remaining there; or if they do, they nearly always change their mind and go back to the United States. With the Finlanders it is different, perhaps partly on account of the difference in their language, which makes it less easy for them to amalgamate with the Americans. In the case of the Scandinavians it must be remembered that half the language of America is nearly the same as their own. We are told, however, that the case is the same with the Swedes from Finland; and the reason for the more frequent return of the latter to their native country may very well be that in Finland there are the same opportunities for improvement, cheap land, etc., as in the United States. Even the poverty of Finland reminds us of what has been said about Western America: 'It is not poverty but incipient wealth.' At all events we find in Finland an admirable capacity for improvement. The question still remains whether this will be hampered by unnecessary difficulties coming from political sources."

BOOK NOTICES.

Mr. Robert Rexdale has published under the title *Rhymes* (Fleming H. Revell Company. Chicago, New York, etc. Price, \$1.00.) a little volume of poetry which shows him to be a thoughtful man with deep poetical sentiments, Lillian Whiting calls him "one of the spontaneous singers," and says, "his work is marked by brilliant and sympathetic power." He inscribes the volume to his child Phyllis, to whom the first poem is dedicated under the title "Where the Green Cicada Sings."

"In your fond eyes, Phyllis dear,
Shines the June light of the year.

Life's today a garden-close,
Where the tree of pleasure grows,