

MISCELLANEOUS.

TOLSTOY ON ICONS.

Count Leo Tolstoy has contributed a long article on the Russo-Japanese war to the *London Times*, in which he censures the government very severely for its policy and condemns especially the Greek Orthodox Church saying:

"All over Russia, from the palace to the remotest village, the pastors of the churches, calling themselves Christians, appeal to that God who has enjoined love to one's enemies, to the God of love himself, to help the work of the Devil, to further the slaughter of men."

He is thoroughly disgusted with the reverence shown to icons, of which he does not even appreciate the artistic side. He says:

"All present to each other hideous icons, in which not only no one among the educated believes, but which even the unlearned peasants are beginning to abandon. All bow down to the ground before these icons, kiss them, and pronounce pompous and deceitful speeches in which no one really believes."

THE LESSON OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Mr. Frank Baum, of Chicago, one of our fellow-citizens, who has written a good many excellent children's books, tells in one of his stories of a giant who intimidated the inhabitants of a castle into obedience by his great stature. Originally he had been a small boy, but he had discovered a flask of a magic drink which made people grow. He had partaken of it and had grown to an immense stature, without, however, having acquired at the same time a giant's strength, but everyone who saw him was afraid, and so he succeeded in subjecting to obedience all the inhabitants of the castle. When the hero of the tale, a little fairy prince, approached him and fought him, he was easily overcome being as weak as a child, and everyone was astonished that he was so easily defeated.

Similar instances frequently happen in real life, and we cannot help thinking that the giant Russia is in a similar perplexity. Russia has grown in stature but she has not at the same time developed genuine strength, and what is the reason?

The truth is that the strength of a nation always depends upon the free development of its resources which is done not at the command of sovereigns but by the private and personal exertion of its citizens. State authorities can

be wise in the management of the government.

They can more or less cleverly utilize the strength and wealth of the country, but they do not create it. The foundation of the strength of the government must be by the people themselves, and no country can be developed without co-operation of two factors, liberty and law; the former gives elbow-room for enterprising individuals, and the latter assures them that they will be protected and reap the fruits of their industry. The more a country possesses both liberty and law in the proper mixture, the more flourishing it will be, and the greater will be its resources for both peaceful competition and the contingencies of war.

The Russo-Japanese war teaches us one lesson, and it is this: Russia has neglected the most important part of its national development. It has neglected to allow its citizens free movement and to give elbow-room to private enterprise. On the other hand its laws, far from having been a protection to its citizens, have crippled the confidence of business men, and so they have failed to encourage industrial enterprises.

The government of Russia has made many promises but has kept few. It has incorporated Finland and the German Baltic provinces on pledges that the union should be a personal union, not a real union, viz., that the Emperor of Russia should be Duke of these duchies, and that these countries should not become parts of the Russian Empire. German immigrants were enticed by the Russian government on condition that they should have religious liberty and the privilege to preserve their mother tongue. How few of these promises have been kept, and we need not wonder that immigration into Russia has ceased entirely and that the Russian authorities are not loved either in Finland or in the Baltic provinces or in Poland.

Instead of developing Manchuria, peacefully taken away from China, Russia closed the door to foreign commerce and trade and thus prevented the development of the country.

The result is that the Russian colonization has not taken deep roots. The Russian government is hated by the Manchurians and is not loved by foreigners who happen to have taken their residence in Manchuria. If it, Russia, has kept the door open, and if it had inspired foreign industries with confidence that they would find protection under the Russian flag, Manchuria would at present be possessed of resources of its own which could be utilized for the operations of war.

As matters are, the Russian army is entirely dependent upon the resources of its mother country in Europe, which at that distance are both difficult and costly to procure.

Will Russia learn the lesson which the study of history teaches and which is preached loudly by the recent events of the Russo-Japanese war? What a blessing it would be for Finland, for the Russo-German provinces, for Poland, and not less for Russia proper!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Mr. Theodore Stanton, of Paris, noticed a strange advertisement in the "agony column" of the *London Times*, and forwarded to *The Open Court* the clipping under the title, "What Does This Mean?" which is here reprinted for the benefit of our readers. Consider that an advertisement of this size in the *London Times*