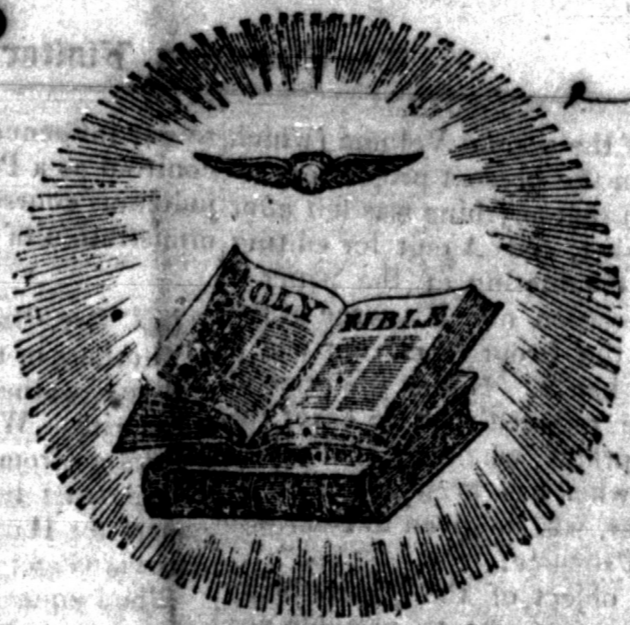


Caroline, Gianna, Charlotte, Johnson. March 5th 1858.

CHRISTIAN



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REV. E. D. VERY,

"BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED."—ST. PAUL.

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EXCERPTS FROM THE BRITISH POETS.

THE SOUL—LIGHT VINE.

BY SIR JOHN DAV.

"The lights of heaven (which the world's fair eyes)
 Look down into the world, see;
 And as they turn or wander in the skies,
 Survey all things that on the centre be.
 And yet the lights that in my eye do shine,
 Mine eyes which view all objects near or far,
 Look not unto this little world of mine,
 Nor see my face wherein they are.
 But as the sharpest eye discerns naught
 Except the sunbeams in the do shine;
 So the best soul with her reflected thought
 Sees not herself without some light divine.
 O! Light which makes the light which makes
 the day!
 Which setteth the eye with and mind
 within,
 Lighten my soul with one heavenly ray
 Which now to view itself, do first begin.

THE GOOD LIFE—LONG LIFE.

BY BEN. JOHNSON.

"It is not growing like a tree
 In bulk doth make a man better
 Or standing long an oak three hundred year.
 To fall a log at last, dry, bold and bare;
 A lily of a day,
 Is fairer far in May.
 Although it fall and die the next;
 It was the plant and flower fit
 In small proportions we just live as sea,
 Measures life like measure life must be."

RUSSIA.

THE SOCIAL SYSTEM.

In Russia there does not exist that marked distinction between the mode of life of the dwellers in town and country which is found in other countries; and the free freedom of trade, which in other nations still an object of exertion has existed in Russia since a long by-gone period. A strong manufacturing and industrial tendency prevails in a large portion of Russia, which, based on the communal system, has led to the formation of what we may term "nationalization factories." And we again we a portion of the St. Simonian theories of social reform actually carried into practice.

Operative industry in Russia not based on the system each place has a number of workmen of different trades according to the amount of copy required by the immediate neighborhood alone; instead of this, the various articles are manufactured in gross, in large quantities and then brot to the markets for sale in detail. Hence markets in Russia are quite a different affair from those in most other countries, the consequence of the former is that national spirit of association has, in course of time, highly developed itself. The tendency of manufacturing industry thus, for those parts, entirely communal, the inhabitants of one village, for example, are all shoemakers, in another smiths, in another tanners, and so on. A natural division thus prevails, as in a factory. members of a commune mutually assigne another workshop or labor; purchases are usually made common, and sales invariably, but they always send their manufactures in a great mass to the towns and market places where they have a common wharf for their deal. Besides this, there exists no such thing as a trade guild or company, or any restraint of a similar nature. Any member of a commune can at pleasure abandon the occupation he may be engaged in, and take up another, that he has to do in selecting the change to quit

the commune in which his old trade is carried on, and repair to another, where his new one is followed. The cultivation of the soil in general is not very remunerative, and also can only be engaged in for a few months in the year, which are perhaps the reasons why the peasant in Russia evinces so great an inclination for manufactures and other branches of industry, the character of which generally depends on the nature of raw produce found in the districts where they are followed. In the village of Wixen, for instance, in the government of Nishmi Novogorod, where the majority of the inhabitants form an association for the preparation of leather, there are also six glue manufacturers, two candle makers, and eight large factories for the manufacture of hair rugs, which, however, are also made in many houses as a sort of secondary occupation. Of all these articles, there are disposed of in the annual fair at Nishmi Novogorod more than 50,000 roubles worth, and in other less important markets 10,000 to 20,000 roubles worth besides.

In the government of Yaroslav the whole inhabitants of one place are potters. Upwards of 2,000 inhabitants in another place are rope-makers and harness-makers. The population of the district of Uglich in 1835 sent three million yards of linen cloth to the markets of Rybeeck and Moscow. The peasants on one estate are all candle-makers, on a second they are all manufacturers of hats, and on a third they are solely occupied in smiths' work, chiefly the making of nails. In the district of Pashechok there are about seventy tanneries, which give occupation to a large number of families; they have no paid workmen, but perform all the operations among themselves, preparing leather to the value of about 25,000 roubles a year, and which is disposed of on their account in Rybeeck. In the districts where the forest trees mostly consist of Imdens, the inhabitants are principally engaged in the manufacture of matting, which, according to its greater or less degree of fineness, is employed either for sacking or sail-cloth, or merely as packing mats. The Imden tree grows only on moist soils, rich in black humus, or vegetable mould; but will not grow at all in sandy soils, which renders it comparatively scarce in some parts of Russia, while in others it grows abundantly. The mats are prepared from the inner bark, and the Imden is ready for stripping at only 15 years of age and indeed is best at that age, these trees form a rich source of profit for those who dwell in the districts where they grow. The Russian has a great disposition for wandering about beyond his native place, but not for travelling abroad. The love of home seems to be merged to a great extent in love of country. A Russian feels himself at home everywhere within Russia, and, in a political sense, the rambling disposition of the people, and the close intercourse between the inhabitants of the various Provinces to which it leads, contributes to knit a closer bond of union between the people and to arouse and maintain a national feeling and a patriotic love of country. Although he may quit his native place, the Russian never wholly severs his connection with his native place; and, as we have before mentioned, being fitted by a natural talent to turn his hand to any species of work he in general never limits himself in his wanderings to any particular occupation, but tries at several, and chooses whatever may seem the most advantageous. When they pursue any definite extensive trade, such as that of a carpenter, mason, or the like, in large towns, they associate together, and form a sort of trades' association, and the cleverest assume the position of a sort of contractor for the labor required. Thus, if a nobleman should want to build a house, or

even a palace, in St. Petersburg, he applies to such a contractor (*prodratshnik*;) lays before him the elevation and plans, and makes a contract with him to do the work required for a specific sum. The contractor then makes an agreement with his comrades respecting the assistance they are to give, and the share they are to receive of the profit, after which he usually sets off to his native place, either alone or with some of his comrades, to obtain the requisite capital to carry on the work with. The inhabitants, who also have their share of the gains, readily make up the necessary sum, and every thing is done in trust and confidence; it is, indeed, very rare to hear of frauds in these matters. The carpenters (*plotniki*) form a peculiar class of the workmen we have described. As most of the houses in Russia, and especially in the country parts, are built of wood, the number and importance of the carpenters, as a class, are very great in comparison with other countries. Almost every peasant, whatever other trade he may follow, is also something of a carpenter, and knows how to shape and put together the timber for a dwelling. The *plotniki* to the villages are never anything more than these general carpenters, and never acquire any regular knowledge of their business. The real Russian *plotniki* seldom carries any other tools with him than an axe and a chisel, and with these he wanders thro' all parts of the empire, seeking, and everywhere finding work.

Many also wander as groom and coach drivers; and everywhere, but especially in Moscow, we find a peculiar class, the drosky drivers, (*iscotshiki*) formed of natives of all parts of the empire, for the Russian is a born coachman. One sees a lad of ten or twelve hanging all day, and sometimes all night, on one of the shafts of a coach; and there he eats and drinks, and makes one with his horse, and in 18 or 20 degrees of cold he will sleep soundly on the back of his four footed companion, apparently unheeding the inclemency of the weather. With his 17th or 18th year he advances to the dignity of a coachman on the box, when he manages to scrape as much together by saving and speculating, as enables him to buy a horse and drosky of his own, together with a sledge for the winter, and from that time forward, his only dwelling is the small front seat of his drosky or his sledge. In general two *inovstshiki* club together, and keep three horses for their two vehicles, so that each horse may rest every third day.

A large number of the wandering Russians are serfs, a circumstance which arose in the following manner; Peter the First and his immediate successors introduced various branches of manufacture into Russia, and endeavored to force them into precocious activity. For this purpose they invited foreign manufacturers, gave them capital or made them advances, granted them ground for their establishments, and, moreover, transferred over to them a number of serfs, generally a whole village, to make workmen of, who then stood in the same relation to their masters as the serf on the estate to the landlord; that is, they worked without receiving pay, while the manufacturers are answerable for their maintenance, clothing and housing. Experience, however, soon proved that the Russian is a bad workman so long as he labours wholly for the good of another, while, on the other hand, he is exceedingly skilful and industrious when working on his own account. The consequence was, that the land owners having serfs gave them permission to engage in manufactures, and to seek for work for themselves where they liked, on the mere condition of paying their lord a personal tax (*obrok*.) Each person is rated according to their personal capabilities, talents and capacities, at a certain ca-

pital, and according to what he estimates himself capable of gaining he is taxed at a fixed sum as interest of that capital. Actors and dancers are generally serfs, and they are obliged to pay *obrok* for the exercise of their art as much as the lowest handicraftsmen. Recently the manufactory system of Western Europe has been introduced into Russia, and the natives have been encouraged to establish all sorts of manufactures on these models, and it remains to be seen whether the new system will have the anticipated effect of contributing to the formation of a middle class, which hitherto has been the chief want in Russia, as a political State.—*London Morning Advertiser.*

The Increasing Power of Russia.

From the New York Herald.

The most prominent question of the day is, the American government and people toward Europe. This question is now before us, and it must be decided one way or the other within the ensuing twelve months. We cannot evade it. It is presented to us in so many forms, and in so many ways, and the crisis in Europe is so urgent, that we cannot blink it. It must be met and decided. The question is,—shall we abandon the policy we have heretofore pursued, and take part directly and practically in the contest which is close at hand in the Old World, between despotism and republicanism?

The moment we approach this subject, the power of Russia looms up before us. In the distance we see the serried ranks, the fur caps and bristling bayonets of the Cossack. Shall the American Republic pronounce to the world that it will unite with England and France, and join these powers in solemnly dictating to the Czar that he must abandon the process of absorption which he has pursued so long; that he shall no longer possess a charter to blot nations from the map of the world; that the people of the Old World are entitled to have such forms of government as they please, and that he shall not again interfere in the affairs of Hungary, or any other country? That process has made Russia the greatest power in Europe, in extent of territory and population. Its progress may be ascertained by the following table, which is obtained from a valuable work on Russia, in our possession. It shows the amazing strides which that nation has made since 1462:—

Year	Superfices.	Population
1462	1,000,000	6,000,000
1535	2,000,000	10,000,000
1584	7,500,000	12,000,000
1613	8,000,000	12,000,000
1645	14,000,000	13,000,000
1689	14,500,000	15,000,000
1725	15,000,000	20,000,000
1763	17,500,000	25,000,000
1796	18,000,000	33,000,000
1825	20,000,000	55,000,000
1851	22,000,000	65,000,000

Such has been the increase of Russia up to the present time. Such a progression is without a parallel in the history of the world, if we accept ancient Rome. Situated on the confines of Europe and Asia, the influence of Russia is felt to the shores of the Atlantic and Pacific. Such is the power of the determined enemy of free government in Europe, and of the rights of man everywhere. It is clear, that if its career be not stopped, France and England will, in time, be absorbed, and the whole European continent be overshadowed with the darkness of the middle ages. As it is, the prediction of Napoleon is nearly realized, and Europe is almost Cossack. The Czar is preparing to finish the work commenced.