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Editorial Thoughts

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Abstract: Refers to the dangerous and unstable secret societies that are located throughout Europe and America and relates them to the secret combinations spoken of by Moroni.

The Juvenile Instructor.

GEORGE Q. CANNON, - - - - - EDITOR.

SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 1, 1878.

EDITORIAL THOUGHTS.



THE war which has been raging between Russia and Turkey has been concluded by a treaty. There is a temporary lull in the threatened hostilities between Russia and England. It appears probable that an amicable conclusion may be reached by the Peace Congress now in session at Berlin, and which is composed of representatives of the leading European powers. But notwithstanding these facts, the rulers of nations have no reason to feel at ease. The lovers of peace and good order have no cause to congratulate themselves that permanent peace is likely to ensue. Indeed, there is now cause for increased alarm. Sagacious statesmen are watching with fear the internal disaffection that everywhere exists. They notice, with dread, the secret organizations that are springing up and gaining power. These forebode evil. They bespeak a struggle far more direful in its effects than a war for supremacy between two nations. The latter might be settled by a treaty; but how to cope with the former is a question that is just now puzzling the brains of the wisest men of every country.

These secret societies exist in every civilized nation, though under a variety of names. It matters not whether they be called Communists, Socialists, Social Democrats, Social Reformers, Fenians, Nihilists, Ku-Klux or any other of the various titles by which they are known, their objects are pretty much the same. Of course, the particular oaths by which they are bound are not generally known to the public who are not initiated into their mysteries; but there is reason to fear that they aim to abolish all social barriers and restraints of government. Although, of course, they claim that they are only opposed to the oppression of tyrannical governments, or the grinding power of aristocrats or monopolists, or that they only ask for paid labor for the idle, there is too much reason for the suspicion that they desire license rather than liberty, and that it is spoil they are seeking rather than labor. It is not likely that a republic would suit them any better than a monarchy, or that a kingly government would be any more to their liking than a democracy. It is not even probable that to divide the surplus wealth of the moneyed class among them (which some of them claim is the proper thing) would long satisfy them. They would rob a government of the power that protects the rights of its subjects, without substituting any other protection. They would squander wealth without accumulating more.

It is the growing power of such an element as this that makes men fear that a reign of terror is at their doors, such as that which deluged France in blood. It is this power, so suddenly sprung into existence, which is sending a tremor through the nations of the earth, and causing thrones to totter and the rich to feel that their wealth is no protection to them.

As a result of this power an attempt was recently made upon the life of the Emperor of Germany. It was the fourth attempt that has been made to assassinate him, and the second within a month. Dr. Nobeling is the man who last tried to kill the Emperor, by firing twice with a shotgun, loaded with shot and slugs, into his carriage. He is a man of learning, a Doctor of Philology, and said to be a most excellent writer; but he is a Socialist, and, according to his admission after committing the act, it "fell to his lot" to perform the brutal deed. He acknowledged that it had been planned for six months, and that although he had failed there were others who would yet succeed. He declared after his arrest "We have done away with God, and the people do not want any more kings." In that he doubtless expressed the sentiments of most of his class. They have done away with God, and are now inspired by Satan.

It is said that the principal destruction of property in the cities of France that were besieged by the Prussians in the late war was caused by the Communists within the cities.

A slight indication of what this same element is capable of in the U. S. was afforded last summer, at the time of the strike of railroad employes. Yet their organizations were far less complete then than now. In many of the States these secret forces are thoroughly organized and armed with the most effective weapons. In some instances, too, they boldly assert their right to bear arms and drill. The increase of tramps in the country, persons who make no effort to earn a living but prey upon the public, and their frequent crimes, are also indications of the tendency of this dangerous element.

The Latter-day Saints know from sad experience how little mercy to look for from mobs. They know, too, from the record given in the Book of Mormon, the result of the secret combinations that existed upon this continent in a previous age, and can judge what will be the result in this age. Their existence was foretold in a revelation given to the prophet Joseph Smith as long ago as February 9th, 1831. We also find in the Book of Mormon, in the writings of Moroni, the following, concerning these secret combinations, which, doubtless, refers to our days:

"And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed, for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of his saints, which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto him from the ground for vengeance upon them, and yet he avenge them not; wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you, which are built up to get power and gain, and the work, yea, even the work of destruction come upon you, yea, even the sword of the justice of the eternal God shall fall upon you, to your overthrow and destruction, it ye shall suffer these things to be; wherefore the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you, that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you, or woe be unto it, because of the blood of them who have been slain; for they cry from the dust for vengeance upon it, and also upon those who build it up. For it cometh to pass that whose buildeth it up, seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries; and it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people, for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of all lies; even that same liar who beguiled our first parents; yea, even that same liar who hath caused man to commit murder from the beginning; who hath hardened the hearts of men, that they have murdered the prophets, and stoned them, and cast them out from the beginning."