

Paul Passey, the Tolstoy of the French Republic

PARIS, Sept. 1.—(Special Correspondence of The Sunday Oregonian.)—France, the most emotional and in the past the most devout nation and in religious country in Europe, is on the point of having its ancient church disestablished and divorced from the state by a government whose anti-clerical policy has been sustained by a majority of voters at the polls.

The disagreement between Premier Combes and Cardinal Merry del Val has thrown the whole religious system of France into the melting pot. Almost any development may be expected from the extraordinarily complicated situation. Obscure sects have burst into sudden prominence, and splendid religious conceptions, half stifled by the indifference of quiet times, have, in the general excitement, blazed into view.

One of these conceptions, hitherto little noticed in France, is the Tolstoyan doctrine of simple Christianity. Paul Passey is its mouthpiece, and now with the prophetic ardor of a John the Baptist he is urging his countrymen to give heed while there is time. He wishes France to subscribe to a belief which is so simple all men may understand it, and so broad that all Christians from the strictest Catholics to the narrowest Protestants may find nothing in it which they may dissent.

Foreign observers are apt to describe France as free-thinking and irreligious, yet no people have at bottom stronger religious temperaments. When a Frenchman turns atheist, he makes a religion out of his atheism, and is as dogmatic and intolerant as any priest. He simply represents the national religious temperament in reaction.

Among French free-thinkers are some scientists as eminent as M. Berthelot, side by side with others of her intellectual, of whom the most notorious example is Paul Bourget, the novelist, who after a trial of free thought has reverted to the strictest Catholicism. In one way or another all the thinking men of France are at grips with the problem of religion.

La Cloche d'Alarme

ORGANE DU CHRISTIANISME PRIMITIF. Rédaction: P. PASSEY, 10, rue de Valenciennes. Prix de l'abonnement: 1 an, 10 francs; 6 mois, 5 francs.

ORGAN OF FRENCH TOLSTOISM. The Passey family was Roman Catholic, but in 1872 when the doctrine of Papal infallibility was promulgated they seceded from the Catholic Church, and began attending Protestant places of worship.

Religious Reformer Who Is Spreading the Cause of Primitive Christianity.

of the ordinary as his secular education. He was confirmed by an eminent Unitarian pastor, and since 1878, after a long moral and spiritual crisis, he definitely went over to the evangelical form of faith. Since then he has been occupied with propagandist work as an evangelist.

The name of the paper is La Cloche d'Alarme (The Alarm Bell), but it relies chiefly upon gentle persuasion and calm argument for the enforcement of its ideas. It seeks to stimulate thought on the vital religious questions of the hour. Passey edits it himself and writes many of the articles. Its circulation is large, and is growing rapidly, and, despite its principle of not demanding payment, its "free list" is remarkably small.

The Infancy of the Royal Chinook Salmon

Well-Told Story of Its Peril, the Life to Maturity and the Propagation of the Species

By all the unwritten laws of the fishy kingdom, the birthplace of the royal chinook should be upon the sandy shallows of some river beach, where lulling waters cradle a cradle-song and blue skies are reflected in the tranquil depths.

When the hatchery is in readiness the next step is to capture the salmon. Wooden racks are built across the river to prevent further progress upstream. Then by means of seines the fish are caught and thrown into pens in the river, from which they are taken as they mature.

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ROOSEVELT'S UPS AND DOWNS ON THE RANCH

His Experience of Twenty Years Ago Told by a Man Who Was on the Ground.

ONE evening in the Fall of '88 Theodore Roosevelt stepped from the train at the little squall shack town of Little Falls, where, 60 miles west of St. Paul, the Northern Pacific Railroad crosses the river that has in the heart of the North Dakota Bad Lands, says Theodore Dant in Harper's Weekly.

He was a slender, blue-eyed young man of 28, quietly dressed, and carrying little baggage save a fine collection of rifles. It was no inviting sight that met his eye. All about were towering buttes of scorched clay and gumbo hiding in their dark recesses, deep chasms as treacherous as the silent, sullen, muddy river that swept their feet.

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THE GRAVITY OF THE RUSSIAN SITUATION

Review of Conditions Showing How Czar's Empire Is Growing Weaker as a World Power.

THE greatest war raging today in the extreme Orient since time immemorial has long ceased to be of a local character. It is the war of two races, one, nominally and apparently covering one-fourth of the inhabited earth, but in reality torn asunder by racial differences, and as such, as well as social classes, tending apart, the other a closely united political fragment of the great Mongol race, of one mind and of a compact national structure, to shake China from her somnolent condition.

cutting out of the Ryeheintnik from a "neutral" Chinese port, as if international shipping were a mere matter of course. International law was finally and decisively eliminated when—in spite of the most sacred treaties and pledges—with a breach of oaths rare even in human history, Russia, in a sudden and unprovoked attack, had succeeded in obtaining peacefully from China the "lease" of Port Arthur, the Dairen of the Pacific, and the right to extend to Manchuria, which she obtained through Manchuria—tremendous economic conquests which would have insured forever her supremacy over the Asiatic side of the globe.

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