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RUSSIAN FANATICS. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF AN INTERESTING RELIGIOUS SECT.

The idea of nihilism pushed to the extreme limit—Some strange Beliefs—Peculiar Social and Financial Methods—A Curious Specimen.

The interesting sect of "Nihilists" offers to us the spectacle of a strange religious possession. The doctrines of this sect pass the lines of nihilism and suggest to their extreme limit. The members lead a life of vagabondage, and pass the larger portions of their existence in prison. The government thinks their doctrines dangerous to the public safety, and subjects them to the most rigorous punishments. Let us take as a type of this sect a certain merchant, but first let us see in his search for truth he four times changed his sect, and finally became persuaded that all religion was error and lying. He dedicated himself to the study of the sacred scriptures, and thought he perceived that they were not in accord with human nature, and then he came to repudiate the ideas of God and religion, as well as all human institutions, and he was promptly arrested and imprisoned, and all his property confiscated. He was not given time to defend himself, or to avail himself of legal help for his defense, or to present his opinions, and continued to preach in the prison. Here is a curious specimen of his answers to the judge's instruction:

Q.—Who are you? A.—Prisoners. Don't you see me in a man? Are you blind? Q.—What is your religion? A.—I have none. Q.—What God do you believe in? A.—I don't believe in any God. God belongs to you—you people. It is you who invented him. I don't want him. Q.—Do you worship the devil, then? (With some irritation.) A.—I worship neither God nor devil, because I have no need of prayer. The devil is an invention of yours and the devils are yours, as well as the car, the press, and government officials. You are all children of the mother. Q.—Do you believe in hell? A.—I do not believe in hell, but I believe in a hell of suffering. I do not believe in a hell of fire, but I believe in a hell of suffering. I do not believe in a hell of fire, but I believe in a hell of suffering.

Q.—Do you believe in hell? A.—I do not believe in hell, but I believe in a hell of suffering. I do not believe in a hell of fire, but I believe in a hell of suffering. I do not believe in a hell of fire, but I believe in a hell of suffering.

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