

The Osman.

(Written by the Rev. Dr. Graham, of Brighton, Eng., the same day that he was drowned in the seas of Cape Mat.)

God sent me for broken on the ear,
Till the sore-struck spirit feels
God, the unsearchable, is here.

For the deep, yet soothing sound
Wakes a power within the heart,
Forgets the sorrows of the soul,
Bidding earth-born care depart.

Claudia and shadowed seems to fly,
Distracted, like the waves of the flood;
Clouds seem a gloomy rest,
Of boundless love of God—

Love, whose bounties can now no more,
Love, whose depth no measure knows,
Love, that through all ages past
Divine love gave.

Love, that bathed the angel host,
Love, that made the Saviour's bowers;
Love, of course, never failing power;

Bathers bring their ocean side,
Catching ripples on the shore;
Child or saint except such love;
In God's love can do no more.

Ocean's changing, changeless life,
Rock the same forever on;
Soul of the world, whose love
Of the great Eternal One.

Round the earth she makes her way,
From the sun to the stars every beach;
So the Eternal Father's love
Everywhere its blessing reaches.

Gods love, let me launch—
Launch your love mighty sea;
To be to me first, to live,
Is to leave life to me.

Paganism in Holy Russia.

About one thousand years ago, Pagan Russia turned Christian by order of the great Prince of Kiev. The new Christians, however, were at once overrun by Greeks, who, in their turn, were overthrown by the orthodox church, and converts were erected in their stead; the Bells were translated from Greek into Slavonic by two Slavs, Cyril and Methodius. Soon sacred relics of Russian origin made their appearance, and these Russians began to call their country Holy Russia. There is no need to say that the heretic Bells had to be recently published in Russian journals are interesting in the way of illustration.

The Gobels says: "The Russian peasantry—that is, the great majority of the people—preserves with a surprising tenacity the habits, prejudices, peculiarities of dress and language, and even the religious actions of the Christians. During the last three centuries have been introduced since Christianity was introduced into Russia, but the popular demonology is preserved in almost its original purity. Hobgoblin, wolf-wolf, water-god, sea-maid, as also sorceror and witch, are believed by the people as real beings. Along with the feast days of the Christians, the Russians observe the days of the pagans. In the island on the eve of Ivan Kupala the wood-piles are burnt, and people jump over them. New Year's Eve the village girls go from house to another, singing songs in honor of a pagan god (Avesta). In the spring, again several pagan holidays are observed."

In seasons of epidemic disease, the experienced peasant always turns to the help of physicians or of orthodox priests. The Gobels says: "In the middle of the night the women of the village meet in an appointed place; all naked, they put themselves to the plough, draw it, and, singing wild, shrill, warlike songs, implore the gods to give the life of the sick person. This is a most revolting sight, and men who presume to be professed critics, make a serious mistake in calling it violets or vibration, which is the very essence of musical tone and key. For those who experience it, who cheerfully assist, as the jury on a former trial decided, and he came near being mulled in ten times the sum for damages."

A reporter of the *Eastern Truth* (the *Reform Friends*) thus describes the scene of breaking the Sabbath in a village in the province of Saratoff, in Russia:

"In the village, on the night of July 4th I happened to witness a strange scene. It was a procession of women dressed in white, barefooted, with their hair spread over their shoulders. They were led by an old woman. Behind came two women, the one carrying the other on her shoulder. Some of the women carried bundles of straw, and the rest, were wrapped with long sticks. This procession was moving along the streets, singing strange, wild songs. From time to time it halted, and a bundle of straw, was set on fire; then the crowd of women began to dance wildly around it. We were told to go away, as the police had reformed, and removed its weapons, suspending the straw-burning at intervals. In this manner the cattle past, it was believed, was driven away."

If the epidemic does not stop, so much the worse! The women inconstancies did not succeed merely because some malignant man had seen that the confidence in these magical arts remained unbroken.

Sometimes other kinds of arts are reported to the same purpose. A Golos reporter writes from the Berlin district: "An epidemic made an awful ravage in the district of Brandenburg, and the help was not available. Following the advice of a famous local witch, the shepherds picked up the best sheep, and in the night, brought it to the cemetery and slaughtered it on the grave of the peasant who had recently been buried. Then the body of the peasant was exhumed and the victim of the dead man was the victim of the shepherds. The peasant's body was buried again, and that of the sheep was burned on a pile of wood built over the grave; then the ashes were collected and given to the sick sheep with their food."

Traces of fetishism may be found among the Russian peasantry. The *Eastern News* says: "In the province of Jamalik there is to propagate Christianity among the Moslem population of that province. Perhaps it would be a great deal better if that brotherhood should enlighten the peasants who are officially known as Christians, while in fact they are not far from paganism, worshipping trees, springs, and the different elements. Last year, for instance, in the village of Solognopka in this province, there appeared a spring. The local sorcerers and witches announced that it possessed miraculous healing properties. Crowds of people flocked there to be cured of all kinds of diseases at the hands of the local magicians. The priests of the village reported the peasant who had been cured by the spring to the chief of police, who then proceeded to destroy the spring, and the police arrested him for destroying a public convenience. The police, however, were exceptions to the rule, having large properties. That of the first ever named to Napoleon III, and was of great use to him in carrying out the coup d'état. Fech left his wealth to a woman, with a magic poker in her hand, they assaulted the chief of police and left him on the ground nearly dead."

The Cherkess of the province of Perm," says the *New Times*, "though nominally Christians, are in fact pagans. They perform their religious rites in secret, and the men of their own kind are smitten. They ride swiftly to an appointed place and carry with them an ox or sheep for the sacrificial ceremony. The sacrifice kills the animal, opens it, and, according to its appearance, predicts how the crop will turn out, whether it will be good or bad. The priest, who is the chief of police, orders them to extinguish the fire they broke out into a sacrifice riot. Led by an old woman, with a magic poker in her hand, they assaulted the chief of police and left him on the ground nearly dead."

The peasants believe that the sorcerers can control rain and cause drought, and during dry rain during a harvest. "In the town of Ust-Khopor," says the *Das Neue*, "a potter established a factory, which became a great success; unfortunately, there came on a prolonged drought, and the people, hearing of the potter's success, and seeing the farmer's daughter, who was a convert, who was able to get what he wanted. He tried to persuade the crowd that he was an orthodox Christian; in vain the old priest pleaded for him; not only was he

forced to decamp, but his factory was burned down."

"In the province of Saratoff," says the *New Times*, "in case of a drought, the peasants are accustomed to resort to a strange means which they believe brings rain. And the village is old and young, take pains of the weather and predict losses, and then the peasants say: 'A robbery is abroad.' The village is a very queer sight—men, women, and children, with buckets and scoops in hand, running after one another, and splashing right and left."

In sickness the Russian peasantry rely all

most on conjurers—naturally, since it is hard for a peasant to secure the services of a doctor. Each district physician has in charge several physicians, who are assistants, scattered over many miles; all he can do is hurriedly pass through the villages once every month. Under these circumstances, the majority of patients when suffering from disease, resort to local practitioners, who are not necessarily qualified, and their consultations with deceptions of their own, often with holy water. The trained tame bears also are not neglected; these lay the sick man on the floor and compel a bear to walk over him several times."

Many other circumstances of the peasant's hard life induce us to seek the conjurer's advice. If an ox is stolen, a cow is lost, a gun mislaid, or a horse has the disease of the hock, his wife and pantry get sick, his wife grows thin and sick, his grown daughter is neglected by young men, his fruit tree is neglected, the boy leaves the neighboring pond, a peasant friend gets delirium tremens—in all such troubles who can help if not a sorcerer? Is it not better to consult the editor of the *Soviet* giving that idea?" It was done, and the letter was printed next morning containing the suggestion that the amount of each cheque should be cut into ten parts for any alteration. A few days afterward a spruce young man, in uniform and scattered a round white cloth, with nimble steps, across the village, and said: "I am much obliged for that idea; it is going to be worth \$10,000 to me." The reporter who originated it is still laboring by the depot. You now and then hear of a case around printing-houses of the valuable things that reporters have done. These however, too, are work and life, and the editor of the *Soviet* gave them such time to tell about what they have done. The past to them is as the waters that have run by. They are interested only in what they may have to do tomorrow. When they start a day, they do not find themselves in a mood to review the past. So it is that the old adage should be fixed into history: "Never let a day go by without doing something that should be fixed into history."

Nearly every man of prominence has a story of some extraordinary obligation he rests under to some newspaper man; but he would be indeed a man worthy of prominence who could say that he had fulfilled such an obligation. The venerable Peter Cooper not long ago was a rich man, for each night he would get \$100 or \$1000 cash, and his wife would be well off, including regular hotel bills. This unprecedented compensation to a reporter is applied to the present. Reporters who are not so fortunate in finding a paper to print for, will make everything right.

Adelina Patti and her St. Petersburg Engagement.

A general smile of incredulity greeted the announcement that Adelina, countess of St. Petersburg, had begun to recruit her capital, and finally contracted to pay her, with Nicolini put at make-weight, \$1,000, or \$5,000, in our currency, for each night that she will sing at St. Petersburg and Moscow, besides other cities in Russia. There is no need to say that her engagement is applicable to the present. Reporters who are not so fortunate in finding a paper to print for, will make everything right.

The Gobels says: "The Russian peasantry

—that is, the great majority of the people—

preserves with a surprising tenacity the habits,

peculiarities, of dress and language, and even

the religious actions of the Christians. During

the last three centuries have been intro-

duced since Christianity was introduced into

Russia, but the popular demonology is pre-

served in almost its original purity. Hobgo-

blin, wolf-wolf, water-god, sea-maid,

as also sorceror and witch, are believed by

the people as real beings. Along with the

feast days of the Christians, the Russians ob-

serves the days of the pagans. In the island

on the eve of Ivan Kupala the wood-piles

are burnt, and people jump over them. New

Year's Eve the village girls go from house to

another, singing songs in honor of a pagan

god (Avesta). In the spring, again several

pagan holidays are observed."

The Gobels says: "The Russian peasantry

—that is, the great majority of the people—

preserves with a surprising tenacity the habits,

peculiarities, of dress and language, and even

the religious actions of the Christians. During

the last three centuries have been intro-

duced since Christianity was introduced into

Russia, but the popular demonology is pre-

served in almost its original purity. Hobgo-

blin, wolf-wolf, water-god, sea-maid,

as also sorceror and witch, are believed by

the people as real beings. Along with the

feast days of the Christians, the Russians ob-

serves the days of the pagans. In the island

on the eve of Ivan Kupala the wood-piles

are burnt, and people jump over them. New

Year's Eve the village girls go from house to

another, singing songs in honor of a pagan

god (Avesta). In the spring, again several

pagan holidays are observed."

The Gobels says: "The Russian peasantry

—that is, the great majority of the people—

preserves with a surprising tenacity the habits,

peculiarities, of dress and language, and even

the religious actions of the Christians. During

the last three centuries have been intro-

duced since Christianity was introduced into

Russia, but the popular demonology is pre-

served in almost its original purity. Hobgo-

blin, wolf-wolf, water-god, sea-maid,

as also sorceror and witch, are believed by

the people as real beings. Along with the

feast days of the Christians, the Russians ob-

serves the days of the pagans. In the island

on the eve of Ivan Kupala the wood-piles

are burnt, and people jump over them. New

Year's Eve the village girls go from house to

another, singing songs in honor of a pagan

god (Avesta). In the spring, again several

pagan holidays are observed."

The Gobels says: "The Russian peasantry

—that is, the great majority of the people—

preserves with a surprising tenacity the habits,

peculiarities, of dress and language, and even

the religious actions of the Christians. During

the last three centuries have been intro-

duced since Christianity was introduced into

Russia, but the popular demonology is pre-

served in almost its original purity. Hobgo-

blin, wolf-wolf, water-god, sea-maid,

as also sorceror and witch, are believed by

the people as real beings. Along with the

feast days of the Christians, the Russians ob-

serves the days of the pagans. In the island

on the eve of Ivan Kupala the wood-piles

are burnt, and people jump over them. New

Year's Eve the village girls go from house to

another, singing songs in honor of a pagan

god (Avesta). In the spring, again several

pagan holidays are observed."

The Gobels says: "The Russian peasantry

—that is, the great majority of the people—

preserves with a surprising tenacity the habits,

peculiarities, of dress and language, and even

the religious actions of the Christians. During

the last three centuries have been intro-

duced since Christianity was introduced into

Russia, but the popular demonology is pre-

served in almost its original purity. Hobgo-

blin, wolf-wolf, water-god, sea-maid,

as also sorceror and witch, are believed by

the people as real beings. Along with the

feast days of the Christians, the Russians ob-

serves the days of the pagans. In the island

on the eve of Ivan Kupala the wood-piles

are burnt, and people jump over them. New

Year's Eve the village girls go from house to

another, singing songs in honor of a pagan

god (Avesta). In the spring, again several

pagan holidays are observed."

The Gobels says: "The Russian peasantry