

THE study of the growth and tendencies of Russian civilization is just now one of the 'burning questions' of the hour—a question that 'burns' but gives no light, like Milton's Lucifer. It stands forth a live coal in a great darkness, and its lurid redness is what attracts Mr. Foulke and makes him apply his spectroscope with a view to analyzing the constitution of this new 'red planet Mars.' His book—it is really a book—fortifies Mr. Kennan's revelation of picturesque wrong in his *Century* articles with all the force of history and argument. His discussion is plainly outlined in the title. Is the world in future to be Anglo-Saxon or Slav? Of course this is 'one of the things no fellow can tell;' but Mr. Foulke is full of dread and apprehension lest Ursa Major swallow up the Unicorn and then proceed to make a Gargantuan meal of the rest of the universe. We, for our part, have no such apprehension. It would perhaps be a blessing if Russia *did* swallow, digest or assimilate Asia: the Chinese at least would then be off the *tapis*, and California could gloat over her grapes undisturbed; but that there is any danger of Germany, France, England, etc., forming *entremets* to this feast, we decline to believe. Not even the White Tsar can have such an appetite: not even Stepniak with all his rhetoric can bring us to see this consummation. The experiments at universal unqualified suffrage in this country may well deter the Autocrat of all the Russias from conferring the franchise on millions of illiterate serfs not an inch above our negroes in alphabetic and other knowledge—an attitude of which Mr. Foulke complains bit-

* Slav or Saxon? By W. D. Foulke. \$1.25. (Questions of the Day.) New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

terly. The Russians are really as yet—and *en masse*—in no fit condition for a National Assembly, any more than the Japanese, who have wisely deferred constitutionalism for a season. From this point of view the efforts of the Nihilists to accelerate constitutional government appear ill-advised, and one cannot sympathize with them as fully as if, for instance, Russians were down-trodden Italians or Frenchmen. In his nine chapters Mr. Foulke considers the always-impending struggle between Russia and England for the possession of India, the history of the people, the military autocracy under which they groan, their conquests and minor acts of aggression, the reforms of Alexander II., and the present despotism.
