The Sergeant's Stratagem.

The disastrous campaign of 1814 was drawing to a close. The allied forces covered France like a cloud of locusts, and the wild Cossack, who had marched from the banks of the Borysthenes, was soon to slake his courser's thirst in the waters of the Seine. Napoleon winning desperate victories against terrific odds. But the sun of Austerlitz

was doomed to a near and total eclipse. The Russians had gained possession of the city of Troyes, and without its walls they lay encamped in overwhelming numbers. The troops of the French emperor, too few and feeble to contend against such crushing odds, had disbanded. Yet the remnant of an heroic band, laying aside their uniforms, still lurked about the city, sleeping and feeding where they could, the bolder of them seeking every opportunity to pick quarrels with the Russians and engage them in duels, glutting that hate in single combat which they could not slake upon the field of battle.

rose in his place, and addressed the Among these dangerous and inveterate enemies of the Cossacks was a certain Cæsar Pompon, a sergeant of the for the insult you have offered us." Imperial Guard, who lodged at a little inn kept by a little black-eyed Frenchsing what is set down for me, and I woman, who had made the Campaign of Russia, and lost her husband, a oneeyed voltigeur, in the passage of the Berezina. Fauchette would willingly have married the sergeant, and even offered herself to that valiant warrior, but he would hear of no such arrangement till peace had been restored to his distracted country.

Another inmate of Fauchette's little hostelrie was a captain Bonville, who was waiting for better days and an opportunity to strike a blow.

Fauchette did an excellent business, having no scruples about selling beer, brandy, tallow candles, lamp oil and other refreshments to the Cossacks, but she never gave them credit, and they dreaded her sharp tongue almost as much as they did the thongs of the

Sergeant Pompon was very regular in his habits, but he would often absent himself for hours together, without telling Fauchette or Captain Bonville where he was going. When he came back after one of these mysterious absences he would generally bring with him a bundle, and saying "that makes so many," make a chalk on a score he kept behind the bar. After this ceremony he would march up and deposit his bundle in his little attic room, of which he kept the key, for he took care of it himself and let no one enter.

Fauchette often teased him about these mysterious proceedings, and his invariable answer was :-

"Fauchette, when this is all over and the cursed Cossacks are driven out of the country, and the Little Corporal is firmly established on the throne, and you and I are married, I am going to Paris to set up a ready-made clothingshop, and I shall have a stock on hand." His fair hostess was forced to be content with this explanation.

One night, when Fauchette had closed her doors and was sitting with Captain Bonville, talking over the events of the campaign, and the prospect before them, Sergeant Pompon entered in a state of great excitement, and dashing his hat upon the floor, marched to and fro with enormous strides.

"What is the matter?" exclaimed Fauchette. "Matter! a thousand bayonets

matter enough. Bombshells and rockets! In a French town! In a French cafe! Millions of firelocks?"

"Any ill news from the emperor? asked Captain Bonville.

"No, no, captain," answered Pompon. "He is beating the villians in every engagement, and fighting his way step by step, to Troyes. Saperlotte! we shall soon hear his guns, I hope, and then he'll lead those Cossacks an infernal dance, the murderous villians?"

"Well, something has happened, I know," said Fauchette.

"Of course it has," replied the sergeant, sitting down and wiping his brow. "You know, captain, the Cafe de la Victoire?" "Certainly. It is a cafe theatre-

they act little vaudevilles there in the refreshment saloon to attract and amuse customers."

"Precisely. Very well, captain, they played a piece this evening, called "The Soldier's Return." In it, Bressant, a capital actor and a good fellow, too, had to sing a verse against the Russians, and the room was filled with them. You may be sure there was a tappage then. The Russian Colonel Ostrogoff was there. He insisted on an apology—Bressant refused -and the curtain fell. The piece is to be played to-morrow, and they swear he shall leave out the objectionable verse and make an apology for singing

to-night, or pay dearly for it." "And Bressant will apologize;" exclaimed the captain. "Not a bit of it. He will sing his

songs and make devil a bit of an apology. What do you think of it, cap-"He's a glorious fellow!" cried Bon-

ville, "and we must support him !" "I knew you'd say so!" cried the sergeant. "Hurrah! vive l'empereur!"

"Hush!" said Fauchette. "The patrol is marching by." "Who cares for 'em!" cried the ser-

geant. "Fauchette, I brought home another bundle to-day, that makes "Ten what?"

"Ten bundles," said the sergeant, with a wink. "Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no lies. Well, of the faithful fellow.

captain!" "Well, sergeant-what are you thinking of ?"

the sergeant, extracting himself from "To-morrow night and the Cafe de la Victorie.

"So was I. We will want all of our fellows to-morrow. Let them go armed, is a little glory left altho' we are late in and we'll put Bressant through, what- the day. Long live the Emperor and down with the Cossacks.

ever comes of it." "Good!" said the sergeant, rising and taking up his bed-candle. "I'll oil my pistols before I go to bed. And if we don't meet again, captain, the rendezvous will be the Cafe de la Victorire -the hour, sharp seven. Good night,

captain." "Good night, sergeant."

The next night the saloon of the Cafe portions. Our advice to the public at de la Victorie was crowded with Rus- large is to try its virtues if they should unfortunately contract either coughs or sian and French soldiers, the latter colds.

"Pleasant dreams!" cried Fauchette.

dressed as citizens with swords and pistols concealed under their blouses. There was a great consumption of brandy among the Cossacks, and the

drowned in the applauding shouts of

boquets were thrown at his feet. The

less and still. It was the lull that pro-

ceeds the hurricane. Bressant advanc-

ed fearlessly to the foot-lights and com-

menced the obnoxious verse. Then

arose a storm and howl of groans and

Col. Ostrogoff, a gigantic Russian,

"Never!" replied the actor. "

will apologize to no living man for do-

Quick as a flash, the Russian drew a

pistol from his belt and fired it full in

the face of Bressant, who fell without

"Revenge!" shouted Bonville,

throwing off his blouse and disclosing

his artillery uniform, "up, Frenchmen!

and knives were freely used. French-

man and Cossack grappled. The tables

were overturned-the lights were put

out-the most dire confusion prevailed

Troyes. Intelligence was brought into

All was confusion in the Russian

camp. A brief period of idleness, con-

sumed in unbridled debauchery, had

demoralized and weakened the Cossack

force, and the officers calculated with

concern the chances of a conflict. Still

the prisoner Bonville was not overlook-

ed in the midst of this crisis. During

the forenoon he was examined before a

by his rank, and sentenced to be shot.

At the very moment he listened to his

sentence, with unmoved countenance,

at hand, as the French skirmishers

"You hear that!" said Bonville,

with a smile, to the Russian command-

er, "I shall die, but I shall be aveng-

"Take him away, Colonel Ostrogoff,"

said the Russian General. "Take a

file of men with you and execute the

Ostrogoff saluted and withdrew with

an escort. In spite of his protestations,

Bonville's arms were tightly bound be-

"He shan't have a ghost of a chance

to escape in the confusion" muttered

The little party reached an opening in

the dense wood and halted. A few

moments afterwards an aid-de-camp

"I am ordered to recall your firing

party, Colonel," said he. "They are

wanted to defend the entrenchments.

The French dogs are pressing us hard."

goff and Bonville were left alone. The

former drew a pistol from his belt and

"Are you going to turn execution-

er?" said Bonville scornfully. "Is it

worthy of you? You are fitter for a

"I shot one of your countrymen last

the Russian raising his pistol. But at

this moment a small party of Russian

soldiers advanced to the spot, under the

command of a non-commissioned

"Halt!" cried the Colonel. The

"Then shoot me this fellow." The

"Ready-present-fire!" said the

"Hurrah!" said Sergeant Pompon,

for it was he, pulling off his false beard,

and rushing to cut the cords that bound

Captain Bonville. "Hurrah for our

side! Captain, my secret is out. The

bundles I used to fetch home each con-

tained a Russian uniform. They were

the spoils of fellows I killed in a fair

fight. I never thought I should make

Bonville threw himself into the arms

"No time for hugging now" cried

hangman than a soldier."

olatoon obeyed.

"Are you loaded?"

backs on Ostrogoff.

The sergeant nodded.

He fell riddled with bullets.

such good use of them."

The platoon marched off, and Ostro-

Ostrogoff.

galloped up furiously.

drove in the enemy's pickets.

and down with the Cossacks!"

the hands of Ostrogoff.

relief of Troyes.

hisses, mingled with applause.

ing my duty."

waiters who supplied their calls looked LINIMENT. For Internal and External Use.
CURES—Neuralgia, Diphtheria, Croup, Asthma, Bronchitis, Influenza, Sore Lungs, Bleeding at the Lungs, Chronic Hoarseness, Hacking Cough, Whooping Cough, Chronic Rheumatism, Chronic Disgripes, Chronic Dysentery, Cholera Morbus. anxious and flurried. They evidently expected trouble, nor were their forebodings deceptive. The curtains were Diarrhea, Chronic Dysentery, Cholera Morbus, Kidney Troubles, Diseases of the Spine and Lame Back. Sold everywhere. run up and the piece commenced. When Bressant, the offending actor, appeared, there were murmurs **MATTISON'S** among the Russians, but these were

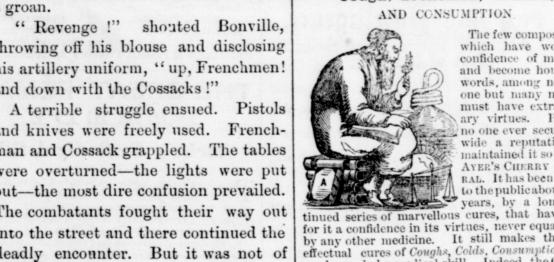
Pancreatic Emulsion of Cod Liver O the French spectators, and one or two This medicine can undoubtedly be used wit play however, was allowed to go on till greater success than any other remedy now known, n cases of Consumption, Coughs, Colds, Hoarse ess, Bronchitis, Scrofula, Chronic Rheumatism the finale was sung, and when the eneral Debility, Wasting Diseases of Children and orchestra played the symphony for this piece the audience sat perfectly motionhe vital forces and build up the system.

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PREPARED BY----The next day was an eventful one for Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co.,

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nore testimony in this place, in favor of this great medicine. Is not one certificate, however, from an minent and well-known TUMORS, Physician like Dr. Bessey, f Montreal, sufficient to establish its superiority over the numerous mix tures called Blood Purifiers offered by Druggists and OF THE T. C. STRATTON, Esq. Montreal, Feb. 1st, 1877. SPLEEN, I cannot but regard the formula from which Dr. Channing's Sarsaparilla i RHEUMATIC prepared, as one of the best possible combinations

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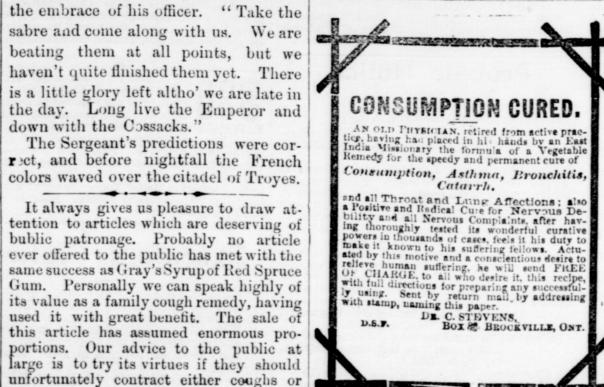
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CHATHAM, N. B.

platoon faced the prisoner, with their At the word "fire!" the platoon wheeled to the right about, and poured their volley into Ostrogoff at ten paces?



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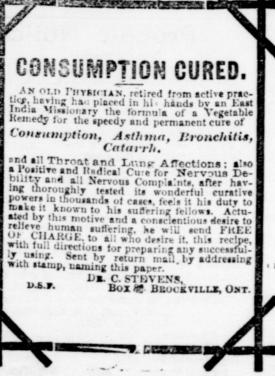
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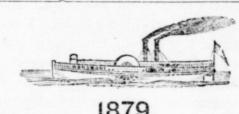
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Travelers' Column.



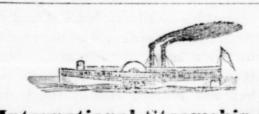
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