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An Historical Incident.

A rude wooden house on the Neva, in old Petersburg, is still shown to travellers as the abode of Peter the Great, Emperor of Russia, when he was building the city.

In August 1710, Peter was in this modest house with two of his officers. The elder, Captain Stopaus, was old and studious, and very jealous of the merit of younger men.

The czar stood by a narrow window, and was gazing at a medallion he had taken from the pocket of his uniform. In this medallion was framed the miniature of a beautiful young girl.

Her long blonde curls fell on a neck white as alabaster; her blue eyes and perfect mouth seemed formed only for love, and their expression was exquisite.

After looking rapturously at the charming miniature, Peter suddenly called Wladimir to him and showed it, asking what he thought of his beautiful innamorata.

Stopaus observed what escaped the eyes of the monarch in the young man's emotion. In a few moments Wladimir left the house.

"Sire," said Stopaus, "the original of that picture is the betrothed wife of Wladimir. Your Majesty was at Ludmilla's house last evening.

"Are you sure of this?" asked Peter calmly.

In a few moments the Emperor, lifting the wooden chair in front of him, dashed it to the floor with such violence that it was broken to pieces.

Wladimir had worshipped his beautiful betrothed and they were soon to be married. His anguish at seeing the miniature in the czar's hands was intense.

He crossed the bridge of Tolstoi, leaving the muddy site where the cathedral of Isaac rose in later days, and passed along what was afterwards the Promenade de la Perspective, and arrived at the Fontanks.

At a whistle from the young man, a maid in red tunic and coif opened the door. He entered the presence of Ludmilla, his features expressing his profound misery.

Wladimir sat down, but repelled all tender advances of Ludmilla. In a voice full of bitterness he reminded her that he had proffered to her his truest most passionate love.

Ludmilla's crimson cheeks and a flood of tears confessed that the charge was deserved. She sobbed unrestrainedly, while the young officer regarded her in gloomy silence.

She owned that she had deceived her lover, that she had given the picture to the Emperor when he came to woo her. But she had not encouraged his passion from coquetry.

and declared his love, she was afraid of him. The least suspicion that she might have given her heart to another man filled him with ungovernable rage.

The young officer felt her arms clasped around his neck, her tear-wet cheek pressed to his, and her lips uttered broken and passionate words of love.

While the reconciled lovers talked, another man had silently entered the dwelling. The old servant had tried to stop him, but he threw off his hat and caftan and she saw it was the Emperor.

Peter's flashing eyes gleamed from one to the other, muttering, "a double treachery!" The young girl implored pardon in piteous entreaty.

But the monarch could not pardon such a crime. After a struggle with violent emotion, he became calm and cold, as he ordered Major Wladimir to go and surrender himself a prisoner at the fortress.

He was soon restored to liberty, as the Emperor could not imprison for such a cause one of his bravest and best officers. But he gave orders that he should preside at the head of his regiment, at the public punishment of Ludmilla, who was accused of having betrayed certain political secrets to the Swedish agents, and was condemned by the Senate to receive twenty blows with the knout at the Place de la Moika.

The regiment of Preobajinski, ranged in two lines, extended along the banks of the Moika canal to the bridge terminating at the Opera house. That termination was the place appointed for executions.

The officers were in uniform, and Major Wladimir was pale and haggard, but full of inflexible resolution. He had spent hours in praying by his father's grave in the cemetery of Smolank, and was determined to meet his betrothed, and save her from shame and torture by plunging his dagger in her breast.

The Emperor had spent the night in anguish, remorse, and alternations of fierce passion. He had traversed his chamber like a caged lion, beating his breast and dashing the furniture to pieces.

He went to the house of Menzikoff, overlooking the Moika canal. There he could see from a window all that passed. But his imagination drew a picture that drove him well nigh to a frenzy.

Unable to remain still the czar descended, entered a boat and was conveyed to the opposite shore of the canal, where he stood with the surging tumultuous crowd.

The horrible procession advanced. Ludmilla walked with a firm step, leaning on the arm of a sergeant of the regiment. Her blue eyes were distended with terror, and wandered wildly over the crowd.

She passed slowly across the bridge toward the fatal spot. Her lover waited to receive her and deal the fatal blow.

Just at that moment when she was about to step from the Bridge de la Moika, the Emperor burst through the crowd into the open space before her, threw off his mantle, and advancing alone towards the young girl, placed his hands on both sides of her head, drew her towards him, and impressed a kiss upon her forehead.

It was the privilege of the Chevaliers of St. Andre to save the condemned by a kiss, from the hands of the executioner.

The young girl sank backward in a swoon. When consciousness returned she found herself folded in the arms of her faithful lover, and both were looking thankfully upwards.

Thirteen Club Defy Fate.

"Be sure and not forget to look at the new moon over your left shoulder," was the last caution the president gave as the Thirteen Club and their guests filed into Sherry's ball room.

The new moon, surrounded by thirteen stars, decorated the hallway. Just before they entered the dining room each lady received a bouquet of thirteen American Beauty roses.

Fifteen tables filled the ball room, each table laid with covers for thirteen. At the head of each table was suspended an open umbrella, and beside each plate were placed a skeleton, a candle, a wax taper, and a coffin.

When the company was seated the electric lights were put out, then the hosts at each table gave the order: "Light your candles!" The first candle to burn out or go out indicated beyond the shadow of a doubt that the owner of the extinguished candle will be the first of the company to shuffle off this mortal coil.

This is the first time that ladies have been invited to the club. The first toast was, of course, "The Ladies," and after that the number "13."

The enjoyment continued till a late hour in bold defiance of impending doom. —New York Herald.

How the Lepers Live.

At the leper settlement of Molokai, writes Sister Rose Gertrude to The Ladies Home Journal, the time hangs very heavily on the hands of even these ease-loving children of the tropics.

The right way is to undertake no more than you can reasonably expect to do thoroughly well. There is no half-way work in any line. The world is full of ordinary. Do just a little better, and then you are on the road up.

A farm journal advises its readers to "be quiet among bees." The observance of this advice depends largely on the conduct of the bees.

It's sometimes said patent medicines are for the ignorant. The doctors foster this idea. "The people," we're told, "are mostly ignorant when it comes to medical science."

The makers hear of it when it does, because they never keep the money when the medicine fails to do good. Suppose the doctors went on that principle. (We beg the doctors' pardon. It wouldn't do!)

Choking, sneezing and every other form of catarrh in the head, is radically cured by Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. Fifty cents. Sold by druggists everywhere.

American Watches.

To give an off hand estimate, I should say that the several factories of this country turn out about two million watches each year. The demand for them increases, here and in all civilized countries, even in a larger ratio than the increase of population.

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Sir Morell Mackenzie has made some startling statements with regard to influenza. Sir Morell believes the disease can be communicated by dead bodies. In support of this opinion he quoted a case from the American newspapers in which a gentleman of that nationality having died with influenza in Paris, his body was embalmed and sent to Philadelphia, where it was exposed to the view of the family, all of whom were immediately attacked by the disease.

The Pope's committee of cardinals has discovered a deficit of ten million francs in the Peter's pence fund.

Lover's Stationery.

A fad in writing-paper is what is called lover's stationery. It is a fine notepaper delicately tinted, the most fashionable shade being light pink.

A recent telegram from Algiers, Africa, says the French savant, M. Kunckle Herculais, the president of the Ethnological Society, who was employed on the government mission of investigating the locust plague in this province, has met a horrible death.

When a young lady runs off and marries a coachman, a great fuss is made about it; but every day some bride marries a groom and nothing is thought of that.

Stiggings married his type-writing girl. Before they were married he was in the habit of dictating to her, but after marriage she dictated to him, and very successfully, too.

Young lady: "And how is Johnny getting on at the new school, Mrs. Scatterpole?" "Mrs. Scatterpole: "Oh, beautifully! He's learning six languages—French, German, Latin, Greek, Algebra and Euclid."

"Madame," said the tramp, "I'm hungry enough to eat raw dog." "Well," she responded kindly, suiting the action to the word, "I'll whistle some up for you." whereupon the tramp left, taking his appetite with him.

"Pa, what is 'mist'?" "It is an invisible vapour of the atmosphere, my son." "Does a man ever turn into mist?" "Certainly not. Who said he could?" "Nobody did; only I heard ma say the other day that you never would be mist."

"What are you doing under the horses' feet, there?" shouted a hack driver to a stupid-looking man, whom he came near running over. "Drive on, you fool!" snarled the stupid-looking man; "I want to find out if my life is insured in a reliable company."

A witty but impetuous writer applied to a man for a loan. The latter put him off till he could enquire about his character, which he found was very bad, as far as paying borrowed money was concerned.

"My dear," said a wife to her husband, "I know that I am not as patient as I should be, and I think the same can be said of you." "Yes, certainly," he, frankly acknowledged; "I am almost as you are."

"That's because you wear your shoes two sizes too small for you." Then the trouble began once more.

Not long before his death, Barnum summoned his lawyer to the side of the couch where he was lying. "I am very much worried," he said, "about a certain matter, and I want to consult you. My neighbor keeps peacocks. Now, suppose some of them should fly over into my yard—which they are doing all the time—and lay some eggs here. Would those eggs belong to me, or could my neighbor compel me to give them up?"

The lawyer, having duly scratched his head, answered: "Well, Mr. Barnum, I must take time to look into this matter. But the best thing for you to do would be to keep the eggs and let your neighbor sue for their possession. In that way your rights would be determined, and we should have a very valuable test case."

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ALL SORTS.

Philopena.

They ate a philopena, Yes and No she must not say, And he must not take anything From her the livelong day.

They strolled into the garden— The moon was shining so, He could not help but ask her, "Will be mine? Oh, don't say No!"

"I can't say Yes," she answered, "Nor yet can I say No; But thine I'll be. Doat take me? Philopena! Let me go!" —Life.

Eclipse of the son—A baby daughter.

A polished Delivery—Cuffs and collars from the laundry.

Why is the effect of a mustard-plaster like a coverlet? Because it is a counterpane.

Upon being notified that she was judicially separated from her husband, a New England lady said to a friend that she felt "quite unmanned."

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THE WORLD OVER.

The Pope has made his will, leaving all his personal property to the Holy See. It is a great misfortune for the young and middle aged to be gray. To overcome this and appear young, use Hall's Hair Renewer, a reliable panacea.

It is stated that the Brazilian government sent forty Russian colonists home to encourage their kinsfolk to emigrate, thus counteracting the policy of suppressing emigration.

It is stated that Count von Moltke, just prior to his death, concluded an exhaustive study of European armaments, ending with the assertion that France was ready for war and Russia nearly so, and that a great conflict could not be delayed beyond 1892.

New York World: England has the finest navy, the busiest army, the highest paid officials, and the most extended and expensive empire in the world. Her debt is thrice as large as ours, and yet she foots the bill for \$431,000,000 per annum while we spend \$505,000,000—for what?

Nellie Huntington, a native of Nova Scotia, was arrested in Boston on Monday, charged with shoplifting in the stores of Houghton & Dutton and William H. Brine. Upon her room being searched various articles were found which she admits having taken from different stores.

Cardinal Taschereau and other members of the Quebec clergy are petitioning Parliament to amend the election law so as to make it an offence punishable by imprisonment to distribute liquor for corrupt purposes during election times. Free whisky, they assert, has a demoralizing effect on such occasions.

Tcheng-Ki-Tong, first secretary of the Chinese legation in London, has been found guilty of having taken advantage of his official position to swindle people. He has been summoned back to China to be executed, and he has gone. Had he not obeyed the summons the death penalty would have been inflicted on his family.

The coroner's jury investigating the recent explosion at Tarrytown, N. Y., by which 18 men were instantly killed, returned a verdict censuring the foreman, Conductor John O'Connor and Edward Finnegan, assistant foreman, now dead, and the president and board of directors of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad, for allowing explosives to be carried in a careless manner.

The Princess of Wales will be represented among the exhibitors in Vienna this month at the International Exhibition of Amateur photographers to be held there under the patronage of the Archduchess Maria Theresa. There will be numerous other royal contributors to the collection, among them the Archduchess Maria Theresa herself and the Grand Duke Ferdinand of Tuscany.

The other evening, while Martin Stewart was returning home from Robert Hanson's, on the Nashua, on horseback, he was attacked by a wolf, which seemed to be determined to enjoy a meal of horse beef. Martin soon became alarmed at the ferocity of the animal and put spurs to his horse and went at full speed for nearly a mile with the wolf in close pursuit, when the animal turned off and seated himself on the side of the road, hungry and disappointed.

MRS. ROBINSON, Hopewell Corner, writes: Dear Sir, I have used your British Liniment for one year, and must say it surpasses all the Liniments I have ever used for Sore Throat, Lame Back, Pains in the Side, and all complaints for which a Liniment is needed. I had a pain in my side so bad that I had to give up work. I gave my side a good bathing with your Liniment and it gave me immediate relief so that in twenty minutes I was able to go about my work.

The new flag ship to be stationed at Halifax, succeeding the Bellerophon, will be the Hercules. She is a central battery ship with nine inch armor on the water line, and is fully rigged as a cruising vessel. She has a displacement of 8,680 tons engines of 6,750 horse power, and a speed of 13 1/2 knots. Her armament is eight eighteen ton, one twelve ton, and four six and a half ton guns. She is therefore a larger and more powerful ship than the Bellerophon. She was built in 1868.

Sir Douglas Fox, who has been preparing estimates of the cost of the proposed P. E. I. tunnel, has forwarded to Ottawa an amended statement, in which the figures are still more favorable. He estimates for an eleven foot tunnel, from shaft to shaft, a cost of \$4,369,433. For the same, including land tunnel and contingencies, \$5,232,640. For a sixteen foot tunnel, from shaft to shaft, \$8,042,167. For a sixteen foot tunnel, including land tunnel and contingencies, \$9,596,093. For an eighteen foot tunnel, from shaft to shaft, \$9,198,000. For an eighteen foot tunnel, including land, tunnel and contingencies, \$10,962,167.