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**Democratic Watchman.**

Bellefonte, Pa., Jan. 15, 1897.

**From Graniza to Moscow.**

(Special correspondence of the Watchman.)

The train which brings you from Hungary runs up along-side a parallel, Russian track, of a gauge six inches wider than the other continental railways. Although it was early, many long haired moujiks were on the platform and also an exaggerated number of gendarmes in blue uniforms and red, flat caps. We are told to remain in the cars. Presently a gendarme in white cap and white jacket, blue trousers and high top boots and a sword dangling from his waist came through the train demanded and collected our passports, and then a lot of hungry looking, long-haired, boisterous porters made a descent on our baggage, carried them into a large hall where the customs' officers, very polite, very courteous, proceeded to examine our worldly belongings, looking I suppose for dynamite or incendiary publications.

The words Touriste Americain acted as a charm, the examination was only superficial, my trunks were passed in a minute.

From what I had heard and read of baggage revision here, I had been led to believe it was a sort of Inquisition, in the course of which they might ask you to swear you were not a nihilist, an atheist, an aviator, a theosophist, that you had been vaccinated, had had the coqueluche. Numerous armed soldiers, on guard, were pacing up and down the platform. I examined the train and was disappointed that the locomotive was not a Baldwin, from Philadelphia, but made in England, and a wood burner! The tender was piled up with fire wood like a load of hay.

The train consisted of a wagon restaurant (an old ramshackle affair) and sleeping cars, upholstered in dark leather, corridor on the side, very roomy, very comfortable and connected a soufflets i. e. bellows like; vestibule. We had a toilette, a lavabo, a servant to make tea for us, a corridor to promenade in.

The gendarme who had taken my passport said something to me in Russian when returning it, which I did not understand, a lieutenant in the Russian army who was in my compartment interpreted it for me.

He said that the inspector while he allowed me to enter into Russia had never seen such a passport as mine! I could readily believe him, for it was no passport. The lieutenant begged permission, to look at it. He examined it attentively as a farmer does a \$5.00 bill, studied, scrutinized the vises at Corfu, Athens, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bagdad, Belgrade etc., and passed it back to me remarking that it appeared to have been a good way around the world.

Here, to the discreet reader I must make a confession. When I started on my present tour for health, pleasure and study, I neglected to procure me a passport.

To travel in the East without one is an impossibility. So they say! So to satisfy my wander spirit I must find something to take its place. Way back in the dreamy past, it appears so long ago, twenty odd years ago, I had been furnished with a masonic certificate from Constans Commandery at Bellefonte, certifying that I was a Mason in good standing, a Knight Templar, an exemplary and worthy citizen. It also certified that I had paid my dues. This I used as a Passport. It is an imposing looking document with squares and compasses, skulls and crossbones, and Maltese Crosses and folds up nicely in a neatly bound, little book.

Tis all written over the back now with Turkish and Russian characters which I do not understand; there are internal revenue stamps affixed, there are red stamps and blue, illegible signatures galore and they had to add a new leaf to contain them all.

At last the train moves gently, cautiously, half apologetically and all the employes from the station master down, the soldiers and gendarmes, standing a la militaire salute us as if we were beginning a very solemn, hazardous undertaking such as embarking in a halloon for the north pole, or the exploration of Mars.

The Russian railroad official is a solemn, self-important individual bloated by the overpowering sense of his responsibility and commanding position.

They are uniformed in cavalry boots, long frock coats which like a robe de chambre comes way below the knees, belt at the waist and flat caps with red, white or blue bands according to the degree they occupy in the railroad hierarchy. Our conductor wore a blue band on his cap, cracked his heels together and touched his kepi before asking for our tickets.

It was rainy dispiriting weather, the track straight as an I.

I had leisure for reflection and I began to think of what I had read about the country which, *de cetero*, I was about to visit. And so I passed in review that Russia has a population of one hundred and twenty millions; that Alexander von Humboldt had said that Russian territory is vaster than the surface which we see on the face of the full moon and fifty thousand kilometers square to boot; that her territory covers more than one sixth of the surface of the globe; that her rivers are the longest and broadest of Europe; that her mountains are the highest; that her army of two millions of men is the largest and most powerful; that I was then in Poland and of the political crime which made Poland a part of Russia; that their language although musical and resonant has not the least resemblance to the languages of Western Europe; that even her alphabet has no re-

semblance with ours; that their way of counting time is twelve days behind ours. Finally that we Americans ought to appreciate Russia as a great good friend from whom we purchased Alaska, with her seals, gold mines, glaciers and Indians thrown into the bargain, and, crowning all, that Russia sent her fleet to New York during the war of Secession with orders to help the Government at Washington in case England or France should interfere.

I do not want to believe as too many of my countrymen do, that Russia is a cold, dark, dismal country, the country of snow, of the knout, of candle-cutters and police espionage, and that Siberia is peopled only with exiled political martyrs and their jailers. Judging from the Russians I met at the reception given to Admiral Koznoff and his fellow officers at Philadelphia, in which I had the honor of taking part in entertaining them, they are exceedingly sympathetic people.

As companions de voyage there were two ladies (and a poodle) several tourists and commercial travelers and a suspicious looking individual who insisted on talking to everybody,—drinking with anybody who would pay for his drinks and who took the poodle out at the station for a promenade. He was, apparently, an unselfish friend of everybody—a sort of ambulating philanthropist; we afterwards learned he was a member of the police secreta.

A few versts out (a verst is a little more than a kilometre) we run by large iron factories, rail mills, etc., and I am told of a coal mine (?) in the neighborhood which lays exposed to the sun, no covering, the layer of coal being forty-five feet thick. I did not see it. Se non vero e ben trovato.

This is the most industrial part of Poland. Guards of soldiers patrol the track and armed soldiers travel with us on the train. I was intrigued by a sign which I saw at the buffets of all the stations which looked like Yam, and the lieutenant tells me it is tchai, meaning tea! I invited him to have one with me and I got acquainted with him while burning my lips with delicious, Russian tea.

The names of the stations, everything being in Russian, was all Greek to me. The halts at the stations were so interminably long that to kill time we took ochai twenty or thirty times a day, as do the Russians, and when I wanted eggs I crowded like a rooster and b-a-a-a-a-a for mutton chops and got what I wanted and a good laugh. It was volapuk with pantomime embellishments. Then I appreciated the necessity of learning Russian and the lieutenant volunteering to give me my first lesson asked me what word I would command with and I told him *thanks* for which he gave as the equivalent in Russian, *spasibo*. I have always believed in courtesy as the dessert of life. How it sweetens the care and turmoils of every day life and adds a soothing charm to intercourse with the world!

How it lubricates the wheels of commerce!

Listening to Russian conversation I soon learned that *yes, yes, is da, da; no, niel* and the strictly necessary words *slush, waiter; bread, bukhar; butter, maslo; cheese, sice; meat, mjaso; to eat, ijed* I soon added to my linguistic knowledge.

I had time to get well acquainted with the lieutenant Monsieur de B— who speaks French like a Parisian and belongs to the regiment of the guard of the Tsarist stationed at Gatschina; he had been to Vienna on business connected with the voyage of the Tsar, who was then in Breslau.

We ambled along about twenty-five miles an hour, the train running so steady that I think a glass filled with water or vodka would not spill a drop from Graniza to Warsaw. We commenced the test several times but we did not leave the glasses full long enough.

The monotony of the landscape was tiresome, wearisome to the eye, clumps of beech and birch trees, thin and not tall, an occasional wheat or rye field, hungry looking cattle with a hungry, solitary Moujik-shepherd with his dogs, now and then an *isba* built of round poles one story, thatched roof; swamps, muddy roads, wide stretches of uninteresting slopes spreading like billows for many weary miles and seeming to have no end. The solitude of such a landscape was depressing. The railroad stations are usually several versts from the towns so that one sees only the stations, which are elegantly built of wood like Swiss chalets and excessively clean and neat. The buffets are well provisioned with succulent soups and meats and delicious grapes. I make acquaintance with a soup red as blood made of beets, with meats. Bartsch! Brillat-Savarin would have criticised the taste of it.

We cross the Wartha river and arrive at Tschentochau, a large, but, to us almost invisible town, and then we come to Petrikau and Skiernewitz. All around the stations are huge heaps and piles of fire wood stacked up for the locomotive. The insolent, self important gendarme struts up and down the platform making the earth's crust tremble at every stride. The road follows the route of Napoleon in his disastrous march to Moscow.

Cultivated fields, villas, chalets, open air summer resorts, make us aware that we are approaching a city and in a few minutes we are stretching our legs in the station at Warschat, Varsvie, Warsaw, Dieu! but it is tedious travelling in Russia.

Lieutenant de B. volunteers to stay over a day or two and show me the town, and although it was cold and bleak under the leaden sky we drove to the Parks and Palaces Poniatowski, Lazienki, Belvedere, Marymont and Pale Elekeji Krolow and many others which it is the province of

guide books and encyclopaediae to describe.

We did not tire ourselves with seeing the picture galleries, the acres of paintings for said the lieutenant convincingly when one has seen the pictures in the Louvre, the Pitti, the Uffizi and the galleries of Rome there is nothing new to be seen in Warsaw.

I for my part have seen old masters enough to pave the streets of Philadelphia from Manayunk to Point Breeze.

We went, instead, to the ballets,—the cafe chantans where we amused ourselves aesthetically, admiring the ravishingly beautiful girls who dance the Savierucha, the Krakowiak, the Kasatchek, the Masurka as only the Polish girls can. Such nimbleness, grace, coquetterie and wildness, such intricate combinations of *pas*, Terpsichore never dreamt of! We walked around and saw houses five hundred years old, a wine house which has a well authenticated record of over four hundred years. We "took in" Hotel d'Angleterre which was Napoleon's head-quarters.

There is a statue of Kopernikus (1473) (by Thorwaldsen) with his tellurium, circle and compass. As usual with such epoch makers in the world's history his place of birth, like Columbus, is disputed, more than a dozen places in Poland and Germany disputing the honor.

Johann Sobiesky has his statue and a beautiful church named for him commemorating the (his) victory over the Turks at Vienna 1683.

Although the Varsovians name their city a "petit Paris," I am inclined to the lieutenant's opinion, "Hier ist nicht viel los." It is not Russian and the Poles do not want it russianized and are resisting it as Elsass-Lothringen are resisting Germanization. The lieutenant defines the situation thus: Warsaw is a hybrid town which wants to be European and won't be Russian. Here are three distinct populations, the Poles, the Russians, the Jews who hate each other as a certain renewed, disreputable personage hates holy water. Impossible to make peace between the conquered and the conquerors and as for the Jews when they become too obnoxious we expel them and they go to your land of the free. There is nothing to be done with the Poles but govern them with an iron hand.

(Concluded next week.)

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The following are the officers of Bellefonte, Castle, No. 357, of Bellefonte, for the ensuing six months' term:

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A friend advised me to try Ely's Cream Balm and after using it six weeks I believe myself cured of catarrh. It is a most valuable remedy.—Joseph Stewart, 624 Grand Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

—Mayor Pennoyer, of Portland, Ore., has turned one-quarter of his salary of \$5,000 into the city treasury. Another quarter, \$1,250, has been given to the board of charities to be expended for the needy.

**Medical.**

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**George B. Roberts to Retire.**

**He Will Decline a Re-Election as President of the Pennsylvania Railroad.**

It is said on good authority that George B. Roberts will decline a re-election as President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at the coming annual meeting in March, though he may consent to remain a director of the company. Mr. Roberts has been ill since the middle of last August, and it is understood that his decision to resign the active management of the affairs of the great railroad system with which he has been so long identified was made at the earnest solicitation of his family and upon the advice of his physicians. It is understood that First Vice President Frank Thomson will take his place as President.

Mr. Roberts was born in Montgomery county, Pa., on Jan. 15, 1833. He entered the railway service on March 5, 1851, as a roadman in locating the mountain surveys for the location of the Pennsylvania Railroad. From that time until May 28, 1862, he was engaged as assistant engineer and chief engineer in the location and construction of various branches of the road. On the last named date he became assistant to the President. On May 3, 1869, he was made Fourth Vice President; on March 26, 1873, Second Vice President, and on June 3, 1874, First Vice President.

He served in the latter office, until June 1, 1880, when he was elected President, to succeed Thomas A. Scott, and he has held the latter position continuously since that date. He has also been President of the Pennsylvania Company, which manages the lines of the Pennsylvania Railroad west of Pittsburg, and some of its affiliated companies for a number of years.

Frank Thomson, who is expected to succeed Mr. Roberts, was born at Chambersburg, Pa., on July 5, 1841, and entered the service of the company in the shops at Altoona in 1858. From April 1861, to June 1864, he was assistant to Col. Thomas A. Scott in the United States military railway service. Since 1864 he has held various positions of importance on the Pennsylvania system, and has been its First Vice President since Jan. 27, 1888.

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Steam heat included. 41-40-4m L. C. MALTBY, Proprietor

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This new and commodious Hotel, located opp. the depot, Millsburg, Centre county, Pa., has been entirely refitted, refurnished and replenished throughout, and is now second to none in the county in the character of accommodations offered to the public. Its table is supplied with the best market affairs, its bar contains the purest and choicest liquors, its stable has attentive hostlers, and every convenience and comfort is extended to its guests.

Low travelers on the railroad will find this an excellent place to lunch or procure a meal, as all trains stop there about 25 minutes. 24-21

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