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Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., Feb. 26, 1897.

MAJOR HASTING'S RUSSIAN LETTER.

The Absolutism of the Czar-Cossack Cavalry-The Great General and the Circus.

(Continued from last week.)

The Tsar for these simple, trusting peasants is the man who does everything, directs the destinies of the Nation, makes it rain, the sun to shine the crops to grow. He is the living representative on earth of God.

The Tsar collects the taxes, builds, directs and controls the railways and steam ships. He manufactures cigars, paperoses, snuff and matches.

Is it not the Tsar who makes vodka on which they get drunk every Sunday and which is cirrhosing the liver of the nation? Does he not build hospitals for them? The Tsar loans them money from the State banks, brings their children to the Nijni-Novgorod Pan exposition, free of transportation, builds universities, which are nests of anarchistic propaganda, and one third of the students are banished to Siberia. Are not all the soldiers his sons? does he not build for them fine, comfortable barracks, theatres to amuse them, where they pay only one third price?

The Tsar distills the alcohol and controls by monopoly the sale of it, builds museums, buys paintings, sends them bread and seed wheat when they are starving, arbitrates between workman and employer. Is he not their Pope, the head of the church, the autocrat, the imperial, the absolute, personal ruler?

THE TSAI'S STIPEND. It is true that for all this overwork the Tsar is paid by the Nation the bagatelle of \$1,000,000 dollars a year!

Peter the Great his predecessor and forefather, the warrior, statesman, engineer, shipbuilder, cabinet maker, and locksmith, lived on 7 roubles a day and said in writings, still extant, that to spend more than that was wasteful. Hundreds of tables, desks, locks, boats, farnaces etc., made by his own hand are conserved in the Russian museums, and the house in which he lived in Amsterdam, Holland, when leaving ship building has been preserved by the Russian government, from the iron touch of time, by building a new brick house around, encasing it.

He has in addition to the above described miserable stipend, crown lands, gold, silver iron and copper mines in Siberia which, on 500,000,000 per annum.

The Tsar of Russia, as is well known, presented Helene of Montenegro, who was recently married to the Crown Prince of Italy, 1,000,000 roubles or \$500,000 as a wedding present. The gift may have been all the more liberal because he was once engaged to be married to her.

I have a propensity (perhaps a little talent) for learning foreign languages, and I can't be in a country without trying to speak its language.

So one day I tackled a Tarar crossing the bridge at Nijni and tried to ask him where the Blagovescht-Schenskaja-Sloboda (square) was.

The Tartar walked on, head turned towards me politely listening, waiting for me to finish and got half way across the bridge before I could get out the last syllable!

Then he smiled and said no matter. Then I wished for two or three chums so we could divide up the long words, each one pronouncing his part. It might be a more fruitful and equitable division of labor.

Guide was so amused at this contretemps that he laughed till he cried. I sighed for my Moscow guide the faithful, intelligent, gentlemanly Pyotr and feared my Nijni Hebrew would get me into jail or send me to Siberia.

COSSACK CAVALRY. The Cossack soldiers are to me a never failing source of admiration and amusement. Uniformed almost like our zouaves, he poses like an irresistible Don Juan, his little cap on the back of his shaved head, a long cutlass like a sword, a knot, a revolver in front of his hip, in a belt which is filled with a row of cartridges which look like diminutive perfume bottles. He drills on horseback without saddle or bridle, the horses obeying the trumpet commands, and performs the most dare devil tricks, which would put Buffalo-Bill's show in the shade.

Apropos of the Moujiks I read a speech delivered in St. Petersburg last November, by the minister of public instruction, which I have before me as I write. He asserted there were not enough physicians in Russia, that while in the large cities like Petersburg, Moscow, Kasan, Kiev, Warsaw, Odessa, etc., there was one doctor to every 373 inhabitants in the county there was only one doctor to every 137,000 population and that frequently in the country "to send for the doctor" meant going 150 miles.

The result of this condition of affairs is that when the moujiks are taken down with diseases incident to their boreal climate and their badly ventilated dwellings and bad food, they die like a dog in his kennel.

INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL ANENKOFF. In the sleeping car from Moscow to Nijni I made the acquaintance of three Americans, expert railroad builders or engineers who introduced me to General Anenkov who has charge of building the Trans-Siberian railway, and over a glass of wine we had a chat. The Trans-Siberian railway said General Anenkov will be the greatest iron way in the world. Its length from Port Arthur, in Manchuria, to Moscow is 6050 English miles. We have now at work on it an army of laborers, artificers, engineers, clerks, etc., in all about 100,000 men. Yes, France is lending us the money to do the work with, the last loan was 400,000,000 francs.

Soon you Yankees who are such admirable railroad builders and globe trotters will be able to discount Phineas Fogg's, time racing round the world in 80 days, by 50 to 55 per cent! No, fares will not be high. From London to Port Arthur will cost first class, about 21 L sterling, or second class three-fifths and third class two-fifths of this amount say \$165. The journey can be made from Skimoseki Japan, or Shanghai, China to London in thirteen days. It takes 38 days by the Suez Canal to make the same journey. This puts Russia in the most direct communication with Japan, with her thirty-four millions population, and with China with 400,000,000 and will give us the preference as carriers of the merchandise which Europe buys from China and Japan amounting to \$400,000,000 per annum.

The line we estimate will cost 53,000 roubles per verste, is \$29,000 each verste 6-10 of an English mile and will be completed in 1900. You see continued General Anenkov we will beat the Suez Canal route from China by 25 days. The Trans Siberian will develop our far-off possessions and solidify our position in the Orient. It will open up terra incognita, I might say terra ignota, Yakoutsk, Verkoiansk the Amour and Vencistei valleys, about parts of which the world knows very little. Why would you believe it, said the General, tea brought by caravans from China to Russia, is on the way one year!

The political advantages to Russia, of this main artery of communication are absolutely incalculable. It will alter the balance of political forces in the far East, to an extent it is impossible to foresee.

It will, I believe, make Russia the arbiter of the destinies of armed Europe in 25 years. It is the heaviest blow England has received for a quarter of a century.

I took my guide to the circus. The French craze is in the ascendant, everything is France-Russe. The trained horse walked round the ring where the flags of all nations are displayed and picked out the tri-color of France.

At the end of the performance a grand dramatic scene shows you Russia at Toulon, and a Russian and a French gunner standing at their guns are carried in beneath the flags, joined as emblematic of peace, with an angel of victory standing above them holding a laurel crown. There was little cheering.

The Russian people do not understand the Alliance, do not believe in it. Guide held his finger pressed against his upper lip the whole evening to prevent the sneeze and we reached the hotel without a riot, which surely would have followed had he sneezed, while the horses were in the ring.

ARRESTED BY GOV. GENERAL RABANOFF. The evening of my fourth day in Nijni-Novgorod I received a letter from General Rabanoff the Governor-General which was: "General Rabanoff presents his compliments and commands you to come to his office. The officer who delivers this is charged with the duty of bringing you there."

Guide and I were at dinner and I had only finished my soup. I suspected at once it was about my Masonic passport. I tried to temporize by inviting the officer to dine with me; no! To take a drink with me; a creseendo negative! his orders were to bring me to the General, I was under arrest. Would I please follow him, or he would be forced to fetch me.

The guide had told me what a terrible man Rabanoff was, how only a few days before he had made a pair of angels, by hanging two men, without the trouble of trying them. It was raining dimly and the atmospheric pressure, perhaps, caused me to conjure up causes for my arrest other than my Masonic passport. Was it possible that I was suspected of being an Armenian, anarchistic agitator? Had my beard betrayed me as an Armenian Archimandrite in disguise? Would they do with me as they do in Armenia, Crete, and Anatolia, where if a party of Mussulmen meet a Christian they skin him alive, stuff the skin with straw and hang it up on a tree; or if several Christians meet a Mussulman they nail him to a board, or a tree and cut him up slowly bit by bit? The thought was depressing. It gave me chicken flesh.

Led as a prisoner into the presence of Rabanoff he eyed me like a leopard ready to put his claws into me, and in a voice of a Stentor asked me: "What kind of a face are you playing with your passport?" His uniformed aids, at their desks, were listening languidly, as if what was taking place was an every day occurrence, and they would be glad to see me hanged and be done with it.

The interrogatory commenced with what is your name, your fathers name? This he told his blond-moustached secretary of this infamous drama heard trial, to put down as Williamsitch. Where were you born? when I told him Sibona he wanted to know if that was in Greece or Armenia. How old are you? I told him I was 51. "He said you're a liar, that heard is all of 100 years old." It was terrifying and ludicrous. I wanted to laugh. I did in my mind. Speaking in fluent French he commanded me to state my defense. It was short and simple. I told him that when I

came to Europe I had no intention of traveling in Russia; that in France I didn't need a passport; that in America anybody could get a passport by only asking for it; that consequently it was not worth as much as my Masonic certificate (which proves that I am a Knight Templar.) which was not only a means of identification but a certificate of good character and vouched for the fact that I possessed one of the greatest attributes of good citizenship, that I paid my debts--there was the voucher. I invoked King Solomon, Hiram Abiff, Deaz and the widow's son. I offered to give him the grips. I would have given him a stall-wagon one if I could have elenched his throat.

THE CONE-MOUTH. Then remembering the Russian laundie of '91-'92 I told him I had helped to found the Cone-mouth with flour at Philadelphia. He was ungenerous, perhaps, to have reminded him of our relief for their great famine, but I was catching at straws. I told him I was at that time in business in Philadelphia, was president of the Hastings Truss Co., that I was well acquainted with the American commissioners Blankenbergs, Drexel and Reeves and the word Cone-mouth, by inductive attraction, as it were drew me on to ask him if he had heard of the Johnstown flood.

I had to say something to fill in. He answered he knew all about it, he had talked about it with several Americans. Rabanoff paused as if assembling his recollections and then looking again at my Masonic passport he said, why your name is the same as the hero of Johnstown. I saw at once that that was my life-preserver and I told him that the hero of Johnstown was my brother; that in that capernaum of desolation he brought the first succor.

Par Dieu! exclaimed he rising from his chair then you can not be a bad man! you're all right and he stepped towards me and shook my hand, I'll never forget the Pennsylvanians, my government suffered terribly in the famine, said general Rabanoff. Dismissing his aids, who retired into an adjoining room, he offered me a chair close to him and I soon had my legs on his table. Handling me my passport he commenced to ply me with questions about America and about governor Hastings which with my heart in my throat I answered as well as I could, choking down my emotion.

He expressed satisfaction that the hero of Johnstown was now governor of Pennsylvania, and one of the first men in the state. Then he asked if the governor had the power to arrest and hang without trial as in Russia, and was surprised when I answered not yet, that that was an evolution in government which we Americans had not yet attained. The general invited me to dine with him, which of course, I declined; he offered to furnish me with a guide from his staff; how long was I going to stay in Nijni? I had a ticket in my pocket for Yabinsk and must go the next day; I had important engagements in St. Petersburg.

Catch me staying another day in Nijni! not much!

(Concluded next week.)

FOSTER'S WEATHER BULLETIN FOR THIS WEEK.-My last bulletin gave the forecasts of the storm to cross the continent from 17th to 21st, and the next disturbance will reach the Pacific coast about the 22nd, cross the west of Rockies country by close of 22nd, great central valleys 24th to 26th, eastern States 27th.

Warm wave will cross the west of Rockies country about 22nd, great central valleys 24th, eastern States, 26th. Cool wave will cross the west of Rockies country about 25th, great central valleys 27th, eastern States March 1st.

This disturbance will occur in the high temperature storm period, and preceding the storm wave the temperature will average high. But a great fall in temperature is expected between the warm wave of this disturbance and March 9th, and, therefore the cool wave of this disturbance will probably be a cold wave.

At this time I am not sure whether the cold wave will follow the above described disturbance or the one following it, and it will be best to prepare for it on the earlier dates given as the last cold wave in February.

Heavy snows in the north and heavy rains in the south are expected to accompany this disturbance. The northern States should prepare for winter weather in March.

Temperature of the week ending Feb. 20th will average about normal and rain-bow normal.

Beaver street was agog with excitement, on Saturday morning, when Jim Cornely's Irish setter went mad. Jim promptly dispelled fears of a general epidemic of rabies by shooting the brute.

A new baby came into the family of a well-known resident of Philadelphia the other day, the family previously having consisted of father, mother and a little boy of four. The latter didn't know exactly what to make of the new arrival, and took no trouble to conceal his annoyance, that his place should have been thus usurped. Finally the father attempted to remonstrate with the little chap. "The baby is your little brother, you know," he explained, "and you should love him. Papa loves him." "You're my papa," exclaimed the four-year-old; "you ain't his papa." "Yes, I am your papa and his papa, too," was the reply. But the little chap couldn't see it that way. The problem was too deep for him. Finally in desperation the head of the family asked: "Then who do you think the baby's papa is?" The youngster studied a moment and then blurted out: "I don't know, but I can find out. I'll just go and ask mamma."

To cure a cough or cold in one day take Kummine's Compound Syrup of Tar. If it fails to cure money refunded. 25cts.

How to Wind Out. Fill a bottle or common glass with urine and let it stand twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates a diseased condition of the kidneys. When urine stains linen it is positive evidence of kidney trouble. Too frequent desire to urinate or pain in the back, is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

WHAT TO DO. There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy fulfills every wish in relieving pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passages. It corrects inability to hold urine and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effects following use of liquor, wine or beer, and overcomes that unpleasant necessity of being compelled to get up many times during the night to urinate. The mild and the extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists price fifty cents and one dollar. For a sample bottle and pamphlet both sent free by mail, mention the WATCHMAN and send your full post-office address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. The proprietors of this paper guarantee the genuineness of this offer. 42-3-4.

Try, Try Again. For toothache, oil of cloves in the tooth with cotton. For whooping cough, two ounces of olive oil, one ounce of oil of amber, and one drachm of oil of cloves, rubbed on the chest at bedtime. For sore throat, sage tea, with vinegar to make it acid, and sugar to make it sweet. For a cough, a small piece of resin in a vessel on the back of the stove. For a burn, prepared chalk made into a thick paste with lard. For bad breath, six to ten drops of chloride of lime in a wineglassful of water each morning. For scurvy, nettle acid. For bleeding at the nose, powdered alum, as a snuff.-Good Housekeeping.

The Shakers have made a great hit. Their digestive Cordial is said to be the most successful remedy for stomach troubles ever introduced. It immediately relieves all pain and distress after eating, builds up the feeble system and makes the weak strong.

The fact is, foods properly digested are better than so-called tonics. The Cordial not only contains food already digested, but is a digester of other foods. Food that is not digested does more harm than good. People who use the Cordial insure the digestion of what food they eat and in this way get the benefit of it and grow strong.

The little pamphlets which the Shakers have sent druggists for free distribution, contain much interesting information on the subject of dyspepsia. Laxoi is not a mixture of drugs. It is nothing but Castor oil made palatable.

Mrs. Cleveland took her children to Princeton this week and returned to the White House to be with the President at the close of the administration. Dr. Bryant and his wife are guests at the White House this week. Mrs. Thurber and the children of the private secretary left for their home at Detroit last week in a special car. Mr. Thurber expects to join them in about two weeks.

TRUTH IN A NUTSHELL.-Impure blood is the natural result of close confinement in the house, school room or shop. Blood is purified by Hood's Sarsaparilla, and all the disagreeable results of impure blood disappear with the use of this medicine.

If you wish to feel well, keep your blood pure with Hood's Sarsaparilla. Hood's pills are the best family cathartic and liver medicine. Gentle, reliable, sure.

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