

### TWO RULING CZARS.

#### A Great Conspiracy in Russia Whose Chief Is as Strong as Alexander.

#### HIDES BEHIND NIHILISM

#### And Commits Crime in Its Name to Dethrone the Romanoffs.

#### IGNATIEV'S REMARKABLE CAREER

#### The Wrecking of Imperial Trains and Riots by the Peasants.

#### PARTS OF HIS SCHEME OF AMBITION

[The author of this remarkable and startling presentation of the political situation in Russia formerly practiced law in St. Petersburg and attained no little celebrity as a writer. The expression of his political opinions made it inconvenient for him to remain in his native country, and he now lives in London, his address being 29 Bolton Gardens, Chiswick. Recently he published a book here, "Poland, Siberia and America," in the Russian language, in which he treats in detail the gigantic conspiracy which is outlined in this article. He speaks and writes in this letter to THE DISPATCH as one perfectly assured of his facts, and there can be no question that he has had ample opportunity to gain command of many facts that will be new to students of contemporary history.]

him his body servant and eventually secured him several promotions. During the great insurrection of 1825 Paul Ignatiev, by a happy chance, was appointed chief of the Senate guard, and in this capacity rendered considerable service to the Emperor, for he prevented the soldiers under his command from holding any communication with the insurgents, and thus made it impossible for rebellious subjects to enter the Senate House. For this important service the Emperor made Ignatiev his aide-de-camp, and afterwards promoted him so rapidly that at the beginning of the reign of Alexander II, Paul Ignatiev was Governor General of St. Petersburg, and his eldest son, Nicolas, with whom we now have to do, had attained the rank of General of the Imperial suite, and was dispatched to Bokhara at the head of an extraordinary Russian mission. I may add that Paul Ignatiev, in common with other Russian dignitaries, had paid due attention to filling his pockets, and had accordingly become a wealthy man.

#### The Acquisition of Amoor.

The mission to Bokhara met with complete success, and, as a reward, Nicolas Ignatiev was appointed Ambassador to China. There a happy chance again befell him, with conduct on the part of Ignatiev and



Alexander III of Russia.

his friends at court that cannot be regarded as strictly honorable, brought great distinction to the diplomatist. At that time the Governor General of Eastern Siberia was Mouraviev, who was a man of good character. No public or private money was to be his. Unhappily, as it too well known, Russian officialdom is honeycombed with corruption, and by reason of his probity Mouraviev stood head and shoulders above his colleagues. He saw that the country could never be properly developed without a more southerly approach to the sea, either Bering or Okotski; that such an approach could be secured by the annexation of Amoor; and that unless Russia could secure possession of that province her interests would be in constant danger from Chinese aggression. Mouraviev laid this scheme before the Emperor and the Government at St. Petersburg, and repeatedly urged its acceptance, but without positive result. Then there was an unexpected and terrible massacre of Christians in China, and Western Europe was aroused to the point of a conjoint attack upon China in reparation for this time the Chinese had been intimidated with the false notion of impossibility of their country and the inflexibility of their army. The truth appeared to them like a flash; they saw that a combined attack by European powers must be crowned by success, and vain confidence gave way to fricht.

#### Ignatiev Claimed all the Credit.

Ignatiev saw how to make use of this moment of terror. He had never broached to the Pekin Government the subject of the cession of Amoor, but now he suddenly demanded this, threatening war in the event of refusal, and he promised the friendship and support of Russia against Europe in

case the demand were granted. The Chinese yielded. Amoor became Russian territory, and Ignatiev, regardless of Mouraviev's protestations, without which the annexation would not have been possible, thought of, hastened to acquaint St. Petersburg with what he had done, claiming all the credit of the affair for himself.

#### His Brother a Man of Great Energy.

As intrigue succeeded intrigue at Constantinople, as each sought its profit to Ignatiev, Mouraviev's brother established a factory on the banks of the Volga, where, as he had nearly, if not quite, controlled the industries of carpet, cloth, glass making, etc. So matters went until 1876, a year that marks an epoch in Russian history. At this time, side by side with other conspiracies more or less insignificant, socialistic, anarchistic, nihilistic, and so on—nine out of ten of which were made up by the police—side by side with all these other conspiracies, there was nothing new or original in its programme, no patriotic aim to curtail the power of the throne and set up a new dynasty on the same lines. Such an event had happened before in Russian history, and its originators, the conspirators, were personally known to me.

#### A Conspiracy Involving Great Names.

To this conspiracy belonged many Ministers, Walupew, Reiter, Tolstoy (the celebrated author, but a relative), and several members of the royal family; for example, he who died recently, Prince Constantin, brother of Alexander II, and Prince Peter of Oldenburg. Some time after the inception of this conspiracy the leadership passed into the hands of a man renowned for energy and activity, Ivan Aksakow, of Moscow. He began to aspire to the Russian crown. Following the suggestions of those of the conspirators who were in the Russian army, Aksakow gained the aid of Serbia, or, to speak more precisely, Russian agents were sent into Serbia, who eventually inflamed public sentiment there to such an extent that the sequel was a war of little Russia against Turkey was instigated, and this provoked the declaration of war by Russia against the Ottoman Empire. Trusting to the assurances of Ignatiev, the Emperor and II was not sufficiently prepared when he threw himself against Turkey. Near Biela, in Bulgaria, he was surrounded by the Turks and killed. The brave General Pachka checked the Russian advance. Then at last Alexander II saw that Ignatiev had deceived him, and when, reproached by the Emperor, the former ambassador to Turkey be-

gan to explain matters in an impudent fashion, the Emperor lost all control of his temper and struck his faithless servant several times. It goes without saying that Ignatiev saw in this no end to his official career, and all that was left for him was to decide how he could revenge himself most effectively for his fall and disgrace.

#### Death of a Cigarette.

Everybody will recall the death of De Reiter, aide de camp to the Emperor, whose father was Minister of Finance and President of the Ministerial Council, and a member, therefore, of the most powerful class of Russian officials. One day when young De Reiter, who was personally liked by Alexander II, was on duty in the Emperor's apartments, he was smoking a cigarette in the reception room. Suddenly the Emperor entered. In order to conceal the smoke De Reiter promptly put the cigarette in the skirt pocket of his uniform. The Emperor saw the act and this, with De Reiter's evident consternation, was sufficient proof to him that De Reiter meant to kill him, and that he by force, the Emperor, without further thought the Emperor, who has tremendous physical strength, especially in the arms, drew a pistol from his pocket and fired. The Emperor fell dead. Then they showed him how a simple cigarette had frightened the Emperor, and a country containing 100,000 of inhabitants.



General Ignatiev.

power there was no effective search for the assassins and for the same reason nothing had been done about the murder of two men a little previous to this time—officers of the gendarmes at Kiev, Baron von Keiling and the solicitor to the military tribunal, General Steinkow, shot at Odessa. Both these men were grave obstacles in the way of Ignatiev's designs.

#### There Is Ample Proof of It.

The question is fair and demands attention, but I trust the reader will see the difficulty, if not the impossibility of returning a categorical answer. I have said that many of the operations of the great conspiracy came under my personal observation and that many of the actors are personally known to me. Fifty busy years spent in Russia (I have been but a few months in England) fit me, I may venture to presume, to speak with some confidence on Russian affairs. Moreover, I speak not from my own knowledge and observation alone. I have the word of many honorable men in substantiation and corroboration of my statement; but if I were to mention names and addresses, or quote from correspondence and other documents, it is not clear that anybody would be brought to undeserved distress. One or other of the two Czars would surely visit the most terrible punishment upon those who were known to be unduly cognizant of the secret workings either of the Government that is or the Government that hopes to be. I must, therefore, beg a

considerable measure of trust for my own word. In his capacity of secret but real Governor of the so-called empire of the Czars, Nicolas Ignatiev always had at his disposal acknowledged Czar, Alexander III, shall never approach the Russian people, and that the people shall see in the Czar, not their protector, but the friend of the nobility and the officials. This policy, so perilous to the Russian throne, Ignatiev maintains systematically and with an iron hand. It should be understood that the Czar is not only devoid of elvish ability, but that an important element in his character is cowardice.

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Ignatiev plays skillfully upon this personal cowardice of Alexander III. When dressed in peasant's costume he is favored by the Emperor, and he has been able to make a favorable impression of the new ruler. Ignatiev saw that it was imperative, in view of his old designs, that the Czar should declare himself frankly and wholly as the enemy of the peasants. That was brought about in this way: Just before the coronation at Moscow several people in St. Petersburg dressed in peasant's costume tried to enter the palace of the Czar by force, the palace called Aniskow, situated in the center of the Prospekt Nevsky, the most important street in the capital. These people, who, without doubt, were perfectly well known to the prefect of St. Petersburg, General Pierre de Gresser, a devoted adherent of Ignatiev, ran away; nobody was chased; nobody tried to arrest them, but everybody in the capital was astounded at the episode, which was laid before the Czar as a plan of the peasantry, profiting by his absence to effect a revolution. The Czar was frightened and irritated, and under the influence of his excitement he delivered to the peasants who were present an address overflowing with anger. Thanks to this speech all the Russian peasantry understood that the Czar was against them. Ignatiev had won.

#### Ignatiev Wrecks the Czar's Train.

Five years later, that is, in 1888, Alexander III proposed to make a tour of Russia with his wife and children. This journey had its perils for Ignatiev, because the Czar might chance to meet well informed and candid men who could open his eyes to the truth, in which event Ignatiev would lose all. To ward off this catastrophe the wrecking of the train bearing the Czar's retinue, which will be remembered by everybody, was arranged; it occurred on October 17, 1888, at Borki, near Kharkow. This was a bloody lesson, a terrible warning addressed to the Czar, and the moral was that Alexander III would better not travel in Russia for the purpose of learning anything about his dominion. Anatol Koni, Solicitor General to the Senate, a man devoted to his duty, and who also investigated the wreck in such a manner that the criminals never were discovered.

In the present famine situation, in order that the Czar may not listen to the peasants'

plaintive voice, that he may not approach the people, which would be dangerous for Ignatiev's designs, he is kept in such a state of terror that he dares not set foot outside of Gatchina, his residence. Everything is effected by Ignatiev's clique. To this end they arranged the breakdown near Orel of the Emperor's train. And Ignatiev continues his dark plans—this Ignatiev who for many years has been awaiting the disruption of Russia, preparing, as did the Czar Boris Godunow under similar circumstances, to place upon his own head the Russian crown.

#### VINCENT JURAWSKI BUNKED BY THEIR WIVES

#### How Two Fair Schenmers Successfully Worked Their Unsuspecting Lords.

A Chicago wife last summer induced her husband to promise to give her all the silver half dollars and quarters he received which bore an odd date. Then the fair schemer took into her confidence a number of men with whom her husband had business dealings, requesting them to save for her unsuspecting spouse all the odd dated subsidiary coin they chanced to take in. The consequence was that the husband was surprised beyond measure to find that a remarkably large number of his bills thereafter were paid in small coin, which he promptly confiscated under her own proposition. His wife had been interrupted very speedily had he not smelled a rat and promptly struck his colors by effecting a compromise.

#### CHAPTER III THE DOCTOR IN THE CASE

Miriam read these brief words again and again, then she passionately kissed them, and her tears rushed out on them. "Poor, poor fellow," she murmured, "he need not have been afraid."

And she was still holding the note in her hand; still gazing at it with her tearful eyes, when she heard the handle of the door turn, and her mother's voice demanding admittance.

"My dear, are you ill? Why have you locked your door?" said Mrs. Clyde outside.

In a moment Miriam had hidden the note in her dress, and then she unlocked the door, and her mother entered, looking at her gravely as she did so.

"What is the matter, Miriam?" she said. "Why did you hurry from the drawing-room in such wonderful haste?"

"I turned suddenly faint, mother," answered Miriam, who was confused and trembling, and her mother's quick glance saw at once that her eyes were stained with tears.



## THE LAST SIGNAL

WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH BY DORA RUSSELL

Author of "Footprints in the Snow," "The Broken Seal," "The Track of the Storm," "A Fatal Past," Etc.

#### SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS.

Two lovers, Sir James MacKennon, Bart., and Miss Miriam Clyde, are standing by the seashore, and the former is urging her to name the wedding day. She pleads for delay. In the meantime an accident occurs, a soldier being wounded by a firing party. Miriam binds up his wound and saves his life. Glancing at each other's face a mutual recognition takes place, and both are agitated. On arriving home the doctor who was summoned to the wounded man gave her a note which the soldier had hastily scribbled. It contains the words "For God's sake keep my secret."

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"What is the matter, Miriam?" she said. "Why did you hurry from the drawing-room in such wonderful haste?"

"I turned suddenly faint, mother," answered Miriam, who was confused and trembling, and her mother's quick glance saw at once that her eyes were stained with tears.

"I am very sorry for that; you really quite startled me, and you carried away my novel, too," said Mrs. Clyde, pointing to the book lying on the toilet table, which Miriam had brought up.

"I forgot I had it in my hand—I turned suddenly faint."

"But why did you lock your door, my dear?"

"I did not want anyone to know I was not well. I thought it was best not to say anything."

"Well, Dr. Reed thinks, and I think too, that this accident to the poor soldier has been too much for you. He recommended me to give you a little sal-volatile, and though, my dear Miriam, I am pleased you were able to give some little help, I think in future you had better not attempt to do anything of this kind; your nerves are evidently not equal to it."

"It was very trying, certainly," faltered Miriam. "I think, mother, if you do not

mind I should like to have some sal-volatile, and then lie down and rest a little while before dinner."

"That will be the wisest plan, I think; the two young men are gone, and your father has gone with them, so he is anxious about the poor soldier, so I'll send the sal-volatile up to you by Ford, and then lie down and get a rest."

"Yes, mother," said Miriam, and with a pleasant little nod Mrs. Clyde turned away and left the room, and Miriam was alone. But she did not lie down as she said she would. She went to her desk and opened it with trembling hands, and then sat down to write a note to Dr. Reed, and also a few lines to the wounded soldier under his care. She had placed her envelopes and paper ready to this when Ford appeared with the sal-volatile. Ford was a spritely, good-looking girl, beloved by many soldiers, though she always declared to her mistress that she would "not look at one of them." However this might be, and Mrs. Clyde had some reason to doubt the exact truth of her statement, numerous soldiers certainly looked at her. Banks, the indoor servant of the Colonel, was devoted to her, and one or two orderlies who came about the house with letters, etc., were dubious captives to her charms.

Miriam Clyde liked her, and Ford liked Miriam, and now Miriam was about to ask a favor from her hands, and with a sudden flush to her pale cheeks, she did this, as Ford set down the glass containing the sal-volatile.

"Ford, I want you to do something for me," she began. "I'm sure I'd be very pleased, Miss Miriam," answered Ford, with the pleasant ready smile that had endeared the hearts of the orderlies. "I—I want a letter posted to Dr. Reed," continued Miriam, blushing deeply, for she did not like asking favors from servants. "I want it posted without anyone seeing it. I do not want mother to know that I have sent it."

Ford opened her blue eyes a little wider, as, of course, she knew of Miss Miriam's engagement to Sir James MacKennon. But she was a young woman with liberal notions on the subject of lovers, and concluded that Miss Miriam had a fancy for two. "Of course, Miss Miriam, I'll post it," she answered, promptly. "And if I can't

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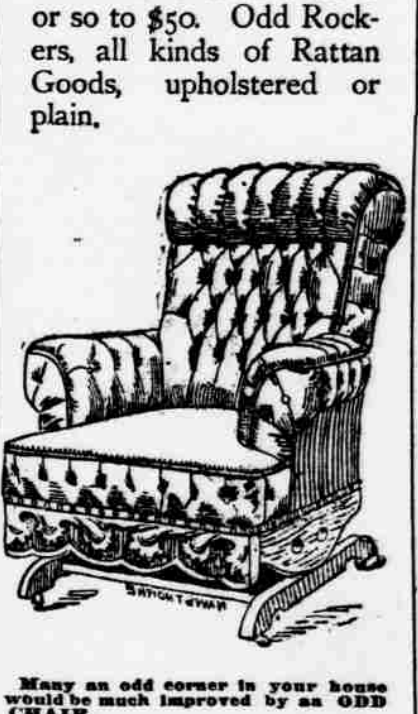


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