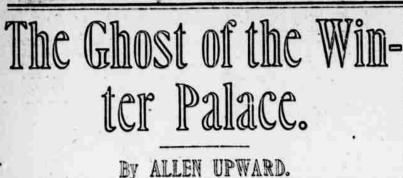
THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE---WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 6, 1896.



Author of "Secrets of the Courts of Europe."

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society, and, above all, never reached the ears of a single correspondent of any journal outside the Russian em-pire. In the Russian press, of course, it was impossible for anything to pass the stern scrutiny of the censorship. "It is for this reason that the public of Funca has never had even an ink-

"Check!" proclaimed the ambassador | ital that any allusion to it would be indiscreet, and might in fact subject the person making it to an unpleasant jour-ney across the Ural mountains. "Never was the marvelous power of the police exerted with more crushing with a threatening air, as he advanced his king's bishop to the one square I had omitted to guard. And he leant back in his seat and smiled as if he considered the game already won. effect. The rumor died out as swiftly

10.

considered the game already won. I sat silently studying the position. But my opponent was not a man who played chess merely by moving the pleces on the board. He did not neg-lect the opportunity to distract my attention by conversation.

"The game of chess is an admirable one for men of my calling," he ob-served. "There is something truly in-structive in the lessons which it con-veys. Look, for instance, at the pawn. a piece which in its earlier career scarcely repays the trouble of capture, but to which, later on, even the queen may be sacrificed."

Inay be sacrificed." Unconsciously swayed, perhaps, by these remarks, I pushed forward a pawn between my king and the attack-ing plece. The ambassador affected to hardly notice the move.

"Consider again how delicately th King's dignity is preserved." he went on, taking up a knight with elaborate carelessness, and setting it down dan-gerously near my pawn. "You advance upon him, you threaten him, you pre-pare for him the certainty of capture, but you never remove him from the but you never remove him from the board."

"And the moral of this?" I suggested. as I vairly sought a way out of the dif-ficulties in which my own king was involved. Russia.

"And moral is perhaps contained in a story which I would relate to you if I were not certain that you would re-

"But why?" I remonstrated. "Do you mean that it requires one to credit the existence of the supernatural for existence of the supernatural, for

example A look of the deepest, the most pained disgust overspread his excellency's

"My friend, have 1 by any chance led you to mistake me for a romancer, a poet? Rest assured that the facts I poet? Rest assured that the facts I shall marrate to you are perfectly au-thentic and are known to several per-sons in the inner circle of the Russian court. I merely observe to you that my story is incredible. I do not say that it

is absurd.' I resigned myself to the prospect of losing the game, and prepared to listen.

"The peoples of western Europe de "The peoples of western Europe do not understand Russia. It is, of course, of official Russia. the Russia of the government, that I speak. During the whole time that I speak at the embassy in St. Petersburg I could always per-celve that I was a mere epectator, al-lowed to see no more of the true con-dition of a airs than it suited the pur-pose of the officials to display to me. Nevertheless, I thatter myself that I penetrated farther behind the scenes than they were aware.

than they were aware. "Outwardly, as everybody knows, the government of this empire is an autor-racy, the absolute power being vested in the hands of the czar. But the true government of Russia is a secret so-clety, the mysterious "Train," which in-cludes the whole of the official class. and in whose hands the czar is often no more than a puppet, powerless to exert his own will. How burdensome this po-sition is may be estimated from the fact that only sixty years ago Grand Duke Constantine deliberately refused to as-cend the throne, which passed to his

the further side of this door is a disused the further side of this door is a disused gallery overlooking a garden in the rear of the palace and leading to a suite of rooms which has not been used for very many years. Nevertheless, in ac-cordance with the strict full already cordance with the strict whe already mentioned, an imperial page has always been stationed in this gallery to pre-vent the possibility of access to the locked door. It was at this spot that the young prince had been on duty the preceding night. "You will understand that the task of been used at slow to be a stated on the task of

keeping guard at night in a deserted gallery was by no means a pleasant

satiety was by no means a pleasant one, although no page was required to be there for more than three hours in the twenty-four. Moreover, a small room opening out of the gallery had been suitably furnished for the lads to relay themselves in during their sol-itary watch. In spite of this, the duty had meaningd had remained an unpopular one, so much so that the new czar, on taking up his quarters in the palace, had earned

the gratitude of the rages' corps by decreeing that from the hour of mid-night to six in the morning the watch in the gallery should no longer be kept up. "On the night in question Boris had

and suddenly as it had arisen. It never penetrated beyond the inner circle of society, and, above all, never reached to remain there till twelve, and then, as soon as the clock struck, he was at liberty to retire to his own quarters. "It wanted very few minutes to the hour, and he was pacing the gallery, impatiently waiting for his release, when he happened to stop opposite one of the windows and look out into the grounds. It was a bright moonlight night, and every tree and shrub in the

of Europe has never had even an ink-ling of a secret of which, outside the immediate court circle, I am perhaps the sole possessor. That mere curiosgarden stood out in startling distinct-ness, He gazed Idly, letting his eye roam over the expanse, when all at once his attention was arrested by a once his attention was arrested by a ity is not one of my failings, you have loubtless long ago observed. But in the interests of France I deemed it the interests of France I deemed it necessary to penetrate to the bottom of this extraordinary affair, and cir-ius in the alarmist atmosphere of the cumstances fortunately put it in my power to do so." "Then you were in St. Petersburg at this time?" I remarked, in a tone mid-way between that of an assertion and a question. "Did I not say so?" returned way

"Did I not say so?" returned my page should at once connect this figure with the audacious intrigues of the dreaded secret society whose plots con-Friend. "I was not there in any po-fitted, "I was not there in any po-litical capacity. The president had re-quested me to be the bearer of his per-sonal congratulations to Nichelas, and I prolonged my visit at the request of some of those friends whom I had left stitute a perpetual menace to the im-perial throne. His impression that he was watching a nihilist emissary was confirmed when he saw him confidentchind me after my former residence in y approaching a door in the wall of the palace which was never used, and was supposed to be securely fastened against ingress and egress. This door, on the contrary, appeared to yield to a I apologized for the interruption. "But you are quite right to interro-gate me," said the ambassador, bland-

ly. I should otherwise fear that my story did not interest you. As I was touch of the mysterious visitor's, who disappeared from sight beneath its about to tell you, I was favored in my arch "Greatly disturbed by what he had seen, Boris kept his station in the gal-lery, considering what it was advisable for him to do. The clock struck the hour for his release, but he paid no at-tention, absorbed in the thought of how to deal with the dangerous in-tended deal with the dangerous in-

truder "I should have thought it a simple matter to give the alarm," I ventured

to murmur. His excellency regarded me with a look in which pity and rebuke strove for the mastery. "My friend, it is evident that you do

not know Russia. To have given this alarm of which you speak might have been of the utmost danger to the prince. The first person whom he approached with the news might have been a secret nihilist and have repaid such a com-munication with a knife thrust. The whole court is honeycombed. Even if

Boris had succeeded in bringing about the arrest of the person whose move-ments had roused his attention, this might have turned out to be some high functionary, perhaps a general or a chamberlain, who, after easily explain-

chamberlain, who, after easily explain-ing away his mysterious proceedings, would have privately exerted his influ-ence to have my young friend removed to Tobolsk or Tiflis. Believe me, in Russia to be a too zealous courtier is hardly less dangerous than to be an actual conspirator, as you will perhaps realize when you have heard my story, "While our prince was still hesitat-ing, he suddenly became aware of an unusual sound, coming from the far "I had formed the acquaintance of the princess during my former official residence at the embassy, and, though some years had elapsed since 1 had seen her, she received me with una-bated friendliness on my return. Do not, 1 heg of you, allow yourself to put a false interretation on the sentiunusual sound, coming from the far end of the gallers, where it ended in the disused apartments I have de-scribed. The sound appeared to be

she said to me, 'although it is evident to me that it must have been some liv-ing person, masquerading as the ghost of the czar. The question is for what purpose such a disguise could have been assumed, and on this point I con-fees I feel uneasy. What do you say, my friend?"

ress 1 feel uneasy. What do you say, my friend?" "I shook my head. "I fear that the first suspicions of Boris were correct.' I replied, 'and that the enemies of his majesty have re-sumed their infernal schemes. It ap-pears that they have obtained a key to the garden door, and who knows that they have not secured another to the door of the imperial apartments, that door from which the guard was to have been removed last night for the first time? Surely it is not by a mere coin-dence that this strange figure presents itself in the corridor immediately after mediately after midnight, that is to say, at the hour when the conspirators had every rea-

wow'd have just quitted his post?" "Foth mother and son appeared struck by this view of the circum-stances. But Boris was by no means prepared to abandon his belief in the supernatural character of what he had seen

"'I can understand that it is difficult for my mother and you to share my opinion,' he remarked, 'but I can-not believe that any complitator could have succeeded in assuming so close a



THE GHOST HAD DISAPPEARED.

resemblance to Alexander III., with whose features I was so well acquaint-ed. Besides, if your theory were cor-rect, and he had disappeared through the imperial corridor, why it is that nothing has happened, and that no one seems to have seen or heard anything of the intrusion?

"It was of course difficult to answer

"It was of course difficult to answer this objection but I reiterated my de-termination to take a common-sense view of the occurrence. "It may very well be that this was merely a first visit,' I added; 'a recon-noissance to discover the nature of the ground before introducing some oxground, before introducing some ex-plosive machine or other, and the vil-lain may easily have kept himself out this is a start of the second second signal and the second infallibly return at the same hour an-other night. Tonight, on account of the presence of everybody at this ball. will be his most favorable opportunity, as he may confidently expect to find the imperial suite deserted. I propose to you that we repair to this little room of yours together at the moment when the page who has replaced you tonight comes off duty, and if this mysterious personage again presents himself I will compel him to disclose his identity."



younger brother, Emperor Nicholas I. Nor has the 'Tchin' ever shrunk from asserting its supremacy by the most deplorable deeds. It is not the nlhilists who have set the fashion of assassinating czars. It is by the hands of their ministers and courtiers that the monarchs of Russia have most often perished.

'It is necessary to bear these facts in mind in order to understand the incident I am about to relate.

"It is not long since the attention of Europe was concentrated upon the death of Alexander III. Occurring, as it did in a remote corner of his dominions on the shores of the Black sea, the ac-counts supplied by the newspaper correspondents who flocked like vultures to the spot were as circumstantial as if each one had been admitted to the bed-side of the dying monarch. The interest taken in this event was moreover en-hanced by the romantic circumstances of the marriage of the present czar. Nicholas II. It was natural that the press, ever ready to give itself up to transports over those incidents in which royalty is concerned, should have lav-ished its powers of description upon the sudden summons to Princess Alix of Hesse, her hurried and desolate journey across the frozen continent, her marriage with the czarewitch, celebrated, as it were, in the very death cham-ber, and then the grand passing away of the emperor, consoled in the happiness of his son and fortified by all the

rites of his church. "Shortly after these events the new czar returned to St. Petersburg with bride, and took up his quarters in Winter palace. As is usual on the accession of a new monarch to the throne of Russia, hopes of a reform in



A GHOST HAD BEEN SEEN WALK-ING.

government were extensively en tertained. The progressive party talked with confidence of the mild and enlightened temper of the young czar, and augured much from the young exar, and augured much from the way in which he had formerly held himself aloof from the repressive measures of his father's ministers. Fools! As if the 'Tchin' ever died, or its policy could be changed by the mere replacing of one royal figurehead by another. "However the result of all this mer

"However, the result of all this was that the nihilists relaxed their activity, and for a time there was absolute repose in the Russian capital. This re-pose was broken by a strange and dis-turbing rumor, which circulated, ob-

a false interpretation on the sentia faise interpretation on the senti-ments which subsisted between this lady and myself. The princess, al-though left a widow at an early age, was a woman of the most delicate pro-priety, and my attentions to her partook of an almost paternal character. "I chanced to be dining at her man-sion on the Nevsky prospect, on the day after the royal apparition was said to have made its appearance. We were enjoying a tete-a-tete after-dinner, before proceeding to a ball given that night at the palace, when we were inthat terrupted by the arrival of the young Boris, dressed in the imposing uniform of his office. He was quite a lad; in-deed, when I had formerly known him

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE EVENT OF LAST NIGHT?"

investigation by the accident of my

friendship with a very charming wo-

man, Princes Nestikoff, whose son, Prince Boris Nestikoff, was an imperial

page, at that time on duty in the Winter palace. "I had formed the acquaintance

he was a mere child, and had been ac-customed to consider me in the light of a father. "He entered the room in which we were seated, more abruptly than was perhaps consistent with his filial re-spect; but the agitation under which he evidently labored furnished some

excus "'Mother,' he cried out as soon as he was inside the door, 'have you heard about the event of last night?' "The princess, with a gesture full of dignity, drew his attention to my pres

""Boris,' she exclaimed, in a voice of

reproof, 'you have omitted to pay your respects to the baron.' "The young prince blushed, and hastened to make his apologies, with that grace which he inherits from his parent.

"'Say no more,' I commanded; 'It is easy to see that you have something of importance which you wish to com-municate to your mother. With madam's permission I will withdraw.' With

"But this neither of them would hear of, both mother and son assuring me that there was no secret which they would not trust to my discretion. I know not how it is," pursued the ambassador, extending his hands with an air of the most touching humility, "but there appears to be something in my character which inspires confidence, in all those with whom I come in contact, and induces them to entrust me with their most delicate affairs, in which I have really no desire to participate." To such an observation it was obviously my duty to make one reply. "The fact is, my dear ambassador, that they do right. It is the strictness with which you guard these confidences of which you complain, that leads people to presume upon your amiability." Having said this, I took advantage of the interruption to make a desperate move on the chessboard. His excel-

lency, affecting not to note what I had done, continued his revelations. "It was then that my young friend proceeded to disclose the reason for his sudden appearance, and to astound us with the intelligence that he was himself the author of the rumor which had so perturbed the society of St. Peters-burg. It will, perhaps, save time if I repeat the substance of his story in my own words."

PART II.

"You must know," the ambassador continued, "that the Winter palace is one of the most colossal buildings in the world. Whole suites of apartments in it are never used, even, but, in order to guard against all danger from the odious attempts of the nihilists, a cer-tain watch is maintained even in the tain watch is maintained even in the serve, merely among the exclusive clr-cles of the court. This rumor was to the effect that the Winter palace had become haunted. "It was stated that a ghost had been seen walking in one of the corridors at midnight. And there were those who asserted that the spirit in question was that of the dead czar. "As you may imagine, such a rower

asserted that the spirit in question was that of the dead czar. "As you may imagine, such a report sould hot be long in attracting the attention of the secret police. The result tention of the secret police. The result was very soon apparent. The rumor itself had hardly been abroad a few days when it became silently understood in the society of the Russian cap-stood in the society of the Russian cap-

that of a door slowly turning on its hinges. In an instant Boris realized, or thought he realized, the situation. The personage of the garden had ar-rived in the vacant suite by means of a secret stairway from the garden door. and was now about to mass through into the gallery, with the object, no doubt, of making his way finally into

the imperial corridor. "There was not a moment to lose. Unarmed, as he stood there, Boris fortunately recollected that in the little chamber which I had spoken of as set apart for the use of the pages, there was a pair of loaded pistols and a He darted in through the open



A MUFFLED FIGURE STEALING ALONG.

door of the room, snatched up the sword and one of the pistols, and had got back nearly so far as the threshold when he was arrested, and his very limbs were rooted to the ground by the sight of the figure which passed noise-

lessly along the corridor outside. "Inogine a tall and somber appari-tion, with long black robes sweeping the floor, the head shrouded in a deep cowl, from whose recesses gleamed out, pallid and spectral in the light of the room, the features of the dead mon-arch, Alexander III.!"

At this point his excellency pretended to perceive for the first time the change which had taken place in the "Ah! You have moved your king," he exclaimed, and promptly shifted his attacking bishop so as to give me a tresh check. Then he returned to the narretive

narrative. "A moment passed. The first shock A moment passed. The first shock of terror over, the awe-struck page ventured to the door of the chamber and glanced out into the gallery. The phost had disappeared as suddenly

and as mysteriously as it had come." "Were there no other rooms off the gallery into which it might have passed?" I demanded, not to appear too credulous

oredulous. "There were none. The only other door in this part of the gallery was that which I have already described as closing of the imperial corridor. "Be sure that I put the same question myself when my young friend told me the story. His manner convinced me that he was not lying, and that he really believed himself to have seen the specter he described.

"As you know, I am not a believer in the supernatural. I sought to shake the boy's superstitious state of mind. "'What you saw was some illusion.

"Boris welcomed this idea. I could be that he was secretly ashamed of the of the prince of Wales as chancellor of the National university. Aberystwith, Bangor and Cardiff, the three constituridicule which attached to him for his story of ghostsceing, and that he was anxious to re-establish his character. The princess was good enough to ex-press her opinion of my courage and de-votion in terms which it would not become me to repeat to you. In the end we arrived at an understanding and de-parted to the palace together.

Throughout the progress of the ball -during which Grand Duchess Olga condescended to become my partner in a waltz-I kept my cyce and ears open and observed that Boris' adventure of the night before was a general topic of conversation. The more highly-placed officials were evidently in a conspiracy to treat it as a mere boylsh delusion, but among the general body of the

but among the general body of the guests I found there were not a few who shared my suspicions. I ventured to approach the czar's confidential chamberlain at an interval between the dances and to sound him delicately on dances and to sound him delicately on the subject. His reply was character-istic of his nation and government, "My dear baron,' he said, sharply, 'there is nothing so detestable as court gossip. It is most annoying to his

majesty to have his late father's name connected with the wanderings of a moonstruck boy. Take my advice, and dismiss the affair from your mind.' "His manner convinced me that more importance was attached to the incident than he pretended. However, I feigned to be perfectly satisfied, and returned to the grand duchess, who was anxious to know whether her robe would have been approved in Paris. But the hour agreed on for the rendezvous was approaching, and I had to make the best excuse I could think of to tear myself away from the imperial lady. You are, of course, familiar with her portraits."

I was obliged to confess my ignor-ance of the features of the Grand Duch-ess Olga, of whom I had never previously heard, though, of course, I did not say this.

The ambassador glanced at the chessboard for a moment, as if meditating a move, before he resumed. "Ah! Well, I will not attempt to de-

scribe her to you. Boris met me as we had arranged. in a small passage leading out of the anteroom, and we made our way unobserved up a back staircase into the famous haunted gallery. The page on duty was just leav-ing as we arrived. He grinned when he saw Boris, who explained to him that he had brought me to see the pages' room. Fortunately the other lad was mpatient to get down and take part in the dancing. No sooner had the great clock of the palace commenced to boom forth the strokes of millnight than he hastily departed, and Boris and I were left in possession of the gallery."

(To Be Continued Saturday.)

SULPHUR FOR DANDRUFF.

An Ounce of Flowers of Sulphur in Quart of Water.

Prof. Smither says that he suffered inconvenience from dandruff, and hav-ing resorted to many means for relief, among which were alcoholic solutions of castor oil, and washing of the scalp with solutions of borax and carbonate of potassa, which latter, although it gave relief from the dandruff, seemed to impair the vitality of the hair, and cause it to become thinner, was finally in-duced from his knowledge of the effic-

"As you know, I am not a believer in the supernatural. I sought to shake the boy's superstitious state of mind. "What you saw was some illusion, some trick of the imagination,' I said to him. "He shook his head mournfully. "I am as certain of what I saw as if it were before me now,' he repled. 'My mother will tell you that I am not sub-ject to idle fancies." "The princess confirmed this state-ment with a nod of her head. "I am sure that my son must have seen something like what he describes,'

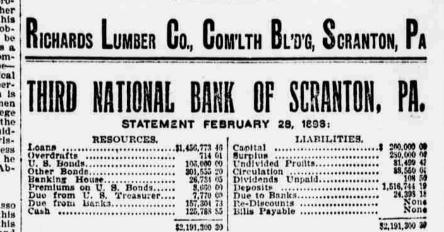
ent colleges, have been contesting the honor with much liveliness; and the decision of the University court in fav-or of the Aberystwith seems to have decision of the University court in fav-or of the Aberystwith seems to have caused some heart-burning in South Wales, the rather as the North Walians, seeing their own Bangor out of it, evi-dently compromised in favor of the mid-Wales college. The claims of Car-diff industrially and politically, no one of course would wish to deny. If Shrewsbury is the Welsh Jerusalem, Cardiff is the Tyre and Sidon in one. But the very cosmopolitan to which it was laying claim the other day is rath-er against it, we should say, as a native Welsh town, and as a seat of Celtic cul-ture. Aberystwith is a more charac-teristic place, and it is certainly better adapted on plcturesque grounds for the function in question. Its college stands on a most original site on the very brink of the sea, so that the spray on occasions spots its lecture room win-dows. Its castle, which owes its disin-tegration partly to time and partly to Oliver Cromwell, makes a very good historical reminder of the older Wales, whose history some Aberystwith pro-fessor ought to write. On the other hand, the professors and others of this "Little Academy" from Principal Rob-erts (who is not yet 40) down, must be the youngest on record, and there is a vitality about the college which prom-ises well for the Wales that is to be-Cymru Fydd in other than political ways. This energy is due partly perises well for the Wales that is to be-Cymru Fydd in other than political ways. This energy is due partly per-haps to the air of the place, which is singularly bracing; so that the men who go on to Oxford from its college complain that they cannot work in the relaxing climate of the English mid-iands. If the prince of Wales is to vis-it his own principality, as the fitness it his own principality, as the fitness of things fairly demands, indeed he might go to a worse place than Ab-crystwith.

A MAGNIFICENT BASSO.

Mr. Gwilym Thomas, the great basso of the Rhondda male party, is in this country. Mr. Thomas visited this country on two former occasions, and country on two former occasions, and his excellently cultivated voice charmed large audiences. It is very rarely we hear such resonant voices. He is ac-companied by his accomplished daugh-ter, a vocalist of superior voice and merits. She has been trained and edu-cated in the highest school of music and vocalism in the metranella of England vocalism in the metropolis of England, and she occupies first place in the con-cert halls of her native country. She should be heard in Scranton, and it is to be hoped that the wide-awake musi-clans of the West Side will take advan-tage of the opportunity. They are the tage of the opportunity. They are the people that could give the affair the proper impetus, and success would be the inevitable result.

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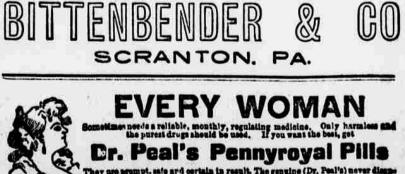


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