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FROM THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

FOREIGN BIOGRAPHY.

I send you some sketches of the favorites of Catharine the 2d, translated from a French work intitled "Memoirs Secrets sur La Russie." They will no doubt be interesting to the reader, as every thing must be so, connected with that extraordinary woman, who wielded with so much skill the destinies of so vast an empire.

1. SERGEUS SOLTYKOW,

Was the first lover of Catharine. It is said also that he had her first favours, while Grand Duchess because Peter the 3d laboured under a physical inability. He was considered in Russia as the true father of Paul. Soltykow became indiscreet, and was banished the court by Elizabeth. He died in exile.

2. STANISLAUS PONIATOWSKY,

Soon caused the first to be forgotten. He was beautiful, gallant, and spirited. He made him happy. Peter seldom troubled them, tho' he was a little jealous, and he preferred his pipe, his bottle, his soldiers, and his mistress to his amiable wife. Catharine, when she became Empress, made him king of Poland. His disastrous reign proved that when love gives a crown it is as blind as favour in distributing credit and employments. Stanislaus was the most amiable of men, and most indifferent of kings. He had at least when the troubles commenced in Poland, abdicated a throne which he dishonoured, he would have excited some interest; but he produced only contempt. Of all the favorites of Catharine, Stanislaus was the only one she seemed desirous to humiliate, after raising. She was indulgent in love, but implacable in politics; because pride was her ruling passion—and love was always mastered by the empress.

3. GREGORY ORLOW,

Whose favour was so long and so brilliant, and whose history is so essentially connected with that of Catharine seemed to partake with her the throne on which he had placed her. He united all the powers and all the honours which were afterwards seen to decorate Potemkin and surcharge Zoubow. Although he was young and robust his brother Alexis, of an Herculean strength and the form of Goliath, associated with him in his peculiar functions, near the insatiable Catharine, then in all the vigour of age. She had by Gregory an avowed son whose name was *Dasiel Gregorewitsch Bobrinsky*, whom she caused to be elevated to the corps of aides, and of whom admiral Ribas then principal of the corps was the governor. Two beautiful maids of honour Proslaw, the first *feme-de-chambre* raised as her niece, passed for the children of Catharine and Orlow. It was for this celebrated favourite that she caused to be erected the gloomy palace of marble, where she had the imprudence to have engraved this inscription, "By grateful friendship." The Chateau of Gatschina is still a monument of prince Orlow. 12 years of enjoyment, and the pride of this lover finally fixed his sovereign firmly on the throne; and after a long opposition Potemkin succeeded. The triumph of his rival and the inconstancy of Catharine, whom he haughtily called ingrate, had such an effect on him that he finally lost his health and reason. The proud, the powerful, the brilliant Orlow, died in a state of horrible madness, besmearing his visage with excrements, which he nourished as another Ezekiel.

4. WASILTS CHILKOW,

Whom Panion produced during the absence of Orlow filled the intervals between the two fierce rivals. He was but an instrument of the pleasures of Catharine.

5. POTEKIN,

He came one day boldly to seize for himself the apartment of his predecessor, and attested his victory by rendering himself thus master of the field of battle, which had been so long disputed. His passion, his hardihood and his colossal form, had charmed Catharine. He was the only one other favorites who dared to become a lover, and to spare her those advances which she was always obliged to make. He appeared even truly and romantically amiable. He adored at first this sov-

ward, as his glory. These two great characters seemed to have been created for one another: they loved and esteemed each other when they ceased to be amorous; and politics and ambition chained them together when love ceased to operate. He created, or destroyed, or embroiled every thing; but he vivified all. When absent, they spoke not but of him; when present it was him alone whom they saw. The great who hated him, and who enjoyed some character while he was with the army, seemed at his appearance to sink into the earth, and to be annihilated before him. The prince de Ligne, who wrote him some flatteries, said, that there were some gigantic, some romantic, and some barbarous traits in his character; and it was true. His death created an immense void in the empire; and his death was as extraordinary as his life. He had passed almost a year in Petersburg, delivering himself up to all sorts of pleasure and debaucheries, forgetting his glory, and displaying his riches and his credit with an insulting fastidiousness. He received the grandees of the empire as his valets, and scarcely deigned to receive the little Paul, and passed sometimes into the apartments of Catharine with naked legs, dishevelled hair, and in a robe de chambre. The old Repun profited by his absence from the army, to beat the Turks and compel them to sue for peace; and perform more in two months than Potemkin had done in three years. He who wished still to drag on the war, awoke at this news, and departed; but he carried death in his blood. He arrived at Jassy, which had been a long time his headquarters, or rather his capital and his court; he is gloomy, melancholy, devoured by inquietude, and impatient of his malady. He endeavoured to contend with it, and to conquer it by temperment of iron. He laughed at his physicians, & nourished himself with salt meat and raw turnips. His diseases triumphing, he wished to be transported to Otschakow, his dear conquest; but scarcely had he proceeded many versts, when the air of his carriage seemed to suffocate him. They spread his mantle on the edge of the road, on which he laid, and expired in the arms of his niece, Beautska, who accompanied him. Catharine, upon the news of his death fainted three times; she could not be bled, and they supposed her dying; she displayed nearly the same grief upon the death of Lanskoï. But it was not merely a lover she lost; it was a friend whose genius was indented in hers; whom she regarded as the pillar of her throne and the executor of her vast designs. Catharine seated upon a usurped throne, hated by her son, was a woman, and timed; she was accustomed to see in Potemkin a protector, whose fortune and glory were closely linked to hers: she seemed to think herself a stranger; she began to fear her son; and it was then she rested on her little grandson, Alexander, who was just out of his infancy, and began to oppose his father. That which distinguishes Potemkin from all his colleagues is, that in losing the heart of the empress he never lost her confidence; when ambition had occupied the place of love he still preserved his credit; and it was he who gave new lovers to his mistress. All the favorites who succeeded him were subordinates.

ZORITSCH,

Was the 7th lover on whom the inconstant Catharine cast her eye. He was the only stranger whom she had dared to create her favorite during her reign. He was a Servian, and had escaped from the *bagne* of Constantinople, where he had been a prisoner. He appeared for the first time in the habit of a husser at court; his beauty was extraordinary: the old women still speak of him as an Adonis. He had not, however, a mind sufficiently cultivated to captivate that of Catharine: she sent him off at the end of a year, covered with riches. He obtained the city of Schklow, which was erected for him into a species of sovereignty—a solitary example in Russia. He lived there as a prince holding a court and receiving strangers. If he was enriched by the spoils of the state, he generously rendered it back a part. He founded at Schklow a corps of cadets, where he caused to be educated, at his own expense, 200 young officers. In spite of his occupations, the amusements spectacles and pleasures which he enjoyed, he was dis-

gusted with his principality. He solicited for many years in vain, the permission to appear at Petersburg; but Catharine would not grant it. Paul, however, afterwards called him to court.

8. KORSAKAW,

A species of Russian *petit-maitre*, elevated from the holy guard of the palace, (where he performed the duty of a sergent, and where Catharine observed him) to the bed of his sovereign. He was ungrateful and faithless. Catharine surprised him herself, on her own bed, holding in his arms the beautiful countess Brute, her maid of honour, and her confidant. Amazed she retired, and would not again see either her lover or her friend.—She took on him no other vengeance.

9. LANSKOI

An officer of the chevalier guards, had already become remarkable. He was very soon the most favoured lover, and appeared the most worthy of being so. He was beautiful, distinguished for sweetness and grace, a lover of the arts, a friend to talents, humane and beneficent, every body seemed to partake, in his favour, the predilection of the sovereign. He had perhaps acquired, by the qualities of his mind, as much credit, as those of his heart procured him partisans. Potemkin feared him, and, it is said, poisoned him. He died in a violent fit of the cholera. Catharine lavished on him in vain, her most tender assiduity; her lips received his last sigh. She shut herself up many days; which she passed in despair. She accused the justice of heaven; wished to die; ceased to reign and swore to love no more. She loved Lanskoï truly; her grief excited her indignation against the physician, who was unable to save him; he was obliged to throw himself at the feet of his sovereign and ask her forgiveness for the impotence of his art. A widow decent and afflicted, she bore the loss of her lover; and a new Artemisa, she erected for him a superb mausoleum near Tsarskoï Celio. She suffered more than a year to pass before she replaced him; but like another matron of Ephesus, she gave him an unworthy successor; and this was.

10. YERMOLOW,

The least amiable and the least elegant of all those whom she had chosen; who consoled her at last for the beautiful, the tender Lanskoï. He however, displeased Potemkin, before he ceased to please Catharine; and the haughty favourite demanded and obtained the dismissal of the lover, who had not been two years in the performance of the duties.

11. MOMONOW,

Who had disputed her favor with him, succeeded. Momonow was amiable and had a perfect face, but was badly proportioned. He became enamoured of the young princess Scherbatow, and had the courage to avow it, and requested permission to espouse her. Catharine was sufficiently generous and haughty to grant him his request, without reproaching him. She married him at her court with her maid of honour, and sent them to Moscow loaded with riches.

12. ZOUBOW

Was not yet 25 years old, Catharine more than 60. She finished by treating him as much like her son as her lover; she occupied herself with his education; and she attached herself more and more to her work, which became her idol. However her loose desires were not yet extinguished; and all at once she renewed the orgies which she had celebrated with the brothers, Orloff, Valerin, one of the brothers of Zoubow, more young and more robust than him, and the vigorous Peter Soltykow, their friend, were associated together in order to relieve each other in a career so difficult to be accomplished. It was with these three young libertines that Catharine, the old Catharine, passed her days—while her armies beat the Turks, cut the throats of the Swedes, and devastated the unfortunate Polanders; and while her people cried out with misery and famine, and were devoured by cruel exactors pitiless tyrants.

This was the last of Catharine's favorites. She died suddenly in a short time afterwards.

The following is an estimate of the presents received by her favorites;

Vissensky, two months in favour	300,000
Vassiletschicoff 22 months in favour in money jewels, plate, presents and pension,	1,100,000
Prince Potemkin, in the two first years,	9,000,000
He had besides several large estates in Poland and Russia.	
One of his book cases was full of gold diamonds, and bills of exchange estimated at	41,000,000
Zoritch, in one year, besides several badges of distinction,	1,230,000
Korsakof, in 16 months, in money, jewels, &c.	920,000
Lanskoï,	3,260,000
Yermaloff, in 16 months,	550,000
Momonoff, in 26 months,	880,000
Zubof, besides the title of Prince, and several other honorary rewards,	2,700,000
The expenditure of each favorite which Catharine defrayed was estimated at 1,250,000 rubles per annum.	

* A ruble is valued at 4s. sterling.

From the National Intelligencer, Oct. 17.

We have published to-day an account of the public meeting at New Orleans, respecting the late attack on the Firebrand by a Spanish squadron.

It would be uncandid, if not unjust, in us, to omit stating, at the same time we publish these proceedings, that we have private information from New Orleans, that there were circumstances attending this transaction, which serve to palliate its apparent atrocity. The information we have received we should not pretend to oppose to official information; but it has the sanction of a name, and appears to us to require a suspension of opinion until more full information is received. The particular facts stated to us by our correspondent we should lay before our readers, if we could do so with propriety before we receive confirmation of them.

Abstractedly viewed, the attack on the Firebrand, if she was known to be an U. States vessel, was a most wanton outrage, such as the Spanish government would not in common prudence avow or authorize, since it is in the power of the U. States at a word to strike to the vitals of Spain in her colonies. It is therefore probable the attack, base and dastardly as it is represented to have been, will be instantly disavowed by the Spanish government, and its authors punished, or delivered up to us for punishment—an atonement, the demand of which will prevent war. In the much more atrocious case of the Chesapeake, aggravated by every circumstance of cold blooded malice, this course pointed out by the laws of nations, and by the rule of reason, was pursued.

But if there are circumstances not generally understood in this case; for instance, if the Firebrand was many leagues westward of New Orleans, on the Spanish coast; if she was in company with a vessel loaded with munitions of war from New Orleans, destined for a Mexican revolutionary province; if one of the most eminent barristers of New Orleans was on board the vessel (the General Jackson) thus in company with the Firebrand as a Supercargo; if the character of our armed schooner was in that situation to be mistaken, notwithstanding her colours, for a Carthaginian or other republican arm-vessel; if there be any foundation for these & other circumstances, of which we are by letter assured, the case is certainly altered, and is involved in some perplexity, which it requires time and evidence to disentangle.

The event is an unfortunate one, in any

Rubles
4000,000

Gregory Orloff,