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### \*\*\*\*\* A Russian Episode

In Which a Passport Plays an Important Part

By EDWARD R. CHANDLER 

At twenty-two years of age I found myself with a fortune and my own mistress. My parents had died when I was a little girl, and I was brought up by an aunt, who had a family of her own and was not sorry when I became independent of her, though she had nothing to do with my support. For some years it has been considered quite allowable for American girls of independent character and means to travel abroad by themselves without escort. Acting upon this, I resolved to see the world.

After visiting those countries in Europe that are a common ground for tourists I became curious to see Russia. I was warned to keep away from the snowy empire on account of the revolutionary troubles infesting it, but this only heightened my desire to visit it. I saw no reason why I should have any trouble. I had no desire to depose the czar and if I had would never have thought of contributing my puerile powers to that end. Before leaving America I had received a passport from the state department, and, though I had had no occasion to use it in other countries, I knew that I would need it in Russia.

But before going there I resolved to learn something of the Russian language. I spent a winter in Florence, Italy, where I found a teacher, and by spring was enabled to converse fairly well in Russian. Had I not been thus prepared I should not have this story to tell, for the story came from making an acquaintance, and I could not have very well made, or at least retained, the acquaintance without being able to speak Russian.

After passing by train the border of the empire a young girl who got into my compartment was good enough to inswer questions I asked about St. Petersburg, giving me information as to where I might abide. Girl tourists seldom go to hotels; they almost always stop at pensions or apartments, and the greatest drawback to their journeying alone is arriving at a town not knowing of such a house in which to ocate.

The Russian girl told me that she was going to St. Petersburg without a chaperon and had been provided ahead with apartments by friends. When she heard that I was an American she seemed to take an especial interest in me, asking me about my country and how to get there. I noticed her studying my features and my general appearance, but why she did so I was at loss to know. Before we reached the capital I was surprised at her proposing to share her apartments with -The Citizen wants a good, live- ne during my stay there. Since I must ly correspondent in every village in go among strangers anyway and had become favorably impressed with her told her that I would be greatly obliged for the privilege of staying with her, at least till I could find permanent quarters.

I found the apartments very comortable. I supposed they were expensive and questioned my friend about he rental. She replied that she did not know; I need give myself no conern about that; I might pay her whatever I liked. But I did not let the mater drop till I had arranged the price, and since I saw no occasion to hunt for another lodging I settled myself where I was for an indefinite stay. We were served by a cook and a chambermaid. There were four bedrooms, though we needed but two. Indeed, we were provided with every comfort.

My friend's name was Catherine. Her other name being very hard to pronounce I do not give it here. Like nost of her countrymen, she was very fair both in hair and complexion. There was an uneasy, restless look in her eye which did not correspond with naturally passive features. Why she came to St. Petersburg, who were the friends who had provided her with these apartments, what she was doing at the capital, she did not tell me. No one ever came to see her, but I fancied that she must go to see others, for she spent very little time at home. I, too, ras out a great deal, seeing what there was to be seen in the way of lights. Indeed, the only time we met luring the day was at luncheon and at linner, but we usually spent our even-

ngs together. One night I was awakened by an ilisess and, getting out of bed, went to Catherine's room for assistance. She was not there. A clock was ticking on her dresser, and I noticed that the hands stood at half past 1 o'clock. The bed had not been disturbed. I was very much astonished. She had said nothing about expecting to go out during the night, and could not understand how she would do so without at scort. I went back to bed and lay here wondering. What should I say to her in the morning about finding her absent? I concluded to wait for her to speak about it. I lay till morning before getting to sleep, the matter of the mystery I had stumbled upon keeping me awake far more than my ss. Indeed, the former quite drove

the latter away. Catherine and I met at breakfast, but she made no mention of having been out during the night, and I con-

cinded not to say anything about having been ill. It occurred to me that I had better change my quarters, and after a few days I said to her that I thought I had trespassed upon her kindness quite long enough and I would go and visit several pensions, of which I had a list, with a view to

I was much surprised at the troubled look that came over her face at my announcement. She asked what she had fione to offend me, and when I replied that she had done nothing she said that I must not think of leaving her till I left St. Petersburg. She seemed so averse to my going that I told her I would remain awhile longer. She asked how long, and I put her off by replying a week or two, perhaps longer. This seemed to satisfy her, and I thought I saw her draw a sigh of relief.

One morning Catherine did not appear at breakfast. At this meal, though it was a light one, she was very regular, and I was somewhat surprised. I went to her room and knocked. Recelving no reply, I opened the door. The bed had not been slept in, but the chamber was disarranged, as though the occupant had left it hastily. asked the servants where was their mistress. They knew no more than I, and they did not seem to care since their wages had been paid up to the end of the present month.

After I had eaten my breakfast I went to a boudoir adjoining my bedroom to get some money which I kept in a desk there. Pulling out a drawer, I came upon a roll of bills (exactly 60 rubles) that I had paid Catherine the evening before for board and lodging. Surprised, I pulled out other drawers and on opening the one in which I kept my passport found it missing.

I was taken quite aback. I had never dreaded to lose my money, for if I did I could get more, but since coming to Russia I had not relished the idea of losing my passport. I questioned the servants, but they were stupid creatures and could suggest no explanation. I felt assured that neither of them had taken it, for if they had cared to take anything they could have had money.

I involuntarily turned to Catherine as the person most likely to have taken my passport. But why? And why had she left the money I had paid her in my desk? I was all at sea with regard to the matter. I went to a window and stood looking out, musing. Knots of persons were standing about talking earnestly with one another, as though something had happened or was about to happen. I sent a servant out to buy a morning journal, but there was nothing in it of an unusual na-

Calling a drosky, I drove to the Amercan embassy and reported that my passport had been stolen. The young man to whom I made the statement took down my name, where I lived and all about me that I would tell him and told me that he would send me a paper to take the passport's place. I was about to go away I asked if anything unusual had happened. He called me into his office and, after shutting the door, said in a low voice that an attempt had been made the night before to assassinate a minister in his bed, but it had proved a failure. He had only been severely wounded. When I asked if the assassin had been caught he said "No."

Catherine did not appear, and after lunch I went out and engaged rooms at a pension, removing my baggage the same evening. I left word with the servants that if their mistress returned to tell her that I had gone and give her my address. I was terribly uneasy for several days. I could explain nothing as to Catherine's action and feared that I had been involved in some mysterious plot against the governmentindeed, she might be connected with the one to assassinate the minister.

A week after Catherine's disappear ance one morning on arriving and going to my dresser there lay my pass

"Great heavens!" I exclaimed. "Will these mysteries never cease? Surely 1 am in danger. I shall use this document to get out of Russia as soon as possible."

That very night I took a train for the When I reached the border, where the passports are taken from the passengers for examination mine was kept a long while. When it was returned to me I was asked a great many questions. Fearing trouble, I gave no more information about my story in Russia than I could help. Finally the officer, handing me the passport, left me, and I suspected that the officials fancied that they had seen it not long before. However, I got away from the czar's dominions safely and have never since had a desire to return

It was a year later when in a store on Oxford street in London, standing at a glove counter, I happened to look up at a lady standing beside me. She looked at me at the same time. She was Catherine.

She turned deadly pale and started to walk away, but stopped, turned again and put out her hand to me.

That night we met, where I do not care to say, and what she told me I will not repeat, except that she had appropriated my passport as a means of leaving Russia. She was going to St. Petersburg when I first saw her for a purpose which would necessitate her sudden flight. Noticing that she and I would pass under one description, she had invited me to stay with her for the purpose of using my passport. She was the principal actor in a plot in which a number of revolutionists were involved. They provided her apartments for her and had hurried her out of St. Petersburg, but with my pass-

From London I sailed for America, and I never have seen Catherine since.

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The undersigned, auditor, appointed to report distribution of said estate, will attend to the duties of his appointment on

THURSDAY, APR. 17, at 10 a. m. at the office of Searle & Salmon in the borough of Henesdale, at which time and place all claims against said estate must be presented, or re-course to the fund for distribution

C. P. SEARLE,

Honesdale, March 24, 1913.

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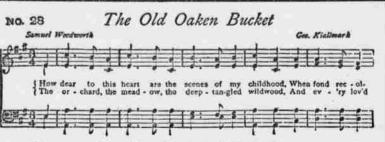
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Like many of our old favorites, the inspiration for this one came on the spur of the moment. The author, Mr. Woodworn, the poet, was at the time living in N. Y. City. One warm day he came into his home, poured and eagerly drank a glass of water, and as he set down the glass, with a smack of his lips, said: "That is very refreshing, but how much more so would it be to take a good long drink from the old caken bucket I left hanging in my father's well at home." "Selim," said his wife, "wouldn't that be a pretty fair subject for a poem?" Whereupon Mr. Woodworth seized his pen, and as the home of his childhood rose vividly before his mind's eye, he wrote the now familiar song which became known all over the world.

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