

# THE MOST UNHAPPY WOMAN IN THE WORLD

By HERMAN BERNSTEIN.

"There was a time when kings visited our Czar and were received royally in St. Petersburg," said a small, swarthy, wrinkled peasant woman standing in her field, one day last summer when I was in the province of Kaluga. "Now, when the English King and the French President visit us, they are received in the hallway—somewhere in Revel. They are not admitted to the parlor—into St. Petersburg, because the Czar and Tsaritsa and their children are themselves afraid to enter the parlor. If the Czar is afraid—well, he has reason to be—the people have not yet forgotten Red Sunday. But my heart aches for the Tsaritsa, who has done no harm to any one. My life is miserable enough, but she, poor soul, cries her eyes out—a bird in a golden cage. And even there she is forever in fear that a bomb will destroy the cage and all...." And the little peasant woman, who had left off raising her hay for a while, wiped her eyes with her apron awkwardly.

When Princess Alix, daughter of Ludwig IV., the Grand Duke of Hesse, became Alexandra Feodorovna by marrying Nicholas II., the Emperor of Russia, who was then the Crown Prince, she probably did not know that she was destined to become one of the most miserable women on the face of the globe. The palaces of emperors and kings have often enough in history harbored heartrending tragedies and domestic dramas, but the tragedy of the woman who is "the first lady" of the Russian land, the mother of the Tsarevich, is so pathetic that even the peasant women in God-forsaken Russian villages are touched with pity for her.

The marriage between Nicholas and Alexandra was by no means a love match. Neither the successor to the Russian throne, nor the quiet, well-bred young Duchess, reared in Anglo-Saxon environments, a student of Renan, of the German philosophers and the English poets, desired the match. The young Crown Prince was attached to the beautiful Polish dancer, Kaheshinskaya, and it was for the purpose of putting an end to that love affair that Alexander III. decided to marry his son to the Duchess of Hesse.

Immediately after her marriage, in 1894 (which took place on the birthday of the Dowager Empress), the young princess learned that the whims of her mother-in-law, Maria Feodorovna, were to be a law to her. At first she made an effort to introduce the influence of European culture into the life of the Court, but she soon discovered a strong opposition in the "real Russian" influence which was forced upon young Nicholas by his mother. To counteract whatever influence the young princess might exert, the Dowager Empress called the reactionary advisers to her aid, thus dominating the weak will of the Emperor.

Little by little Alexandra became convinced that her modern ideals and her finer views of life had to be suppressed. In fact, she soon lost her interest in matters that had once stirred her mind; she ceased reading her favorite writers, and devoted her time to the study of the Russian language and even became absorbed in the interests of the Synod. Still, she attempted from time to time to reform the Court life, but to no avail. Some time after the coronation of Nicholas, Alexandra forbade the ladies-in-waiting at Court to smoke cigarettes. The new edict raised a storm of dissatisfaction in the Imperial palaces which served to make the Tsaritsa more wretched.

The shocking tragedy that marked the coronation of the present Czar of Russia, on the field of Kokodinka, which resulted in the death of 4800 people, was a painful blow to the young Queen's sensitive nature; it is believed that the impression has never been effaced from her mind, especially as she saw her husband and the Dowager Empress remain calm while so many people lost their lives, and that, without paying the slightest attention to the catastrophe, they ordered the festivities to be resumed.

There were times when the weak-willed, dreamy-eyed young Emperor yielded to the influence of his wife, who intellectually is far his superior, but they were only brief moments which were followed by long lapses of reaction. She was, particularly grieved to see that he was enmeshed in the wiles of charlatans, fortune-tellers, and spiritualists, such as Philippe, the hairdresser of Versailles, Demchinsky, and Father John of Kronstadt.

But the tragedy in the life of the Empress grew most acute when she was humiliated by the Dowager Empress because she did not give birth to a successor to the throne. In Russia, the first lady of the land is not the Tsaritsa, the wife of the Emperor, but the mother of the Tsarevich, the heir to the throne. As no son was born to her, her mother-in-law, the Dowager Empress, still remained the foremost woman in Russia, and she used her position unscrupulously against her daughter-in-law. The young Empress was ignored at the family councils, so that later, when she was consulted, she simply declined to express her views at all.

The Czar's disappointment was also great when one after another four daughters were presented to him. At one time the Court clique, with the Dowager Empress and Polyedonov at their head, who persuaded the Czar that the birth of an heir to the

throne would pacify the people and would thus save Russia, urged Nicholas to divorce Alexandra. It was then that Nicholas turned to the counsel of the mysticists and spiritualists, particularly to Father John of Kronstadt. It is not difficult to understand the feeling of an intellectual, refined woman, whose favorite authors were Renan, Feuerbach, and Spencer, to be forced to obey the whims of people whose superstition was equalled only by their enmity toward her. When the fifth child was about to be born she was compelled to go, at the behest of Nicholas and his spiritual advisers, to a deserted place in Sarov, where a new saint had been discovered and where Father John of Kronstadt said special mass with most elaborate services.

But the most wretched trouble from which the Tsaritsa is suffering is the fear of death. Since the outbreak of the revolution she has felt that an atmosphere of constant danger is hovering over the royal family. The Red Sunday "episode" filled the Tsaritsa with horror, and her nerves, like the Czar's, have ever since then been on the verge of collapse. This is the explanation of the numerous cable despatches bringing news of the Empress' illnesses. Surrounded and protected by cordons of guards, detectives, police, she is all the time tortured with the fear of death, not so much for herself as for her children. Whether she sails with the Czar and her children upon the Imperial yacht in the Finnish archipelago or travels among the Finnish mountains, the constant danger to her children haunts her. Of late her malady has assumed a violent form of hysteria.

The Czar has lost the respect and the love of his people; even those who had worshiped him blindly know now that he is no longer their "Little Father." But there are many people in Russia who feel that there is a sad tragedy of a suffering woman coming to its close in the palace of the Czar, and whatever little sympathy there still exists in the Empire for the Romanoff family, it is solely for the woman who was Princess Alix.

Who knows, perhaps the Empress of Russia, in her soul, envies the half-starved, hard-working peasant woman of Kaluga, preferring the humble hut to her terror-filled palace?—Harper's Weekly.

## CLEVER AUTOMATA.

Ingenious Mechanical Figures Which Closely Counterfeit Life.

The newest automata, which not only counterfeit life in their actions, but also speak, will be seen before long in this country—imported from Paris, which is the manufacturing centre for all such ingenious contrivances.

It is safe to say, remarks the Technical World Magazine, that nothing in the world, exhibited in a shop window, attracts attention so quickly as a "show piece"—the name by which automata are known in trade. Thus it happens that many of them are used in this country for advertising purposes, invariably engaging the eager interest of crowds which gather to gaze upon them. Counterfeiting life with a cleverness that is often little short of marvelous, and actuated by mechanism artfully concealed, they appeal both to curiosity and to the appetite for the mysterious which is latent in every human breast.

To lend the automaton a voice, by the help of a phonograph, is a matter simple enough. The real marvel of these contrivances lies in the ingenuity employed to give them such lifelike movement; and the simplicity of the mechanism used does but add to the wonder. They might be regarded as representing an ultimate stage of the development of the mechanical toy, inasmuch as not a few toys nowadays are to all intents and purposes automata—as, for example, the walking doll—and the plaything which has become seemingly animate is raised to the highest imaginable power.

## Johnny Couldn't Help It.

The teacher of one of the rooms in a school in the suburbs had been training her pupils in anticipation of a visit from the school inspector. At last he came, and the classes were called out to show their attainments.

The arithmetic class was the first called, and in order to make a good impression the teacher put the first question to Johnny Smith, the star pupil.

"Johnny, if coal is selling at \$1 a ton, and you pay the coal dealer \$4, how many tons of coal will he bring you?"

"Three," was the prompt reply from Johnny.

The teacher, much embarrassed, said, "Why, Johnny, that isn't right." "Oh, I know it ain't, but they do it, miss."—Tit-Bits.

## Revised.

"You told me," said the young man, dejectedly, "that you would marry me when Bryan was elected. Did you mean that?" "Yes, I meant it," said the girl, flushing modestly, "but I'd been given the wrong tip. I really thought he'd be elected."



## HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS

### TO REMOVE SOOT.

If by accident soot should be dropped on the carpet, cover it thickly with salt, and both may be swept up clean and dry without soiling the carpet.—New York World.

### NEW WEDDING FAVORS.

The bride now presents the guests at the bridal table with souvenirs in the shape of small satin slippers. These are filled with rice. They sell for the dozen at small prices.—Indianapolis News.

### BATH TUB.

A ten cent small sized scrubbing brush is the nicest thing to use when washing out a bath tub. It appeals to the men folk of the household as a very sensible way of arranging for a rather dreaded duty.—New Haven Register.

### GOOD MENU FOR SUNDAY.

Roast chicken with dressing and gravy, creamed potatoes, squash, turnips, peas, cranberry jelly, white bread, pickles, coffee jelly with whipped cream, tea or coffee. Chicken can be almost cooked Saturday and finished Sunday while vegetables are cooking.—Boston Post.

### IRON RUST REMOVER.

Take equal parts of oxalic acid and water; soak the iron rust spots thoroughly in solution and place at once over steaming teakettle snout, and the iron rust will disappear with the vapor. Rinse thoroughly in clear, cold water, as the acid would eat the cloth if allowed to dry in the cloth. If the color is very delicate, use less acid. If the first trial does not remove the rust, repeat as before. This will remove iron rust after it has been on a long time, and will not take the color out of the cloth if directions are followed carefully.—Boston Post.

### CLEANING LEATHER.

Leather-covered chairs may be cleaned with the following preparation: Mix together half a pound each of French chalk and Fuller's earth, two ounces of powdered starch and one ounce of yellow ochre. Wet with boiling water until it becomes a thin paste, then add a tablespoonful of sweet oil. When it is cold spread on the leather and allow it to remain until perfectly dry. Brush off then, removing every particle of the mixture, and give the leather a good polish with melted wax and turpentine, using four ounces of the wax to a gallon of turpentine. The leather may be darkened if desired by the addition of a little oil to the wax.—New York Evening Post.

### USES FOR COMMON SALERATUS.

1. Soda bound on a tunion will relieve the soreness.
2. Soda moistened with turpentine and bound on a burn or scald will draw out the fire.
3. Vinegar heated and mixed with enough soda until it is done foaming and a piece of black silk dipped in it until thoroughly wet and then applied to inflamed parts, such as the breast or throat, will draw out the soreness.
4. A small pinch of soda added to the water in which lamp wicks are boiled will make them white and give a better light.
5. A teaspoonful of soda stirred in the dishwasher in which glasses and silverware are washed will give them a better polish.
6. Try adding a teaspoonful of soda to the water in which your kitchen floor is washed and see if grease spots don't disappear like magic.—Boston Post.



## FOR THE EPIGURE

Stock Tomato Soup—Take any sort of meat soup and add half a can of stewed and well-seasoned tomatoes; strain, and serve with croutons.

Tomato Toast—Stew down a can of tomatoes till thick, with a tablespoonful of chopped onion, a tablespoonful of chopped parsley, salt and pepper; when the juice is somewhat absorbed pour over slices of buttered toast and serve at once. Do not strain.

Tomatoes Au Gratin—Take a can of tomatoes, add salt and pepper and a teaspoonful of minced onion; put them into a deep baking dish in layers with soft bread crumbs, and put bits of butter on these; repeat till the dish is full, with crumbs on top, and bake till brown.

Broiled Oysters and Celery—Broil oysters until they begin to shrivel, then arrange on slices of daintily toasted buttered bread; cover them with finely chopped celery, dust with salt, and pour a goodly quantity of cream white sauce over the mixture.

Vienna Chocolate—Four table-spoons grated chocolate mixed with enough water to make a smooth paste. Pour into double boiler and add one pint milk and one pint cream which has reached the boiling point. Sweeten to taste and boil hard for five minutes. Beat vigorously with egg beater for several minutes and serve.



## VALUABLE FERTILIZER.

Wood ashes are hardly appreciated as a valuable fertilizer of all kinds of fruit trees. If a gallon is placed around the base of each tree it will kill and prevent insects of all kinds and increase the formation and quality of the fruit.—Farmer's Home Journal.

## SELF-STERILE APPLES.

Apples are often self-sterile and need cross pollination. In order to secure cross pollination of two varieties care must be taken to select such as blossom at the same time. Bees are the chief agents in pollen transfer. The wind does not transport pollen to an appreciable extent.—Farmer's Home Journal.

## GRASS IN THE ORCHARD.

In our apple orchard we leave a strip of grass six or eight feet wide between the trees so that we can drive over the land in the spring with our heavy sprayers. We get very high color, noticeable particularly with our Baldwin apples; even the small fruit bears this high color.—Willard Hopkins, in the American Cultivator.

## FERTILIZER IS ESSENTIAL.

The secret of a successful vegetable garden is to keep the ground occupied with a crop. As soon as one crop is harvested, start another. Plan successive planting of the vegetables that grow quickly, so that they may be enjoyed fresh throughout the summer.

Lessons learned this year should be treasured for next spring. It will often be found that soil must be prepared in a special manner for the best success with some crops. Stiff clay soils must be plowed or spaded thoroughly and this should be done in the fall in those localities where the ground freezes, as the thaw and freezing help to break up the soil in fine particles.

In places where a rich and sandy soil is found and no freezing takes place, plowing may be done in the spring.

The ground must be thoroughly fertilized each season and the best fertilizer is well rotted barnyard manure, which should not contain shavings or sawdust. Chicken, pigeon and sheep manure are also good fertilizers. Too little attention to water is given by many gardeners. Considerable expense in providing irrigation means is warranted. It will be found wise to start many seeds indoors in the spring. They may be planted in window boxes, sown in rows with each row labeled. Plants started in the house or in hot beds must be hardened off before transplanting to the open ground.—Indianapolis News.

## GROWING THE DAHLIA.

As the first essential for growing the dahlia the ground should be thoroughly cultivated to the depth of eight or ten inches. If planted in hills the tubers should be given a depth of fully six inches; they should be laid horizontally in the soil in place of vertically, so that the tuber at the sprout should be not less than six inches below the surface. The new tubers all form and make their growth at the base of the crown of the old tuber. If planted as advised there will always be moisture enough in the soil to keep the plant continually growing. After the tubers are placed it is well to cover the sprout an inch or so with soil before using any fertilizer or dressing. It is not wise to use too much stimulant at first. After the plants get to the stage of throwing out buds it is well then to make another application, either in liquid or raw state; this should be applied around the plant on top of the soil from six inches to two feet.

One great point to be considered before the plant gets to its flowering state is the cultivation of the soil. In order to obtain the best results from the dahlia, the soil should be kept thoroughly cultivated either with a hand hoe or with a horse cultivator. After your plants begin to show signs of flowering it is not well to cultivate them, as this is very apt to injure the plant through the cutting of many of the new tubers, thus weakening the growth, and in many cases causing the plant to wilt in the hot sun, something from which it will take a long time to recover. The dahlia will do well on any kind of soil if properly treated. If grown on heavy soil it is well to use some ground bone meal, and nothing but staple fertilizers should be used. On light sandy soil it is well to use some stable dressing, also ground bone meal can be used with good effect, as this is the soil that just suits the dahlia, but good cultivation is the main point in getting first class results, for there is no plant that is more responsive to cultivation and good treatment than the dahlia, and if properly cultivated it will produce more flowers than any other plant in the garden.—Indianapolis News.

## Force of Habit.

"I wish, John," said the editor's wife, "that you'd try not to be so absent-minded when we are dining out." "Eh? What have I done now?" "Why, when the hostess asked you if you'd have some more pudding you replied that, owing to a tremendous pressure on your space, you were compelled to decline."—Tit-Bits.

## Weight of Moose and Deer.

A moose that weighs a half ton would look as large as a 1,500 or 1,600-pound horse. They are seen very seldom, and less frequently killed. Those weighing 800 pounds are not uncommon. The gunner who succeeds in bringing down one of these has no reason to tell an untruth in regard to the weight. It is a big animal, and he is entitled to credit for trailing and killing it. One that weighs from 600 to 700 pounds is not to be ashamed of. It looks large, and most of those shot are about this size. The average buck deer killed weighs less than 200 pounds, although some have been killed that would tip the beam at nearly 300. Still, a 250-pound buck makes a very imposing appearance, and any person that gets one is entitled to be proud of his prowess.—New York Herald.

## How's This?

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## Census for Japan.

Hitherto the population of Japanese towns of the empire as a whole has been estimated from the official records of births and deaths and other documents, but it has now been arranged to make a municipal household investigation, commencing at Kobe.

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## Tactical Advantage.

It puzzles a mere man to understand how an English suffragette figures out the technical advantages of bowling down a cabinet minister who is trying to make a speech on her side.—New York World.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle.

## Red Cotton Bug.

One of the most destructive as well as one of the most offensive pests that afflict the planters of India is the red cotton bug. The insect has been reported as a cotton pest from every part of the country. Its presence is detected by the offensive odor.

Another woman has been elected to the Colorado legislature. About a dozen women have served there before her.

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## FEARFUL ECZEMA ALL OVER HIM.

No Night's Rest for a Year and Little of His Endurance Seemed Near—Owes Recovery to Cuticura. My son Clyde was almost completely covered with eczema. Physicians treated him for nearly a year without helping him any. His head, face, and neck were covered with large scabs which he would rub until they fell off. Then blood and matter would run out and that would be worse. Friends coming to see him said that if he got well he would be disfigured for life. When it seemed as if he could possibly stand it no longer, I used some Cuticura Soap, Cuticura Ointment, and Cuticura Resolvent. That was the first night for nearly a year that he slept. In the morning there was a great change for the better. In about six weeks he was perfectly well.

## Telegraphy in China.

The first telegraph line was opened in China in 1872 and there are now about 15,000 miles of line, the whole under imperial control. The Chinese language being syllabic and not alphabetic, many may wonder how a message is transmitted.

The method is simple but ingenious. There are as many characters as words in the Chinese language, and the messages are sent in number cipher. When the numbers are received at the other end a double ended type is used, with numbers at one end and characters at the reverse. A message is set up by the numbers and then printed from the reverse end, which shows the characters.—London Globe.

## Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days.

Pazo Ointment is guaranteed to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days or money refunded. 50c.

## Chinook Salmon in Peconic.

Out of a lot of about 19,500 Chinook salmon hatched out at the Aquarium in March 19,000 lively little fishes, now about two inches long, have been turned over to the New York state forest, fish and game commission, which has placed them in the waters of the Peconic river, Long Island. The Chinook is a Pacific salmon, and these are probably the first of their kind to be planted in Atlantic waters.

We are told that good deeds never die. Perhaps so, but lots of them seem to go into a trance.

The officeholder feels that one good term deserves another.

## New Year's Surprise PUZZLE CRAZE

75 Piece Puzzle in Retaining Frame for 10 Cents. No. 1. Benational Imported English Poster Series. 10 CTS. for Each Puzzle. No. 2. Big Stick "Teddy Bear" Series. 10 CTS. No. 3. Goshka & Dutch Girl Series. 50 CTS. No. 4. When Grandma Was Young Series. for Complete Set of 75. No. 5. Celebrated Prize Dog Series. No. 6. Beautiful Spots in America Series. Any One Set of 15. \$2.75 for Complete Set of 30 Puzzles. POST PAID ON RECEIPT OF PRICE. (Stamps or money order.)

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