The Marvelous Adventures of Baron Von Munchhausen

SSICIM a

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inventions known under this title. No quite mild, so I slept very well. one can say positively whether the "When I awoke, I found myself in remarkable tales.

rather Freiherr Hieronymus Karl Winter. Friedrich von Munchhausen of Boden-

ing home after a long day's chase, ary as inventions might be. when my horse stopped suddenly in

all the power of my thighs, grasped my that he looked like a skeleton. I ad- ately I did not know that it was the hair firmly with my right hand and vanced and up sprang the birds, equal. King's birthday and that all the guns strong in my younger days.

once with this same horse Alix. In the that. Have you? Russian service I led a troop of hus-Russian army was before them. They

not only drove them into the town five. I had not walked 50 feet before was full of the finest, fully-ripened ingenious expedient that I used not so and found that he was stone blind and the town again through the opposite gentlemen, since that day I need no after my long sleep. gate—something that truly exceeded dog. But it costs me a pretty penny "By the way, while I was in London

that I was far ahead of my men. After a dog even after death. I had killed the last enemy I could

fountain in the market place to let him drink. The beast drank and drank without stopping. I waited patiently for the drench that to deter me, of course. But to get information as to the affairs in the market place to let down that I struck my head against the Prussian army, we besieged a little found the entire seven neatly spitted on fox, and ordered my huntsman to skin dicament. I sank to the ground, stunned with terror. The next instant I heard a poor birds must have been there a long fire and served en brochette.

this, its swiftness was such that even the fleeing Turks.

80 or 40 miles on this horse in one ter to yourselves. afternoon and to course a few hares on the way. Once we pursued a hare that the way. Once we pursued a hare that constantly until my right arm became when I stumbled across a fine stag from his jaws, and, of course, left him dead at my feet. By the way, I can show whole week. On the eighth day we sightwith two peautiful women came along with desperate alarm in every feature. So accustomed to smiting with the when I had neither shot nor nail. All sticking in the harness. I gave him you that load some day. I picked it up as ed land. It was Havana. with two beautiful women came along. Silently they led me to the batteries, sword that for eight days after our I had in my hand was a fistful of chernotter. So accustomed to smiting with the white I had in my hand was a fistful of chernotter. Silently they led me to the batteries, sword that for eight days after our I had in my hand was a fistful of chernotter. Silently they led me to the batteries, sword that for eight days after our I had in my hand was a fistful of chernotter. My horse leaped so gracefully at that moment that we went into one window motion of his hand, the commandant voluntarily. I had to the that model that model is the commandant with the commandant voluntarily. I had to the that model is the commandant with the commandant with the commandant with the commandant voluntarily. I had to the commandant with the commandant and out of the other (both being for- pointed to the guns. tunately open), and I had barely time

winter. One day I rode hour after 63 cases last night, said the surgeon monthly and finally disappear, and "It was quite a joke on me, for, of a dark thicket, and I had just time to though they weighed many tons they simply told are beyond hope. Every body was visible, although forests and many

There is a good deal of vagueness down to sleep a short distance away. about the real origin of the wonderful The north wind had ceased, and a south

good old Baron was the author of them the middle of a village. There was not all, or whether he was credited with many that he never narrated. The only there has been do you suppose. Up there hung Alix, thing that is certain is that the stories tied to the top of the church steeple. were published by a German exile in "Of course, I understood at once England, Rudolph Eric Raspe, during the Baron's lifetime and translated into there at night, and when it melted oe-German eleven years before Von fore the south wind, of course, I sank Munchhausen's death. So the logic of down with it, but my horse could not. the problem is with those who claim I drew my pistol, shot the reins in two that the baron really did tell all these overjoyed. The tavernkeeper told me that such a snowfall is not at all ex-A loveable old bon vivant and racon- traordinary for that part of Russia, teur without doubt was this baron or but occurs several times during every

"I had a greyhound by the way, that was almost as swift as Alix. Zephywerder, Hanover. He was born in 1720. rette was her name. Only once did I From 1737 to 1739 he served in the meet another beast that could run Russian cavalry against the Turks, faster than she did. It was during a and altogether he had a sufficiently ex-ran like the wind. For two days and siting and romantic career, even with- two nights Zephyrette coursed that out the embellishments that his ingenu- hare, gentlemen, yet every time she got

drink, a genuine, not too old Rauen are told by persons who think that it through with worm holes. thaler wine, gazed thoughtfully into is a joke to tamper with the truth. The officers were thunderstruck. the greenish-yellow fluid, sighed, strict facts about this intelligent ani. Not so I. I ordered the entire garmal, Pikas, are interesting enough, rison out to gather poisonous mush "One evening," said he, "I was rid though they may not be so extraordin rooms. We filled the caldron, boiled

sars. We were ordered to make a re- that I ever had. When he died I had "We Munchhausens always have conneitring advance, and accidentally his skin tanned and fashioned into a been unusually sound slepers, and I "I do not often tell of this experiter I had battered them with the stone met the whole Turkish army face to hunting waistcoat, for I had a senti- did not awake, but slumbered peace. ment, for the average mind cannot till they were thoroughly heated and face. I immediately spread my hand mental desire to have Pikas with me fully. Perhaps I might be asleep to grasp the simple truth, while it snaps thus became soft enough to bend. ful of men in a straight front across on all my hunts in some form or an this day if the owner of the rick had greedily at the silly and disgraceful "I had another somewhat interesting the plain and ordered the charge. The other. A rather peculiar thing hap- not sold the hay three months after. lies told by travellers and others who experience with a boar a few years

turned back to get behind their forti- the waistcoat became as rigid as iron, but the proof of its truth is furnished ences, unless I am sure of my com. hind. I aimed and fired. The young fled town, and we cut them up ter- so that it actually squeezed my heart. by a pear tree that stands there to this pany. Among friends like yourselves boar scampered away. The old fellow I stopped. A button flew off and up day. As you know, pear trees blos. it is another matter. I am minded, remained standing as if rooted to the "So hot were we after them that we sprang a covey of quail, of which I shot som in June. When I awoke the tree therefore, to tell you of another rather spot. I walked cautiously up to him through one gate, but actually out of the same thing happened. In short, fruit, and very welcome it was to me far away as Persia, but right at home that he held a bit of the tail of the

but again without refreshing the faith- to my shoulder, aimed and then hit cannon, and as it was fired I sprang pelt with a bullet. The beast was settled him. ful brute. While I was wondering, my myself in the eye with all my might. on the ball. The moment I was under standing quite still beside a great oak. groom came galloping up and explained Of course, I saw sparks immediately way I began to consider; and I saw Again I had a happy though I remem. Russia one winter I was driving a death. that as I crowded through the first and one of them exploded the priming. many difficulties. It is true that I was bered that I had put a big nail into single horse to a sleigh just outside of portal on top of the Turks the gate The shot went off and I had the pleas certain to enter the fort. But how my pocket to repair a shelter hut in St. Petersburg. Suddenly a glgantic there was some astonishment at the ing all that time. The power of this wind had been dropped with a rush and had ure of returning with five pairs of could I get out again? They might hang the forest. I rammed it into my gun wolf came up behind us and leaped at double bag. We measured the crocodile can be better appreciated when I mention cut my horse clean in two! Despite duck, four geese and two moorhens. | me as a spy. That would never do. "That trip to the Fortress Wesel, "Just then a cannon ball came from

bur very skillful regimental saddler cause it is a state secret. But I see skin, though I had failed in my mis- could bear it no longer, and finally speed of the wretched animal. I venstitched both halves together so well that you are all curious, and as there sion. I consider myself rather fortunthat the keenest eye could hardly no is little danger of a recurrence of the ate. The cannonballs were extremely

to remove my hat and beg the ladies' lole sight. The immense cannon were "Habit is a queer matter, anyway, at his forehead and—the stag looked full of worm holes! The terrible iron For instance, gentlemen, we are all in at me ironically and walked quietly my life. I was without weapons and from any I had seen before. It tore up "Alix and I traveled in Russia that worm had attacked them! "There were the habit of seeing the moon wane away.

ward evening I tied Alix to a sharp immediately ordered the construction in the last once the entire of naving some remove my arm, and my fist went into the air. As soon as the storm subsided they to lies is an inherited trait in our family, and evening I tied Alix to a sharp immediately ordered the construction in that I hated beast's gullet. Once in, I pushed with all fell perpendicularly into their respec-

front of a stream and I discovered to Pikas, when he came to a point be-caldron early, and saw millions of long, my chagrin that the bridge had been fore a flock of several hundred birds. I thin creatures dead on the surface. swept away. Without considering, I withheld my shot because I was wait- They were the iron worms, killed at gave my horse the spurs and in an ing for my wife, who was to come up last! Two of the creatures, about three instant we were in the air. At that with my lieutenant and my groom, inches long had crawled out and were moment it struck me that the animal They did not arrive and I rode back sitting on the edge of the caldron, was too tired to make such a leap part of the way, leaving Pikas on his writhing with pain, and moaning. At

again we jumped. When we were half It was fourteen days before I returned. I have had some other experiences with the season.' Of course, I smiled with my roast and my dessert secured by mated the breadth of the stream. I I wished to go hunting and called for if not so remarkable as this. On a he was impassioned about the moon, "I did not have even cherry pits a spurred my Alix again, and he gave Pikas. My servants told me that the 4th of June I once found myself in so to do him a favor I decided on a few days later when I met a maddened himself an extra jerk and darted for- dog had not been seen since my de- Wapping, England, when I felt so far feat that I do not hesitate to charac- old boar, which charged me at once. I ward, but still he failed to land. We parture and that they had supposed he overcome by the heat that I decided terize as immensely difficult. both alighted in deep mud into which was with me. I rode to the field and to lie down for a while in a cool place. we sank until only the horse's head soon found myself near the spot where The only refuge I could see was the I succeeded in devising a machine way when the furious brute struck the I had left Pikas two weeks before. Be- muzzle of one of the huge cannon that which enabled us to lower the moon to tree, and with such force that his "Quick action was needed, gentle- hold! There was the faithful dog, hold- are planted there. I crawled in, and the earth. When the Shah saw it tushes went into the trunk at one side men! I gripped my brave horse with ing his point, but so nearly starved soon was in a sound sleep. Unfortun- coming he ordered all his soldiers to and protruded from the other.

with a mighty effort succeeded in ly thin. Not wishing to slaughter them had been loaded to fire a salute. Preshauling myself and my horse out. I in that condition I contented myself ently the troops arrived, the artillerymerely mention this to show that I was with one shot, which brought down men took their positions and off went only 25 of them. I have rarely heard all the cannon. Your humble servant,

"He was really one of the best dogs first into a mighty hayrick.

reach, and had closed the town gate periences, and mine are not to be called G. R. (Georgius Rex) in the air. It powder, sharpened my ramrod, thrust at the kitchen door. behind the fleeing army, I rode back. wonderful, although some are rather was rather skillful. Imagine my amazement when I failed interesting. For instance, one morning "However, I was going to mention to find a single one of my hussars in I saw a flock of wild fowl on the another little episode connected with seven birds in the covey. When I went when a lot of game was laid out in the lake and hurried so eagerly to get a the artillery. When I was in the to see what execution I had done I lower part of my castle, I saw a fine "I turned my horse's head to the shot that I struck my head against the Prussian army, we besieged a little found the entire seven neatly spitted on fox, and ordered my huntsman to skin without stopping. I waited patiently for permit that to deter me, of course. But to get information as to the affairs in fire and served en brochette. it to quench that unheard-of thirst, when I arrived at the lake I found that the beleagued garrison, but the enemy and turned again to look for my men. the collision had also knocked the flint guarded all the approaches so well that perience that demanded sudden in ten-shamming death—and just as I "What did I see? The whole after- from my gun. There I was, with a it was impossible to send in a spy. part of the poor animal was missing; loaded weapon and no way to fire it. "An idea struck me. I placed myself black fox. It would have been a thousback for mentioning. The work of the wo and all the water it drank simply ran I had a happy thought. I put the gun alongside of the muzzle of our largest and pities to damage the wonderful ping into an overcoat. Well, a bullet the body fallen at my feet before I seized observed before. A strong wind blew the east for three minutes, and then

with only two legs it kept pace with which I have just mentioned, was con the fort. With quick decision I leaped my design. The fox was neatly nailed my design that the fox was neatly nailed my design. The fox was neatly nailed my design that the "I galloped back to the portal, and that I did not intend to mention, be- and returned to my men with a whole

"It was nothing at all for me to ride spect my confidence, and keep the mat- to maintain a seat on them. However,

protuberance in the snow and lay of a great caldron, which was ready

ous fancy added to his adventures. The near him the hare seemed to gain fresh within three days. But swiftly as the Munchhausen family is still one of the and dropped him, and the mystery of been attacked before it was ready. Important aristocratic families of Gerhis speed was explained. The hare had many, and its living representatives not only the regulation four legs unnot know exactly at that time how to derneath; he had four legs on his back, destroy the worm; but I ordered the Government and military service today.

I have never seen a similar hare again. caldron to be made white hot and then "Poor Zephyrette ran so long and so we threw twenty of the worm-eaten

They hardly know whether to be proud continuously that toward the latter cannon into it with twelve that were or ashamed of their famous ancestor, part of her life her legs were almost still sound. To make a long story worn off, and I was compelled to use short, we kept them there in white heat "Dear sirs, friends and hunting comher as a dachshund instead of a greyfor three days and nights, during which
time 51 other cannon were eaten by panions!" the Baron von Munchhausen principled invention to say, as some do, the worms. The garrison had already always began, rubbing his hands ac- that she became so blind that I had to begun to toast me as the worm hero cording to custom. Then he took a tie a lantern to her tail when we went and cannon doctor, when we took the long draught from the old-fashioned glass that was filled with his favorite glass that was filled with his favorite

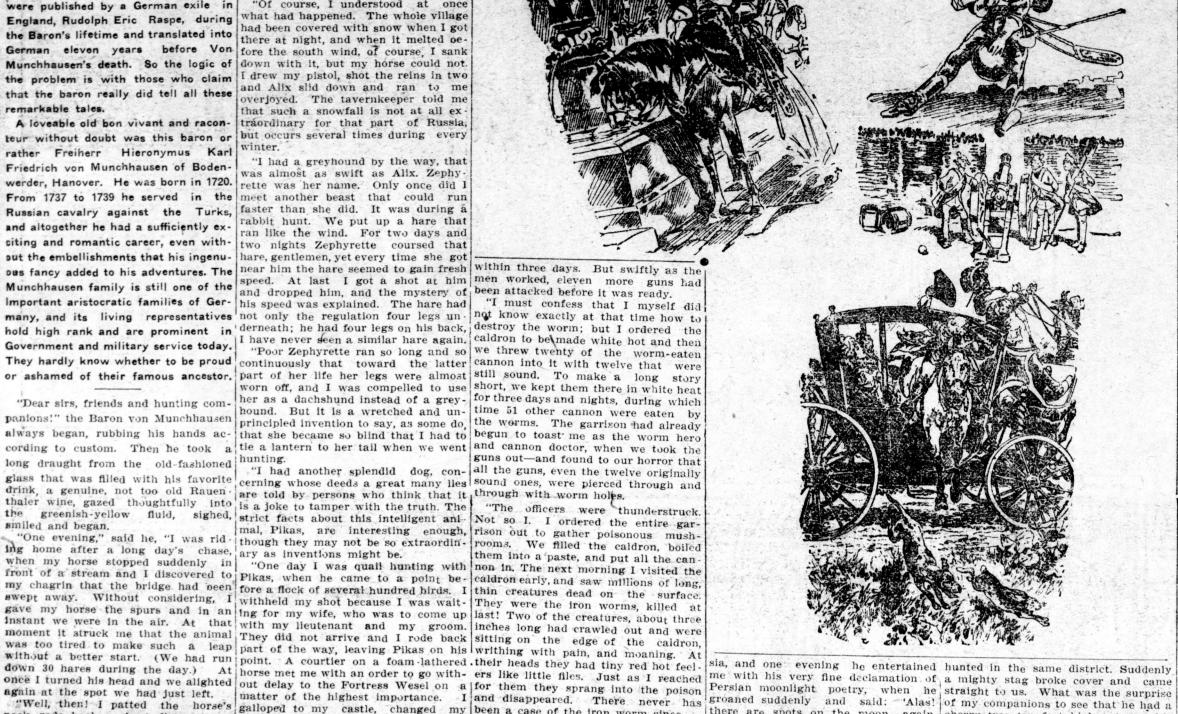
> them into a paste, and put all the can-"One day I was quait hunting with non in. The next morning I visited the

"Well, then! I patted the horse's galloped to my castle, changed my been a case of the iron worm since. neck, rode back a short distance and clothes and rode there straightaway. "In my connection with the artillery "On the day after my arrival home cannon, that are at least entertaining in myself at the Shah's ignerance; but one shot.

"I had a rather curious experience of a deg holding his birds longer than the Baron von Munchhausen, was shot clear across the Thames and flew headcloud of dust that arose was so huge pened the first day that, I wore this ward. When the men took it down, have no sense of either honor or modago. I was watching for game when a

which I have just mentioned, was continued in the fort. With quick decision I leaped my design. The fox was neative named at the fort. With quick decision I leaped my design. The fox was neative named at the possession of the great museum in American possession possession of the great museum in American possession possession of the great museum in American possession episode, I will simply ask you to re- smooth and it was somewhat difficult all's well that ends well.

"I was on a visit to the Shah of Per- happened that the same party of us shoulder.



"Not to annoy you with dull details, managed to pull my legs out of harm's fetch sand; and while the civilized porary absence of the moon, your home at my ease, went to bed and resuperintending the polishing of it; for The boar weighed 500 pounds. when the moon came down we found

ever, it was as bright as it ever was. nails. This was not possible until afof course, they awakened me. This esty. For this reason I hesitate to tell young boar and an old one came trot-"All at once, quite without warning, narrative has been doubted at times; many of my most interesting experiting exactly in line, the old one be-

"Of course every hunter has odd ex- the lash formed a perfect monogram ment to decide. Quickly I loaded with when I thus delivered the game right it in, flushed the birds, waited till they "Such a trick could not have been were in line and fired. There were played with a fox. I remember once, gulp me down.

genuity. I came unexpectedly on a entered he was in the act of putting to my feet and hack the great cat's head that voyage which is worth mentioning.

"You laugh! Yet consider that, after horse. all, it was due to the lucky circumwhere we saw a storm that way for the stores into the guns.

With desperate alarm in every reactive.

Silently they led me to the batteries, sword that for eight days after our ry pits, for I had just been eating that fruit. Well, I couldn't let that noble stag go without an attempt, so I loaded the stones into the guns, fred straight to warr off.

I had in my nand was a nature of the commandant of the commandant of the stones into the guns, fred straight the stones into the gun, f

there are spots on the moon again, cherry tree ten feet high oetween his That is rust from the dampness of antlers! I laid him low and thus had

friend, who is talking to you now, was turned next morning after oreakfast. "By the way, you will have won that there really were great rust spots dered that I succeeded in bending a

on it. Before we raised it again, how-boar's tushes as if they were from

"I was out hunting with Pikas and cut the tail off. I took hold of the young boar in his mouth. My bullet had

fire and served en brochette.

"Shortly after that I had another exceeding what foxes do so of clean into the open jaws of the reptile.

"It was the work of an instant to leap the control of the partridges was supported by the control of the partridges was sup

instead of a bullet, aimed very careme. I threw myself flat, and the wolf, on the spot and found that it was exactly of a wave and then shoot down in fully and succeeded in accomplishing missing me, fell on the poor horse. 40 feet 7 inches long. It is now a prized to a wave and then should be used to a wave and the wave and my dog whip and lathered him till he whole, a fact which only redoubled the shameful liar who has charge of the ex- like ours, that must have wished many slipped out of his skin and ran for his tured to raise my head, and saw that that the lion leaped clear through the

"I seized the whip and began to highly offensive to me. stance of my having a nail in my poc- lash him with all my might. He leaped

course, people got wind of it. In fact, see his widely-opened jaws before he were carried so high by the wind that w we have had eight more.'

"I shuddered, for this was quick and differently. At least once the entire fearful work, even for the iron worm. I world was misled by its habit of think.

determination in his eyes to jump at his wife, who were gathering cucumbers. my throat if I withdrew my arm. From (That honest vegetable grows on trees one way of escape that I could see. I balanced the tree when it descended and gripped all I could, and while Monsieur brought it down out of position. Wolf howled and yelled, I pulled, "It struck the headman of the island turned him inside out like a glove, and and killed him on the spot. He had run Through him the city learned of the when this fortunate accident happened. mentioned it.

ried till he was killed. I told my ser- mark of their esteem for having destroyed vant to hang the coat in the wardrobe the tyrant. and take it to the tailor next day to However, we were speaking of heat. be cleaned and repaired.

I call to mind an incident which will

ran into the dressing room, where the American named Smith arrived in Conservant was shouting: 'Herr Baron! stantinople one day in a balloon in which Herr Baron! Your coat has gone mad! he had started from New York five days Correct! My coat was pulling all my before, thus making a fairly quick pasother garments around the floor and sage. He invited me to make an ascension tearing them to bits. It had hydro- with him. We took with us only one phobia! Just as I arrived it seized my companion, a huge Persian hound. We evening clothes and began to worry rose swiftly. In five minutes we were so them savagely. I ran for my pistol and high that I could see the entire Black shot the mad coat. Then I burned all Sea spread out below, also a good bit of the other clothes, for fear that they the Mediterranean and a part of Africa.

might develop the disease, too.

"This happened while I was visiting General Skrbudansky, whom you must have met here some years ago. He was a delightful host and we had gay."

"Still we went higher, till at last we could see all of Asia, including China and we had gay."

"During the Turkish war a splinter of shrapnel had taken off a piece of his skull. This wound had been coving that I lay unconscious for a time.
"When I recovered I found Smith lying level with a like of the coving that I lay unconscious for a time.

with quick determination I seized him but I must say that it did not by the throat and held him firmly till bad. That are we shipled and he froze to death.

tunes on his horn. What an injustice We made our way to Europe without at notable happening. I will merely mention sprang for a young birch and had just body crowded around the huge stove. The postilion hung up his horn on the and night for fourteen years with wall. Suddenly it began to play. Tune showing the slightest signs of after tune came out of it. All the fa-"I saw my opportunity. I slid down, were the tunes that the postilion had bicked up a heavy stone and clinched tried to play during the day, but with world, with you gentlemen among it, picked up a heavy stone and clinched tried to play during the day, but with-

> "Of course you never have experienced thoroughly cooked. such a cold in this country. Therefore fish that played around the ship in eneryou cannot realize what a Russian winter means, a winter when the weather gets only to die the moment the so cold that it is impossible to light a reached the deck they were well cooked candle because the wax freezes immediately under the burning wick.

"That is a trifle otherwise than the where I went hunting with the governor. happened often that the heat was so intense that one or more buttons would hauled suddenly melt during the day.

"By the way, one afternoon in the jungle I heard a rustling behind me, and about it, after all.

"On that same voyage I had an excelthere crouched a huge lion, just prepar- lent hunting dog aboard. ing to leap. I must confess to my shame our observations showed that we were at that I lost my presence of mind and fired least a thousand miles from land, I obthat I lost my presence of mind and fired least a ur wildest hopes.

"My horse was so wonderfully fast hat I was far ahead of my men. After had killed the last enemy I could had killed the last enemy I could be a charge of bird shot at him, a most for buttons. I consider this one of the I saw the royal coachman do a rather had used up all my shot, though I still fragment and started for home, the foolish proceeding. It only enraged him, his whip he did it in such a way that had only a mothed a fine covey. I had only a mothed a find myself face to face with an immense hour. crocodile, that had already spread its

"I am sure that Hercules himself would and I said: have done what I did in this terrible pre-

hibits is in the habit of telling strangers thousands of tons, with her 500 men and he was swallowing the rest of the reptile before I could kill him. To em- masted and quite helpless. Our provision bellish an adventure thus untruthfully is were exhausted and we were getting

"We looked at each other in ne ami- the largest tree was blown into the air able frame of mind. I could see the it happened to have on it an old man and this desperate situation there was only there.) The weight of this couple over-

threw him under some bushes, where from his house when the storm began and the gardener found him next morning. was just returning through his own gate little affair, as, of course, I had not "I say fortunate." This requires some explanation. The chief was an avaricious, "I must confess that I never cared oppressive, infamous tyrant. He had to repeat that procedure. When I met plundered the natives, and they were mad dog in a narrow street of St. starving, while the goods that he had Petersburg soon afterward, I did not taken from them were rotting in his wait, but ran. To expedite my escape stores. The grateful people chose the two I threw him my coat, which he wor- cucumber gatherers to govern them, as a

"The next morning I was awakened serve to suggest what real heat can be oy his cries. I sprang out of bed, and like. It was when I was in Turkey. An

have met here some years ago. He was a delightful host and we had gay parties every night. Of course, there was a good deal of wine. After a while I noticed that though the old General drank just as much as the rest of us, he would merely stroke his head when he got a little tipsy and in a jiffy he was perfectly cool and sober again. Finally, one night I stood behind him and discovered his secret.

his skull. This wound had been covered with a silver plate, which the shrewd old soldier had caused to be so arranged on hinges that he could raise it at times. This enabled him to let all the alcoholic vapors escape whenever he felt them getting the better of him. "On my way home one night from one of these little drinking bouts I met a boar. These creatures used to stroll about St. Petersburg somewhat freely. I was totally unarmed; but with quick determination I seized him with a seized him to be stroll about St. Petersburg somewhat freely. I was totally unarmed; but with quick determination I seized him with quick determination I seized him to be stroll about St. Petersburg somewhat freely. I was totally unarmed; but I must say that it did not taste half

bad. Just as we finished our strange re "It was cold that winter in St. past the balloon landed in the top of a Petersburg, and in Russia generally. at exactly the right moment. After we tilion and we commented on the fact had eaten a couple of bushels of these we that he did not beguile the way as felt refreshed enough to climb down, and most of his class do, by playing sweet discovered that we had landed in Arabia.

What ar injustice We made our way to Europe without any we did the poor fellow! That evening as another illustration of the degree of when we alighted at a tavern everyin one piece. I had it tanned and made into a pair of shoes, which I kept on day

after tune came out of it. All the famous melodies poured forth with delightful pathos, hour after hour. They out producing a sound because the ordinary. At any rate, a very sunny days frightful cold froze all the notes before they could come out.

Standard Because the other always grew so hot at noon that it was sufficient merely to dip our meat and other food into it to have it

ous numbers, quite merrily and lively and all ready to eat.

We were puzzled for a long time to understand understand how these fully cooked fish could swim and play in the boiling water weather that I experienced in Ceylon, but the explanation, like the explanation I wore a coat with leaden buttons, and it fish become accustomed to the tempera-Then, when they into the cool air ture gradually. heat strikes in, ends their lives and cooks them. there is nothing very mavelous

that we would find game within half ar horrible jaws to their fullest extent to before the sailors, who had been fishing, guln me down.

"Dear friends and hunting companions the room half an hour afterward, and what did I see? That rascally fox had clean into the open jaws of the reptile.

my gun and forced the head down into the crocodile's gullet till it choked to death

cannon. 'When the storm was over we were disbellish an adventure thus untruthfully is were exhausted and the highly offensive to me.

"I can tell you that a great load fell was that of roast beef, oranges and cigars. So powerful and nutritious was the air.

the very name of cherries. Then it all my might till it was in up to my tive places and took root again. I said happened that the same party of us shoulder. "all." That is not precisely true. When night!"