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THE GRANITE TOWN GREETINGS

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Tolstoi's Hidden Domestic Tragedy

And at the last, Tolstoi ran away from his wife so that he might die in peace. With words like the foregoing the true biography of the great Russian should be concluded. When the old teacher set out on that last journey of his it was supposed that his mind had broken down, and that of more importance was to be attached to his pathetic flight than to the ravings of a madman. Since his death, however, matters have come a little to light, which leave little doubt that for a great many years Tolstoi had to struggle with a domestic tragedy such as has only too frequently involved the world's geniuses from Socrates to Carlyle.

Had Tolstoi been a poor man it is likely that his married life would have been a happy one, or that its tragedy would never have been discovered. The fact is that he was almost, if not quite a millionaire, and at the struggle for the estate he left the mask of happiness that hid the Tolstoi family had fallen, and the ugly hidden faces of greed and envy and contempt have been revealed. The inference is not an unfair one that the Countess Tolstoi regarded her husband as more or less crack-brained, and never ceased to rebel inwardly or outwardly against the beliefs that made him a hermit. Had he consulted her wishes he would have lived like any other noble Russian of wealth and distinction, and would have burnt all his silly writings about the peasants.

When Tolstoi died his will was found to contain two parts, one dealing with his great estate, Yoslava Polina, and the other with his unpublished manuscripts, plays, etc. The former was left to his wife and sons, the latter to his youngest daughter Alexandra. The will appointed Vladimir Chertkoff, who had been his intimate friend for many years, as literary executor, jointly with Alexandra. The bitter feeling of the sons against Chertkoff broke out before Tolstoi had been buried, and he was accused of having suggested to his father his last flight.

Chertkoff now defends himself, and Alexandra chooses his side of the controversy against her mother and brothers. The former has not yet started out what he knows of the intimate relationship of the Tolstoi family, but his hints make definite charges almost unnecessary. He does not scruple to say that Alexandra was the only member of the Yoslava Polina household that sympathized with the great man, and this is very strongly suggested by the will which cuts off the rest of the family from sharing in the profits of the matter he left unpublished. M. Chertkoff also says that Tolstoi's dying wish was that his wife might not get to him, so that his last few hours might be passed in serene meditation. "You understand that if she should be here I would be unable to refuse," he said to Chertkoff, "and to see her would be fatal to me." What he meant by these words M. Chertkoff has yet to explain.

The manuscripts, as has been said were bequeathed to Alexandra, but now the Countess claims that many of them belong to her, together with the originals of much of the published work, which she declares her husband

gave her years ago. This contention both Alexandra and Chertkoff deny, and they demand that the manuscripts be surrendered. Otherwise they will take legal steps to recover them. In the meantime, the documents remain in the custody of the Historical Museum, the officials of which institution have declined to permit the Countess to enter the room where they are kept. The Countess sought to examine them for the purpose, she says, of getting matter for the autobiography on which she is engaged, and which is not to be published until after her death. The fact that she has literary ambitions is not generally known, but now it is said that she wrote a book entitled "Whose Fault Was It?" in reply to her husband's "Kreutzer Sonata." The work, however, was never published but the knowledge that it was written suggests that the early masterpiece of Tolstoi's was autobiographical.

There can be little doubt that as far as money is concerned the mother and sons fared much better than the daughter. A few weeks ago the sons were asking \$1,500,000 for the estate from a group of American millionaires, whom they sought to interest in a proposal to convert Yoslava Polina into a great memorial in honor of Tolstoi. The fact that the likeliest contributors to the fund were found to be Jews who could not legally hold any property in Russia outside of the pale caused the scheme to fall through. Now the sons are considering an offer from the Russian Government for the place.—Ex.

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An Irish Lord's View.

Lord Dunraven is an Irish landlord who has been a strong opponent of home rule. He has now changed his mind. Speaking recently in London he pointed to the change that has taken place in Ireland under the operation of recent land laws. The country was becoming prosperous, and in proportion as she prospered the desire to obtain home rule increased. These words of an Irish landlord are worth reading.

He could not understand how any reasonable man could imagine that granting home rule to Ireland would be any possible menace or danger to Great Britain or the Empire. The Irish people had not the slightest idea or desire for separation or for independence. Irishmen were not fools, and they knew perfectly well

that Ireland could not stand alone as an independent nation. The whole strength and backing, financial and otherwise, of the United Kingdom was absolutely necessary for them. The idea of hostility had altogether died out in Ireland. A large devotion of self-governing power was necessary in the interests of the future consolidation of the Empire. They wanted a really United Kingdom, not a union maintained practically by force as it was now. In religious matters the Irish had been perhaps the most tolerant people which had ever existed.

It will be remembered that the late Lord Spencer, when he went to Ireland as Viceroy, was an opponent of home rule. A short residence in the country or study of the question made him the most earnest advocate of the movement, and led to his ostracism by British Tories.—Ex.

The Fam'ne in China.

The attention of the whole civilized world is very much focused just now on the Chinese Empire of which one part is devastated by a malignant epidemic and another by a destructive famine. The Government of the Empire is in a transition state, and is comparatively helpless in this double crisis. After a time a much modified and modernized national Administration will find itself able to deal with such emergencies, whether they come individually or collectively for China, which is already a powerful nation, will soon be also an efficient one, but just now help from the western nations is greatly and urgently needed.

The Consul-General of the United States at Shanghai has sent an urgent appeal to the people of his own country that a hundred thousand dollars should be cabled at once, in addition to what has already been remitted or is likely to be sent later. This appeal might well be taken as addressed to Canadians. In the maintenance of Christian missions in China there is effective national co-operation, and so there should be now in alleviating suffering and prolonging life. Toronto and Ontario have contributed liberally to the famine fund, but the need is still urgent.

Apart from the higher humanitarian motives which should be adequate to arouse a full tide of sympathy for a doubly stricken people, the western nations that pave the way for important international results by appearing to the Chinese in the guise of not merely disinterested but benevolent friends. The sage and practical Romans embodied in their own expressive language a maxim that is true for all time and for all emergencies: he gives twice who gives quickly. There never was greater need for promptitude if help is to be effective.—Tor. Globe.

The "Hobble" - The "Harem."

The chic little "hobble's" a thing of the past.

The girls will soon cease to wear 'em.

Instead, you will soon see them walking the streets

Rigged out in a skirt-a-la-harem.

The girls in their "hobbles" take such little steps.

You'd think they're afraid they might tear 'em.

But now we shall see them take whopping big strides

In their latest creation, the "harem."

The "hobble's" a fright, but still Mr. Man

Has striven his utmost to bear 'em.

But goodness knows what he will do when he sees

A girl "trousered" up in a "harem."

So, women, beware; you have read how, in Paris,

The men tried to dirty and tear 'em.

We've stood crinolines and we've even stood "hobbles."

But we certainly won't stand the "harem."

J. W. Mackinson, 80 Summer St. city.

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United States and Japan

The United States has received from the President the treaty with Japan which was drawn up some time ago. The main points in the agreement which were agreed to last fall are as follows: That Japan will cooperate with the United States that Japan may agree to a neutralization of the Manchurian railways in adherence to the American spirit with the proviso how ever that similar withdrawal be made by all powers now enjoying concessions of the kind for China; the American recognition of Japan as the guiding influence in the Far East and her liberty to act in unison with her foreign treaties following the usual notification to his country. Japan support of Chinese integrity opening of ports and cities within Japan's control to the trade specially affecting Korea, Formosa, Saghalien and Port Arthur; utilization of Japan's good offices in future Far Eastern questions continued recognition of Japan's state distinctions relative to

Southern Manchuria and arrangements facilitating the financing of Japanese enterprises in the Orient.

There is one feature that will provoke discussion and strong opposition because of the feeling on the Pacific coast. That is the exclusion of Japanese laborers by law. Japan has been deeply wounded by the action of United States in this matter, and she has promised to so restrict legislation that the United States will have no cause of complaint. The new treaty will contain this understanding but the representatives from the Pacific coast states are satisfied with nothing less than exclusion and are expected to seek to prevent the adoption of the treaty.

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Synopsis of Canadian North-West Land Regulations.

Any person who is the sole head of a family or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. The applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the district. Entry by proxy may be made at any agency, on certain conditions, by father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader.

Duties—Six months residence and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter-section along side his homestead. Price \$3.00 per acre. Duties—must reside upon the homestead or pre-emption six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including the time required to earn homestead patent) and cultivate fifty acres extra.

A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead right and cannot obtain a pre-emption may enter for a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price \$3.00 per acre. Duties—must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate fifty acres, erect a house worth \$300.00.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior

The Only Ad He Ever Had.

There was a man in our town
Who was so wondrous wise;
He thought a business he could run
And never advertise,
Take heed and learn the moral
Of this sad and mournful tale,
For the only ad he ever had
Was "Closed for Sheriff Sale."

The wind was blowing a bit more than a gale Friday, when a benevolent old chap stopped to put a dime in the hat of a shivering blind man on the public square, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. The donor nearly dropped the coin, but the mendicant showed his hat underneath it and skillfully rescued it.

Why, you're not blind! cried the giver, scornfully.

No, sir, confessed the beggar. I'm just takin' a pal's place while he has a bit o' rest. He's blind, sir—been blind from birth.

Where is he taking his rest? demanded the stranger still unconvinced.

Why, he—er—why has gone to a movin' picture show.