

A Russian Soldier's Story

An old man lay dying in a French hospital. To him came the priest of the parish, with kindly inquiries and the advice that he make his peace with God, as his end was approaching. To the first he responded in a polite manner, but the admonition was not so well received.

"Do not approach me on that subject, Father, I am old enough and ought to be wise enough to know my own business on that score. I shall be grateful for an occasional visit, for the time passes very slowly here; but you must never speak to me of religion. Besides, I am not of your faith."

"You are not a Catholic?" inquired the priest. "Have you not just told me that you are called De Ravignan? That should be a Catholic name?"

"It is—I can not explain further," said the sick man, petulantly. "But let it be sufficient that I am not a Roman Catholic."

The priest understood the reservation. "He has the features of a Russian, with his French name," he thought. "Probably it is a disguise."

The good father came the next day and the next, chatting pleasantly with the old man each time, though never alluding to the subject of religion. But it was the month of November, and he had an extraordinary devotion to the souls in Purgatory. To the priest he recommended his dying fellow-creature, and in a short time had the satisfaction of seeing his prayers answered in a most singular manner.

One morning as he was passing, the sick man called him. "Father," he said, "are you coming to sit-with me today?"

"I fear not," returned the priest. "It must only be 'good-morning,' as I am obliged to go out of town."

head, then on the heart, then on the left shoulder, and then on the right. "That is not the way," I said. "You must make it in this fashion—first placing my hand on the right shoulder instead of the left, as is the custom in the Russian Church."

"Both hands dropped at his sides; he shook his head. "Make the Sign of the Cross; I commanded in an angry tone. "I have made it," he answered, firmly.

"Swing him up to the arm of the yonder tree! I cried, now furious, but still with no intent to bring the incident to a fatal ending. The soldiers seized him. "Hang him!" I continued. "He is not worth the powder and shot you would waste upon him."

"Then, with a less angry voice, I turned to him again, saying, 'One more chance to make the Sign of the Cross in the manner I have told you.' "He shook his head.

"Determined to conquer him, I cried out— "Wait, men—wait! Do not spoil a rope with him. Take him to the stocks."

"The soldiers prepared to obey. I led the way. It was bitterly cold weather—the ice was two feet thick in the narrow but deep little stream. He came without resistance, standing calmly, with hands folded over his heart, while the soldiers began to break the ice with their bayonets, finishing the work with the ends of their bayonets. Very soon they had made a hole about twice the thickness of a man's body.

"Look!" I exclaimed, catching him by the shoulder and making him bend over the black crucifix as he was rushing to the sea? Unless you make the Sign of the Cross they will throw you into it, and you will be swept away. And your father and mother will never know what has become of you."

"Father and mother I have none," he replied. "But if they were living, they would not, for all the riches of this earth, have had me deny the religion they taught me to revere. And now I say to you, once and for all, I shall not make the holy sign either in my fashion or yours. To do the first would only expose it to ridicule; and to do the second would be to me but a mockery."

"Boy!" I cried out almost beside myself with rage and that humiliating feeling which comes to one when he sees himself humbled by an apparently insignificant object, until now I have been playing with you—trying to frighten you; but it is so no longer. Unless you make the Sign of the Cross in the manner commanded by His Most Sacred Majesty, the head of the Russian Church, I swear to you that before five minutes have passed you shall be drowned in that river."

mediately after his baptism, had yielded up his soul to the Almighty. His death had been edifying in the extreme; and in the mind of the priest there was not the slightest doubt that, secure in the promise of eternal happiness given to those who shall have expiated, either here or hereafter, the sins of mortality, he had joined the great army of suffering, but holy souls who people the shadowy realms of Purgatory.—The Catholic Columbian.

YOUR BEST WORK Cannot be done unless you have good health. You cannot have good health without pure blood. You may have pure blood by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla now. You cannot realize the good it will do you until you try it. Begin taking to-day and see how quickly it will give you an appetite, strength and vigor and cure your rheumatism, catarrh or scrofula.

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NOTES FOR FARMERS. TESTING OF SEED.—The past season has seen certain localities being unfavorable for the perfect maturing of grain, says Prof. William Saunders, director of the Experimental Farm. In some districts it has been injured by rain during harvest or from being stacked before fully dry, thus causing it to sprout or heat, while in other localities it has suffered more or less from early autumn frosts. When exposed to either of these conditions cereals are apt to lose a portion of their vitality or to have it so weakened as to produce when sown an unsatisfactory growth.

By instruction of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, provision has been made whereby the vitality of seed can be ascertained without cost to the individual, and any farmer in the Dominion, who may have any varieties which he desires to have tested can get the information he seeks, by forwarding to the director of the Experimental Farms, Ottawa, samples of such grain or seeds. Samples may be sent free through the mail and an ounce or two is sufficient for the purpose. About two weeks are required to complete a test. It is hoped that all who desire to avail themselves of the provision offered, so that the work may be completed in good season.

DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES.—During the past twelve years samples of those varieties of grain, etc., which have succeeded best on the several experimental Farms have been distributed on application in 3-lb. bags, free through the mail, to farmers in all parts of the Dominion. The object in view in this distribution has been to add to the quality of the important agricultural products throughout the country, by placing within reach of every farmer, pure seed of the most vigorous and productive sorts. This work has met with much appreciation, and a large measure of success.

Under instruction of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture another distribution will be made this season. Owing to the very large number of applications annually received, it is not practicable to send more than one sample to each applicant, hence if an individual receives a sample of oats, he cannot also receive one of wheat, barley or potatoes, and applications for more than one sample for one household cannot be entertained. Those samples will be sent only to those who apply personally, lists of names of persons or individuals cannot be considered. The distribution will consist as heretofore of samples of oats, spring wheat, barley, field peas, Indian corn and potatoes.

Applications should be addressed to the director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, and may be sent any time before the 1st of March, 1901, after which date the lists will be closed, so that the samples asked for may all be sent out in good time for sowing. Parties writing will please mention the sort of sample

they would prefer, naming two or three different varieties of their choice. Should the available stock of all the varieties named be exhausted, some other good sort will be sent instead.

The samples of grain will be sent early, but potatoes cannot be distributed until danger of injury in transit by frost is over. No provision has been made for any general distribution of any other seeds than those named. Letters may be sent to the Experimental Farm free of postage.

HOUSEHOLD NOTES. CARE OF TEETH.—The dentists of this country," said a foreigner, "may be the best in the world, and their success in all other countries has indeed proved that, but it is nevertheless the fact that one sees more gold in the mouths of the women here than could be found anywhere else in the world. I saw a New York 'Sun.' It may be that dentistry is cheap and in the rear of everybody. Whatever the reason, this peculiarity is not a beauty of American women, and if the practice increases during the next ten years as it has during the past decade, there will be still more to criticize in the looks of the women. I saw an actress the other evening whose mouth might have served for a dentist's sign, so carefully were all of her teeth built up with gold. She was not supposed, of course, to be anything beautiful, and was a comedienne to be laughed at. Nevertheless she would have been much more so if the amount of gold had not been so very apparent. In Europe many of the dentists have used with women the new porcelain fillings, which are white and in nearly every way exactly like the natural teeth. The great defect in them is their frailness. They are very likely, for instance, to break after one suddenly drinks cold water, or drop out of the tooth as easily as if they had been put there to stay. The effect of this is, of course, much more likely to increase the appearance of the mouth, but the system is a substitute of metal has not been a success.

"Every now and then one hears of some new invention to take the place of gold. Some formula has been discovered which is said to combine the visual merits of the porcelain with the enduring property of gold. In that case many women will have cause to be grateful, and so will men who are weary of the sight of everybody else's teeth. I saw a great many of them who stand in need of this kind of treatment get in such a condition through rubbing their teeth too much and too hard. I read the other day of a man old enough to know better who advised everybody to clean their teeth three minutes twice a day. He said that at least three minutes of the provision was necessary, and as a short-cut time could produce no good results, he advised everybody to do this first by the clock in order to get into the habit. A dentist told me that this would certainly rub the enamel of the strongest teeth if they were kept up. It is just as bad as the idea some persons have that a stiff tooth brush, so hard that it is almost painful, is the best kind. As a matter of fact, a tooth brush, to be properly used, should always be soaked for several minutes in a glass of water. Then it will not only do its work much better, but prove advantageous instead of injurious to the teeth."

PROFESSIONAL CARVER.—The head carver at the Astor House, N. Y., Chas. Gallagher, has disjoined and sliced up more than a quarter of a million turkeys. At an average of ten pounds each—and hotel turkeys are usually much larger—Gallagher has handled 2,500,000 pounds of turkey meat during the thirty-three years he has been wielding a knife and fork for the hotel. This is at the rate of 78,788 pounds of meat a year. He calculates that he has carved 250,000 turkeys.

Gallagher does not believe that his record can be beaten anywhere. "Charley" does not in the least look like the enemy to turkeys that his record shows. He is an Irishman, with keen blue eyes and a gray moustache. So adept has he become in carving a cooked turkey that in busy times he has cut, sliced and prepared for serving twenty turkeys in thirty minutes. In just sixteen slashes of the great knife he uses the toughest turkey that was ever raised in Rhode Island or anywhere else is ready for the hotel table. The head carver entered the ser-

ABOUT DIVORCES. About 440 divorces were granted in Memphis during the past year. This is a pretty good showing for a city of 102,000 inhabitants, with only 1,860 marriages during 1900. With this increase in the divorce business in about ten years the separations will equal the marriages. It's a good thing—for the lawyers.—Memphis Journal.

NEW INVENTIONS. Patents recently granted by the Canadian and American Governments. CANADA. 69,797—Francis Toussignant, St. Hyacinthe, P.Q., composite axle. 69,815—Fortunat Malouin, Quebec, P.Q., milk pails and strainers. 69,824—J. L. P. H. Papineau, St. Henri de Montreal, P.Q., bicycle. 69,829—Joseph Lemire, Drummondville, P.Q., card cutter.

UNITED STATES. 665,024—Nicholas E. Lister, Westfield Centre, N.B., device for surfacing or grading railroad tracks. 665,069—Dominique Caron, Ville St. Paul, Montreal, P.Q., clippers.

HIS BEST KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF. "Now, sir," said the cross-examining counsel, "do you, on your oath, swear that this is not your handwriting?" "I'm pretty sure it ain't," was the reply. "Does it resemble your writing?" "I reckon not."

THE CO-OPERATIVE FUNERAL EXPENSE SOCIETY 1736 St. Catherine Street. The Only Society Incorporated and Offering Solid Guarantees. CAPITAL, - \$30,000. SUBSCRIPTIONS: From Birth to 5 Years.....\$1.00 Per Year. 5 Years to 10 Years..... 75c. 10 " " to 15 "..... 1.00. 15 " " to 20 "..... 1.50. 20 " " to 25 "..... 2.50. SPECIAL TERMS FOR PERSONS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE. First-class Private Funerals at Moderate Prices. W. A. WAYLAND, GENERAL MANAGER. Bell Tel. East 1235. March Tel. 563.

JANUARY SALE. 36 INCHES WIDE—14c, reduced to 12 1/2c per yard. 18c, reduced to 15c per yard. 25c, reduced to 20c per yard. 28 to 30c, reduced to 23c per yard. Linen Crashes. 8c, reduced to 5c each. 9c, reduced to 7c each. 10c, reduced to 8c each. Printed Marseilles Quilts. \$13.00, reduced to \$6.50. \$15.00, reduced to \$7.50. \$17.00, reduced to \$8.50. Seconds Table Napkins. From 25 to 33 1-8 under usual value—3/4 x 3/4 size. Prices run 5c, 6c, 7c, 8c, 10c, 12c, 13c, 15c each. 3/4 x 3/4 size. Prices run—17c, 19c, 21c, 23c, 25c, 27c, 30c, 38c, 45c and 50c each.

Plain Linen Hemstitched. Tray Cloths, Bureau and Wash Stand Scarfs, Side Board Scarfs, in all sizes, 10 per cent. off, and 10 per cent. extra for cash. SPECIAL AGENTS FOR DR. DRIMEL'S LINEN MESH UNDERWEAR. W. G. KENNEDY, Dentist. No. 758 PALACE STREET, Two Doors West of Beaver Hall Hill.

OGILVY'S St. Catherine and Mountain Sts. TRAINS LEAVE AS FOLLOWS: 7:00 a.m. Hamilton, Niagara Falls. 7:40 a.m. Local Express for Toronto. 8:40 a.m. Portland, Quebec, Sherbrooke. 9:40 a.m. New York via D. & H. 9:50 a.m. Waterloo via St. Lambert. 9:50 a.m. International Limited. Toronto, London, Detroit, Chicago. 9:51 a.m. Boston and New York via O.V.R. 1:30 p.m. St. Johns and St. Albans. 4:00 p.m. Arthabaska and Island Pond. 4:40 p.m. Hamilton, Port Huron. 4:45 p.m. Waterloo, St. Johns, Rouss, Point St. Charles. 5:15 p.m. Brockville. 5:30 p.m. St. Hyacinthe. 5:50 p.m. Boston, New York via O.V.R. 7:10 p.m. St. Catharines, via O.V.R. 7:10 p.m. Local Express for Toronto. 8:30 p.m. Quebec, Portland. 10:30 p.m. Boston, New York via O.V.R. For Suburban Train Service, consult Time Tables. Despatch trains run daily. All other trains run daily except Sunday.

FAST SERVICE BETWEEN MONTREAL AND OTTAWA. Fast trains leave Montreal daily, except Sunday, at 9:50 a.m. and 4:10 p.m., arriving at Ottawa at 11:15 a.m. and 8:25 p.m. Local trains for all O.V.R. points to Ottawa leave Montreal at 7:40 a.m. daily, except Sunday, and 5:50 p.m. daily. City Ticket Offices, 117 St. James Street and Bonaventure Station.

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