SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1856.

Weekly Chronicle.

VOLUME XX. "COLONIAL CONSERVATIVE." NUMBER 45.

THE ST. JOHN CHRONICLE,

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Visiting and Business Cards, plain and ornamentally Blank Bills, Blanks, and Printing generally neatly executed.

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TERMS—Two dollars, if paid within the year; 10s. if not paid until after expiration of the year.

All Letters, Orders, Communications, &c., must be post-paid, and addressed to

WILLIAM LUGRIN,
Chronicle Office, Saint John, N. B.

☞ The Chronicle is filed, and may be seen free of charge, at Trubner & Co. Holloway's Establishment, 60 Strand, London.

☞ George W. White, is an authorized Agent for the Chronicle at Yoxings Cove, Grand Lake.

☞ Archibald M'Donald, is an authorized Agent for the Chronicle at Gagetown.

☞ N. R. PALMER, the American Newspaper Agent, is the only authorized Agent for this paper in the cities of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia and is duly empowered to take advertisements and subscriptions at the rate as required by us. His receipts will be acquitted as payments. His Offices are—Boston, Scollay's Building; New York, Tribune Buildings; Philadelphia, N. W. corner Third and Chestnut streets.

Mutual Insurance Company.

JOSEPH FAIRWEATHER, Esq., President.
Directors—J. W. Lawrence, S. R. Tucker, C. H. Fairweather, John Ambrose, Solicitor—J. M. Robinson, Esq. Secretary—Isaac Woodward, Esq.

☞ Applications for Insurance against Fire to be made at the office of the Secretary, Wiggins' Brick Building, Princess-street. May 23.

We have obtained the Victory.

MERRAY & SCHOFIELD,
PIANOFORTE MANUFACTURERS
South side King Square, St. John, N. B.

HAVING taken the First and Second Prizes and the Diploma for their instruments, at the Provincial Exhibition, beg leave to inform the public that they can supply Pianofortes at the following prices:

Square Fronts Mahogany Piccolo,	£30	0	0
Rosewood G. G. Piccolo,	35	0	0
Do. Elegant do.	40	0	0
Cottage,	42	0	0
Semi-Cabinet,	45	10	0
Full Cabinet,	50	0	0
Elegant, with French front, turned legs, and circular bottom,	65	0	0

The whole of the above Instruments are 6 4-2 Octave to A above.

N. B.—All Instruments manufactured by M. & S. will be warranted for three years.

Every description of English and American Pianofortes tuned and repaired. March 18th.

SOAP & CANDLE MANUFACTORY.
GEORGE WOODS,
Princess Street next adjoining Dunn's Steam Saw Mill, a few doors from the corner of Germain Street.
ST. JOHN, N. B.
August 29.

HOWES & KENNEDY,
COPPER, TIN, and Sheet Iron Workers,
No. 4, CROSS STREET, SAINT JOHN, N. B.
TIN AND ZINC WATER SPOUTS, STOVES, STOVE PIPE, & TINWARE, ALWAYS ON HAND.
☞ All kinds of Jobbing and repairing in our line thankfully received and punctually attended to. (3m.) August 24, 1855.

THOMAS GOW,
Plumber and Gas Fitter,
NEXT ADJOINING MARRITT'S BRICK BUILDING,
WATER STREET.
HOUSE and SHIP WATER-CLOSETS; Hot Cold, and Shower BATHS; Forcing, Lifting, Common, and Engine PUMPS; SHIPS' SCUPPERS, &c. &c.—on the most approved principles
LEAD PIPE of all sizes, and SHEET LEAD constantly on hand.
☞ LEAD BENDS made to order.
July 2, 1852. THOMAS GOW.

THOMAS HANTON,
MANUFACTURER OF
Steamboat, Locomotive, Flue, and Cylinder
BOILERS,
OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.
—Also—
SHIPS' WATER TANKS, &c., &c., &c.
Britain Street, (near Reed's Point,) Saint John, N.B. Particular attention paid to repairs.
November 30, 1855.

HORSE SHOEING.
[Shop one door north of the Country Market]
WILLIAM GABRIEL begs to Tender his sincere thanks to his Friends and the Public for the extensive patronage bestowed upon him during the past year, and he takes this method further to inform them that he is prepared at all times to execute orders in his line of business, in the best possible manner, and in the style that is most suitable to the Industry.
January 29, 1856.

JOHN HARRIS,
Silver Smith, Jeweller & Engraver
North side of King Street, St. John, N. B., a few doors below the Waverley House.
MANUFACTURER of all kinds Silver Plate viz: Tea, Table, and Dessert Spoons; Forks, Ladles, Fish and Butter Knives, &c. &c.; also, Silver Cups of different patterns, which he will furnish Cheaper than any other House in the City. The above work is warranted to be made of Sterling Silver, and for neatness of style and superior finish, challenges competition.
☞ WATCHES made to order and repaired.
☞ All kinds of Engraving neatly executed.
Masons, Foresters, and others furnished with plain and fancy RINGS cheaper than can be imported. The subscriber confidently may be relied on. Cash and the highest price given for Old Silver.
FRESH MESS BUTTER, and FRESH EGGS. For sale at JOHN KINNEAR'S,
June 6, 1855. Prince Wm. street

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND
Fire and Life Insurance Company,
ESTABLISHED 1836—PATRONIZED by Special Act of Parliament.
CHIEF OFFICE—22, Castle Street, Liverpool, 30 & 31, Moorgate Street, London.
THOMAS BOLTON, Esq., Chairman.
J. C. EWART, Esq., F. R. S., and J. MAYWOOD, Esq., Deputy Chairman; SWINTON BOULT, Esq., Secretary.
BRANCH OFFICES AND AGENCIES.
Europe—Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Bristol, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Sligo, Londonderry, Galway, Belgium, Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Liege, Paris, Havre, Marseilles, Bordeaux, Lisbon, Oporto, Madeira, Malta, Gibraltar, Malaga, Cadiz, Barcelona, Madrid, Alicante, Palermo, Messina, Naples, Leghorn, Genoa, Venice, Trieste, Athens, Corfu, Malta, Zante, Syra, Smyrna, Constantinople, Odessa, Taganrog, Salonica, Beirut, Jaffa, Alexandria, Cairo, Tunis, Tangiers, Malaga, Malta, Gibraltar, Madeira, Teneriffe, Malaga, Cadiz, Lisbon, Oporto, Ceylon, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Colombo, Ceylon, Mauritius, China—Canton, Hong Kong, Shanghai.
CAPITAL £1,000,000 STERLING.
Paid up Subscribed, £777,250 16 8, Sterling.
Contingent Fund—UNLIMITED LIABILITY.
Fire Premiums Received in 1855, £166,271 16 11, Sterling.
Business includes against loss or damage by FIRE, on every description of Property.
Losses paid or compromised and paid at Office.
NEW BRUNSWICK BRANCH: Office—No. 24, Prince William Street, St. John.
(No Charge for Policy.)
April 26. EDWARD ALLISON, Agent.

Saint John & Liverpool Line of Packet Ships.
Appointed to Sail from Liverpool as under.

Ships.	Capt'n.	Tonnage.	To Sail.
Dunbrody,	Myers,	1015	8th March.
John Bryden,	Whitehill,	900	20th do.
Middleton,	Cooper,	900	8th April.
John Duncan,	Kinsy,	921	20th do.
Imperial,	Morris,	1279	8th May.
Peter Maxwell,	Sadler	1050	8th June.
John Owens,	Deane,	1296	8th July.

These Ships are built of the best materials, and remarkably fast, classed A 1 at Lloyds and coppered, and will be despatched punctually on the day appointed.

They are commanded by men of the greatest perseverance and nautical skill, and no expense or exertion will be spared to make this line efficient in every respect for the safe and speedy conveyance of goods and passengers.

Tickets for steerage passage of goods by this Line are respectfully solicited.

For Freight or Passage apply in Liverpool to Messrs. Pickford, Morrison, & Co., Wallace Buildings, Water Street, or here to

J. & R. REED.

S. K. FOSTER'S
Ladies Fashionable Shoe Store.
Foster's Corner Germain Street.
ENGLISH SHOES.
Received per recent Packet Ships and last Liverpool Steamer—
A Large variety of Ladies', Misses' and Children's BOOTS and SHOES of the very finest Warranted qualities.
A General Assortment of
Ladies', Misses' and Childrens' Cheap Boots and SHOES.
FRENCH SHOES.
Received direct from Paris, beautiful variety of Ladies' Satin and Kid SHOES of the present Paris Styles.
DOMESTIC SHOES, &c.
Gents' Calf, Morrocco and Patent Ozonians;
Gents' Morrocco, Calf and Patent Bluchers;
Gents' very superior Elastic side Boots;
Boys', Youths' and Children's Boots and Shoes;
Childrens' Fancy Boots and Shoes in great variety.
RUBBER BOOTS AND SHOES.
Mens', Womens', Girls', Boys' and Children's LONG RUBBER BOOTS.
Lace Boots and SHOES in every Style.
March 28th. S. K. FOSTER.

Valuable Farms for Sale.—The subscriber offers for Sale, Lot No. 6, on Salmon Creek, Johnston Parish, Q. C., containing 100 acres. The lot is most valuable for WOOD of almost every description, including Maple, Birch, Spruce, White Pine, etc. It is situated within a mile and a half of Green's Cove, where a wood-boat may load at any time while the navigation is open. The Post road to Judge Petty's landing runs across the front of the property. Persons wishing to view the place will please apply to Mr. Robert Strong, living in the vicinity.

Also, a Lot of Land, containing 200 acres, situated on the English settlement, head of Washademoak Lake, thirty to forty acres of which are cleared, ten acres having been ploughed. It has on it a good Frame Barn, in the vicinity there are Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches, several Schools, a Saw Mill, Grist Mill, Oat Mill, and a Carding Machine.

The post road runs through the property, and it is well timbered. There is a Stream by which a Mill may be driven. There is likewise between fifteen and twenty acres of interval not cleared. Mr. Richard Pearson, on the adjoining property may be applied to by persons who may desire to see the premises. Apply to W. H. ADAMS, or to
(Sept 28) JOHN HALL, Saint John.

New Stock for Spring, 1856.
Just received at the New Paper Store:—
3000 REAMS of PAPER HANGINGS from the manufacturer. For sale cheap for cash.
GEORGE NIXON,
March 14. 104, Prince William-street

NEWCASTLE COALS.—Parties requiring to import the above article in any quantity can have information with respect to it by applying to
JOHN KINNEAR.
Feb. 8. Prince Wm. street.

NEW BOOKS.—New York Journal, January; Harper, do.; Putnam and Nelson, do.; With an immense assortment of other late publications, Newspapers, &c.
January 4. E. O'BRIEN.

PUTTY, FIRE PROOF PAINT, &c.—Landing and for Sale:—14 Tons PUTTY;
8 Brls. Fire Proof PAINTS;
10 casks Fine OIL;
1 case NUTMEGS, RICE, BARLEY, &c.
JOHN KINNEAR.
November 16. Prince Wm. street

HOLLOWAYS PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Robert's Poor Man's Friend; do. anti Scorbutic Pills; Morrison's Pills; Locock's Pulmonic Wafers; Cockle's Antibilious Pills; and many other English Remedies. Sold by
Feb. 15 FELLOWS & CO

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.

WHY ARE WE SICK?

When there is at hand the list of the human race to be delivered from every disease and ailment, HOLLOWAY'S PILLS are especially adapted to the relief of the WEAK, the NERVOUS, the DELICATE, and the INFIRM of all climes, ages, sexes, and constitutions. Professed by eminent physicians, experienced by the nobility of the nineteenth, and called blessed by the rude and enlightened people, as the best remedy the world ever saw for the removal of disease.

THESE PILLS PURIFY THE BLOOD.

These famous Pills are especially commended to dyspeptics of the stomach, the liver, the kidneys, the bowels, the skin, and the lymphatic, correcting any disorganization in these functions, purifying the blood, the very fountain of life, and thus curing diseases in all its forms.

DYSPEPSIA AND LIVER COMPLAINTS.

Scarcely half the human race have taken these Pills. It has been proved in all parts of the world, that nothing has been found equal to them in cases of disorders of the liver, dyspepsia, and stomach complaints generally. They soon give a healthy tone those organs, however much deranged, and when all other means have failed.

GENERAL DEBILITY—ILL HEALTH.

Many of the most Despotic Governments have opened their Custom Houses to the introduction of these Pills, that they may become the medicine of the nations. Learned Colleges admit that this unrivalled is the best remedy ever known for purposes of delicate health, in where the system has been exhausted, as its invigorating properties never fail to afford relief.

FEMALE COMPLAINTS.

No Female, young or old, should be without this celebrated medicine. It corrects and regulates the monthly courses at all periods, acting in many cases like a charm. It is also the best and safest medicine that can be given to children of all ages, and for any complaint; consequently no family should be without it.

Holloway's Pills are the best remedy known in the world for the following Diseases:—

Ague,	Fevers of all kinds,	Sore Throats,
Asthma,	Fistulas,	Stone & Gravel
Bilious Complaints,	Gout,	Scurvy,
Bowel on the Stomach,	Headache,	Symptoms,
Blood Complaints,	Inflammation,	The Dropsies,
Colics,	Inflammation,	Tumours,
Consumption of the Lungs,	Jaundice,	Ulcers,
Bowels,	Liver Complaints,	Venereal Affections,
Constipation,	Palsies,	Worms,
Costiveness,	Piles,	Weakness,
Dysentery,	Rheumatism,	Weakness, in whatever cause,
Erysipelas,	Retention of Urine,	&c. &c.
Female Irregularities,	Scrofula, or King's Evil,	

Sold at the establishment of Professor Holloway, 244, Strand, (near Temple Bar, London), and 80, Maiden Lane, New York; also by all respectable Druggists and Dealers in Medicines throughout the Civilized World, at the following prices—1s. 3d., 3s. 3d., and 5s. 6d. each Box.

☞ There is a considerable saving by taking the larger sizes.

N. B.—Directions for the guidance of patients in every disorder are affixed to each Box.

S. L. TILLEY, Provincial Agent, No. 2, King St. St. John, N. B.; A. Cow & Son, Fredericton; W. T. Baird Woodstock; Alex. Lockhart, Queen; James Beck, Sand of Petitcodiac; C. Hayes, Dorchester; John Bell, Shediac; John Lewis, Hillsborough; John Curry, Canning; and Jas. Gilbert White, Belleisle.

Sunbury Cotton and Woollen FACTORY.

THE Subscriber respectfully announces to the inhabitants of this Province, that at a great expense he has established an extensive POWER LOOM WEAVING ESTABLISHMENT, for the manufacture of COTTON AND WOOLLEN CLOTHS, suitable for Domestic Wear.

To parties furnishing the Woollen Yarn, white warp and weaving, twilled or plain, 7d pr yard.

Blue warp and weaving, twilled, plain or satinnet, 8d pr yard.

Ladies' Plaid Dresses, made to pattern, with warp and weaving, 9d pr yard.

If all wool, twilled or plain, 50 yards and upwards, 4d pr yard. If under 50 yards, 4d 1-2d. Plaided ditto, 5d 1-2.

AGENTS.
Seeley & Beckwith, Oromocto;
J. & J. Hogan, Saint John;
Lauchlan McLean, Fredericton;
M. Muldoon, Nereda;
George Kingston, South Branch Oromocto;
John Watson, Run Gunnish.

JOSEPH KINGSTON,
ROCKWELL FACTORY—NEAR THE OROMOCTO.
October, 1855.

FELLOWS & CO.
Wholesale and Retail Druggists,
GERMAIN STREET,
Opposite lower end of Country Market,
Manufacture, in addition to their popular remedies, CONFECTIONERY in every variety, viz. LOZENGES, CANDIES, DROPS, and PARWORK, all of which they warrant as being perfectly pure in every respect, containing no poisonous colours, and which will be sold as low as can be imported.

HARRIS & ALLAN ever grateful for past favours beg leave to announce to their friends and the public, that they have lately fitted up a Steam Hammer and Scrap FORGE, for the purpose of converting Malleable Scrap into all kinds of dimension IRON; Shafts up to ten inches in diameter, Flat, Square, and Round Iron; Spike Rods, &c. &c. It being an established fact that no description of dimension Iron is equal to that manufactured from Scrap, and they beg to call the attention of a discerning public to the above facts.

☞ The highest prices given for Malleable Scrap Iron. Feb. 29, 1856.

PARIS MANUFACTURE.
The Subscriber has received direct from Paris, per last British Mail Steamer to Halifax—
GENTS' best Black and Colored French Kid GLOVES;
Ladies best Black and Colored French Kid GLOVES—Tasseled;
Ladies' best Chamois Elastic BRACES;
Youths and Children's fancy FELT HATS—fine quality;
Gent's fine Brown Felt HATS;
One pc. fine French Black-ribbed DOESKIN, imported for Gentlemen's wear.
For sale at the very lowest market prices at the old stand of Lockhart & Co., 4 King-street.
March 24th. DAVID H. HALL.

Poetry.

THE SONG OF THE SWORD.

Weary, and wounded, and worn,
Wounded and ready to die,
A soldier they left all alone and forlorn,
On the field of battle to lie.
The dead and the dying alone,
Could their presence and pity afford;
While with a wild and terrible tone,
He sang the song of the sword.

Fight! fight! fight!
Thousands a thousand fathers die;
Fight! fight! fight!
Thousands a thousand children cry;
Fight! fight! fight!
While mothers and wives lament,
And fight! fight fight!
While millions of money are spent.

Fight! fight! fight!
Should the cause be foul or fair;
Though all that is gained is an empty name
And a war too great to bear;
An empty name and a paltry fame,
And thousands lying dead;
While every glorious victory
Must raise the price of bread.

War! war! war!
Fire, famine and sword;
Desolate fields and desolate towns,
And thousands scattered abroad,
With never a home and never a shed,
While kingdoms perish and fall,
And hundreds of thousands are lying dead,
And all—for nothing at all.

Ah! why should such a mortal as I
Kill those whom I never could hate
Thy obey your commander or die—
'Tis the law of the sword and the state,
For we are the veriest slaves,
That ever had their birth.
For to please the whim of a tyrant's will
Is all our use upon earth.

War! war! war!
Musket, and powder and ball;
Ah! why do we fight so for?
Ah! why do we have battles at all?
'Tis justice must be done they say;
The nation's honor to keep;
Alas! that justice is so dear,
And human life so cheap!

'Tis said that a Christian land,
A professedly Christian state,
Should thus despise that high command
So useful and so great,
Delivered by Christ himself on earth,
Our constant guide to be,
To love our neighbours as ourselves,
And bless our enemy.

War! war! war!
Misery, murder and crime,
Are all the blessings I have seen in thee,
From my youth to the present time.
Misery, murder and crime,
Crime, misery, murder and woe;
Ah! would I had known in my younger days
In my hours of boyish glee,
Ah! had I but known in my younger days
A tenth of its misery;
I now had been joined to a happy band
Of wife and children dear,
And I had died in my native land,
Instead of dying here.

Weary, wounded and worn,
Wounded and ready to die,
A soldier they left all alone and forlorn,
On the field of battle to lie;
The dead and the dying alone
Could their presence and pity afford,
(Oh! would that these truths were more clearly known!)
He sang the song of the sword!

Miscellany.

THE SISTERS;
OR, THE COURT BALL.
A RUSSIAN HISTORICAL STORY.

The splendid city of St. Petersburg wore an air of unusual gaiety and excitement on the morning of the 6th December, 18—. In the immediate neighborhood of the Winter Palace, this excitement and bustle of preparation was manifest. Servants clad in the imperial livery were to be seen running to and fro in all directions; some assisting to lift into their places the most fragrant exotics, destined to decorate the sumptuous halls; others laden with some of the choicest flower, looking gayer and more beautiful because of the contrast they presented to the dead winter season out of doors; whilst to a third set of careful hands, were intrusted the transport of the large light handboxes containing the ball dresses of her majesty's maid of honor.

All these signs of preparation for the coming festivity belonged especially to that day; for had not the Empress Alexandrine issued her invitations, commanding those so honored as to receive them to attend her annual ball, given in celebration of his majesty the Emperor Nicholas's natal-day?

Already, at daybreak, some honest prayers for his health and happiness had been offered up, and some warm, heartfelt good wishes for his prosperity breathed from the twelve prisoners for political offenses pardoned and liberated, in honor of that occasion, from the fortress; but, indeed, though doubtless their emotions might surpass in enthusiasm and intensity those of the mass of the people, still there was pretty generally spread in those days a very warm and loyal hearted feeling of personal attachment to the czar, which, of course, signalized itself on this his saint's day.

At noon, Nicholas reviewed his noble regiment of the Chevalier Guards in the Champ de Mars, taking occasion to compliment, with a few well chosen words, the most efficient officers; on whom, also, he bestowed more tangible marks of his favor, by presenting them with medals of gold, bearing his likeness. From thence he drove to the ice mountains, where the young cadets were amusing themselve after partaking of a splendid collation, provided for them by their imperial master. Ay, and royal and noble did he look as he leaped from his sledge on arriving on the ground; and right glad and welcome rose the cheer from two hundred young voices, clear and shrill in the frosty air, greeting his presence among them.

Thus passed the hours of fete day. At ten o'clock at night, the windows of the Winter Palace presented one blaze of light; and the string of carriages drawn up to deposit the guests at the great doors, betokened that the crowning festivities of the day were about to begin. By eleven o'clock, the emperor and empress had entered the ball room, and walked through the first *Polonaise*, when two very elegantly dressed ladies passed through the crowds of decorated uniforms that obstructed their progress, and made their way up to the end of the magnificent saloons, to the dais occupied by the empress. As they will play rather an important part of this little narrative, I will describe their position in life, and their personal appearance.

Although of Polish extraction the elder of the two sisters—for such was their relationship—possessed the style of beauty most admired in Russia. She might have been about twenty five years of age, and was fair, fresh complexioned, and of middling stature; well formed, but with that full figure which gives promise in after life of embonpoint. Dressed with extreme taste, and blazing with jewels, she attracted many eyes as she floated through the room. Six or seven years earlier, she had married the Prince Gagarine, a noble well known to stand high in favor at court, but supposed to be so exclusively occupied with military duties as to have but small sympathy with the wife so many years younger than himself. They had no children, and the interest and amusements of the Princess Gagarine centered in the world of gaiety, where she filled a prominent place, and of which she was esteemed a most distinguished ornament.

On the evening in question, her look and whole manner denoted some special cause of pride and pleasure, and it arose from the very legitimate circumstance that it was the first occasion of her sister's appearance in the highest society of the capital; and I call this pride and pleasure legitimate, for she filled in some degree the place of a mother to the young girl who accompanied her.

It may seem strange that this evening should have been the first introduction of that sister to the court, but it was the consequence of a train of circumstances somewhat unusual. Owing to the feeble health of their mother, she had been brought up in great retirement; and it was only on the death of this lady, some time before, that the duty of finishing her education, and presenting her to the world, had devolved on the princess. For this reason, a mixed feeling of curiosity and admiration pervaded the courtly crowd, who turned to gaze on the fair young companion the princess led so triumphantly to the foot of the throne.

Natalie Polemsky was barley seventeen and presented a great but charming contrast to her elder sister. Tall, slight, with masses of the darkest hair, glossy and beautiful, folded simply round her head in thick braids, with a more lofty, refined, spiritual style of beauty in her features, and a more sweet and earnest expression in her dark eyes, well might she excite the envy of some, and gratify the admiration of others of the gazers who turned so inquiringly towards her; and above all, well might she justify the conscious air of undisguised pleasure with which the princess presented her to her imperial mistress. At to Natalie, her manner, shy, and yet dignified, expressed in graceful contrast the gratification so young a girl must have felt in so splendid a scene, and somewhat of bewilderment at the crowd and confusion around her.

As they retired from making their obeisance to their imperial hosts, the kind eyes of the empress followed them with some interest; and she smiled slightly to see how many aspirants pressed forward to solicit the hand of Natalie for the dance about to begin. But ere she could make a selection, the Grand Duke Alexander, the present emperor of all the Russias, passed through the crowd, and led her out from the midst of the many competitors for the first waltz. Nor were Natalie's triumphs destined to end here; the emperor himself congratulated the princess on her sister's rare attractions; and the empress hinted that, on the first occasion, she would decorate her with the *chiffre*, and appoint her maid of honor.

Never had a ball seemed so delightful, and never did the princess return to her home more gratified than she did on that memorable night; and, indeed, it was but the commencement of a series of conquests; and this might account for the fair Natalie refusing many brilliant and unexceptionable offers of marriage. Possibly, young as she was, she shrunk from surrendering her liberty so soon—possibly she nursed some girlish dream of greater love and more faithful devotion than these courtly suitors seemed likely to bestow upon her. Her sister left her undisturbed, and made no remonstrance on account of those many rejections; perhaps she did not wish so soon to relinquish the pleasure of her society, or the share of popularity that Natalie's success reflected upon herself. In the meantime, as had been suspected, the younger sister was created maid of honor to her majesty; and the first separation between them occurred when she went with the court to spend the summer season quietly at Peterhof, in the happy domestic circle of her imperial mistress.

There, the attractions the empress had felt towards her from the very first, ripened into warm interest; for during the many hours of quiet life, rendered imperative by her feeble health, Natalie's beautiful voice and great musical talents contributed much to cheer and soothe her; and in the humbler occupation of reading aloud, the maid of honor spent many hours of most pleasurable retirement with the family of one she learned to love as a friend, while she revered and honored her as a mistress.

So passed the brief bright summer days at Peterhof. In the meantime, people began to wonder why the heir apparent of the throne did not marry. His father more than once spoke to him seriously on the duty that lay before him, and questioned him respecting his feelings towards the various German princesses whose families alone could be honored by his choice. The Grand Duke answered lightly enough, that there was plenty of time before him; and with a significant shrug of the shoulder, that made even his father's face relax into a smile, dismissed the topic.

By and by, the empress also addressed her son on the same subject, telling him openly how anxiously she felt about it. He answered her as he had done his father; but it is not so easy to deceive a mother eye: she well knew this assumed indifference veiled some deeper feeling in her son's heart. She determined to watch him narrowly. Judge, them of the mingled consternation and pain with which she became convinced her favourite Natalie was the object of his affections, and when she could not but believe that the feeling was warmly reciprocated.

The Princess Gagarine was immediately commanded to a private interview; wherein to her extreme surprise, the empress, with heightened color and nervous trembling of the voice, accosted her demanding abruptly what she knew about her sister's audacious attachment. The princess, of course, denied all knowledge, all suspicion of the fact imputed, and endeavored to reassure the Empress by declaring that she must be mistaken, but when she was dismissed, and could question Natalie in private, she found that such was by no means the case. In vain did she argue with her that it was impossible the grand duke should really love her; in vain represent to her that he only assumed the appearance of affection to amuse himself at her expense; and argued upon her, by every consideration of pride, of self respect, and womanly feeling, to rouse herself from so fatal a delusion. To all this, Natalie only made a reply by confessing the most entire faith in her lover's protestations. After a prolonged and painful discussion, the princess sought her husband's advice upon the matter. He took it up most seriously, and threw himself upon his sister in law's compassion, imploring her, for all their sakes to combat and control her unfortunate passion; adding "If it reach the ears of his Majesty, we are all ruined.

Next day the princess besought an interview with her majesty, which was immediately granted; and throwing herself at the empress's feet, she implored her to pardon what she called her guilty negligence in not having foreseen such a possibility, and warned her sister against yielding to it, declaring her own and her husband's perfect innocence in other respects. "Command us, madame, and how gladly and implicitly shall you be obeyed: I will watch over my unfortunate sister night and day never shall they meet again; never shall any messages of correspondence pass between them; only I entreat your majesty, keep what has transpired a secret from the emperor, we are all lost."

The empress, mollified by her candor and submission, promised to think over it, and see her again. Three days from that time, the two sisters were on their way to Italy, as the rumor ran, to cultivate to the utmost the great musical talent of the younger lady, which had so recommended her to her imperial mistress's favor. In itself, this would have excited no surprise; but the downcast look, ill health, and evident depression of spirits under which the Grand Duke labored, gave rise to many whispered hints, that took form and shape gradually—and which did not escape the eagle observation of the czar; therefore it was with more authority of manner than in his first discussion with his son, that he commanded him to prepare for a tour into Germany, for the express purpose of selecting his future consort.

Three years passed away, and the short and brilliant reign of Natalie Polensky had been almost forgotten in the triumphs of later and more fortunate beauties; the Grand Duke Alexander had recovered his usual health and spirits, and even the likelihood of his approaching nuptials with the Princess Mary of Darmstadt began to be currently reported. In the meantime, Natalie had gradually faded away, like a flower transplanted to some uncongenial soil, and with the heat of the noonday sun pouring down unsheltered upon its head. She had altered day by day wasting and fretting away to a pale, delicate, spiritless girl. Her medical men pronounced her illness to be a decline; there seemed not so much of actual desease, as utter prostration of strength, and an overwhelming lassitude and languor, from which nothing could arouse her; and they suggested that as a last resource, revisiting her native land might be beneficial, indeed it seemed to offer the only hope of recovery.

Then for the first time, the Princess Gangarine ventured to forward a petition to the Emperor, stating her sister's case, and soliciting most humbly permission to return to Russia. On the first presentation of the requested it was refused most peremptorily; but the Empress, hearing how pale, and feeble, and altered her old favorite had become, interfered with success, that not only were they recalled to the capital, but on the first anniversary, after their return, of the day of St. Nicholas, their names again appeared among those honored by an invitation to the court ball.

On that evening, let us enter the boudoir of the princess an hour or two before the time appointed for their attendance. It was the first time Natalie had ventured to appear in public; and on this occasion she lay back on her sofa, propped up with pillows, so weak and exhausted that the most uninterested spectator would have dreaded for her the excitement and fatigue of such an exertion. But it is needless to say that neither of them for a moment hesitated to obey the flattering command which summoned them once more within the orbit of the court. I have said Natalie lay resting quietly on her sofa; the princess sat opposite to her, buried in thought, anxious and nervous about the fate of the evening. She did not speak to her, not daring to ask even how she felt, and far less venturing to make the slightest allusion to past events. Indeed, by tacit consent, the topic had never once been touched upon since they left Russia.

There was a strange contrast between the crimson velvet cushions and the white transparent face, pale and pure, with every feature sharpened and refined by her wasting and undefined illness. The large dark eyes looked larger than ever, now that they seemed to usurp more than their due proportion of the face, and the thick masses of dark hair fell loose and disarranged round her shoulders. Never had her sister seen her look so touchingly beautiful.

Her dress for the evening, of white lace, lay on a chair near her, and with it the wreath of lilies of the valley, one of the commonest of Russian wild flowers, which she had selected to wear. She lay back abstracted, turning round and round her thin finger a simple little enamelled ring she had worn night and day for the last three years, a ring she most jealously refused to take off, lest