

soon the whole party, flying over the snow, entered the city, and at Soloski's request stopped at the principal inn. Having seated his daughter in the parlor he hastened to the kind stranger in order to pour forth his thanks for the assistance he had given him. There was something about the young man that reminded him so much of home that he determined to urge him to remain awhile, at least, until he could glean tidings from Russia. He found the young gentleman giving orders to the attendants to take away his sledge. "I am glad to hear your decision," said Soloski, "I wish much to see you; though a poor exile, I have not lost my love for home, nor a hearty interest in those who come from my native land. You have rendered me a service for which words cannot express my gratitude. May I not know the name of our deliverer that at least we may remember him in our prayers?"

"Do not mention my assistance," replied the young man, "I should not deserve to live if I could fail to assist any one in distress, more especially a young and lovely female."

"But cannot I do something to further your plans? Command me, if I can."

"I do not know, my dear sir; I have made this long journey to convey news of pardon to my father's cousin, who was banished for his liberal principles some ten years since."

"Who was this exile? What was his name?" demanded the Count in hurried tones, while a deep pallor overspread his countenance.

"Count Imen Alexis Soloski." Before he could finish the sentence his companion staggered to a seat, and in another moment was completely insensible. The youth was shocked at this effect, and rang the bell violently for help. Restoratives were immediately applied, and the sufferer soon breathed more freely. Looking wildly upon those around him, he murmured:—"Ah, was it a dream; shall I never again see home or kindred?"—then checking himself he closed his eyes and continued, "Oh, Father in Heaven, Thy will be done—yes, may I say Thy will be done."

"My dear sir!" exclaimed the stranger, "I am indeed fortunate. That Being who watches over the good and virtuous is merciful to you, rouse yourself and enjoy the news I bring, news of pardon and restoration to your home and inheritance."