

The End of The Drama.

(By IVAN NORENSKI.)

In Spare Moments.
The scene is the private office of General Garashinin, the chief of the secret police of Petrograd.

The chief had just been questioning one of his spies, Peter Radovitch, a young student of twenty-four, who had given him information regarding a coterie of malcontents, he himself being one of the party.

"And what do you say your numbers are?" asked the general.

"Twenty-two, your excellency, myself included."

The general took the paper handed to him, and silently compared it with one in his desk.

"Bardin, Loubanoff, Sobotin—I was not aware of those last. You have done well, Radovitch, and you will find that the Government is not unkind of those who serve it well. Your recent action will atone for your past errors, and merit reward besides."

"My life will not be worth a day's purchase if it is known that it is I who have furnished this information."

"You should have thought of that before joining the society. I see you have something to suggest. What is it?"

"That when the arrest by the police takes place, no distinction be made between me and the others."

"Of course, you will be apprehended with them."

"And tried?"

"Yes, if you wish it, and condemned, too, for that matter. Anything further?"

"And pardoned along with the less guilty of the others, so as to avoid all suspicion?"

"I quite understand you. Rest assured, you will have no reason to fear in that respect."

The chief of the secret police smiled to himself as the spy took his departure.

That very evening the police raid took place. Taken as they were by surprise, and unconscious of any treachery on the part of one of their number, the little coterie of students, artists, and young doctors, found themselves bagged without a single exception. They indignantly denied the charge of conspiring against the Government. But General Garashinin's

agents merely shrugged their shoulders deprecatingly, perhaps incredulously.

In a month the trial took place. Radovitch was not called to give evidence, but took his place among the accused.

At length the whole twenty-two were judged guilty. Twelve were sentenced to Siberia, but not to the mines, owing to the clemency of the authorities. It was with a thrill akin to horror that Radovitch heard himself sentenced to death, along with the other nine men, though conscious that it only formed part of the arrangement that he himself had suggested to the general.

"Sentence to Siberia would have served the purpose equally well," he muttered to himself and, turning to look at his companions, found himself wondering if his own face was as pale as each of theirs.

"To be shot at the glads of the fortress at sunrise to-morrow morning," he kept repeating to himself, though assuring himself that the words could have no reference to him, for the Chief of Police must keep faith even with a traitor, or none would be found to serve him in future.

Bardin and the others calmly accepted their fate, and after a hurried farewell of their fortunate fellows, were conducted to their cells for the last time.

The long night passed all too quickly for Radovitch, who every minute expected a messenger from the chief of the secret police. He had seen General Garashinin in court from day to day, and once a gleam of intelligence, he persuaded himself, had passed between them.

At last a faint greyness began to manifest itself through the closed bars of his cell. It was light, the herald of a new day, the last for the condemned men. And now Radovitch began to explain, in husky tones, that his conviction was all a blunder. The two gaolers looked intelligently at each other, and pityingly upon the wretched prisoner, but said not a word.

II.

In a few minutes all the ten were assembled in the courtyard of the prison, nine of them calm and collected, for the bitterness of death was al-

ready past, one a prey to fear and sickening terror, and evidencing it all too plainly in his trembling limbs and livid countenance. In the hurried adieu they exchanged with each other, Radovitch came in for more than his share of attention.

"It's all a mistake," mumbled the wretched man. "Where is General Garashinin?"

"He is never present at executions," replied the soldier he addressed. "He issued his final orders last night."

And then a melancholy procession began to move towards the glads of the fortress prison. A priest led the way, holding aloft a large cross before the eyes of the doomed men, who followed in single file, their ordinary dress covered with a long robe of white linen, at once a covering for the living, and a shroud for the dead.

At last they reached the place appointed. Five stakes had been driven in the ground near the summit of the long even slope of the rampart. To these they were bound in couples, facing the east, now kindling with the warm flush of the sun, whose coming was to be the signal for their death.

Ranged in front of them, at a distance of fifteen yards, was a company of soldiers, with loaded rifles, whose captain, standing a little apart, held in his hand a white handkerchief, at whose fall sixty tongues of fire would leap forth and sixty bullets seek the heart of the unhappy men.

There was still time for the last scene but one in the tragedy before the sun should rise. The cross was held before the lips of each man for a final kiss in turn. Then a dagger was broken over the head of each captive by a soldier detailed from the thousands drawn up to witness the final scene. At that moment the sun seemed to bound into space, and every heart almost stopped.

But the officer had not let the signal handkerchief drop. Indeed, the retreat is sounded on a score of bugles, and the troops march off the ground. The prisoners are informed that the Government had been graciously pleased to grant them their lives.

They are unbound, and, as in a dream, try to realise all that has happened, and to congratulate one another ere the last couple has been reached.

One of these had fallen forward on his face as far as his bonds permitted. It was Radovitch.

"He has fainted," said the soldier. "Bring me some water quickly."

"No need to trouble," said the doctor, who had rapidly examined him. "He is dead. The fright has killed him."

It was too true. The chief of the secret police had carried out his promise only too literally. The spy had no longer any reason to fear his betrayed comrades' vengeance.

The day of the 17-a-week servant girl who would cook, sweep, mind the baby, wash dishes, run the laundry and do odd jobs of calculating in her spare time is coming again, according to Miss Elizabeth Moynihan, of the Travelers' Aid Society, New York.

Every boat from Europe is bringing hundreds of Scandinavian, Irish, English and Italian girls, eager to do housework. Miss Moynihan says. The Travelers' Aid Society is assisting scores en route West from New York.

Why Do I Get Cold in a Warm Room?

I suppose you mean the instance when you get cold while in a warm room even when you are perfectly well. This will happen often when all of the moisture in the room outside of what is in your body, is evaporated by the heat in the room. The remedy, is, of course, to keep a

pan of water some place in the room as the air has become too dry.

While heat is necessary to evaporate water, the process of evaporation produces cold. The quicker the evaporation the sharper the cold feeling produced. Now your body is continually evaporating the water from your body which comes out in the form of perspiration through the pores of the skin. This is one of nature's ways of taking the impurities and waste out of the body. You know, of course, don't you, that more than one-half the waste material which the body expels from the sys-

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Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE (Tablets). It stops the Cough and Headache and works off the Cold. E. W. Grove's signature on each box. 20c.—cot18

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Echoes From the Exchanges.

This year the rent-payer will get one day more use of his flat for the same money.

Poetic justice for the purveyors of wood alcohol would be to make them drink some.

An Australian inventor has given a piano a slightly curved key board so that a player can reach all parts of it with equal effort.

Among the advertisements in a copy of the Danville (Vt.) North Star, printed 103 years ago, is one inserted by Joseph Arey, Jr., of Cabot, who announces that he will sell women's shoes for from 60 cents to \$1 and men's at from \$2 to \$3.

The practice adopted by Japanese men in America, of selecting their wives by photograph and having them sent out to this country, has been prohibited by the Japanese Government. There will be no more "picture brides," as the maidens who are thus chosen are called.

Supplying dance partners at sixpence each is one of the features at a big dancing hall in the West End of London. The large enclosures at this hall are reserved for girls without partners. The male dancer is permitted to take his choice for half an hour's dancing.

For a wager of 1,000 francs a French cabman, Chataignon, undertook to smoke 100 strong cigars in two days. In the first 24 hours he had disposed of 66; and, after a two hours' rest, continued his task with such vigor that by noon on the following day the stump of his last cigar was burning his lips.

Two years ago the 9-year-old son of J. R. Moore, a farmer living near Klondike, Tex., while eating blackberries in a tree, got one of the big berries in his ear. In a short time the seed sprouted and the lad began to have trouble with his ear. A specialist called, found that the sprout and the seed, while decayed, had ruined the hearing in that ear. The rotted part of the seed and the sprout were removed.

A Vienna despatch says: "Notwithstanding the city's many deprivations, Vienna celebrated New Year's eve tumultuously. The restaurants, the cabarets and the coffee houses were open until 2.30 o'clock in the morning, after having been crowded all night, while a gala performance was given at the opera. Boxes for this performance sold at 6000 crowns. In the restaurants champagne was served at 900 crowns (\$180) a bottle."

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Prices to suit everyone, also special prices
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Crown Has Many Vicissitudes.

The Hungarian crown, which is reported to have been stolen lately by revolutionists, has suffered many vicissitudes. A King of Bohemia once stole it, but Otto of Bavaria subsequently recovered it. He, in sending it back to Hungary, packed it in a cask, but it was nearly lost on the journey, because the jolting of the wagon threw the cask into a ditch. At a later period Elizabeth, widow of King Albert, appears to have thought it rather a good thing to have with her when she fled to Germany, in case she should ever be financially embarrassed—a piece of forest which stood her in good stead, since she eventually pawned it to the Emperor Frederick. During the revolution, 200 years later, the unfortunate crown was again in danger of being unlawfully appropriated, and so it was buried in a forest. After remaining in this dim security for fifty years it was subsequently removed to Budapest.

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to offer you that you won't strike everywhere, and still have some to-day, despite the ever advancing American market and the extra ten per cent. exchange we are "soaked" for the privilege of paying them our good coin.

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CONGOLEUM—2 yards wide; the best of the American Floor Cloths.

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BEST AMER. TWEED COATS—Unlined, but heavy, and tailor finished. Reg. \$25.00 for \$17.50. (Just to turn the stock into money.)

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WOOL NAP BLANKETS, full sizes, at \$6.90 and \$7.70 pair.
WOOL BLANKETS at the lowest prices.

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STRIPED FLANNELETTES at 37c. and 39c. yard.
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By Gene Byrnes

