

The Czarina's Sad Life

Terrible Burdens Which Have Made Her a Physical Wreck.

Empress Alexandra of Russia, the Czar's wife, is the unhappy woman under the sun. Her life is nothing more than prolonged misery, and she prays fervently for death to relieve her from the crushing burdens of her pitiable existence at the imperial court of Russia. Her fate may well excite the deep sympathy of the civilized world, for although she is a victim of that unlovely system of government that still prevails in her husband's dominions, she is an innocent sufferer for the terrible wrongs perpetrated by others.

The Empress Alexandra is a high-souled, liberal-minded, generous and loving woman. She is a woman of the most refined tastes and generous instincts; she loves the common people and their sorrows appeal to her with tremendous force. She is in deep sympathy with the progressive movement in Russia, and she abhors the crimes that have been committed during her husband's reign and are still being perpetrated in Russia day by day. Yet far from being able to terminate them she herself has been struck down and her happiness destroyed by that very system which she would gladly abolish in the interest of others. Both her mental and her physical condition are truly pitiable. She is suffering from the most extreme form of nervous depression and exhaustion. She cannot sleep and she cannot eat. The prolonged loss of appetite and systematic lack of nourishment have reduced her to a condition of physical prostration.

After the long summer cruise in the Baltic Sea undertaken primarily in the hope of restoring her health, the Czarina was so weak that she could not walk ashore, but had to be carried in an arm chair. Now she rarely ventures outside the palace, but is generally wheeled about in the private grounds in a bath chair. She is only 35 years of age, but she is a complete wreck. Much of her time is spent in fits of depression during which she lies motionless in apathetic despair. Sometimes the terrible calm of her profound melancholy is varied by passionate fits of weeping, which horrify and alarm the members of her family and the ladies of her suite. At night she cannot sleep, but sees awful visions of the thousands of unhappy men and women who during her husband's reign and by virtue of the death warrants signed by his hand have died on the gallows simply because they held political opinions which were considered objectionable by the recognized and accredited representatives of law and order as these terms are understood in Russia. When she falls into fitful slumbers her sleep, such as it is, is disturbed by gruesome dreams and nightmares—dreams of blood and hellish horrors. Her own life has been created not by the imagination of a great horror, but by the revolting realities of the predominant political system in Russia.

Day and night she broods over the condition of Russia and over the unhappy isolation of the imperial family. Often she is seized by a sudden gust of fear that assassins who have so often chosen the rulers of Russia as the victims of their cruel murders, are close at hand, intent on terminating with one decisive blow that system of oppression which is incorporated in the Czar's imperial crown. At other times she storms into the nursery to make sure that her beloved children are all alive, having imagined in her mental agony that they had already been felled by the dagger of a terrorist or destroyed by the fragments of a revolutionary bomb. She realizes with an awful clearness of comprehension that death hovers over her husband and her family, so that every morning she cannot know whether she will be able to clasp them in her arms the following evening, and every evening she fears that they may be torn from her side before the sun rises again.

No words can adequately describe the profound depths of the unhappiness of this imperial woman. No tragedy conceived in the imagination of poets is so truly tragic as the fate of the Czarina Alexandra.

Her life at the Russian court, which has now extended for a period of forty years, has been one long series of ruthless disillusionments. Her childhood and girlhood were spent in the happiest possible circumstances. Her mother was Princess Alice, the daughter of the German state of Hesse. Her earlier years were divided between the delightful parental home in the vicinity of Darmstadt. In the genial atmosphere of Southern Germany, and the keen, refreshing air of English liberty at Windsor. She was brought up with perfect simplicity, and as a child she was encouraged to forget the fact that her grandmother was a queen and her father a ruling sovereign. She played games and she rode and enjoyed with hearty good-will all the pleasures in which a healthy girl can participate. Up to the age of 22 her happiness was unclouded. She had lived almost an ideal life full of happiness and contentment, characterized by joyous gaiety and the light-

heartedness of innocence.

Then she was marked down as the prey of Russian oppression. The Russian Government, in its search for a suitable bride for Nicholas, the heir to the throne, decided that Princess Alice of Hesse, was the most eligible young lady to be found among all the royal families of Europe. Formal proposals were accordingly made to the young princess, and she was brought to bear on the reluctant Princess Alice to accept the future Czar as her husband. Nicholas came to visit her family at Darmstadt, and created a most unfavorable impression on his future bride. She found him dull and uninteresting and rather unsympathetic. He did not appeal to her interest in any way, and it seemed to her that life with this quiet little man as her husband offered no charms at all. The pictures that were drawn to her of the magnificence of the court of Russia left her unmoved, for she was a pure, natural girl who wanted to marry for love, and to her the idea of making a political match was abhorrent in every sense. But finally her opposition was overcome. The persuasion of her relatives and friends broke down her opposition. Reluctantly and against her own will she became the wife of Nicholas, and no longer than the death of Alexander III. elevated her husband to the throne of all the Russias.

She was a terrible experience for a high-spirited and independent young girl to leave the surroundings of her youth to plunge into the corrupt and cold atmosphere of the Russian court. From the very beginning she was disliked by the Russian court party and she disliked them in return. Her unsocial tendencies made her an object of suspicion to all the grand dukes and duchesses and aristocratic magnates who formed the bulwarks of the reactionary system of government in the country. The old gang at court despised and ridiculed her; she was occupied with petty humiliations and annoyances. Her lack of knowledge of the Russian language, which she has since learned to perfection, at that time made her the subject of unseemly jests and gibes. It is true that she was the Czar's wife, but in the strange surroundings of the Russian court she almost like an intruder and almost like an impostor.

All this would have been bearable if she had loved her husband and could have enjoyed a happy family life. But that love which was wanting before marriage never came afterward, for the revelation of Nicholas II's character during her husband's reign came as a fearful shock and deep disappointment to this energetic and ambitious woman. She soon found that the Czar was nothing more than a weakling, who was driven hither and thither by the different cross currents as though he were a feather in a whirlpool. Moreover, his everyday actions showed a shameless disregard of morality. The Czar did not even take the trouble to conceal in any way his flirtations. The Czarina resolutely refused to share the immoral tendencies of her husband. Her own life has been blameless above the least reproach and she excluded from her own circle all those women who could be identified as participants in scandalous affairs. She could not overcome the customs and traditions of centuries, but her influence was felt and it promoted the purity of the imperial court.

It was not only the personal immorality of the Russian court and of the circle of the Russian aristocracy that the Empress Alexandra opposed and combated. Year after year she struggled in a futile effort to liberate her husband from the yoke of his reactionary advisers and to convince him that the safety of Russia lay in the adoption of those measures of political progress which had so long been introduced in western countries. The executions, the persecutions, the unjust punishments handed out to political offenders harrowed the soul of the Czarina and stirred up in her a burning hatred of the system which the Czar was upholding. Time after time she intervened to wring from her husband a free pardon for political prisoners condemned to death or at least commutation of the capital sentence to terms of penal servitude. Again and again she raised her voice on behalf of unhappy exiles and caused their release. Year after year she reasoned and argued and pleaded with the Czar to abandon his reactionary methods of government, pointing out to him that the perpetuation of cruelty and injustice could only bring ruin on the Romanoff dynasty.

Her reforming tendencies brought her into collision with the entire environment of the Russian court. Her mother-in-law, the Dowager Empress Marie, denounced her as wicked and scheming, and battles royal took place between the Czar's mother and the Czar's wife. All the grand dukes and grand duchesses were up in revolt against her. It was a case of one woman fighting against the established powers of the empire. But the powerful elements in the country, the Czarina never flinched. With clear intelligence she saw disaster approaching, and, undeterred by opposition and undismayed by calumny and ridicule, she steadily pursued her way and sought to reform Russia. Unhappy in her married life and disappointed in regard to the political development of the country which she had adopted as her own, her only consolation was offered her by her children.

When the storm of revolution burst

What Causes Stone in the Bladder and Inflammation of the Bladder

The kidney always. The kidneys should filter urine and urea (or waste matter) from the blood. When they do not, urea stays in the blood and is changed into uric acid. This uric acid inflames the bladder, and worse still, forms Stones or Calculi. The only possible way to cure these serious bladder troubles is to cure the kidneys.

Gin Pills Cure

They act directly on the kidneys—strengthen them—clean them—and enable them to filter the blood properly. This prevents uric acid being formed at all. With no excess of uric acid, the bladder is no longer irritated and stones cannot be formed.

Money Back

Every box of Gin Pills is sold with a guarantee of money back if not just as represented. Get six boxes at your dealer's for \$2.50—take them regularly—and if you feel that they have not helped you, return the empty boxes and get your money. Gin Pills are sold everywhere at 50c. per box or 6 boxes for \$2.50.

Hamilton Man Tortured By Stone in the Bladder

TREATED BY DOCTORS FOR A YEAR AND GREW STEADILY WORSE

THEN CAME GIN PILLS—AND A CURE

Cut Out The Coupon and Mail Today For Free Trial Box.

Everyone who lives in the neighborhood of Hamilton, Ont., knows about the strange case of Mr. Herman.

For a year, he puzzled Hamilton physicians. They said he had "Inflammation of the Bladder." But all their treatment did him no good. Two and a half boxes of GIN PILLS (at a cost of 50 cents per box) did what the doctors couldn't.

Messrs. The National Drug and Chemical Co., Toronto.

Gentlemen—In writing to express myself strongly enough to say what I speak of myself. I have done for me. When I remember how I suffered not so long ago from Kidney and Bladder trouble, and how now I am healthy and well and strong and able to do a full day's work, I feel I should speak and tell other sufferers of my experience and of the wonderful merits of Gin Pills.

Something over four years ago I was taken down with what the doctors called inflammation of the bladder, intense pains in the back and loins, great pain and difficulty in urinating, and agony at times caused me to bed for three or four days at a time. Punctures were laid across my back and front, and by laying in a certain position I could get relief and then get up and go to work, although frequently I would have to leave my work before nine o'clock and return home to bed.

The pain was greatest in the region of the bladder, and during the attacks, which occurred more and more frequently, amounted to unbearable agony, and I became so weak that I could not walk across the floor.



JOHN HERMAN

they were FACTS.

and is today a well, strong, active man.

If you suffer with Bladder or Kidneys, or have a friend who does, cut out the coupon, send for GIN PILLS at our expense. See for yourself that we have not overstated their virtues, but that they do all and more than we claim for them. Here is the coupon. Use it today—NOW.

We have known of this case for three years. We hesitated to tell all the facts to the public, until we were convinced, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that Mr. Herman was cured—he is CURED and is today a well, strong, active man.

If you suffer with Bladder or Kidneys, or have a friend who does, cut out the coupon, send for GIN PILLS at our expense. See for yourself that we have not overstated their virtues, but that they do all and more than we claim for them. Here is the coupon. Use it today—NOW.

Yours gratefully,

JOHN HERMAN,

513 James St. North, Hamilton.

This is an Exact Reproduction of the Stone which GIN PILLS Brought Away From Mr. Herman

You have often gotten a speck of dust in the eye. It felt as big as an egg, and seemed to tear the eyeball like a barb wire fence. But when you got the speck out, it was so small that you could hardly see it.

Imagine how a stone, the size of the one above, would irritate and inflame the delicate lining of the bladder. Then you can imagine what Mr. Herman suffered, until he took GIN PILLS.

GIN PILLS cost 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, at all drug stores. Money refunded if GIN PILLS do not cure.

FREE SAMPLES

We want you to try GIN PILLS at our expense. Cut out the coupon below and mail it to Dept. A, National Drug and Chemical Co., Toronto, and the sample will be mailed to you. We do this so that you can see for yourself what a grand medicine they are. But don't delay. Do it now—while the matter is fresh in your mind and you have the coupon at hand.

Dept. A.
National Drug and Chemical Co.
of Canada, Limited, Toronto.

Please deliver, without cost to me, a sample box of Gin Pills. L. A.

Name.....
Street.....
P. O.

The Thought Exchange

A COLUMN FOR WOMEN.

Hitherto we have refrained from saying anything regarding "Woman Suffrage" for various reasons. But when Bishop DuMoulin comes out with the statement that it is the enemy of the home, we cannot but feel that we should voice because every question of politics affects the home and particularly affects the woman in the home. One of the worst of the "keeping all at home" which has not been understood comes the increased profits of the manufacturer. If women had a voice in the making of the laws, they would not have solved the garbage nuisance, together with the street cleaning and other disturbing questions. The majority of girls are given a better education than boys. They remain in school longer and read more after they are out of school. When we consider the number of women banded together all over the country for mutual improvement, and the very great advance they have made all along the line of mental and moral culture, it is folly to maintain that these women would neglect their homes were the franchise granted to them. Bishop DuMoulin's remarks are of the dark ages. We fear he is not in the vanguard of progress.

Susan W. Fitzgerald, of the American Suffrage Association, says: "We are being told that the place of woman is in the home. Well, so be it. But what do we expect of her in the home? Merely to stay in the home? To be a slave to the household unless she does certain things for the home. She is responsible for the cleanliness of her house, for the health of the family, for the children's health, and above all she is responsible for their morals—for their sense of truth, of honesty and decency."

How Far Can a Mother Control These Things?

"A woman can clean her own rooms, but if neighbors are allowed to live in filth she cannot keep her rooms from being filthy. She can cook her food well, but she cannot prevent unclean milk and stale eggs and adulterated foods being sold. She can keep her house in order, but she cannot prevent the garbage being dumped in the street. She can keep her children out of an alleyway, but she cannot prevent the immoral and degrading sights of the street."

Florence Kelly says: "Never before in the history of the human race have children and young women formed so important part of the working force of great industrial communities quite apart from their parents and the family life. How long these young workers may be employed in a day may be literally a matter of life and death for them. Within my own acquaintance more than one young girl has died of pneumonia, rheumatism or other disease directly due to overtime work, with the accompanying exhaustion and loss of power to resist disease. To deprive women of an equal share of power to determine the laws for these young workers is to give cruelly unequal power to sordid employers."

Allice Stone Blackwell, of the American Woman Suffrage Association, declares that "It is fair and right that those who must obey the laws should have a voice in making them. That those who must pay taxes should have a vote as to the size of the tax and the way it shall be spent. Also, that moral, educational and social legislation desired by women would be more easily obtained if women had votes. It cost Massachusetts women fifty-five years of effort to secure the law making mothers equal guardians of their children with the fathers."

Misjudging Others.

The old saying that "People judge others by themselves," places a good many in an unenviable light at the

present time and shows clearly that some of them possess very black hearts and unhealthy imaginations. The Hamilton mystery, more than anything that has occurred in years, has proven many to be of an uncharitable and dishonest nature. Passing along the streets one hears snatches of conversation between women who are entirely strangers, but who possess intelligent faces, and who seem to have forgotten the admonition from a very old book, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Few would care to have the measure meted out to them that they are hesitatingly handing out to a family afflicted above all others.

We have organizations for all sorts of reform. It might be in order to call a meeting and institute a state of society where common humanity and the brotherhood of man might be propagated.

A. H. M.—A hostess is not obliged to introduce visitors who meet when partying on her "day." At a dinner party it is different. The hostess has been invited to meet one another. In making an introduction be careful to catch the attention of both persons before passing one to the other, in order to avoid awkwardness. Always introduce an unmarried lady to a married one and an inferior to a superior and if a man is presented to a lady even when he is of higher rank.

When walking with a friend on the street do not hesitate to introduce her if one meets an acquaintance. A letter of introduction is always unseemly.

Mildred—It has been said that the fashions have a great deal to do with the number of marriages arranged in any given season. When the style is becoming, although the woman may be no more amiable than in a less modish outfit, yet men are more fascinated by appearances than anything else—at least for a time.

Now, whether you shall have your satin made Directoire, or in the long-waisted panther style, should depend altogether upon age and whether you have a stout or slender figure. Why not wait till May or June if you are in no hurry?

Matron—I have tried the new system and can assure you I would never clean house in any other manner. It is no more expensive in the long run and I believe a direct benefit to health. If you have been in the habit of performing some of the drudgery yourself, you will certainly find this more expensive; but where a woman has been employed by the day, and has wasted both time and patience, learning many dark corners, unclear, the system mentioned is best. There is an excellent preparation for the condition of the house, and I shall look it up and have it ready for you.

N. P. W.—I have no knowledge of what you mention, but now that oranges are cheap and plentiful this is called "Orange and Marshmallow Float." Take one quart of milk and bring to boiling point in a double boiler and add the yolks of four eggs, beaten with one cupful of sugar and a pinch of salt, a tablespoonful of corn starch with a half-cup of milk and one teaspoonful of butter; cook until thick and smooth in the milk custard; then place on ice; slice and cut two large peeled oranges into small portions, add them to the custard after they have stood half an hour in half a cupful of powdered sugar. Steam marshmallows

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The world's famous all-the-year resort. A most popular rendezvous with Canadians, where every outdoor pleasure and in-door diversion prevails. Among its famous hotels is

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Most Select Location Fronting Ocean

With an established reputation for its exclusiveness and high-class patronage. Thoroughly modern and completely equipped. Courteous service. Bathrooms with hot and cold, fresh and sea water attachment, showers, etc. Magnificent sun parlor overlooking the boardwalk and ocean. Orchestra of soloists. Golf privileges. Illustrated booklet.

NEWLIN HAINES.

Wrapping Papers

SAMSON BRAND—A well-finished Paper, especially adapted to the wholesale trade for shipping purposes. The toughness of its fibre and extra finish combine to make practically a waterproof wrapper. Manufactured by

The E. B. Eddy Co., Limited, Hull, Canada

DONALD McLEAN, Agent, 426 Richmond St., LONDON, CAN.

Into a soft paste; beat the whites of two eggs with half a cupful of sugar and a thick meringue stir in the marshmallows. Place the float in a pretty glass berry dish. Drop the meringue in puff islands over the top, and serve ice cold with lady-fingers or the coconut flakes.

Out of Town—I have priced the blouse you mentioned and find it can be purchased for \$2.50, either in white or coffee-colored net; the latter has iridescent trimming of satin ribbon carefully concealed under the net, just enough to give a dash of color.

Reader—I do not remember the book you mention nor can I give you the address. In the meantime read "A Remittance Man's Letters to His Mother," by W. H. P. Jarvis. Reginald Brown, a young Englishman, arrives in Winnipeg with a few hundred pounds and ambition to become a successful farmer. He finds that "the town with its ways is so funny, and the people all talk with a horrid American accent." There is an odious familiarity in the manners of all whom I meet, and whenever I ask a question a smile of amused tolerance appears upon the faces of those whom I question, which is so annoying. In fact, one is not treated as respectfully as he would be, were he one of themselves, not to mention an English gentleman.

Nesbit—We remember with what delight some years ago we read Beatrice Harradin's book, "Ship That Passes in the Night," and now that same author has given us "Interplay," which deals very largely with questions which are now agitating women the world over. Woman suffrage. Miss Harradin evidently favors, but her opinions are broad-minded. One of her characters says: "You see women I question, which is so annoying. In fact, one is not treated as respectfully as he would be, were he one of themselves, not to mention an English gentleman."

Time was when the rich soil of Australia bore crops from year to year without artificial aid. During the last decade the area of soil which needs fertilizers has increased from 12 to 69 per cent.



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LADY'S OR MAN'S WATCH
Given free for selling our Vegetable and Flower Seeds. We guarantee this claim. Write for our free catalogue. Seeds are all selected, reliable, and for sale at low prices. Large quantities, and sell very fast. Send your name and address. Write today. A postcard will do. The Royal Seedling Co., Dept. Y, Waterloo, Ont.



You Can Test the Kidneys

Let the urine stand for twenty-four hours and if, at the end of that time, there are deposits of a brick dust variety or if the water becomes smoky and cloudy you may be sure the kidneys are deranged.

Another very marked symptom of kidney disease is pain in the small of the back. The letter quoted below tells how these symptoms were overcome and kidney disease cured by Dr. A. W. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. Because of their direct and combined action on both the liver and kidneys these pills cure the most complicated case.

Mr. Wm. Craft, Jr., Burk's Falls, Ont., writes:—"In the spring of 1901 I was laid up with pains in the back resulting from kidney disease and was so bad that when I lay down I could not get up without help. Hearing of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills I procured a box and before this was all used I was doing my work about the farm and was as well as I ever was. As this old trouble never returned I can say that Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills are not only a prompt, but also a lasting cure."

Dr. A. W. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills

Begin by enlivening the action of the liver and bowels and thoroughly cleansing the excretory organs and then by their wonderful direct action on the kidneys set these organs in healthy action, rid the system of uric acid poisons and thereby remove the cause of backaches, headaches, lumbago, rheumatism and similar painful ailments. One pill a dose, at all dealers, or Edmonson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

Dr. A. W. Chase's Ointment positively cures every form of itching, bleeding and protruding piles.