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PETROLEA ONT. 26-4t

Peter and Marya

A Story of a Russian Inventor.

By MARTHA V. MONROE

The harvest was ended, and the peasantry in a farming region in the province of Tula, Russia, were gathered in a barn to celebrate the event with a dance. A young man entered, his serious face contrasting with the joyousness on that of the others, and stood looking at the dancers, his eyes evidently searching for some one among them. Presently a young girl with the fair hair and soft complexion of the north sailed by laughing at something her partner was saying to her.

As she passed the place where the young man was standing she caught sight of him. Her laughter ceased, and the merry look on her face vanished, giving place to one equally troubled. She made the circle with the dancers, then, coming again opposite the young man mentioned, stopped, excused her-self to her partner and hastened toward the former.

"Oh, Peter," she said, "what is the matter?"

"I have seen your father. He says it cannot be; he has no dowry for you. I can earn on the farm barely enough to keep myself alive. It would be a sin for two persons as poor as we to marry and bring forth children to suffer. He is right. We must withdraw from each other, Marya. There is no help for it."

The girl put her arm through his, and together they went outside. A full moon was looking down on them with its peaceful but cold light. Within were the sounds of mirth and music. For these young lovers their surroundings were in bitter contrast with the agony "What are you going to do, Peter?"

asked Marya. There was a brief silence, at the end of which he said with almost a wail. "I am going into the factory."

The girl, who still held his arm,

shuddered as if stricken by a deadly

The factory was a government institution where something was being made the nature of which no one When a workman entered its portals he did so with the understand. ing that he would never come out. Once in possession of the secret contained within those gloomy walls, the government took care that he should ot have an opportunity to reveal it. Peter Marinoff, born and brought up

among the farm class in Russia, was much out of place. His ancestors had been nobles who in one of the upneavals that country has suffered were mpoverished. But in him was an inheritance of genius that had lain dormant through several generations. It had not yet been suspected either by

Under the cold moonlight Peter and Marya parted. No ray of hope found its way into the breast of either. "I cannot be yours in the flesh, Peter,' she wailed, "but I will be yours in heaven. No one shall ever come between us." "In the factory there is no marriage, Marya. I shall join you in the hereafter." Then Peter pulled himself away from the girl, who clung to him pitifully.

The next morning he walked several

leagues to the factory and presented himself for admission. There was always room for workmen there, for few cared to enter a service from which there was no retreat. Nor was it necessary that he should have any preparation for the work done there. When man is to spend his whole life in a certain employment his employer can afford to educate him for his duties. Peter's only pleasure in life was when the moon was at the full on a clear night-to stand in the factory yard, look at the orb moving like the hand of a great clock in a circle of the heavens and think of Marya. He was reminded of their parting, and as one's remembrance of a face is that of the last time it has been seen so he always saw Marya's with the moonlight streaming down upon it and wearing

a look of despair. The factory was a place where explosives were manufactured. The only protection for the secret processes in ase there was to make life prisoners of those engaged in compounding the chemicals which constituted the explosive substance. Most of the men employed were kept from knowing these secrets by being confined to only a portion of the work. Many were not sufficiently intelligent. But there were persons who understood the whole of

one or more processes. Peter was a born scientist. He soon showed that he was capable of being made one of the principal compound-

factory suited to the work being done, he studied, though rather from a desire to escape his memories of the outside world than any desire to benefit himself. When absorbed in the fairy tales of chemical science, for the time being

Peter was so serviceable that after awhile he was put in charge of the manufacture of a certain explosive. It was not only expensive, but unreliable. Peter, being a natural investigator, set himself to work to find some other combination that would not cost so much to manufacture, but would

One day an order came to the factory to turn out as much work as possible. New hands were introduced, and large quantities of stock from which the product was evolved were brought With the order came the news that Germany had declared war

Peter, who by this time was in exclusive charge of the explosive substance for shells and could use any process he chose, manufactured a lot of shell explosive by his newly discovered process. This went into shells which were sent to the front. Peter, who could not make any tests without giving away his secret, waited for a report of how his explosive worked or, rather, to hear if there was any complaint. None came. Then he sent out some powder manufactured by the old process. Very soon a report came that a proportion of these shells would not explode.

Then Peter went to the governor of the works and told him that he had invented a powder for shells that had worked perfectly. The governor at-tempted to get the secret, but Peter kept it. This he could easily do since there was one ingredient the nature of which no one knew but himself. He offered to sell the formula to the government provided that in addition to the price paid he should be free to leave the factory.

Graft predominates in Russia, and

the governor determined to force Peter's secret from him to use it for his own benefit. He put Peter in irons in a dungeon and on bread and water. It is quite likely that Peter would have given way under this treatment had it not been that by holding out he might secure his terms. If he did he could marry Marya, who had assured him that she would never be the wife of any one else. If he did not succeed death might relieve him of his imprisonment.

of the shells sent out from the fac-tory that one day the governor ordered Peter to be brought to his office When he arrived all others were ordered out, and when the two were alone together the governor said:

"I have concluded to recommend to the government to buy your formula How much do you ask for it?" "Ten thousand rubles."

"Very well: it will be paid. My com mission will be one-half. "I will pay no commission. A man

who bribes a government official is as culpable as that official.' "You will think better of this," said

the governor. "Go back to your dun-

Peter returned to his dungeon. was full of expedients and endeavored to find one by which he could com-municate with Marya. He could write to her, but all letters from those inside the factory were examined by a censor. Peter induced the man who brought him his food to bring also writing material and a bottle on the shelves in the laboratory, giving him the name on the label. Upon receiving them Peter wrote a letter to Marya in ordinary ink and across its face with the chemical a message stating that he had invented a new explosive, but was prevented from using it. What was written in plain ink contained this sentence:
"We are suffering with the heat." This was to convey an instruction to Marya to heat his letter.

Now, the message that Peter had written across the face of his letter in the chemical that had been brought him was invisible, but by being heated it came out plainly in visible letters. The censor who read the letters that went out, reading Peter's letter, noticed the words "We are suffering with the heat," but could not understand them because it is seldom warm in Russia. He sent for Peter and asked him what he meant by writing that it was warm. Peter said he had made a mistake, and, drawing a pen over the word heat, he wrote "cold," but the word heat was

Marya did not need the hint, for she read the letter by the light of blazing logs, and under the warmth the mes-sage came out in dark brown letters She thought a long while about this communication, but, not realizing its full import, took it to her father. He saw in it more than she did, but could suggest nothing.

One morning Marya was missing. She had saved a little money, which was missing also. She had started to Petrograd, using the money to pay her way so far as it would go. When she reached the capital she say. reached the capital she saw no way to give Peter's letter to the czar. Learning the hour that he reached the pal-

ace, she tied the letter to a stone and standing on the sidewalk behind the line of soldiers, tossed it into his carriage. The czar, thinking it was a pe tition, handed it to an attendant to examine.

One day Peter was taken from his dungeon and led up to the governor's office. An aid-de-camp to the czar and the governor were the only persons present. The aid held Peter's letter in his hand and asked him if he wrote it When Peter admitted that he did he was taken into a conveyance with the aid and carried to Petrograd. There he communicated his secret to one appointed to receive it.

Peter was paid a liberal sum for his formula and sent back to the factory in place of the governor, who disappeared. Some said that he was imprisoned by order of the czar, others that he was sent to Siberia. At any rate, he never appeared at the works again.

Peter as governor of the factory could go and come as he pleased. He married Marya, but had no time for a honeymoon. Marya lived with him in the dwelling used by the governor un til the works were destroyed by German emissaries. Then Peter was sent to another point, where he was expected to spend his time investigating and inventing munitions of war.

Professional Reticence. "Did that man quote you correctly in

that interview?" "I can't tell," replied Senator Sorghum.

"Don't you know?" "Yes, I know, but I can't tell until have learned how my constituents like the article.'

Hard Water.

The streams of water used in hydraulic mining are said to be so swift that if one tried to hack into them with a sword the weapon would fly to pieces. The water is moving so rapidly that it has no time to yield beneath the stroke and in consequence is like a

A small bag cannot be made to contain what is large. A short rope cannot be used to draw water from a

Safety First. "I'm sorry, sir, but I'll have to ask

you to pay in advance if I serve you "Why, what do you mean? I'll re-

port you to the manager."
"Can't help it, sir. The last man I served fish to got a bone in his throat and had to go to the hospital, and the boss took the check he didn't pay out of my wages."-New York World.

WEALTH MADNESS.

I wish that more of us had the courage to be poor, that the world had not gone mad after fashion and display, but so it is, and the blessings we might have are lost in the effort to get those which lie outside

Outlawed. "How about paying me for that suit I made for you two years ago?" asked

"You surely can't expect me to pay for that suit," said the impecunious young man. "Why, it's all out of style."

Somewhere Around. "I never see her with her husband. Has she lost him?"

"I don't know. Some people seem to think she has merely misplace

Worked the Wrong Way. "How did the accident happen?" "He got run over when he stopped to ead a 'Safety First' sign."-Houston

To Foil the Burglar. One clever woman states: I find that ladies living in flats have very few safe places in which to put their iewelry, and they live in constant terror of sneak thieves entering their apartments and stealing their money and their jewels. My husband is a literary man, and his library is full of books. I have taken a book that he does not vant, cut a square out of the center of the pages large enough to insert a box, and in this I put all my rings, money and trinkets. The book is put in its place on the shelf, and I think a burglar would have to hunt a long while before he happened to strike the book containing the valuables.

Many children die from the assaults of Many children die from the assaults of worms, and the first care of mothers should be to see that their infants are free from these pests. A vermifuge that can be depended on is Miller's Worm Powders. They will not only expel worms from the system, but act as a health-giving medicine and a remedy for many of the silments that beset infants, enfeeblirg them and endangering their lives.



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