

telegram. It was short but decisive. She knew what it meant instinctively.

'Early this morning, a Nihilist prisoner, arrested yesterday in the Rue du Bazar Slave, and confidently identified with Prince Ruric Brassoﬀ, the famous revolutionary agitator and exile, was brought up for examination at the tribunal of political police before General Alexis Selistoff, Chief of the Third Section. What happened during the interview is not yet thoroughly understood, as only Madame Mireff, the Russian lady so well known in London society, was present in the room with the two principals. The police are also very reticent. It has transpired, however, that, after a short but stormy colloquy, the accused managed to possess himself of a loaded revolver, which he may perhaps have concealed about his own person, and fired on General Selistoff, whom he wounded fatally. The General fell dead in his chair at the first shot. The door was then forced by the sentries on guard, who were just in time to see Prince Ruric Brassoﬀ hold the revolver to his own head and blow his brains out. An envelope, supposed to contain a critical statement as to the Nihilist conspiracy, which the police had secured, and to which both General Selistoff and his assailant attached the greatest importance, is reported missing. The murderer's body is said to be horribly disfigured. Great consternation prevails everywhere in Moscow, and the Grand-Duke Sergius, Governor of the city, has issued at once a written proclamation putting the town and *banlieus* in a state of siege till further notice.'

'*Later.*—Madame Olga Mireff, who alone was an eye-witness of the deadly fracas between General Alexis Selistoff and his murderer, Prince Brassoﬀ, has committed suicide in her apartments at the Hôtel de l'Impératrice with the same pistol which was used in the affair of the Third Section. The whole incident is thus wrapped in the profoundest mystery. It is now generally surmised that Madame Mireff herself, though an intimate friend of the Imperial Family, may in secret have been affiliated to the Nihilist conspiracy, and it is even suggested that she supplied Brassoﬀ with the fatal revolver