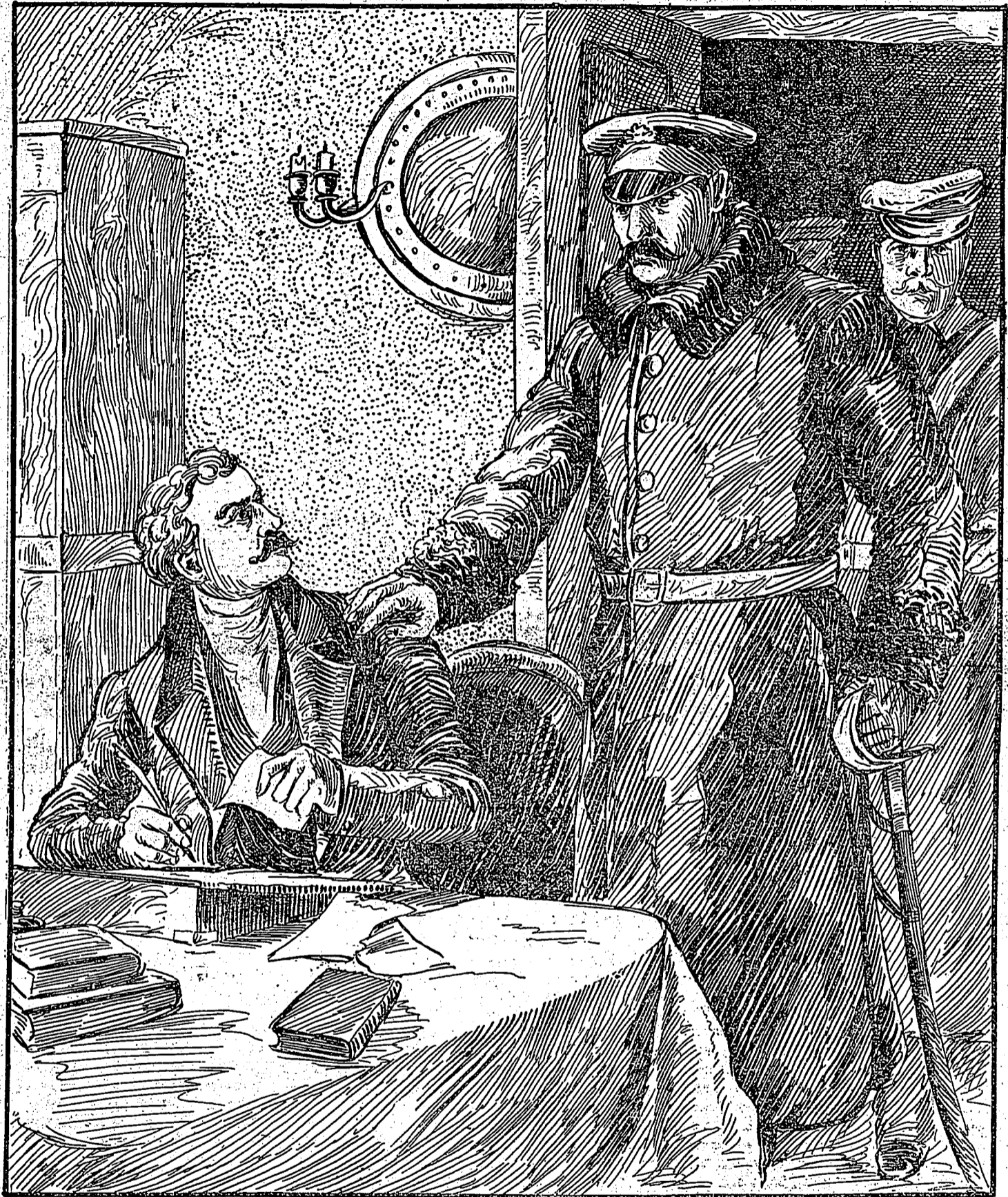


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THE BIBLE IN A RUSSIAN PRISON.

The Bible in a Russian Prison

(British Messenger.)

The year 1825 was a time of misery to many people in Russia. In the very heart of St. Petersburg a plot had been laid against the Emperor, by a number of young men belonging to the most distinguished families of the Russian empire. These young men thought that they were rendering a great service to their country by trying to set it free from the hard rule of the Czars. They intended to get the Emperor into their

power, and to force him to change the autocratic government of Russia into a constitutional monarchy. If he were unwilling to do this, there would be nothing left but to kill the Emperor, and thus make Russia a free country.

For some years this secret revolutionary society had been getting ready to carry out their plans, when, in 1825, the plot was discovered. The conspirators were put into prison; several of them were sentenced to death, others sent off to Siberia.

In St. Petersburg lived at that time a young

man named Batinkov, who had the misfortune to be acquainted with some of the members of the secret society. He was, however, not involved in the plot; indeed, it is most likely that he never heard a rumor of it. His surprise and dismay were therefore great, when one night, a party of policemen entered his house, and forced him to follow them to prison in the fortress of St. Petersburg! He thought that there must be some mistake, and felt sure that his case would be tried and his innocence proved.

From day to day he waited, expecting to