

## HE TRIED TO KILL THE CZAR.

## A TALK WITH BEREZOWSKI IN HIS LONELY PACIFIC HOME.

The World Knew Him for a Day When He Shot at Alexander II. in the Bois de Boulogne—Now Living in Exile in a Cabin on an Island—He Writes to the Present Czar and Gets a Kind Reply.

In a little thatched hut far away in the Pacific Ocean an elderly man leads an almost solitary existence. For a week, in 1867, his name was in the mouth of the world. He was the patriotic Poleander who, fired by the sufferings of his countrymen, and burning to avenge the wrongs, attempted to kill Alexander II., Emperor of Russia, while his Majesty was the guest of Napoleon III. at the Paris Exposition that year. The man is Berezowski, and both he and his crime are now well nigh forgotten. The sensational episode has, however, been recalled by the fact that Mr. F. Ordinaire, a correspondent of *Le Figaro*, who has written a long illustrated article on New Caledonia for that journal, tells of an interesting interview he had with Berezowski in his secluded home and illustrates the talk with a picture of the would-be regicide as he sits with his dog in front of his humble cottage.

One day during the Czar's visit to Paris he was driving in the Bois de Boulogne surrounded by his escort when a young man rushed toward the carriage, and, before he could be prevented, levelled a pistol at the Emperor and fired. Perhaps his failure to hit the imperial target was due to the fact that he was running when he fired. At any rate the Emperor, though very badly frightened, of course, was not harmed, and amid the greatest excitement and uproar the man who tried to kill him was seized and hurried off to jail.

It was a lucky escape for the Czar, but it spoiled his visit to Paris. Amid the pageants and festivities that Napoleon III. had prepared in honor of his illustrious guest, the Czar left Paris forever and hurried back to his capital.

Many of the French assert that this second attempt to assassinate the Emperor of Russia had a profound effect upon the history of France. They say that Napoleon III. expected at this meeting to form a close alliance with Russia, and that his plan was defeated by the sensational episode that led to the Czar's abrupt departure. The result, they say, was that the Czar became closely allied with William I. of Germany, and remained a mere spectator three years later when Germany had France at her feet humbled in the dust.

What occasioned Berezowski's attempt to kill the Czar? It happened to be the year that the last of the Polish insurrections was suppressed by Russia with a heavy hand. It was the year when the Polish Council of state was abolished in order that the administration of the conquered state might be fully assimilated to that of Russia. It was the year when the Russian language was forced upon Poland, an act that the proud and patriotic Poles regarded as a cruel outrage. His native land was groaning under the Russian yoke, and Berezowski determined to avenge her wrongs upon the potentate whom he regarded as chiefly responsible for them.

He failed, and that fact saved his own life. He occupied only a few hours, and it was over he knew that the next day he would bear him away to New Caledonia to spend the rest of his life in a tropical island. There he remained for twenty-two years. For a long time he was kept a close prisoner of labor, but, as his behavior improved, he was finally permitted to move at a distance from the big prison where he is entirely unconstrained.

He is now in a small thatched-roofed cottage on a hillside, where he is sheltered by a large tree. The house is built on a hillside, and the view from the front porch is a fine one. The man is now in his eightieth year, and his hair is white. He is a small, thin man, with a high forehead and a long nose. He is dressed in a simple, dark suit, and he has a serious expression on his face.

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The hut was very scantily furnished, and a single room served the owner as workshop, bedroom and dining room. Berezowski's blue eyes had a rather vague and preoccupied expression. They seemed not to see what was right before them, but rather to seek the distant horizon through the open door.

"I no longer have any hope of going back to Europe," he said. "Amnesties and favors of all sorts seek out political prisoners and even common criminals here, but every one but my personal friends seems to have forgotten me in the cabin where you see me. The result is that long ago I resigned myself to the situation. If they were to tell me to-day, you may go back to France, I am not at all sure that I should avail myself of the privilege, I am acclimated here. Heat does not trouble me, and indeed is indispensable to my health. A colder climate would probably kill me."

"So I am resigned to my fate as an exile. My maize, my manioc, the milk of my cows supply my material needs, and I receive by every steamer the newspapers of my country and little sums of money which permit me to live in comparative comfort. However, I should like to know if you can tell me whether it is the French or the Russian Government that opposes my liberation?"

"You must know," replied Mr. Ordinaire, "that your attempt against the Czar had the effect to throw Russia into the arms of Germany, and that our disasters in 1870 were almost the immediate consequence of the friendship of those two countries."

"Is that so?" remarked Berezowski. "When I shot at the Emperor I certainly did not foresee the gravity of my action from the international point of view of which you speak. My only thought was to avenge Poland and call the world's attention to her terrible wrongs."

"I do not think the present Czar bears me any ill will. A while ago I elaborated some plans that had long been in my mind for digging a canal to connect St. Petersburg with Siberia. I sent them to Alexander III. and after a while I got an official letter from St. Petersburg saying that the Czar had examined my plans and thanked me for my courtesy. There was nothing in the letter to indicate that he had any recollection of the shot I fired in 1867."

The interviewer says he could hardly repress a smile. Berezowski does not appear to have told him how he proposed to carry his wonderful canal over the enormous mass of the Ural mountains.

"There is one thing," continued Berezowski, "that interests me a good deal more than the question of my return to Europe. I should like to know what has become of the fund of 100,000 francs that was raised for me by subscription in France."

Mr. Ordinaire says he did not succeed in convincing the exile that this fund existed only in his imagination, and that all the money that had been raised for him was a few francs to present him with a handsome revolver. The man believes he has been robbed. By unscrupulous Poles to whom was committed in trust a fund raised for his benefit.

The impression made by the interview was that Berezowski is not entirely in his right mind, and that is probably the case with a large proportion of the men who attempt to right the wrongs of society by killing kings.

## Brain Grafting.

Attempts have been made to graft nearly all the different tissues of the body. Skin, bone, teeth, muscles, nerves, glands, eyes, mucous membrane, etc., have all been grafted with more or less success, but successful brain grafting has heretofore been performed. It occurred to Dr. Thompson recently, while studying cerebral localization in the lower animals, that it would be interesting to graft a piece of brain tissue from one side of a dog's brain to the other, or from one animal's brain into another's and study its vitality. He secured a large dog and performed his experiment. A half inch trephine was used, and a button of bone was cut nearly through over the left occipital region, leaving a small attached margin so that the button could be elevated and then depressed like a trap door. Through the opening the brain tissue was removed. A cat was similarly treated, and in eight seconds a portion of its brain tissue was grafted to the opening in the dog's brain. The experiment favors the theory that brain tissue has sufficient vitality for seven weeks the transplantation without wholly brain substance, and a further research.

## MYSTERIES OF THE PACIFIC.

## Interesting Evidences of a Civilization of Great Antiquity.

Modern science, which has brought to light buried Troy, revealed the place of ancient Babylon, untombed the mummy of the Pharaoh of Moses, and constructed something of a history for the Aztecs and the mound builders, stands baffled before the mysterious ruins of the Pacific sea islands.

Kusaie, otherwise known as Strong Island, of the Caroline archipelago, with a circumference of fifty miles, is covered with massive ruins of remote date. They bear the outlines of fortifications and are built of stones ten feet long, duly squared on six sides of a geological formation not met with on the island.

Ascension Island, known also as Panape, is larger than Kusaie, possesses similar ruins, but much larger. In one place remains a wall 300 feet long and 30 feet high, forming a court.

Little Easter Island, on the eastern outskirts of Polynesia, has no running water, no trees, nothing to attract inhabitants. Yet this island is peopled by Polynesians of the fair type, such as are found far away in the Society Islands, and is covered with remains of a prehistoric civilization of which every record but that of stone has perished.

At the southwest end of the island there are to be found the ruins of nearly a hundred stone houses, built in regular lines and facing the sea. The wall of these houses are five feet thick and over five feet high, built of layers of flat stones, and lined inside with flat slabs. Internally the houses measure about forty feet long by thirteen feet wide, and they are roofed over with slabs overlapping like tiles. The inside walls are painted in three colors—red, black, and white with figures of birds and mystic beasts and faces, and geometrical figures. In one of these houses was found a curious stone statue, eight feet high, and weighing about four tons, which is now in the British museum.

The sea cliffs near this ancient settlement are carved into grotesque shapes not unlike the paintings on the walls, and the coast is marked with hundreds of these sculptures.

Again, on each headland of the island there is an enormous stone platform, built of hewn blocks of great size, fitted together without cement. They are built on sloping ground, presenting on the seaward side a wall face twenty or thirty feet high and two or three hundred feet long, and on the landward side a wall of about three feet in height, rising from a levelled terrace.

Upon these platforms are stone pedestals, which have supported images, and on some broken figures remain. On one platform fifteen images were found, in size ranging from three to thirty-five feet in height. They are of human shape, representing the upper part of the body only, with arms and

hands close to the sides. The heads are cut flat to allow of crowns being placed on them, which crowns seem to have been made, not of the same material as the statues, but of red tufa. This has been traced to an extinct crater within a few miles of the houses, and on the brink of this crater a large number of crowns were found, finished and ready for removal before some strange fate depopulated the island of these ancient worshippers.

The images themselves are made of gray lava which is only found at quite another crater at the other end of the island. At this crater—called Otouli—there are several finished and partly finished images, just as they were left by the workmen. The head of one of these measures twenty feet from the nape of the neck to the crown. The faces of the images have well-defined features, with thin lips, broad noses, expanded nostrils, and a general disdainful expression. It is believed, from the appearance of the eye-sockets, that obsidian eye-balls were intended to be inserted. The ears are very carefully carved, and are prominent.

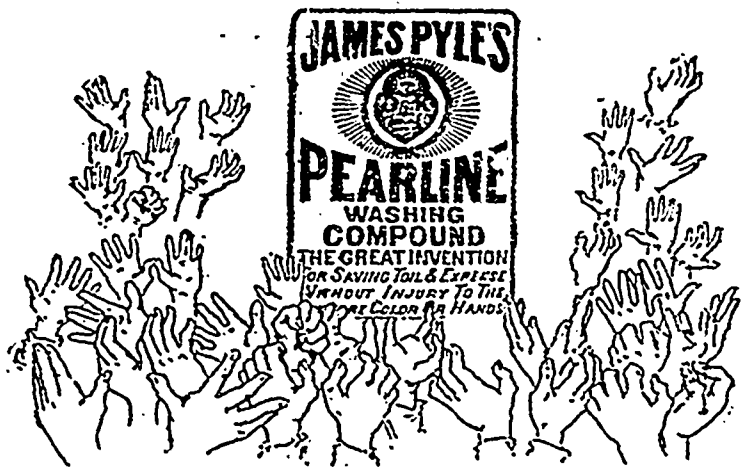
There are also, in different parts of the island, wooden tablets covered with curious carvings and strange hieroglyphics, which no one can explain.

At Opara, or Rapaiti, Capt. Vine Hall found a temple, or castle, in five stages, surrounded by walls which inclose stone houses, and also square platforms of stone on the sides of one of the hills, similar to those on Easter Island. This isle is 2,000 miles from Panape, but the inhabitants of the latter say their ancestors came from Opara.

Who were these ancient people? The ruins presents an antiquity equal to that of the pre-historic civilization of America. The present inhabitants are simply tattooed savages. The ancient race possessed intelligence far beyond anything now found in the Pacific; had ideas of architecture, sculpture, painting, and engineering and an elaborate religion. Archaeologists and ethnologists have given us no light yet. The mystery of the Pacific awaits solution.

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