

pany him, and wait at the palace, whilst he will seek the Empress. Introduced into the latter's presence, he relates what has just occurred.

Catherine on hearing this strange tale, exclaims: "Heavens! what a horrible thing! I really believe Reliew has lost his head. Run, Count, go and tell that madman to put an end to my poor banker's terrors and set him at liberty."

The Count does as he is bid, and on his return, finds the Empress laughing heartily.

"I see now," she said, "the cause of a scene as amusing as it is extravagant. I have had for some years a pretty dog to which I was fondly attached, and which I had called *Sutherland*, as that was the name of the Englishman who gave it to me. This dog has just died, and I ordered Reliew to stuff it, and as he hesitated I grew angry at him, thinking that through false pride, he believed a mission of that nature beneath his dignity. Such is the explanation of the ridiculous occurrence."

