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GREATEST OF THE CZARS.

Peter the Great Had a Love For New Experiences.

"None but a madman," writes F. L. Glaser, speaking of Peter the Great of Russia, "could have carried his former mistress in his own arms to the scaffold, as Peter did, kissing her fainting form as her head was laid on the block. Still the same man who blithely sent favorites to torture chamber and scaffold could bear with patience the blows of an exasperated cook whom he had infuriated by some practical joke."

This paragraph is the parable of Peter the Great. It explains him. It discloses the paradox of that miserly swashbuckler, the man who was kind and cruel, yet never forgot his dream of a great Russia.

A man about to perish on the scaffold extends his hand to the czar, crying that he is innocent, whereupon Peter roars:

"Die, wretch! If thou be innocent the guilt of thy blood be mine."

Not long after Gen. LeFort, a favorite of the czar, died, and in place of the implacable figure of the episode just narrated we have this:

"When the moment for removing the body came the grief and affection of the czar were manifest to everybody, for the czar shed tears most abundantly, and in the sight of all the vast crowd of people who were assembled on account of the solemn ceremony he gave the last kiss to the corpse."

Peter is more than all these things convey. He is the man who loved to consort with servants and who loved best of all and more constantly the costume of a Dutch sailor. It was by his orders that the silver plate on which food was served was never washed, because the silver surface was worn away in the process. Urged by a dental mania he pulled the teeth of his entourage, and when he returned from his travels over western Europe he himself, ruler supreme of all the Russias, piled the razor and cut their sacred beards.

The anecdotes, penetrating and illuminating, can be multiplied, but of themselves they cannot convey the personality of Great Peter. Some shading is necessary; a little chalking in of high lights here and there. Only through a great drama, a novel or a painting could the founder of Russia be immortally realized.

Why You Say It.

"A red-letter day" is an expression which arose out of the old Ecclesiastical Calendar, in which festivals and high holidays were printed in red ink. These important days consequently became known as "Red-letter Days"—hence the term to-day.

"Murder will out" is a phrase which Geoffrey Chaucer originated, although in the first instance it was spelt "Mordre wol out."

"Truth is stranger than fiction" is a well-used saying, and perhaps it is not generally known that it was originally employed by Byron in his "Don Juan."

"Escaped with the skin of his teeth." It is interesting to observe, originates in the Bible—Job, chapter 19, verse 20.

"Field" originally meant land on which trees had been "felled" or "fild."

"Necessity is the mother of invention" is well over two and a half centuries old. These well-worn words were first found in Franck's "Northern Memoirs," written in 1658.

"Eaten her out of house and home," a phrase, in view of the present price of food, undoubtedly, repeated by worried housewives, was originated by Shakespeare in his "Henry IV."

"Anything for a quiet life" is an expression which arose from a play by Middleton, bearing that title. "To turn over a new leaf," by the way, was first used in the same play.

Cleaning Dairy Utensils.

A little precaution on the part of the user of tinned dairy utensils will prove well worth while in the resulting improved conditions. After using a utensil or piece of tinned dairy machinery of any kind it should be thoroughly cleaned and wiped dry. Closed or covered parts should be allowed to remain open when not in use, thus permitting a circulation of air through them and relieving strain on the rubber washers. The result of these few little essentials will be brighter and sweeter utensils, lengthened life of equipment, and a more wholesome dairy product produced.

Famous Wells.

The Chinese have obtained water through the means of artesian wells for over a thousand years. One of the most famous wells in existence is that at Grenelle, in the outskirts of Paris, where the water is brought from a depth of one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight feet. It yields five hundred and sixteen and a half gallons of water a minute. A well in Pesh was sunk to the depth of three thousand one hundred feet in the seventies.

Do Moths Use "Wireless"?

It has for long been known that certain species of moths are able to communicate with one another even though separated by a considerable distance. The fact is to be noticed very plainly during the pairing season. A female of the Vapourer Moth (Orayia) may be enclosed in a wooden pill box. She will then attract males from all directions, and these will come from a distance of a mile or two.

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