HON. ZEBULON B. VANCE, OF NORTH CAROLINA, ON THE

TARIFF .- PUBLIC LANDS .- PENSIONS. De'ivered in the House of Representative, February 7, 1859.

The House being in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union-Mr. Vance said; Mr. CHAIRMAN: The condition of the country is a rather singular one at this time. The states-man of enlarged phenomena might row behold many important events in the indications by which we are surrounded, could be but read them aright. The late fury of the politica' heavens having spent itself in the flerce and bitter contests which raged in these Halls, we have now a comparative quiet. But whether it is merely a truce to enable the combatants to recruit and to bury their dead, we cannot tell. It may be that the now tranquil skies do but portend-

> " A greater wreck, a deeper fall; A shock to one, a thunderbolt to all.

But let us hope not. I, for one, am determined to But let us hope not. I, for one, am determined to interpret the omens for good. I think they are full of hope and peace and promise for the Republic. I hope, sir, that the lull is not a treacherous stillness, heralding the deadly simeon, but that it is Haloyon herself who comes to brood upon the dark and restless deep. Eight weeks of this soasion have gone by; grave and important question have been discussed and passed upon; and tion have been discussed and passed upon; and yet harmony and good feeling have prevailed.

Zeal there has been, but without fanaticism; warmth and spirit, but without bitterness and rancor. Though the bush has been beaten from Maine to California, from the Lake to the Gulf, only the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Wachburn) has been able to start a negro; and though the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Giddings) did howl upon the trail, the chase was so distant, and the scent lay so cold, that he soon called off, and the committee was not frightened from its propriety. It behoves the Representatives of the people to take advatage of this hopeful state of affairs, and to turn their earnest attention to the practical

every-day matters of the nation. Too long, already, has the country suffered from this all-absorbing excitement which has so much hindered practical legislation. Our disordered finances, our depressed trade, our empty Treasury, our confused foreign policy, our Secretary calling, like the daugh-ter of the horse-leech, "give, give;" all show this melancholy but instructive fact. The great question of a tariff, the principal source of our national revenue; the public lands; and, inseparable from these, the growing expenditures of the Government greatly need, nay, must have, our attention. It is time, sir, we were considering the ways and means to do something for the people—that vast and gver-striving mass whose servants and . Representatives we are; by whose intelligent industry and unceasing toil, by whose early-rising and latelying-down this Government re elves its protection and its bread, its

glory and its prosperity.
When we reflect, sir, that the expense of administering this Government has reached a point far exceeding the receipts of the public Treasury, we most look around for some means of making both ends meet. I presume there are few mem bers of this committee who desire to see the Government embark in a system of borrowing money, except in extraordinary cases of emergency, and like that of Great Britain, which is to go on growing and increasing until it gets forever beyond the hope of ultimate payment. The soundest policy of national financiers has been to borrow money only in case of war, or some such urgent necessity, to be repaid during the long years of peace and prosperity which follow these calamities. In times of general tranquility it has always been considered best to draw upon the sources of the nation's income sufficiently to meet our current expenses without borrowing, no odds how much the amount might be. We are not now doing this: instead of living like a frugal housekeeper, on the interest of our money, we are devouring the principal.—During the last fiscal year, in the midst of profound peace, this Government has issued Treasury notes and bonds to the amount of \$35,000,000 bewond the receipts of the Treasury, and a similar ssue may soon be called for, unless the deficiency is levied on some source of the revenue. The tariff levied on importations is the principal source; the next largest is the public lands. Let us consider the former.

Shall it be raised to a revenue standard or not? That it is not now up to this point, is, I take it for granted—the opinion of many gentlemen to the contrary, notwithstanding—sufficiently obvious from the plain fact, that we are now fiving on borrowed money. This fact, for practical purposes, is worth all the theories that gentlemen can put forth in regard to the present rates. Sir, I am not philosophical on this subject; I have not made laws which govern the trade and commerce of the world my study; I have not hunted up the statistics nor counted with care the enormous columns of figures which contain our commercial transactions. I am free to confess it. Nor do I believe that I am much the worse for this reason. But crude and unelaborated as my opinions may be I will venture to lay it down as an undisputed fact, that, as we are in debt and spending more than our income, and as our income is derived principally from the tariff, we have to do one of three things : either raise that income, lower our expenses, or walk into the insolvent court and file our schedule. I do not think there is, or ever was, a political economist on earth who could deny these propisitions. It is a question, sir, entirely beyond financial theories and abstractions.

The dectrine, sir, of a tariff for protection has b en pretty generally shandoned in the section from which I come; and it may not be a miss, perhaps, to say here, that one great cause of that dectrine being abandoned by those whom I have the honor to represent here-who once held it, was, that those very men whose interest and institutions, from a spirit of national pride, we were upholding and rotecting, became in time the deadliest enemies to our institutions and to our interest .-And it must be remembered, too, that at the time the doctrine of a protective trriff prevailed among my constituents, our national expenditures scarcely exceeded twenty million dol-lars per annum; and therefore the incidental protection afforded amounted to scarcely anything, and made the necessity for protection obvious.— But now that we have to raise from eighty to one hundred million dollars per annum, principally by duties on importations, the incidental protection afforded becomes so large as to render direct potection both uncalled for and unjust.

I am, therefore, sir, like those I represent. op-

posed to a tariff for protection, both for that reason, and also because it is to the interest of my section. I place it upon the ground of self-interest frankly, because I do not believe in the validity of the general rules and deductions which gentleman lay down so fluently. To assert that the rnly true policy of a nation is free-trade, is only less bourd it seems to me than to assert that the nation should extend protection, universally to all the manufactures within its borders. Trade and manufactures are,I take it, governed and affected like all other human transactions, by the thousand and one accidents and adventitious circumstances to which nations, as well as individuals, are subected. What Adam Smith, and later British oliticians, may say, in general terms, would have little more application to our condi-dition, than would the maps and profiles of Professor Bache's survey applied to the angles and indentations of the British coast. Even in England, covering not more territory than the State which I partly represent, the public sentithe agriculturest contended for precisely the re-verse. What French economists may say, can have still less bearing on our affairs, as there is a still greater dissimilarity in our condition and in-

How, then, can we lay down a rule for the reg-ulation of a tariff which shall be general in its operation for the best, for a country like ours, stretching, as it does through all the degrees of an entire zone; with many thousand miles of coast; with every variety of soil, climate, and production; and containing within its borders, artisans, manufacturers and laborers, of every form, fashion, and profession under the heavens. There is, indeed, a general rule, which, though diverse in its operation, is yet the same in its applicabili-ty the world over—the universal law of self-inte-rest. And, despite the ingenious theories

of politicians, as to an enlighented publicopinion having settled this way or that I will venture to say there is not a civilized na-tion or community now on earth, where the man-ufacturing interest is dominant, that does not seek protection for its work shops at the expense of its fields, and vice versa. This, sir, is another reason why I am opposed to a tariff for protection - that it would build up northern manufacturers at the expense of southern agriculturists. We need no protection for that which we raise for market; and that which we have to buy, we

Bit, be this as it may, we must have a revenue repared to do. In putting up the rates, then, to hat standard, itstrikes me that we should endeavor, not to protect any man, or set of men; but to protect the whole body of the people, from heavy or unequal taxation—for laying a tariff is, ideal of a perfect tax bill, should be observed.— Whilst I do not hold that the interests of the manfacturer and the consumer are necessarily and altogether antagonistic, to some extent they certainly are. If, therefore, that class of our citzens which produces the raw material of commerce, and consumes the manufactured article, is the larger and more extended interest of the country, and it most assuredly is; if it numerically and substantially predominates in fact, over the manafacturing interest, then the genius of our institutions plainly demands that that predominance should be felt in the legislation of the country. I am not for sacrificing a smaller interest for sake of a greater, in so many words; but I believe that all commercial enterprise should be in a large degree, self-sustaining; and I cannot regard the operations of any institutions as healthful and viorous, which flourish alone by statutory enact-

But a tariff for revenue I am in favor of. It is necessity at this time, and not an open question. f, in putting up the rates to meet the necessity, any protectionshould be incidentally afforded to the manufacturing interests, I can see nothing wrong in it. Indeed, if the rates are fairly imposed without making a special discrimination against all the manufactories of the nation, I cannot see how it is to be avoided, if it were ever so sinful. We certainly should not be so illiberal as to refuse to them that which cannot burt us, and which sire to transfer what little protection is incidentally afforded by a fairly constituted revenue tariff from our own manufactures to those of the British or the French, when my own people could not be in the least benefitted thereby. As to the manner of levying these duties, I am

eign valuations, which always arises uncer the case, so long as one half the States get nothing at ed valorem system. That some protection will all. be afforded is inevitable, if the duties go up. Mr. Secretary Cobb says himself that he does not expect to see a tariff "framed on rigid revenue prinone party gets all and the other gets nothing? ciples;" and both the President and Mr Cobbseem | And do you produce this equality by leading one rable. Indeed, the difference would be just the great family of States, bring their advancements interest on the sum total borrowed in favor of in- into hotch-pot, and the law not only gives the youngcreased duties. I must agree with both in this respect, and think it better to bring up the tariff at once ments also, leaving the elder sisters without an interaction a revenue standard and be done with it, than to heritance in the common property. Truly, "from keep on gloryfying free trade in the face of the him that hath not shall be taken away even that facts and figures; for although we are told to wait which he hath." And although the doctrine has a little longer, to wait until the country has rer been as strenuously maintained, that it was unconhas so recently undergone, I regard delay as the improvements not of a national character, in the more dangerous course. How much, indeed, the respective States, the Secretary of the Interior to debate, to say the least of it. My own notions built, or provided for, by the Thirty-Fourth Consis, that California gold, for which we are not indebted to any kind of tariff, has alone kept us lished, and how many public buildings ave been from calamities compared with which our recent erected by Congress in this way, the report does troubles were small and insignificant.

public lands-that other great source of our reve- right or wrong. And before I close this subject, a source of revenue at all. I have a still strong- gress and become a law, which made provisions er reason for disbelieving in the policy of keeping to bear the burdens of general improvement within its quietus on the ground of unconstitutionality the Union would have been materially enhanced, and the country saved from much wrangling and nature! itterness, from many monstrous frauds and gi-, gantic swindles. But this policy was withstood by the Democrat-

gainst distribution, and declared that these lands ought to be held as a source of revenue, the proseeds poured into the public Treasury, and applied to defraying the public expenses, and would thus Carolina, and Georgia, which ceded their lands to the Government, until the lands thus ceded were in the history of the Government, when retrenchmore than their proportionable share of the public Put in the knife, sir, by all means. Let it be taxes; yet the public was everywhere met with sharp and keen, and I will help and hold and cry, praises of the justice and equality, as well as econ- "Lay on, Macduff !" and well done, while the 1856, every neighborhood, county, district, State, till the last one is removed. and national convention, so far as my recollection now extends, pledged the party, in the face of the wrong place. I do not wish, sir, to let the first nation, to oppose the distribution of these public stroke fall on the best, the neblest, the most useful lands, whether among States, corporations, or in- part of the whole nation, the gallant soldiers of dividuals; and saying that they ought to be applied the war of 1812. What would be thought, sir, of to the use of the General Government, to relieve the man who would begin to reform his household. the people of taxation, and for no other purpose expenses, by giving a balf-feed to his horse, his ex, whatever. Nay, sir, the favorite term of ex- and his plowman? In-tead of saving money, sir, pression was, that, "the proceeds of these lands ought to be sacredly applied" to these purposes, thus for in a short time, his plowman and his horse giving a kind of religious sanction to the sincer- would be as weak as a politici in's promises, as tribution, defeated in so many struggles, had hardly be termed a bad economist; he would be come almost to despair of obtaining their object, called a fool, and would deserve the appellation. ing able to fall back upon these oft-repeated fluous perts of his establishment first, so there promises. I was cheered by the thought, that if might be no dimit ution in the comforts of those we could not get a fair and equal distribution, we knew at least that the proceeds of the land sales were well disposed of that they were "sacredly appned" to the general charge and expenditure. But six even that charge and expenditure is a fair and equal distribution, who isbored. So, sir, we should begin in the national household, to lop off the superfluous excrescences that uselessly feed on the Treasury.—

We might profitably decapitate some thousands we could not get a fair and equal distribution,

During the last session of Congress, acting in obedience to a resolution, the Secretary of the In-terior transmitted a report in brief, to the House, setting forth the number of acres disposed of, and to contribute, in this way, to for what purposes, since the inauguration of the warlike spirit in its militia. ment was never a unit on the tariff question; the (I quote from memory) about one hundred and the other day, that this spirit originated solely in manufacturer wanting it laid heavily upon arti-cles similar to those in which he dealt, and free trade as to breadstuffs and raw material; while interest to the public expenses; whilst, dur-those gallant men than to put their sering the same period, there have been "sacredly" itary grants amounting to some forty four mil-lions! Some millions are given to build the mag-insult! I would not do any soldier of that war

To avoid tediousness I shall not enumerate the various States that have shared this public spoil, both North and South, or recite the various grants so sacredly donated to corporations and companies. They will ah be found grouped over the sum total of two kundred and the millions in the report referred to.

Is there any prospect of the evil being stopped Why, sir, I was perfectly astounded to learn the number of bills now before the Bouse for giving away lands. I sat in my place in this Hall, and heard the other day bills enough introduced to want the free markets of the world to choose cover, as I thoughs, all the vacant lands on the North American continent. Many of them seemed to me to have reference to the prospective tariff, or resort to direct taxation, which I am not | snnexation of all nations, kindreds, tongues, and tribes, from the open Polar sea, beyond the re-gion of eternal ice, to the Isthmus of Darien -There seems to prevail, in certain sections, a notion that our "manifest destiny" is to conquer territory, and then to give it away in lots and quanto some extent, laying a tax, though not an equal tities to suit the convenience of applicants. Why, tax, as many of the States are now doing. The sir, no Spanish monarch ever gave away realms same principle ought to govern us. The cardinal and barbarian empires which were not his to give, doctrine of "the greatest good to the greatest num- | with so lavish a hand as we display in granting ber" ought to be our guide in laying these burdens upon the people. The same care to make them bear lightly as possible on the poor, yet wit hout being unjust to the rich, which has ever been the nfatuation grown, that, not satisfied with the plendid operations of States, corporations, and individuals, the nation has actually conceived the ides of swindling itself out of two hundred millien acres to build a Pacific railroad. What an age we live in! But the brightest, most magnificent idea of all yet conceived, for getting rid of these lands, is the bill-which lately passed this House-of the honorable gentleman from Pennsylvania, which will give at least one hundred nillion acres to whoever will go and take it. No odds who it is; the invitation is general to all the world-"Walk up, gentlemen, and help yourselves!" New, Sir, leaving entirely out of sight, the

fact, that this disposition of the public property is a rank and cross outrage upon the rights of the old States, and a palpable violation of the spirit of the deeds of cession; is it not a reckless and ruinous waste of the public revenues? Is it not a strange way of redeeming a promise 'so "sacredly" matle? What wonder, sir, that the tariff has to go up, when this great and unfailing source of public wealth is thus lavishly thrown away! If this fund is no longer to go into the public Treasury to relieve the people of the burdens of a high tariff; why then in common justice and common honesty, let us all, the old and the new States, take share and share alike. I have ong been a distributionist, because I thought justice and equality demanded it; but if I could only may help them. I certainly am not so hostile to see these promises faithfully carried out, if my own country, or to any portion of it, as to defraving the general charge and expenditure of a common Government, I would agree to ask nothing more. I call on gentlemen to stop this wild raid after the public lands. I will gladly stand

with any party to effect this object. It is a little strange that every State in the nstrained to say that I concur with the President | Union can participate in these land grants, save and I believe that the method recommended by him except alone those States which were the original in his late message is the best, the simplest, and proprietors. The ordinary statute of distributions in most cases, the fairest, at once for the mer- is entire'y reversed; and the furthest of kin, inchant, the consumer, and the Government. A stead of the nearest, seems to be best entitled to specific duty on any given article is a steady source | the estate. There is great anxiety manifested on f revenue; it is certain; it cannot be avoided or the admission of every new State, to put it on an process and if any protection arises from it equality with the other States, by princely donait is a home protection, and not a foreign one. It tions of the public property; but it never seems to elso puts to rest the difficulty as to home and for- occur to gentlemen that there is no equality in the

o agree that the duties must go up, or we must with favors and stripping the other bare? Nay, porrow more money, which is not, they say, desi- sir, worse still is done. The elder sisters of this covered from the great financial crisis which it stitutional for the General Government to erect resent low duties have had to do in producing shows us that four thousand six hundred and forhis very crisis, is, in my opinion, a question open ty-nine and one half miles of Railroad have been not show. It would take up all my allotted time But, although there may be a difference honest- to show one half the donations to the new States, entertained, among gentlemen, as to the best and for what purposes; therefore, I will forbear. nanner of regulating the tariff, it seems to me, sir, Suffice it to say, that scarcely a single grant is not that there can be but one opinion in regard to the | in direct contravention of this doctrine, whether nue. I am one of those who believe, with Gener- I may be permitted to remark upon the strangeness al Jackson, that these lands ought not to be made of the fact, that no land bill has passed this Confor an equal division among all the States. The them, both as a source of revenue and as a corrup-tion fund to control the politics of the country. I bill is sufficient to "damn it to everlasting fame." have heretofore seted upon the policy of distribu- Bennett's land bill could not get through, neither ting these lands among the several States of the could the agricultural college bill of the gentleman Union, or their proceeds, in order to enable them from Vermont, (Mr. Morrill,) and though the luto erect public works, establish free schools, and natic Asylum bill got through Congress, it met their respective borders. I believe, if that policy at the hands of the President who signed bil's had been adopted at the time it was first broached giving away large enough to build four thousand that the wealth and prosperity of every State in six hundred and forty-nine miles of railroad, and many million acres besides for works of a similar

But sir, we are continually told that it becomes no man to talk about a waste of the public revenues, or to recommend economy, who voted for the e party, which at a very early period, took ground old soldiers' bill; that that was a measure of such reckless and dangerous extravagance, as to completely shut the mouths of all who are anxious to promote a reform in our alarming expenditures.am glad to hear that word economy coming sest inure to the use and benefit of the people. from such gentlemen. I am delighted to know, That party prevailed; and although under that sir, that Saul is once more among the prophets, disposition of the public lands, Virginia, North though he come even "in such questionable shape" as a reformer; for if there ever was a time all sold, continued, in reality, to pay five times | ment and reform were needed, now is that time.my, of the system. From that time down to the bright blade flashes right and left, reddening as it last convention, which as embled at Cincinnati in goes, among the foul ulcers of the body-politic,

But I do not wish to begin to economize in the ty of the promise. When the advocates of dis- feeble as a modern platform. Such a man would for one, felt that we were well consoled by be- He should commence by cutting off all the super-But, sir, even that consolation is taken of that class of hungry hangers-on, who swarm in away from me, and the actual reality stares us in | the land with the numbers and the rapacity of the Egyptain locust, "devouring every green thing." I contend, sir, that the citizen soldier is at once the pride and glory, the stay and the surety of the nation; and no Government is wise which refuses to contribute, in this way, to the fostering of that

present system. By that report it appears that The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Nichols) told us vices in the war of 1812 on a footing of dollars and given away and squandered about two hundred cents. "Patriotism," said he, "is its own reward." and ten million acres! And this exclusive of mil- What a pity it is that he is not as prompt to demilicent railroad system of Illinois which cannot | the injustice to suppose for a moment that thought be fairly construed to come under the head of of the pay influenced him in the slightest. His "general charge and expenditure;" some millions country was in danger; that was enough for him, more are handed over to Minnesota, to Iowa, to The bugle-blast told him that the invader's foot Wisconsin, and other northwestern States, for railroads, schools, public buildings, and so on.—
What construction other gentlemen may put on this 1 am unable to say; but, in my opinion, the giving away of the common property to free States, to support those public burdens which my constituents have to pay out of their own pockets, is neither a part of the expenses of the General Government proper, nor is the object very sacred.

Brave to defend us, so should we be prompt and liberal to repay them. I do not believe that they are sufficiently repaid by the honor and glory they have acquired. Thousands of these men are now in the deepest poverty, and have the hardest work to keep the wolf from the doors of their homes, where dwell their wives and little ones. Can one THE GUNMAKER OF MOSCOW. of them walk into the market and buy a rump of beef or a leg of mutton, with glory? What mer-chant advertises that he will take either glory, honor, or renown, in exchange for beef, pork, and cabbage? I doubt, sir, if either the gentleman from Ohio or myself would agree to represent our constituents in this Hall, glorious as it is, without -to speak in Kansas technology-"an enabling statute." You may talk of glory as much as you like, but these old soldiers want some more sub-

tantial testimonial of the country's gratitude.

That argument, sir, reminds me of the custom in Catholic countries, of having the priest to pass over the fields in the spring and bless the expected crop. On one such occasion, the priest being something of an agriculturist, paused at one field, which was very poor and sterile. There, my friends," said he, "blessing will do no good; this field must have manure." The old soldiers, sir, value the glory they have acquired, no doubt; but they must have something that will do more good than

Sir, I hope that gentlemen will not be guilty so often taking the name of economy in vain, for people will not hold them guiltless. I protest, , against making this word cover all the sins of he age. There are but few of these soldiers alive. and they are all necessarily far advanced in years. It is but now and then that you meet with one of them; and if we do our duty in cutting down our ruinous expenditures, at the present session, the amount required to pay them will scarcely be felt. The bill provides no back pay, and only gives a small sum for life, graduated according to the ngth of the soldiers' services. In my opinion the vast amount so unwisely spent in the bloodless Mormon war, would be sufficient for this bill. to earnestly hope that the Senate may consider it favorably, and that it may become a law.

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A Tale of the Empire under Peter the Great.

CHAPTER I.

The time at which we open our story is midwinter, and towards the close of the seventeenth entury. Russia is the scene.

In the suburbs of Moscow, and very near the river Moskwa, stood an humble cot, which betraved a neatness of arrangement and show of test that more than made up for its smallness of size. Back of the cot was an artisan's shop, and other out-buildings. This shop was devoted to the manufacture of fire arms, mostly. Some swords, and other edged weapons, were made here upon special application.

The master of this tenement was the hero of our tale, Rurie Nevel. We find him standing by his forge, watching the white smoke as it curled up towards, the throat of the chimney. He was a young man, not over three-and-twenty, and possessed frame of more than ordinary symmetry and muscular development. He was not large-not above a medium size-bota single glance at the swelling chest, the broad shoulders, and the sinewy ridges of the bare arms, told at once that he was master of great physical power. His father had been killed in the then late war with the Turks, and the son, leaving his mother with a sufficiency of sustenance, went to Spain soon after the bereavement. There he found work in the most noted armories and now, well versed in the trade, he had returned to his native city to follow his calling, and support his mother.

Near by stood a boy-Paul Peepoff-a bright intelligent lad, some fifteen years of age, who had bound himself to the gunmaker for the purpose of earning the art.

Claudia Nevel, Ruric's mother, was a noble lookng woman, and the light of her still handsome countenance was never brighter than when gazing uron her boy. She had a thankful, loving heart, and a prayerful, hopeful soul. "It is snowing again, faster than ever," remark-

ed Paul, as he took his seat at the supper-table, in company with the others. "Ah," returned Ruric, resting his knife a few moments while he bent his ear to listen to the voice of the storm. "I had hoped 'twould snow no more for the present. The snow is deep enough now. And how it blows !"

" Never mind," spoke the dame, in a trustful. easy tone, "it must storm when it lirteth, and we can only thank God that we have shelter, and pray for those who have none." " Amen !" responded Ruric, fervently.

The meal was at length eaten, and the table set back, and shortly afterwards Paul retired to his

Ruric drew his chair close up to the fire-place. and leaning against the jam he bowed his head in absorbing thought. This had become a habit with him of late. His mother having observed these fits of abstraction, became uneasy and pressed Ruric to tell her what it was over which he was so constantly and so moodily brooding. Being thus urged Ruric confessed hat it was of Rosalind Valdai (the orphan daughter of a nobleman, and now the ward of Olga, the powerful and haughty Duke of Tula) he was thinking. Rurie's father, and the father of Rosalind, had been comrades in arms in their youth, and their children had been playmates. But when the elder Nevel was slain in battle, Raric was yet a boy, and the widow and her son remained poer and obscure; while Valdai, more fortunate, had risen to a high rank, and dying, left Rosalind a title and a for-

The young people, however, had not forgotten each other. Ruric loved Rosalind with all the fervor of his being, and he felt assured that Rosalind returned his love. As he and his mother sat debating the ma-ter on that stormy night, a loud knock upon the outer door startled them.

"Is there any one here?" the gunmaker asked as he opened the door, bowing his head and shielding his eyes from the driving snow with one

"Yes," returned a voice from the Stygian darkness." "In God's name let me in, or I shall

"Then follow quickly," said Rurie. "Heregive me your hand .- There-now come." The youth found the thickly-gloved handgloved with the softest fur-and baving led the invisible applicant into the hall he closed the door, and then led the way to the kitchen. Without speaking. Ruric turned and gazed upon the newcomer. The stranger, who was equally devirous of ascertaining what manner of man Ruric was, was a monk-and habited something like one of the Black monks of St . Michael. He was of medium hight, and possed a rotundity of person which was

comical to beholds At length, after warming himself by the fire the guest asked if he could be accommodated with some sleeping-place, and being answered in the affirmative, Ruric showed him to a chamber and

then retired himself. The next morning, after breakfast, the Monk went with Ruric to his shop, and examined with much interest the various weapons therein. Ruric questioned him ciosely as to whether he had ever met him before, but the Monk replied evasively and after saying that in case the gunmaker should ever in any great emergency, need a friend, that he might apply to him, he took his leave.

Towards the middle of the afternoon, just as Rurie had finished tempering some parts of a gunlock, the back door of his shop was opened, and two men entered. They were young men, dressed in costly furs, and both of them stout and goodlooking. The gunmaker recognized them as the Count Conrad Damonoff and his friend Stephen Urzen.

"I think I speak with Ruric Nevel," said the Count, moving forward. "You do," returned Ruric, not at all surprised by the visit, since people of all classes were in the

habit of calling at his place to order arms. "You are acquainted with the Lady Rosalind Valdai?" he said. "I am," answered Ruric, now beginning to won-

. Well, sir, resumed Damonoff, with much haughtiness, "perhaps my business can be quickly and satisfactorily settled. It is my desire to make

the Lady Rosalind my wife." Ruric Nevel started at these words, and he classed his hands to hide their tremulousness. But he was not long debating upon an answer.

"And why have you come to me with this information, sir?" he asked. "Ruric Nevel, you shall not say that I did not make myself fully understood, and hence I will explain." The Count spoke this as speaks a man

who fee's that he is doing a very condescending thing, and in the same tone he proceeded: "The Lady Rosalind is of noble parentage and very wealthy. My own station and wealth are equal with hers. I love her, and must have her for my wife. I have been to see the noble Duke. her guardian, and he objects not to my suit .-But he informed me that there was one impediment, and that was her love for you. He knows full well-as I know, and as all must know-that she could never become your wife; but yet he is MR. SAM'L D. HICKS, FORMERLY OF GRANville county, North Carolina, and late of the
firm of Brownley & Hicks, Petersburg, Va., is this day
admitted to pertnership in my bouse. The business
will be conducted under the firm and style of D. T.

will LAMS & HICKS. ture. Here-it is only a plain, simple avowal on your part that you have no hopes nor iberal support and patronage bestowed on me for the thoughts of seeking the hand of the lady in mar-

riage." As the Count spoke he drew a paper from the bosom of his marten doublet, and having opened All persons having claims against me will please it he handed it towards the gunmaker. But present them for immediate payment, and those in. Ruric took it not. He drew back and gazed the "Sir Count," he said, calmly and firmly, "you"

> D. T. WILLIAMS. | will as plainly answer. I cannot sign the pa-"Ha!" gasped Damonoff, in quick passion, "Do you refuse?"

" Most flatly." "But you will sign it!" hissed Damonoff, turning pale with rage. "Here it is-sign! If you

would live-sign !" "Perhaps he cannot write," suggested Urzen, "Then he may make his mark," rejoined the.

Count, in the same contemptuous tone.

"It might not require much more urging to induce me to make my mark in a manner not at all agreeable to you, sir," the youth retorted, with his teeth now set, and the dark veins upon his brow starting more plainly out. "Do you seek a quarrel with me? "Seek ?-I seek what I will have. Will you

"Once more-No!"

"Then, by heavens, you shall know what it is The day was beautiful. They had been to thwart such as me! How's that?"

ground but a few minutes when the other As these words passed from the Count's lips in came in sight around the bend of the river a low, hissing whisper, he aimed a blow with his monk was there also.

fist, at Rurie's head. The gunmaker had not As soon as the Cou As soon as the Count and his second und dreamed of such a dastardly act, and he was not goon had arrived, and the horses were source

p spared for it. Yet he dodged it, and as the the brow that feiled him to the floor like a dead "Beware, Stephen Urzen?" he whispered to

the Coun 's companion, as that individual made my coming." a movement as though he would come forward. Lam not myself now, and you are safest where close by Ruric's side. "That is one of his chie The man thus addressed viewed the gurmaker

few moments, and he seemed to conclude that he had better avoid a personal ancounter. Conrad Damonoff slowly rose to his feet, and gazed into his antagonists face a few moments in silence. His own face was deathly pale, and his whole frame quivered. "Ruric Nevel." he said, in a hissing, maddened ten, "you will hear from me. I can over-

look y ur piebeian stock."

And with this he turned away. "Paul," said the gunmaker, turning to his by, after the men had gone, "not a word of this to my mother. Be sure." On the following morning, as Ruric was preparing for breakfast, he saw Olga, the Duke, pass by, and strike off into the Borodino road. thought he, is the time to call on Rosalind; and as soon as he had eaten his breakfast he prepared for the visit. He dressed well, and 'no man in you do it. If you have come to fight, do so hon Mossow had a nobler look when the dust of toil was removed from his brow and garb. He took a horse and sledge, and started off for

the Kremlin, within which the duke resided. In one of the sumptuously furnished apartments of the palace of the Duke of Tula sat Rosalind Valdai. She was a beautiful girl; molded in perfect form, with the flush of health and vigor, and possessing a face of peculiar sweetness and intelligence She was only nineteen years of age, and she had been ten years an orphan. There was nothing of the aristocrat in her look-nothing proud. nothing haughty; but gentleness and love were the true elements of her soul. "How now, Zenobie?" asked Rosalind, as her

waiting maid entered. "There is a gentleman below who would you," the girl replied. Then tell him I cannot see him," said Rosa-

ind, trembling, "But it is Ruric Nevel, my mistress." "Ruric!" exclaimed the fair maiden, starting in, while the rich blood mounted to her brow and in it you will get the continuation of the sto and temples. "O, I am glad he has come. My prayers are surely answered. Lead him hither,

The girl departed, and ere long afterwards Ruic entered the apartment. He walked quickly to where Ro-alind had arisen to her feet, and taking one or her hands in both of his he pre-sed it to his lips. It was with difficulty he spoke. But the emotions of his soul became calm at length, and then he received Royalind's promise that she would never permit her hand to be disposed of to another by the Duke of Tula. Ruric informed her of the visit of Count Damonoff to his shop, its purpose and the result. Rosalind was astonished and alarmed. Still she could not believe that the Duke meant to bestow her hand upon Damonoff The Duke owed him money, she said, and might be playing with the Count.

Rurie started as a new suspicien flashed upon him. Had the Duke sent Damonoff on that mis sion on purpose to get him into a quarrel. "Aye," thought the youth to himself, "the Duke knows that the Count would be no match for me. So he thinks in this subtle manner to make me an instru- removes all dandruff, itching and all scrofula, scale ment for ridding him of a plague," But the youth | head and all eruptions: makes the hair soft, healths, was careful not to let Rosalind know of this. He and glossy; and will preserve it to any imaginable thought she would be unhappy if she knew that a age; removes, as if by magic, all blotches, &c., from duel was likely to come off between himself and the face, and ures all neuralgia and nervous headache.

See circular and the following.

After some minutes of comparative silence, Ruric took leave of Rosalind, and was soon in the pen court. Here he entered his sledge, and then he drove to the barracks in the Khitagorod, where he inquired for a young triend named Orsa, a lieutenant of the guard. This officer was quickly found, and as he met Rurie his salutation was warm and cordial. After the first friendly greetings had passed, Rurie remarked, "I may have a neeting with Conrad Count Damonoff. He has sought a quarrel—insulted me most grossly—aimed a blow at my head—and I knocked him down. You can judge as well as I what the result must

"Most surely he will challenge you,"cried the oficer, excitedly. "So I think," resumed Ruric, calmly. "And now will you serve me in the event?"

"With pleasure." And thereupon Ruric related all that had occurred at the time of the Count's visit to his shop, and then took his leave.

He reached home just as his mother was spreading the board for dinner. He often went away on business, and she thought not of asking him On questioning Paul, in the shop, in the after-

noon, Ruric, to his great surprise, learned that sence, to purchase a dagger; that he had drawn much pleased with Ruric's conduct. As they Restorative, as a perfect remedy for all diseases of the were talking, Urgen called and presented a challengs from the Count. Ruric at once referred him to his friend, and he took his leave. That evening, about eight o'clock, a sledge drove

up to Ruric's door, and young Orsa entered the the house He called Ruric aside, and informed him that the arrangements had all been made. "Damonoff'is in a hurry," he said, and we have appointed the meeting at ten o'clock to-morrow truly say it is the greatest discovery of the age for reforenoon. It will take place at the bend of the river just beyond the Viska Hill." "And the weapons?" asked Ruric.

"Swords," returned Orsa. "The Count will bring his own, and he gives you the privilege of electing such an one as you choose." "I thank you, Orsa, for your kindness thus far,

and you may rest assured that I shall be "Suppose I call here in the morning for you?" suggested the visitor. "I should be pleased to have you do so," the

gunmaker said; and thus it was arranged. On the following morning Ruric was up be times, and at the breakfast table not a word of the one all-absorbing theme was uttered. After the meal was finished, the gunmaker went out to his shop, and took from one of the closets a long leathern case, in which were two swords. They were Toledo blades, and of most exquisite works manship and finish. Ruric took out the heaviesone, which was a two edged weapon, with a crost hilt of heavily gilded metal. He placed the point upon the floor; and then with all his weight he bent the blade until the pommel touched the point .-The lithe steel sprang back to its place with a sharp clang, and the texture was not started .-Then he struck the flat of the blade upon the anvil with great force. The ring was sha p and clear, and the weapon remained unharmed "By St. Michael," said the gunmaker to his

boy, "Moscow does not contain another blade like that. Damascus never saw a better." "I think you are right, my master," the boy returned, who had beheld the trial of the blade with unbounded admiration. "But," he added, "could you not temper a blade like that?" "Perhaps, if I had the steel. But I have it not.

The steel of these two blades came from India, and was originally in one weapon-a ponderous, two handed affair, belonging to a Bengal chieftain .-The metal possesses all the hardness of the finest razor, with the elacticity of the most subtle spring. My old master at Toledo gave me these as a memento. Were I to mention the sum of money he was offered for the largest one, you would hardly creditit"

After this Ruric gave Paul a few about the work, promising to be back before night. Just then Orsa drove up to the door. Roric was all ready. His mother was in the kitchen. He went to her with a smile upon his face. He put his arms about her neck and drew her to his bosom. "God bless you, my mother-I shall come back."

He said this and then he kissed her. He dared stop to speak no more, but opened the FAIRBANKS, dred different modifications of our and passed out.

FAIRBANKS, dred different modifications of these Scales, adapted to the wants door and passed out.

"Have you a good weapon?" asked Orsa, as the horse started, on. "I have," Ruric said, quietly; "and one which has stood more tests than most swords will bear." And after some further remarks he related the pe-cultar circumstances attending the making of the sword, and his possession of it. At length hey struck upon the river, and in half an hour more they reached the appointed spot.

lie stenant proposed that they should recair

Count drew back Ruric dealt him a blow upon o'd building which was close at hand. "Aye," add d Damonoff- Let us have this sines done, for I would be back to dinner, dine with Oiga to-day, and a fair maiden away

"Notice uim not," whispered Ores, who walks points when engaged in an affair of this kind He hopes to get you angry, and so unhinge you Never fear," answered the gunmaker.

The par y halted when they reached the interior or of the rough structure, and he count threw of his pelisse and drew his sword. Rarie follows "Sir Count," the latter said as he moved a forward, "ere we commence this work I wish a present to understand distinctly how I stand You have sought this quarrel from the first -Without the least provocation from me you have insulted me most grossly, and this is the climay, So, before God and man be the result upon your

own head.

"Out, lying knave-i r "Hold," cried the surgeon, laying his hand heavily upon the Count's arm. You have right to speak thus, for you lower yourself when

An angry reply was upon Damonoff's lips, be he did not speak it. He turned to his antagonic and said .-

"Will you measure weapons, sir? Mine ma be a mite the longest. I seek no advantage and I have one here of the same length as weight as my own if you wish it." "I am well satisfied as it is," replied Ruric "Then take your ground. Are you ready

"I am !" The two swords were crossed in an instant w a clear, sharp clang.

The above is all of this story that will be put lished in our columns. We give this as a sample The continuation of it from where it leaves of here can only be found in the New York Ledge the great family paper, for which the most popular lar writers in the country contribute, and while is for sale at all the stores throughout the cit and country, where papers are sold. Remember and ask for the New York Ledger of March ry from where it leaves off here. If you cannot

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