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The Mystery of Graslov
CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

"What is your burden?" cried the priest. "What terrible thing has been done in Tivolofsky tonight?"

"Nothing much," said Vladimir calmly. "I have killed two wolves."

CHAPTER XVII.
"I AM GOING TO MARRY YOU!"

It was noon in Tomsk, and the Princess Olga had not yet slept. She sat at her window, which faced toward the great plaza, and watched and listened. Suddenly there came to her ears the faint sound of a bugle. It came from the direction of the new railway station. The princess smiled. Then came a knock at her door.

"Open it, Therese."

Therese was pale and trembling. The events of the past two nights had shaken her nerves till she was on the verge of collapse. But she obeyed, and the same lieutenant who had assisted during the night came in.

"I fear for your life!" he said. "Neslerov has recovered and is cursing like a madman. He called for me and ordered me to fetch you to him."

"It will not be a difficult task," said the princess. "I will go."

"But he will kill you!" He is speaking words that no sane man could ever speak. He says if he is to be destroyed he will destroy you first."

"Does he know that Vladimir is gone?"

"He suspects it. He has not been to see."

Olga looked from her window. Three men were riding abreast, coming toward the palace, and after them a detachment of the soldiers always at the station.

"Some one comes!" said the officer.

"Yes. Do you know who that is?"

"I do not," replied the officer. "It must be one of the generals."

"You will see," said Olga. "Come! We will go to Neslerov!"

The governor glared at her in mad fury.

"You drugged that wine! You put me to sleep!" he shouted.

"I drugged the liquor, for I had work to do," she answered.

"What have you done? Let us be frank. You came here as an enemy and as a spy."

"I came to right a wrong; to avenge the crime of Graslov."

"What do you know?"

"I know the truth."

"What do you intend to do?"

"Restore that which is lost and undo what was done by wickedness."

An evil look came into his face, and he stepped toward the door. The lieutenant blocked it.

"Out of the way, dog!" cried Neslerov.

"I protect her highness."

"You! You protect against my orders?"

"There is a higher than you. I obey the czar."

Neslerov started back, so powerful in effect is the name of the czar.

"The czar?"

"At the very door of the palace a bugle blew its blast.

"Make way! Admit his excellency the governor general," came a voice. Neslerov went white and leaped at Olga.

"You sent for him, and this means my death! We die together!"

"In the name of the czar!" cried Olga, and the sword of the lieutenant touched the breast of Neslerov.

"What means this?"

The voice came from a tall and soldierly man wearing a brilliant uniform, who blocked the doorway with his burly form.

"Do you! Governor general!" gasped Neslerov.

"Sit down," said the governor general sternly. "You sent for me in haste, princess. I came as soon as possible. Fortunately there was a train."

"The railroad has saved me and the Duke of Graslov," said Olga.

Neslerov darted a look of hatred toward her.

"Bring Therese, my attendant," said Olga to the lieutenant.

There was another commotion at the entrance, and three soldiers and an officer came in with two prisoners.

"To the governor!" cried the officer.

"There was murder at Tivolofsky!" Olga started up, and so did Neslerov. The governor general turned calmly to see who had come. The two prisoners were Vladimir and Papa Pauloff.

"Bring them in here," ordered Olga. "Let them be brought before the governor general."

"This man murdered the superintendent of police and Unsgetop," said the officer in charge.

"True," said Vladimir, "I did."

Neslerov was the picture of despair and baffled rage and hate. His glance was venomous, but his very helplessness made him haggard. Therese, white lipped and shivering, came in. Neslerov looked from one to the other. He knew that something was coming—the end of his career. The governor general waited, looking chiefly at Olga, for from her he expected the first bomb.

"Look at that man, Therese!" commanded Olga.

It was a dramatic scene as the girl stood with perfect poise and pointed her finger at Neslerov.

"I see him," faltered Therese.

"Who is he?"

"Prince Nicholas Neslerov," let me tell you what the governor general already knows," said Olga, and her voice was cold and steady. "For many years my youth prevented a clear understanding of things. I was born after the death of my unfortunate cousin and so did not fully take in the significance of the mystery of Graslov till a few years ago. But when I did learn of it I resolved to sift it to the bottom and make certain that the one who caused her death should be punished. For years my efforts were unavailing. I pursued every line of investigation that occurred to me, and in them all I had the sanction and assistance of the czar. At last, during a sojourn at Graslov in another name, I met this woman whom you have heard me call Therese. Do you know who she is? She is Mme. Dendoff, widow of that Dendoff who was the slave of your wicked father and yourself."

Neslerov was too crestfallen already to show further effect of her words. He made no answer.

"For twenty years this woman has

lived with the truth locked in her bosom because she feared her husband. The governor general is here and will hear this case at once, and from that moment when he hears the truth you are in his hands. Therese, who is that man?"

She pointed at Vladimir as she spoke.

"That is—the Duke of Graslov!" said the woman firmly.

"Tell your story."

"It was twenty years ago, your excellency," said Therese, speaking directly to the governor general, "that the little Prince Alexis was lost. He was missing from the palace at Graslov one evening, and the poor princess was beside herself with grief and anxiety. A search was made, and my husband, who was in the service of the duke, returned from the Kama and reported that the child had been seen wandering on its banks, and he brought back a portion of its garments, which he said he found close to the water. It was believed that the child was drowned, and the princess grieved for her dead boy. The poor princess did not survive the shock long, and when she died there was trouble between the two branches of the Neslerovs. Her family claimed that the duke had misused her and caused her death. It was never settled, and the two families have since been enemies."

"It was not less than two years after when, one night, while he was intoxicated, my husband said something that aroused my suspicion—that he knew what had become of the young prince. I taxed him with it, and he was unadvised enough to confide in me. He had been poor, but since the loss of the young prince he had not worked, but had plenty of money. This also caused me to suspect. He told me, in his drunken fashion, that the Duke of Graslov did not wish the son of the princess to inherit the title or estate. As the father of the boy had died he was the heir, but the duke preferred his younger son, Nicholas."

THIS INTERESTING STORY WILL BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

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Boer Artillery Firing.
In his testimony regarding artillery firing during the South African war General Buller told the British war commission an interesting story. He said: "I think the foreign system of intercepting the Boers, was far superior to ours—that is to say, a big Boer gun would fire at an extreme range (I saw it happen myself) a shell, and that shell fell and made a great hole in the ground. A native got into the hole to see how deep it was, and the next shell that came went into the same hole and killed him. I do not think we had a gun that would put two shells running into the same hole."

Microbes on Bank Bills.
Private John Allen says that recently, while awaiting his turn to do business with a teller in a Washington bank, he overheard an amusing conversation between two darkies ahead of him in the line.

The teller had just finished counting some very dilapidated and dirty looking bills.

"Did yo' know dat sometimes dere's a lot of dem pizen microbes in money?" asked one of the darkies.

"Yass," replied the other negro, "but yo' can't make me believe it. De idear of a puzson gittin' disease dat way! Look at Mistah Russell Sage—he's eighty years old!"

The Motorists' Paradise.
Friends of the self motor declare that Holland is an earthly paradise for automobiles because of the level nature of the country and the long, straight stretches of the thoroughfares. Moreover, it is not to be forgotten that when these vehicles run amuck in the realm of Queen Wilhelmina there are no crags for them to dash against and no cliffs for them to fall from. If they go on a rampage the gentle, oozy bed of a placid canal is ready to receive them caressingly and without harm. Holland for the autos and the autos for Holland, by all means!

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222 South Poria St., CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 7, 1902.

Might months ago I was so ill that I was compelled to lie or sit down nearly all the time. My stomach was so weak and upset that I could keep nothing on it and I vomited frequently. I could not urinate without great pain and I coughed so much that my throat and lungs were raw and sore. The doctors pronounced it Bright's disease and others said it was consumption. It mattered little to me what they called it and I had no desire to live. A sister visited me from St. Louis and asked me if I had ever tried Wine of Cardui. I told her I had not and she bought a bottle. I believe that it saved my life. I believe many women could save much suffering if they but knew of its value.

Sergius Dumber

Don't you want freedom from pain? Take Wine of Cardui and make one supreme effort to be well. You do not need to be a weak, helpless sufferer. You can have a woman's health and do a woman's work in life. Why not secure a bottle of Wine of Cardui from your druggist today?

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Not Surprised.
Glen MacDonough, who wrote the libretto for the comic opera "Babes In Toyland," was sitting in a New York restaurant recently with Victor Herbert, the composer, when a waiter approached to take his order. The waiter smiled at Mr. MacDonough and said: "You don't remember me, do you? I used to sing in one of your companies."

"I remember you very well," said Mr. MacDonough.

"Are you surprised to see me here as a waiter?" asked the other.

"Not a bit," replied the librettist cheerfully. "You know, I have heard you sing."

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The Woman and the Serpent.
P. T. Barnum and his wife were very fond of the gifted sisters, Alice and Phoebe Cary, who often visited them at Bridgeport. To a friend the famous showman once remarked: "Alice was the more thoughtful, while Phoebe was always bubbling over with good spirits and wit. I never knew a brighter woman. One day I was taking her and some friends through my museum. At the head of the stairs was the cage containing the happy family, which included owls, cats, mice, serpents and other creatures generally mortal enemies, but all living in perfect harmony, mainly because we kept them so stuffed with food that they had no temptation to prey upon one another. The cage stood directly at the head of the stairs, and just as we reached the top a big serpent stretched its head toward Phoebe. Forgetting the glass that separated them, she was so startled that she uttered a scream and would have fallen backward down the steps had I not caught her. Looking up to me, she said: 'Thank you, Mr. Barnum! But remember that I am not the first woman that the serpent has caused to fall.'"

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