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Under Suspicion.

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Colonel Jayne of Massachusetts had the honor on one occasion of befriending and entertaining Colonel Swartz of the Royal German artillery. This was in London, where they were both strangers and both happened to be stopping at the same hotel. The German colonel was assaulted and robbed on the street in the evening, and for a week, or until he could send for money, he was the guest of the American. There was something rather queer about the incident. The two gentlemen were "slumming" when a public carriage suddenly halted beside them and two men sprang to the ground and attacked the German, while a third sought to hold back the American. The attempt was made to force the German into the carriage, and it might have been that his money was lost during the struggle. The American fought for his companion, and the fellows were finally driven off. It looked more like a case of attempted abduction than of a holdup, but as the German argued the other way the American had to be satisfied.

It was five years before the two met again. This time it was on the German frontier, and both were bound for St. Petersburg. Colonel Jayne was traveling for pleasure; the other explained that he was on a secret mission for his government. He made this explanation because he had shaved off his luxuriant whiskers and was otherwise disguised and recognition was accidental. Colonel Swartz was well acquainted in the capital city, and it was arranged that the two should stop at the same hotel and take in the sights together. They did take adjoining rooms on their arrival, but the German said that he would be busy for two or three days and left it to the other to find his way about alone.

Next morning after arrival Colonel Jayne set out with Yankee impatience to see the sights. Three times during the forenoon strangers approached him and muttered some words. They were Russians who evidently belonged to the middle class, and in each case the colonel thought they were inquiring their way. He therefore shook his head and passed on. During the afternoon he discovered that his footsteps were being dogged, but he took this rather as a joke than otherwise. He did not return to his hotel until just at dinner time and then found a couple of police officers waiting to arrest him. They had already visited his rooms and overhauled his baggage. Colonel Swartz was missing and had been since noon. His baggage had also been overhauled, and the officers seemed much chagrined at the man's escape.

Colonel Jayne had known absolutely nothing of the German before meeting him at the hotel in London. He had taken the man for what he claimed to be. He had no idea that he was an impostor, so far as name and rank went, and that he was one of the most active nihilists in or out of Russia. The three men that had approached the American on the streets probably belonged to that order as well. The German happened to be returning to Russia at that time, and accident had discovered the two men to each other. After being under examination for half a day Colonel Jayne was sent to an official higher up. Here he was met by the papers taken from his baggage. He had made a month's stay in London before starting for Russia and had received several letters from friends at home. One of them had jocosely written:

"Don't forget that the first thing to be done on your arrival in St. Petersburg is to call on the emperor and give him my love and tell him to hang on to his job as long as the pay comes in every Saturday night."

"How can you, a person entirely unknown here, secure audience with his majesty?" was asked.

"I can't, of course," was the reply.

"Then why should this person have this written?"

"He is what we call a joker."

"Joker? Joke? Does he dare hold his majesty up to ridicule? And you are to give his love to the czar of all Russia, just as one peasant woman sends her love to another? And how is this about holding his job? What does job mean?"

"His place, sir."

"But his majesty's place is the highest in the land, and to speak of it as a 'job' is to speak with disrespect. And the pay every Saturday night, as if the great czar was but a common laborer?"

"I shall take great pleasure in telling the writer of that letter what an ass he is the very first thing when I get home," replied the colonel.

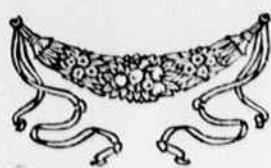
"And here is another letter in which you are advised not to make any excursions to Siberia in the winter season. People are sent to Siberia for serious offenses against the law. Were you contemplating a crime that this person should write you thus? It must be so."

"I'll recommend him to the nearest idiot asylum," promised the colonel.

The examination lasted three days in all, during which time the American was a prisoner and lived on prison fare. Then, accompanied by two gendarmes, he was escorted to the German frontier and warned never to set foot in Russia again. Colonel Swartz got into Germany ahead of him, and they met again, but when the German extended his hand the other drew himself up stiffly and replied:

"No, sir! No, sir! I don't know you, sir!"

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(Condensed)

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May 14th, 1908.

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BC Bonds, Securities, etc 265,829.31	Circulation 237,500.00
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