

A RUSSIAN SPY.

Trepoff's Rise to Get at the Plans of the Nihilists.

When the famous General Trepoff was only at the beginning of his career Vera Sassulitch was his invaluable assistant.

Trepoff was the detested enemy of the nihilists, and he was very anxious to obtain inside information as to their doings and plans. Suddenly one day in 1878 he was fired at while driving through the streets of St. Petersburg by no other than Vera Sassulitch. She was at once seized by the soldiery and was charged with the attempted murder of Trepoff, being tried in the ordinary manner; but, to the amazement of the public, she was acquitted!

On her release the nihilists gathered about her, desiring to admit such a friend of the people to their closest acquaintance. In this way she was admitted to all their private circles and was made acquainted with their secrets. These she at once communicated to the Russian government. The truth was that the whole business, including the attempt on his life, was faked by Trepoff himself, and it was simply a clever ruse to get from the nihilists what could not be got in any other way. Thereafter Vera Sassulitch played the part of government spy on innumerable occasions.

ANSWERED BACK.

Ready Reply of a Ragged Turk to a Scot in Kilts.

During the troubles at Crete in 1897 the Seaforth highlanders were landed to help to restore order. Their advent, dressed in the familiar kilts, created a great sensation, as the natives, who themselves wear a kind of kilt, had never seen British soldiers in such a costume.

An amusing incident occurred one day when a party of Seaforths were marching through a small, wretched-looking village. As usual, the inhabitants turned out to stare at the soldiers, and one of the highlanders with a view to raising a laugh among his comrades shouted out to a group of Turks, "Gae hame, ye dirty blackguards, an' scrub yersels."

Imagine his astonishment as well as that of the remainder of the highlanders when a ragged and evil-looking Turk shouted back in reply, "Go home yourself, Scottish dog, and cover yourself up!" It was afterward discovered that this Mohammedan had spent several years in London and so learned the language. — From "Anecdotes of Soldiers in Peace and War," by J. H. Stetle.

Oratorical Effects.

I once heard Everett, whose platform oratory was the acme of American art. His language was unimpeachable. But his every word, and not only his every word, but his every gesture, was unmistakably prepared. He seemed to gesticulate not only with his hands, but with his legs. He even planned scenic effects beforehand. Having to deliver a Fourth of July oration, he introduced a veteran of 1812, put him in a conspicuous place and told the old man to rise to him at his entrance into the hall. The old man did as he had been bidden. Everett apostrophized him with "Venerable old man, sit down! It is not for you to rise to us, but for us to rise to you." The veteran said afterward: "Mr. Everett is a strange man. He told me to rise when he came into the hall, and when I did rise he told me to sit down." — From "Goldwin Smith's Reminiscences in McClure's."

The Lightning Rod.

Though Franklin will continue to receive the honor that is his due as the inventor of the first practical lightning rod, the study of atmospheric electricity goes back at least to the time of Thales of Miletus, who, in 600 B. C., discovered that the amber rod attracted small pieces of dried resin. He set it up at Prenzla, Bohemia, in 1754, and it was 130 feet high. Though the Emperor Stephen and the Empress Maria Theresa publicly proclaimed their confidence in the inventor, a most disastrous drought that afflicted the country a year later was ascribed by the superstitious populace to the newfangled device, and Divisch was compelled to take it down. It is not probable that Franklin was acquainted with Divisch's experiment.

Wrong End of the Milk.

One morning while trade was slack and he had settled himself in the store chair for a few minutes a north side grocer was interrupted by the entering of a very small daughter of Africa, who, bracing herself in the middle of the store, said, "Mam wants some scam milk," whereupon she received the asked for amount of skimmed milk.

The grocer had just settled himself for another rest when he was again interrupted by that same bottle of ink: "Mam don't want this. She want that what's scammed off the top." — Indianapolis News.

Poetic Justice.

"Pa, I've just been reading about poetic justice. What does that mean?"

"Listen, my child, and you shall hear. Once there was a man who swindled me out of a lot of money in an irrigation scheme. Well, he became a victim of poetic justice. I have just heard that he died of water on the brain." — Judge.

Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul, and the heart of man knoweth none more fragrant. — Hosea Ballou.

Better it is to be envied than pitied. — Herodotus.

STAR GEM OF CEYLON.

The Asteria Brought Health and Fortune to its Wearer.

Familiar to some of the ancient writers and credited with supernatural powers, the asteria, or star gem, was highly valued for the benefits supposed to be conferred on the wearer. Its bright six rayed star, ever changing and shifting with every play of light and especially shooting out its flames in the direct sunlight, would seem to be something more than an ordinary crystal, and to the superstitious mind it could readily be believed to embody some tutelary spirit.

The particular virtue attributed to this gem was the conferring upon the wearer of "health and good fortune" when worn as an amulet, and to those fortunate to be born in the month of April, with which the stone was associated or represented, the wearer was insured from all evil.

The star stone is found principally in Ceylon, invariably in soil peculiar to rubies and sapphires. Indeed, it is composed of the same constituent "corundum," its chatoyant, or star rays, being caused by the pressure of what the natives call "silk." It is found in many different colors, from pale blue, pink and white to deep dark blue, ruby and purple. The blue are termed sapphire stars, the red ruby stars. It is always cut en cabochon, the star dividing into six rays at the apex. It is next in hardness to the diamond.

MARITIME EXPRESSIONS.

Used in a Metaphorical Sense They Are Quite Common.

Maritime expressions used metaphorically are, in fact, very common. We say a couple are "spliced," a young man is the "mainstay" of his family, an intruder "puts his oar in," a man is "hard up," sometimes "taken aback" or has "the wind taken out of his sails," a toper is "slewed," a loafer "spins a yarn," sometimes "tries the other tack," and a ruler "steers the ship of state" through troublesome times.

This last metaphor is extremely ancient, by the way. Horace refers to Rome as a ship at sea, and Plutarch says the Delphic oracle referred to Athens in the same way. A Tamil saying embodies a like metaphor, "The soul is the ship, reason is the helm, the oars are the soul's thoughts, and truth is the port." An old collection of English proverbs contains this one: "The tongue is the rudder of our ship." A Malay maxim says, "The boat which is swamped at sea may be bailed out, but the shipwreck of the affections is final."

Aristophanes, Plautus and others use an expression which comes down to us as an English saw, "To row one way and look another." An old English proverb (614) says, "It is not good to have an oar in every one's boat."

He Sat.

It is related of the Rev. Matthew Clark that in the audience was once a young British military officer whose scarlet uniform far outshone any rival habiliments and so fixed the gaze of the young damsels present that the wearer, enjoying the impression he was making, not only stood through the prayer with the rest, but remained standing after all others had sat down until the pastor had proceeded for some time with his sermon, and at length, noticing a divided attention and its cause, the minister stopped, laid aside his sermon and, addressing his new hearer, said:

"Ye're a braw (brave) lad. Ye ha'e a braw suit of clathes, and we ha'e a' seen them. Ye may sit down."

The lieutenant dropped as if shot. — From the "Autobiography of Horace Greeley."

Snubbed the Composer.

Gustav Mahler had a queer experience in Munich one day for which his name was partly responsible. His new symphony was being rehearsed, and he took advantage of an hour's intermission to get some fresh air. "On returning to the building," says a Munich paper, "he lost his way and tried to reach the hall through a corridor in which plasterers were at work. 'You cannot pass through here,' he was told. 'But I am Mahler.' (Mahler is the German for painter.) 'You look it,' was the unsympathetic reply of the man who blocked his way. 'We are not ready for the painters yet, so run on.' And the composer, realizing that argument would be useless, plunged into the labyrinth and finally reached his destination."

Camels in Arabia.

There are two varieties of camels in use in Arabia, the dromedary and the freight camel. The dhelul dromedaries are celebrated for their easy riding gait and speed. A dhelul carries about 300 pounds and travels about six miles a day. It can be purchased for 100 to 150 Maria Theresa dollars (\$42.50 to \$63.75). A freight camel carries about 500 pounds and travels about two and a half miles an hour. It costs 300 Maria Theresa dollars (\$127 or more).

Not Idle Curiosity.

Mrs. Wankerknowe—I should like to know, Mr. W., why you are so cross when I ask questions. Surely you don't think I have idle curiosity?

"Great Scott, no! Yours is the most perniciously active, wide awake, sleepless, energetic curiosity I was ever my fate to encounter."

Another Version.

The latest rendering of the Burns lines, "Oh, wad some power," etc., is given in a London evening paper thus: "Oh, wad some power the gifle gie us to see some folk before they see us."

Intellect annuls fate. So far as a man thinks, he is free. — Emerson.

ATE A WHOLE SHEEP.

One of the Feats of Nicholas Wood, a Famous Glutton.

The following account of a man named Nicholas Wood, famed for his gluttony, was written by John Taylor, the "water poet" of the seventeenth century:

Nicholas Wood was a Kentish yeoman. "Be it known to all men to whom these presents shall come," writes John Taylor, "that I, John Taylor, waterman of St. Saviour's in Southwark, will, with plain truth, bare and threadbare, treat of the remarkable actions of Nicholas Wood.

"He hath eaten a whole sheep at one meal; pardon me! I think he left the skin, the wool and bones; and presently after he hath swallowed three pecks of damsons. Two loins of mutton and one loin of veal are but three sprats to him. Once at Sir William St. Ledger's house, so valiant and staunchly teeth he showed himself, that he ate as much as would suffice thirty men, and afterwards he slept eight hours.

"One morning I sent for him to the inn to eat breakfast. He had already eaten one pottle of milk, one pottle of portage, and bread, butter, and cheese. He gave me thanks and said that if he had known any gentleman would have invited him to breakfast he would have spared his meal at home. Nevertheless he would do me the courtesy to show me some small cast of his office. Whereupon I summoned the hostess and commanded that all the victuals in the house be laid before my guest.

"The inn was slenderly provided, but six-penny loaves were mounted two stories high like a rampart, three six-penny veal pies, one pound of sweet butter, and a number of other dishes were set out, all of which were quickly brought to nothing."

RUBBER OYSTERS.

They Brought Trade and Saved Their Inventor From Failure.

"Rubber oysters laid the foundation of my success," said a millionaire hotel man.

"I had a small saloon in them days, and things looked very black. They looked, in fact, like bankruptcy. So in desperation I cut an old rubber doormat into oyster shaped pieces on April 1 and fried them in egg and breadcrumbs to a tasty brown.

"There was only one man in the bar when I fetched in that dish of smoking rubber oysters. His eyes glittered, and he grabbed a fork, jabbed it into a big fellow and took a hungry bite.

"Seeing the surprised look that spread over his face, I turned away to hide a smile. He gave an awkward laugh and said:

"Them's fine oysters. I'll bring a couple of the boys in to sample them."

"Sure enough, he brought two friends a half hour later. The friends no sooner saw the appetizing rubber oysters than, setting down their beer, they each sunk their teeth in one.

"They, too, sent in friends for oysters. I fried up no less than three old doormats and two evershoes that April fool day. The whole town mugged, and the papers printed funny stories about my joke. My joint got real popular.

"In short, I was saved—saved from bankruptcy by rubber oysters." — Washington Post.

A Light on Mothers.

The late William James, Harvard's famous psychologist, would often illuminate a misty subject with an appropriate anecdote. Discussing motherhood in a lecture on psychology, Professor James once said:

"A teacher asked a boy this question in fractions:

"Suppose that your mother baked an apple pie and there were seven of you—the parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get for your portion?"

"A sixth, ma'am," the boy answered.

"But there are seven of you," said the teacher. "Don't you know anything about fractions?"

"Yes, ma'am," said the boy. "I know all about fractions, but I know all about mother too. Mother'd say she didn't want no pie."

The Misguided Friend.

De Chappie—if there's any one nuisance I hate more than another it's a fellow who is always going around introducing people. There's Goodheart, for instance.

Bouttown—What's he been doing?

De Chappie—The idiot! The other day he introduced me to a man I owed money to, and I'd been owing it so long he'd forgotten all about me. Now I'll have to pay up or be sued. — London Telegraph.

Catching On.

Young Mr. Struckett-Ritch was eating his first meal at a real restaurant.

"What are those?" he asked, pointing at the finger bowls the waiter had just brought to the table.

"Those are to wash your fingers in, sir," said the waiter.

"Oh, I know that," rejoined young Struckett-Ritch, with remarkable possession. "I mean are they cut glass?" — Chicago Tribune.

Betty and the Kitten.

Betty is only four and often in her excitement she makes very odd remarks. The other day she cried out, "Oh, mother, there's a dear maitine kitten all curled up in the corner!"

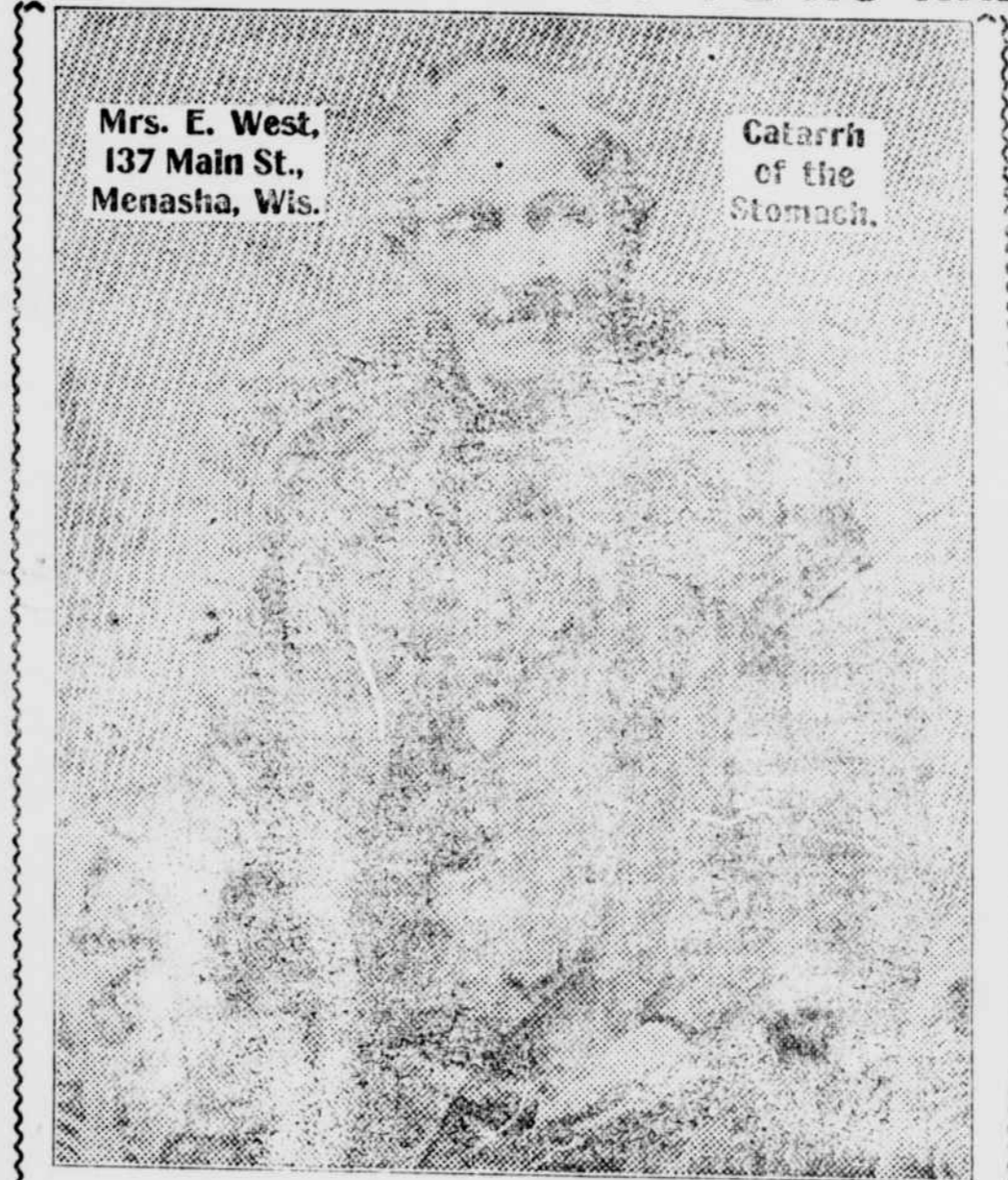
A Feat For Willie.

Teacher—Willie, if you had five eggs in the basket and laid three on the table, how many would you then have? Willie—Eight.—Life.

It is better to hold back a truth than to speak it ungraciously. — De Sales.

Without tact you can learn nothing. — Disraeli.

DOCTORS SAID INCURABLE—RELIEVED BY PE-RU-NA.



Robust and Strong—Splendid Appetite.

Mrs. E. West, 137 Main St., Menasha, Wis., writes:

"We have used Peruna in our family for a number of years and when I say that it is a fine medicine for catarrh and colds, I know what I am talking about.

"I have taken it every Spring and Fall for four years, and I find that it keeps me robust, strong, with splendid appetite, and free from any illness.

"A few years ago it cured me of catarrh of the stomach, which the doctors had pronounced incurable.

"I am very much pleased with Peruna."

STATE'S FUNDS RATHER SHORT. ISSUE DRAWN IN MERGER SUIT.

Sum in State Treasury Insufficient to Meet Maturing Obligations.

Columbia, Dec. 2.—The State of South Carolina will have to meet obligations to the extent of approximately \$500,000 by January 1. There is only about \$75,000 in the state Treasury at present. The county treasurers are behind in sending in the tax money to the extent of \$35,000, as compared with this date last year.

On December 30 four notes, aggregating \$400,000, will fall due. The interest on the State debt amount to \$145,000. The running expense of the State government for two months will also have to be paid.

The sum of \$500,000 has been borrowed by the State during the year. The tax levy for this year was 5 3-4 mills. It is not thought that the next general Assembly will have to increase the amount. The borrowing of money means that the State government has to mortgage its taxes for running expenses.

THREE NEW POSTMASTERS.

Changes Made at Union, Abbeville and Laurens.

Washington, Dec. 2.—It was announced here today that Postmaster J. C. Hunter, at Union, would be succeeded by L. G. Young; Thomas Tolbert, at Abbeville, by Fred Minshall, and George S. McCravy, at Laurens, by Charles H. Hicks.

The nominations of these new officials will probably be sent to the Senate Monday for confirmation.

THIS KISS CAME HIGH. Man Taxed \$500 for Osculatory Assault on Young Widow.

Shreveport, La. Dec. 1.—District Court Judge A. J. Murff held that the kiss of a young widow was worth \$500. The decision was rendered in the case of Mrs. Grace Hunter against J. K. Norman, former postmaster at Oil City, this parish. It was at the postoffice that the alleged offense was committed. Mrs. Hunter alleged that Norman kissed her while she was in the office. She sued for \$2,000. Judge Murff admonished Norman that he looked old enough to know better.

Negro Committed for Assault.

On Saturday afternoon two negroes by the names of Ollie Lewis and Myers Johnson, got in a difficulty about a mule on Mr. L. D. Jennings' place several miles from town and Myers picked up a scuffling and knocked Lewis on the head, laying him out unconscious.

Johnson was brought to town that afternoon and put in jail as he was unable to put up the necessary bond. Lewis is still in a critical condition, but it is thought that he will recover from the effects of the blow.

LIME, CEMENT, ACME PLASTER, SHINGLES, LATHS, FIRE BRICK, DRAIN PIPE, ETC.

Hay, Grain, Rice Flour, Ship Staff, Bran, Mixed Cow and Chicken Feed, Horses, Mules, Buggies, Wagons and Harness.

No Order Too Large Or Too Small.

Booth-Harby Live Stock Co.
SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA.

TOTAL PROBABLY 91 MILLION.

Population of United States May Reach Stated Figures.

Washington, Dec. 2.—The total population of the United States, as revealed by the 13th census, is expected to be announced by the census bureau on December 10.

Counting Arizona and New Mexico as States, the totals for twenty-eight out of the forty-eight States already have been announced. The grand total for twenty-six of these States is 69,936,759, which is a gain of between 21 and 22 per cent. over the population in the same States in 1900. At this rate of increase the total population of the country should be about 91,000,000.

The most striking development of the census so far shown is the relative growth of cities and industrial centres as compared with the farming regions. The Eastern States have grown more than held their own, while the States of the middle West have fallen off.

POWERS'S PARTNER IN POLITICS.

Jim Howard Aspires to Kentucky State Senate.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 2.—The Times prints the following speck from Middlesboro, Ky:

"A sensation has been created in political circles in this section by the announcement that Jim Howard, who was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of Governor Goebel and afterward pardoned by Governor Willson, along with Caleb Powers, has determined to enter the race for the Republican nomination for State Senator from the 17th district, to succeed Senator Joel F. Bosworth, of Middlesboro.

New England Sentiment.

There is a widespread feeling, in which thousands of Republicans share, that the Democratic victories of last month are an excellent thing for the country. The striking victory of Mr. Foss, as Democratic candidate for Governor of Massachusetts, was not a merely personal affair. Governor Draper had made an excellent executive, and the voters were not expressing disapproval of him. New England desires tariff reciprocity with Canada and policies more progressive than those that the Republican party at Washington has made its own in recent years. The earlier Democratic victory in Maine was merely a foreshadowing of what Massachusetts did last month. Republican success in New Hampshire, where Mr. Bass was elected Governor by a good majority, can be attributed to the fact that this progressive young Republican was nominated as the result of a preliminary party house-cleaning. Although Rhode Island was carried by the Republicans, it should not be overlooked that the moral victory was with the Democrats. This is readily seen when one remembers that last year Governor Pothier carried the State by a majority of about 12,000, while this year his majority is less than 1,000. When one further keeps in mind the total population of the State, it will be seen that the shrinkage of the Republican vote in Rhode Island is incomparably greater than that in New York. This the people who have been so eager to say that Roosevelt was rebuked by the Democratic victory in New York should be candid enough to admit that Senator Hale was far more decisively rebuked by the Democratic victory in Maine, that Senator Aldrich was likewise rebuked by the falling off in Rhode Island's plurality, that Senator Lodge, by inference, was repudiated in Massachusetts, and that Senator Bulkeley was unsparingly condemned in Connecticut. Owing to the peculiar system of representation in New England, the Republicans of the Massachusetts legislature will be in sufficient majority to give Senator Lodge another term. But a number of them are opposed to Mr. Lodge, and if they should combine with the Democrats it is possible, though unlikely, that Mr. Lodge may lose his seat.—American Review of Reviews.

Can You Guess?

Mr. I. A. Ryttenburg of the Sumter Brick Works who believes in advertising and who says he is getting splendid results from those running in this paper this year, has a rather unique one this time in this issue.

1st. He will give a ton of coal to the coal customer, new or old, who guesses nearest the weight of the immense block of his coal on exhibition in the window of the Lyric Theatre.

2d. He will also give a half ton for the second best guess, which is open to all, whether customers or not; it being natural that customers are shown the preference in the first instance.

The guesses will be dated when received and in event of two being the same, the first guess wins. The coal has not been weighed and will not be until after the 15th of this month.