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THE MYSTERY

SYNOPSIS OF The Mystery of Graslov

wants to marry Frances Gordon, the the rude guards who stand sentinels charming daughter of an American over the czar's great dominion in Asia. railroad. Frances is interested in ready been established in Tobolsk, who is building the Transsiberian the fortunes of Valdimir Paulpoff, a stalwart Russian blacksmith. She asks Neslerov to use his influence for As the prince and governor paused dimir's hut. The blacksmith has fast. talent and shows Nerlerov a picture "And, your excellency, in the good. he has painted. It is the portrait of ness of your heart you have thought a woman of rank copied from a min- of me?" miniature.

CHAPTER III.

VLADIMIR SENT TO SIBERIA. TTACHED to the pelice of the government of Perm was an inspector named Ignatz Jansky. He was ambitious to rise and was of that mental and physical caliber that makes a man successful when he bends all his energies, regardless of all scruples, to the attainment of his goal.

Inspector Jansky, having received a message from Prince Neslerov, hastened to obey, for he knew the power of Nesleroy, and if there should chance to be promotion in his path at any time lov, could further his possibilities.

of the prince with a humility that would have charmed the poor devils must find a cause. whom his eagerness had sent to Sibe-

sponsor. "I sent for you."

"You did, your excellency. I received one must do something worthy." your message and made all haste to

"I trust it did not inconvenience you to a great extent," said the prince, who was quite familiar with the peculiarities of the inspector's nature.

"Not at all, your excellency-that is, not so much but what it gave me pleasure to obey. I am always busy, as you know."

"Yes, you are assiduous. Well; I have pleased to receive from you an answer to a question. What do you wish for the most?"

Jansky hesitated. His servile mind this strange question. What did t What has be to do with nibilists?" matter to the prince what he wanted most unless the prince was disposed to quietly.

cellency. Of course, I make no claim, he scented we do not know. But he made me what I am. I have in my humble way endeavored to so acquit myself that you would not be displeas-But, since you ask my dearest wish, it is promotion.'

lighted a cigar, leaving the inspector meeting in a few nights." on nettles, wondering if the possibility

were to materialize into a fact. "As I said before, it is a possibility."

to one so powerful as your excellency." said Jansky, who had a fine talent for

easily accomplished than at any other

"But'l will explain. You are already aware that when you were made inspector of police in Perm the field of police activity extended but little farther east. . The Cossack guards and the Tartary cavalry composed the police is revolutionizing all that. In each and we shall be ready to act. We must government through which this line of travel passes or is to pass a department of police is to be established. There will be new cities develop. There suddenly from his repose the prince betion of Siberia will increase and, though complex enough at all times, will now now be almost a mere act of stepping ing been delivered by the hand of a pri- howled Jansky.

"It will be, therefore, quite necessary to establish a system of police with officers of more ability and shrewdness. CHAPTER I. - Prince Neslerov than the Cossacks who now command

> "Such a department of police-has-althrough which the railway is now completed. It is time now for us to think

of such a department in Tomsk." Valdimir. H .- Neslerov goes to Val- the inspector's breath came short and

"I have been thinking-of several. 1 fature. The prince is excited and have befriended you. I desire to do so the inspector of police and Neslerov arasks for the original. Valdimirs, fa again. But there are difficulties which rived, four men were within the shop, ther says it has been lost. To Valdi- we must consider. Your present posi- their horses standing outside, and all anir old Paulpoff confesses that he tion, while not a low one, still is so were apparently in the greatest eagerlied to Neslerov and still has the low that the kap from it to the posi- ness to have their horses shod. Papa imaginations of certain people at St. Petersburg."

"Superintendent of police of Tomsk!" Jansky cried.

"Certainly. That is the position for your career. You are eager, ambitious there. resourceful. What better man could I have in such a position? It is upon you whom I must rely to preyent | leaped from their horses. the encroachments of our enemies. It who will be my closest confidant. Who lows." could be more acceptable to me than

thank"-

Neslerov, as a wealthy noble of Gras- "Wait. Thank me with deeds when no suspicion, stood gaping at the new we succeed. As I said before, there are comers Inspector Jansky entered the palace difficulties. One cannot leap too great | "It is the prince!" he exclaimed. a distance at once without a cause. We

"A cause, your excellency?"

"Sit down," said the prince, and the for this great promotion. "The chief of tled with him a short time, while the inspector so down with a suddenness the Tomsk police will have a palace, a others showed evidences of terror, and that proved his desire to please his large income and will be second only then pulled from his pocket a letter. to myself in power. To obtain that "Oh, if I could but win that distinc-

"I think it even now within your

power." "You have discovered something?"

"Yes-a very nesting place for ni-"Good! Give me an idea where this

place is, your excellency. There will be no more nesting." "Do you know a forge on the forest

news for you. But first I should be road leading out of Perm to the south?" "A forge? A horseshoeing place?" "Welk that and all ironworking. It

is kept by a man named Paulpoff." "Paulpoff, the giant who breaks horsesaw far into the future, as a rule, but shoes with his thumbs and forefingers? It could not fathom the meaning of The simple minded son of old Michael?

"He is their leader," Neslerov said Jansky turned white, whether from "I should like promotion, your ex- surprise or horror at the devilish plot

You have befriended me. You have sat there waiting. The police of Tomsk needed a chief. The chief would have a palace and a large salary. "Yes," continued Neslerov, "this Pauled. I would not ask you for more. poff, as I accidentally discovered, is the

"It is a possibility," the prince re- there yesterday and overheard a bit of Oh, let me see the letters!" conversation between the son and the Having said this, he deliberately old man. It seems there is to be a

"A meeting of nihilists in the shops of Paulpoff?

"Yes. Now, it has long been suspect aid Neslerov, and relapsed into silence. ed that there were many nibilists at "I suppose it is always a possibility Perm, but the police have not been able to uncover them. Let me advise you. Keep this to yourself-a secret between you and me. We will go to the forge "At this particular moment it is more and arrest these Paulpoli's. If we find proof that they are nihilists, they will go across the border and you will be "If your excellency will explain-if mentioned for promotion. Then the anything is expected of me. I would"- opportunity will come to me to speak "Duty, only duty," broke in the princes, to the minister of justice for you, and undoubtedly you will be given to me as

the chief of the Tomsk police." Jansky podded. It was not for him to ask questions now.

"I am ready," he said. Then tomorrow. I will make still over the border. But this new railway further investigations in my own way,

both go to Perm from here.' Jansky, not being asked to remain longer, took his departure. And then will be railway stations. The popula- came a man of quick action. He called from his estate four men in whom he knew he could place the most implicit present a far greater variety than ever confidence. He spent some time at his before. The entrance of foreigners, of desk writing. To each of the four be conspirators, will have to be made less gave a letter, unsealed, unstamped, but place difficult. The escape of a convict/will addressed to each and apparently hav-

"Go with me, do what ! bid you, and you will have gold rubles for a year's

Inspector Jansky, happy and yet agitated at the result of the conference with the prince, sat in his office in Perm on the following afternoon. It was growing late, and he had looked hours for Prince Neslerov.

"He was mistaken or he has failed," he said. "He would have come if there was a possibility of success."

As he spoke the prince's horse galloped to the door.

"Good! Then success is possible!" said Jansky, grasping the hand of his noble benefactor. "Possible! It is certain. Come with

Jansky's horse was soon by the side of the steed-ridden by the prince.

"I made it my business to ride past the shops of Paulpoff," said the prince. "I met there, just leaving, a man who was, to say the least, discreditable in appearance. I spoke to him, and he was frightened. I saw him crumple a paper in his band. I snatched it from him. It was 'a message addressed to 'Number Five' of some mysterious circle, calling upon the person bearing that name to come to the shops at a certain hour tonight. We shall be in time. Let us ride.

It had so chanced that a number of accidents to borses had taken place that day on the forest road. When tion of superintendent of police of the Paulpoff was visibly disturbed by this government of Tomsk would excite the sudden influx of the horseshoeing business, but the giant Vadimir, who never refused a request if he could help a human being, was beginning to make the shoes. The men did not apparently know one another, and each growled which I intend you. I have watched continually at the others for being

Neslerov, upon arriving at the shop, whispered to the inspector, and both

"Seize the old man and the son!" said will be the superintendent of my police Neslerov. "I will search these fel-

Poor old Papa Paulpoff turned white and sank in horror to the ground, sus-"I thank you, your excellency. I peeting what was coming, but Vladimir, in whose innocent mind there was

> "What have these poor men done, your excellency?

Neslerov did not answer him. He "What I mean is some potent reason turned to the nearest of the four, wres-

"See!" he cried, waving it in the airand then showing it to the inspector. "It is a message to 'Number Three!" We have here the five constituting the

. "Let me read," said the inspector, while Vladimir still looked on upconscious of the tragedy that was being played with himself as its center.

The letter simply commanded "Number Three" to attend a meeting of the circle at the shops at that hour. The name of Vladimir Paulpoff was

"It is enough?" cried Jansky. Paulpoff. I make you my prisoner in the name of the czar!"

The young ironworker could, had he exerted his strength, have thrust the entire shameless crew from the place and crashed their skulls together. But even now he did not realize the enormity of the thing with which he was

"Attend, Paulpoffs!" commanded Jansky, while the prince went through the pockets of the other three of the circle. "Oh, have mercy!" eried Papa Paulpoff, falling upon his knees and clasp-

ing the legs of the prince. "We are innocent, I swear it! Some enemy has peace. leader of a band of nihilists who meet done this thing! The name is not in there in the shops. I chanced to pass the writing of my son, I am certain!

> Nesleroy made a movement as if to hand the letters to the old man when



eried. "It is a message to 'Number Three!" one of the wretches who had brought them there sprang forward, seized

them and rushed unbindered from the

"The letters! The proof is gone!"

Grateful Thanks

Are extended to our friends and customers all over the country for giving us such a liberal share of trade last month. Our success in the Millinery display for Eastertide called forth favorable comment from many satisfied customers. Such success could never have been achieved short of a conscientious adherence to the principles of retailing only the best that cash secures in the marts of the world; the lowest prices at which such merchandise can be sold; one price to all; no discounts, no premiums, no discrimination; and an absolute guar-

In every line of our business our trade is growing wonderfully, proving that our methods are correct, our goods are the best and our prices are the lowest. If you have not been trading with us, this is an invitation to you to give us a trial. Satisfaction in every particular guaranteed.

antee of "money's worth or money back."

Canyon Mercantile Company.

"We have seen them. It, is enough, said Neslerov calmly.

At this point Mamma Paulpoff came in. In consternation and helpless horror she saw her husband, in the grasp of an inspector of police.

"What is this?" she cried. "It is nothing, mother," said Vladi-"These men have found some letters, but I did not write them. Have We shall soon set ourselve

a dungeon. The prince and the inspect. \$5 an acre, owing to locaor told their stories clear, lucid con tion and improvements. vincing-to the governor of Perm. The word of a prince and governor and of an inspector of police was not to be doubted. There was no trial, no bearing-nothing but a report to the minister of justice at St. Petersburg.

In three days the Paulpoffs, old man, old woman and the unresisting giantwere on the way to Siberia on the raffway which Gorden had helped to build.

TO BE CONTINUED.]

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UNCAR! IIUEI.

Dr. Sven Hedin in "Central Asia ert of Gobi a dozen times than cross world. you to the marrow and the dark follows: mountains I often felt a sense of 1897." utter loneliness steal over me."

confronted with a serious proposi- with great intensity all of the diftion when it comes to classifying ex. ferent rays that are produced in a traordinary goods shipped from vacuum tube. The radiation, measabroad. Dr. Lester Cox of Phila- ured by means of an electroscope, is delphia, who spends much of his at least a million times more powertime in biological collecting, had a ful than that from an equal quancase of rare smails sent to him from tity of uranium. A charged elec-Italy recently. The case was stored troscope placed at a distance of sevaway for a long time in the custom eral meters can be discharged by a house because the officers could not few centigrams of a radium salt. determine what duty to charge on One can also discharge an electrothis unusual cargo. Snails are not scope through a screen of glass or posted on the list of import goods, lead five or six centimeters thick: and it seemed unreasonable to let Photographic plates placed in the them in free of charge. Finally one vicinity of radium are almost inof the officers lit on a bright idea, stantly affected if no screen inter-He suggested that the mollusks be cepts the rays. With screens the passed as wild animals, and the doc- action is slower, but it still takes tor was given the case without fur- place through very thick ones if the ther difficulty .- Philadelphia Teles exposure is sufficiently long. Radi-

Civilized and Gouty.

The Indians are getting thoroughly civilized. General Pleasant Porter, the last chief of the Creek E. H. Harriman intends to sub- one to take hold of your throat, Indian nation, is a sufferer from stitute white porters for negroes on pressing gently with the fingers on that highly civilized disease known sleeping and parlor cars on the Un- each side, and you'll soon fall stock of Drugs and Druggist as gont. "If I had stuck to the life ion Pacific road. This change is to asleep."

Marie Corelli.

until 2 in the afternoon, alone and Harriman transcontinental lines. undisturbed. I generally scribble off the first rough draft of a story very rapidly in pencil; then I copy script, but because I think every- down to breakfast with a rope or view. thing that is worth doing at all is two of pearls round her neck she reworth doing well. I find, too, that quires some simple confection, obviin the gradual process of copying ously by Worth or one of his faand enlarged."

Irish Doll Industry.

man, happened to discover a sub- which at the moment shows no sign . stance not india rubber, but some of changing, for with millionaires said Robby cheerfully, "but I didn't thing similar to it-which when plentiful their women folk are have to say 'No, thank you,' mothtreated according to a certain proc- bound to enter for that social prize er, because I took everything every ess could be molded into faces en- puzzle-"Which of us pays the most time it was passed." puble of standing an immense for her clothes 2"-London Express. amount of rough usage without injury, while in appearance as natural and attractive as the best wax Shoes of nearly every description sequence dollmaking has become an with a warm iron instead of treeing Irish industry.

A Strong Editorial Staff.

The great city papers think they calf stock, but it does include box are smart in having a large staff, calf. Of course the warm iron procand, although we have not published ess is much cheaper than the old ours before, we shall do so to take method of treeing and dressing; the conceit out of the city breth therefore its general adoption is not ren. The editorial staff of the unlikely. It is not unusual now to Times is comprised of Managing iron patent finished leather, but it editor, Ira Cole; city editor, I. Cole; is usually preceded with a light news editor, Ra Cole; editorial dressing of oil.—Shoe and Leather writer, Hon. Mr. Cole; exchange Reporter. editor, Cole; pressman, the same Cole; forgman, more of the same Cole; fighting editor, Mrs. Cole .-Forsyth (Mont.) Times.

German Typography.

Germany between black letter char- London Globe. The intelligent ans acters and the Roman alphabet. It imal constantly attacks boats, fields is costly to keep two distinct kinds and gardens, and "what he does not of type: hence the inferiority of eat," says an authority, "he sits on." German typography. The strain of Now he is himself to be sat on. We reading gothic print also contrib- trust that those in charge of the utes to the myopin prevalent in Ger-many. Ye:, though roman is man-of one of our foremost naturalists ifestly gaining ground, a spirit of and "shoot the hippopotamus with so called patriotism, long fostered bullets made of platinum," for if by Bismarck, maintains the archaic they use the other kind his hide will

A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

Six years ago the British schoonand Tibet" brings small comfort to er Ethel mysteriously disappeared those who would espire to wrest the en route from Bombay to Port Said. country from the untatored natives Her owners, Barkfoot & Co. of the who have so long possessed it in latter port, gave her up for lost, and gloomy isolation. He declares that since that time until last month he would rather cross the dread des- her fate remained a mystery to the

Tibet once. There is about it a ! It was an empty and tightly corksense of utter desolation. At one ed wine bottle that brought the stotime he exclaims: "I can hardly ry of her fate and that of Captain conceive a more dreary country to Lee and his crew to land. The botbe alone in than northern Tibet. tle was discovered by Captain Lom-The desert could not be worse. One bard on the beach of the island of might get through the days-but Fukave, situated in the south seas, the nights! When the cold freezes, and the note it contained reads as

mountain ranges shut you in and "Will the finder of this inform menace you with all sorts of imag- Messrs, Barkfoot & Co. of Port Said inable evils! I was surrounded by that their schooner Ethel foundereverything I needed-servants, a ed about 1,000 miles from Bombay? bodyguard of Cossacks, night watch. This note is wriften by the sole surmen and watchdogs-and yet when vivors, Captain Lee and Seaman the snowstorms raged around my Thomas, who are in their last liopes. yurt and the wolves howled in the Signed, J. T. Lee, Jan. 26 or 27,

Curious Properties of Radium.

The properties of radium are ex-Custom house officers are often tremely carious. This body emits um can therefore be used in the production of radiographs .-- Mme. Cu-

Sleeping Car Porters.

the ground and eat plain food received complaints for nearly a year gloomily: Then I was healthy. Oh, but this that negro porters were impudent "No. I didn't. There was nobody gout hurts! It just compels you to and inattentive to their duties ex- at home but me and the mother-in- cronage of the public. I ought to pray for relief. Maybe In fact, in some instances aggressive my mind to risk fetting her get that so, but it's easier to swear and seems insistence upon tips has become a hold on me." to be more natural." Chief Porter, crying nuisance. Orders have gone who is over seventy years old, has out on some divisions of the Union been leader of his nation for over Pacific system to dispense with ne-'gro porters' and employ in their stead white men at an advance of

Expensive Feminine Fashions.

Mrs. Florence Eaton, an Irishwo- but it is fashion, and a fashion passed to you.

Ironing Shoes.

faces. These Irish dolls sometimes are ironed with a hot or warm iron. have the faces of distinguished per- A short time ago it would have been sonages. Within a few year's in con- thought peculiar to iron men's shoes them, but it is being done with the best results in some factories. This does not include wax or other greasy

The Hippopotamus.

It seems that the hippopotamus is to be exterminated. It is hardly probable that the hippopotamus will enjoy this, but it will be a good There is an interesting conflict in thing for mankind, according to the surely flatten 'em.

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Risk Too Great For Him.

"Myou are suffering from insomnia," said the old school doctor to the patient, "just lie down, prop your head on a pillow and get some

of my youth," he says, "I should not be made gradually and is of an ex- But the next day when he asked be a sufferer from any such trouble. perimental character. The Union the young man if he had followed I used to live out of doors, sleep on Pacific passenger department has instructions the latter replied of

Herbert Spencer's Ear Stoppers.

The philosopher had an infirmity common to great minds and little. He was selfish in regard to conver-\$12.50 per month in wages. The sation which bored him, and he car-Of her habits of work, her biog- reason assigned is "for the good of ried this selfishness to such a pitch raphers record that she is most me- the service." If white porters prove that he bought a pair of ear stoppers thodical. Miss Corelli says: "I write effective and acceptable the change and applied them regularly. When every day from 10 in the morning will probably be made general on all conversation in which he had taken part went on too long for his patience or when some unmerciful talker held forth he would take out We are living in an age remark- of his pocket his ear stoppers and it out in pen and ink, chapter by able for feminine extravagance. We hastily put them in place, not rechapter, with fastidious care, not refer, of course, to the moneyed moving them till he believed all only because I like a neat manu- classes. When our hostess comes danger to be past .- Saturday Re-

Useless Phrase.

Bobby had returned from his first by hand the original draft, like the mous contemporaries, to go with it, tea party, his round face wreathed painter's first sketch, gets improved both jewels and raiment signifying in smiles. "I hope you were polite, to her guests that her wealth is Bobby," said his mother, "and resomething to be envied. It is nei- membered your 'Yes, please,' and ther a pleasant nor a healthy trait, 'No, thank you,' when things were

"I remembered 'Yes, please,' "

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