

THE MYSTERY OF GRASLOV

By Ashley Towne

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SYNOPSIS OF The Mystery of Graslov

CHAPTER I.—Prince Neslerov wants to marry Frances Gordon, the charming daughter of an American who is building the Transiberian railroad. Frances is interested in the fortunes of Vladimir Paulpoff, a stalwart Russian blacksmith. She asks Neslerov to use his influence for Vladimir. II.—Neslerov goes to Vladimir's hut. The blacksmith has talent and shows Neslerov a picture he has painted. It is the portrait of a woman of rank copied from a miniature. The prince is excited and asks for the original. Vladimir's father says it has been lost. To Vladimir old Paulpoff confesses that he lied to Neslerov and still has the miniature.

CHAPTER III.
VLADIMIR SENT TO SIBERIA.
ATTACHED to the police 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 lends 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 Neslerov, and if there should chance to be promotion in his path at any time Neslerov, as a wealthy noble of Graslov, could further his possibilities.

Inspector Jansky entered the palace of the prince with a humility that would have charmed the poor devils whom his eagerness had sent to Siberia.

"Sit down," said the prince, and the inspector sat down with a suddenness that proved his desire to please his sponsor. "I sent for you."

"You did, your excellency. I received your message and made all haste to obey."

"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 news for you. But first I should be pleased to receive from you an answer to a question. What do you wish for the most?"

Jansky hesitated. His servile mind saw far into the future, as a rule, but it could not fathom the meaning of this strange question. What did it matter to the prince what he wanted most unless the prince was disposed to grant it?

upon a train and saying farewell to his guards.

"I will be, therefore, quite necessary to establish a system of police, with officers of more ability and shrewdness than the Cossacks who now command the road guards who stand sentinels over the czar's great dominion in Asia.

"Such a department of police has already been established in Tololsk, through which the railway is now completed. It is time now for us to think of such a department in Tomsk."

As the prince and governor paused the inspector's breath came short and fast.

"And, your excellency, in the goodness of your heart you have thought of me?"

"I have been thinking—of several. I have befriended you. I desire to do so again. But there are difficulties which we must consider. Your present position, while not a low one, still is so low that the leap from it to the position of superintendent of police of the government of Tomsk would excite the imaginations of certain people at St. Petersburg."

"Superintendent of police of Tomsk?" Jansky cried.

"Certainly. That is the position for which I intend you. I have watched your career. You are eager, ambitious and resourceful. What better man could I have in such a position? It is upon you whom I must rely to prevent the encroachments of our enemies. It will be the superintendent of my police who will be my closest confidant. Who could be more acceptable to me than you?"

"I thank you, your excellency. I thank you."

"Wait. Thank me with deeds when we succeed. As I said before, there are difficulties. One cannot leap too great a distance at once without a cause. We must find a cause."

"A cause, your excellency?"

late messenger.

"Go with me, do what I bid you, and you will have gold rubles for a year's pleasure," he said.

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 me."

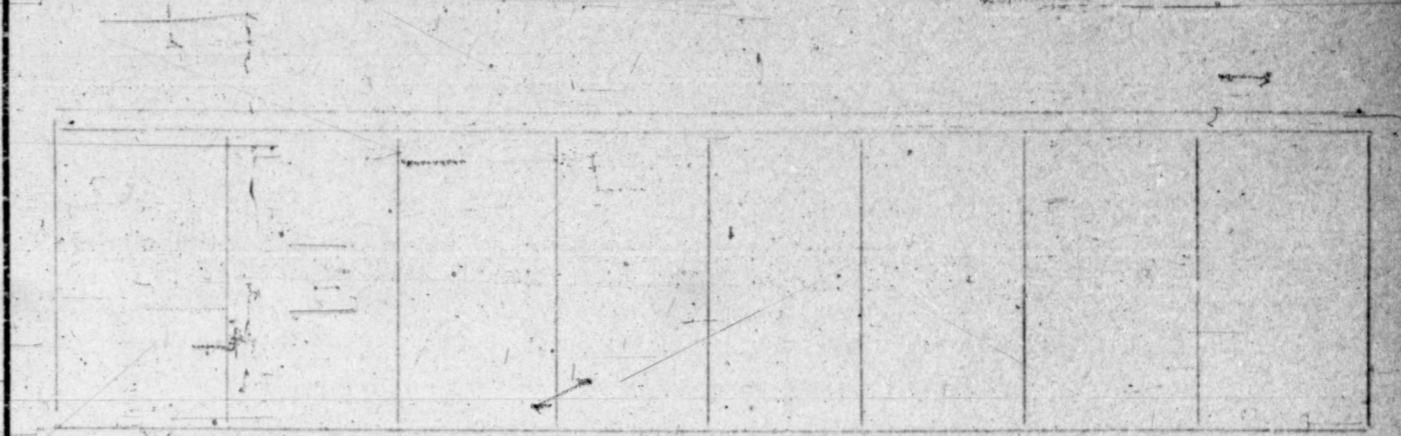
Jansky's horse was soon by the side of the steel-ridden by the prince.

"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 hand. 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 horses had taken place that day on the forest road. When the inspector of police and Neslerov arrived, four men were within the shop, their horses standing outside, and all were apparently in the greatest eagerness to have their horses shod. Papa Paulpoff was visibly disturbed by this sudden influx of the horseshoeing business, but the giant Vladimir, 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 continually at the others for being there.

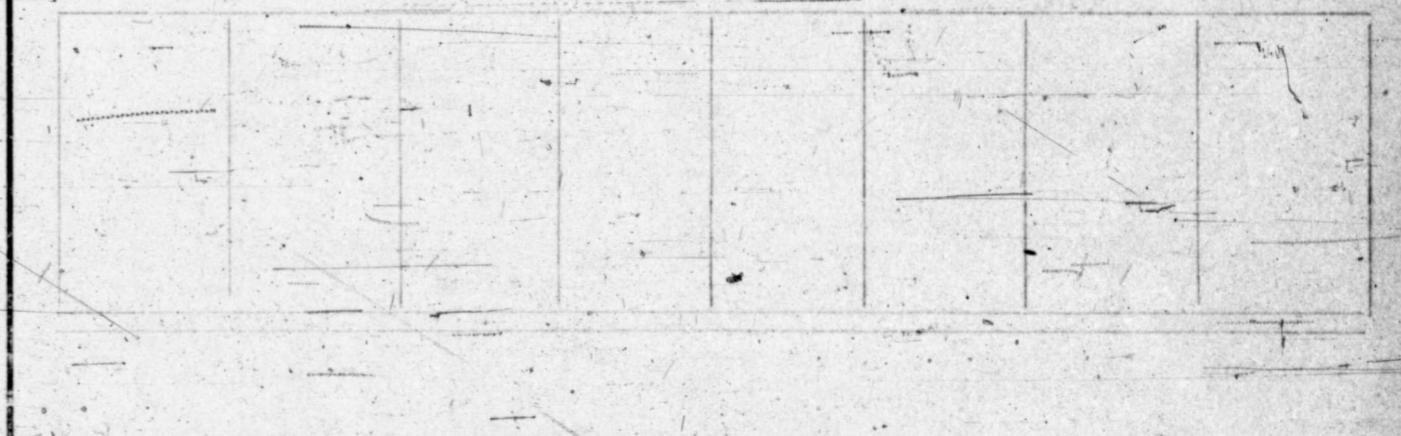
Neslerov, upon arriving at the shop, whispered to the inspector, and both leaped from their horses.

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"See!" he cried. "It is a message to Number Three!"

[To Be Continued.]
La Grippe Cured by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

The great danger from la grippe is of its resulting in pneumonia. This can be avoided by using Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Among the tens of thousands who used this remedy, during the epidemic of la grippe of recent years no case has ever been known to result in pneumonia which shows conclusively that it is a certain preventive of that dangerous disease. Price 25 cents; large size, 50 cents. For sale by S. V. Wirt, Druggist.

DREARY TIBET.

Dr. Sven Hedin in "Central Asia and Tibet" brings small comfort to those who would aspire to wrest the country from the unattractive natives who have so long possessed it in gloomy isolation. He declares that he would rather cross the dread desert of Gobi a dozen times than cross Tibet once. There is about it a sense of utter desolation. At one time he exclaims: "I can hardly conceive a more dreary country to be alone in than northern Tibet. The desert could not be worse. One might get through the days—but the nights! When the cold freezes you to the marrow and the dark mountain ranges shut you in and menace you with all sorts of imaginable evils! I was surrounded by everything I needed—servants, a bodyguard of Cossacks, night watchmen and watchdogs—and yet when the snowstorms raged around my yurt and the wolves howled in the mountains I often felt a sense of utter loneliness steal over me."

Wild Animals.

Custom house officers are often confronted with a serious proposition when it comes to classifying extraordinary goods shipped from abroad. Dr. Lester Cox of Philadelphia, who spends much of his time in biological collecting, had a case of rare snails sent to him from Italy recently. The case was stored away for a long time in the custom house because the officers could not determine what duty to charge on this unusual cargo. Snails are not posted on the list of import goods, and it seemed unreasonable to let them in free of charge. Finally one of the officers hit on a bright idea. He suggested that the mollusks be passed as wild animals, and the doctor was given the case without further difficulty.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Civilized and Gouty.

The Indians are getting thoroughly civilized. General Pleasant Porter, the last chief of the Creek Indian nation, is a sufferer from that highly civilized disease known as gout. "If I had stuck to the life of my youth," he says, "I should not be a sufferer from any such trouble. I used to live out of doors, sleep on the ground and eat plain food. Then I was healthy. Oh, but this gout hurts! It just compels you to swear. A religious friend told me I ought to pray for relief. Maybe so, but it's easier to swear and seems to be more natural." Chief Porter, who is over seventy years old, has been leader of his nation for over half a century.

Marie Corelli.

Of her habits of work, her biographers record that she is most methodical. Miss Corelli says, "I write every day from 10 in the morning until 2 in the afternoon, alone and undisturbed. I generally scribble off the first rough draft of a story very rapidly in pencil; then I copy it out in pen and ink, chapter by chapter, with fastidious care, not only because I like a neat manuscript, but because I think everything that is worth doing at all is worth doing well. I find, too, that in the gradual process of copying by hand the original draft, like the painter's first sketch, gets improved and enlarged."

Irish Doll Industry.

Mrs. Florence Eaton, an Irishwoman, happened to discover a substance—not india rubber, but something similar to it—when treated according to a certain process could be molded into faces capable of standing an immense amount of rough usage without injury, while in appearance as natural and attractive as the best wax faces. These Irish dolls sometimes have the faces of distinguished personages. Within a few years in consequence dollmaking has become an Irish industry.

A Strong Editorial Staff.

The great city papers think they are smart in having a large staff, and, although we have not published ours before, we shall do so to take the conceit out of the city brethren. The editorial staff of the Times is comprised of Managing editor, Ira Cole; city editor, I. Cole; news editor, Ra Cole; editorial writer, Hon. Mr. Cole; exchange editor, Cole; pressman, the same Cole; forger, more of the same Cole; fighting editor, Mrs. Cole.—Forsyth (Mont.) Times.

German Typography.

There is an interesting conflict in Germany between black letter characters and the Roman alphabet. It is costly to keep two distinct kinds of type; hence the inferiority of German typography. The strain of reading gothic print also contributes to the myopia prevalent in Germany. Yet, though roman is manifestly gaining ground, a spirit of so-called patriotism, long fostered by Bismarck, maintains the archaic form.

A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

Six years ago the British schooner Ethel mysteriously disappeared en route from Bombay to Port Said. Her owners, Barkfoot & Co. of the latter port, gave her up for lost, and since that time until last month her fate remained a mystery to the world.

It was an empty and tightly corked wine bottle that brought the story of her fate and that of Captain Lee and his crew to land. The bottle was discovered by Captain Lombard on the beach of the island of Fukave, situated in the south seas, and the note it contained reads as follows:

"Will the finder of this inform Messrs. Barkfoot & Co. of Port Said that their schooner Ethel foundered about 1,000 miles from Bombay? This note is written by the sole survivors, Captain Lee and Seaman Thomas, who are in their last hours. Signed, J. T. Lee, Jan. 26 or 27, 1897."

Curious Properties of Radium.

The properties of radium are extremely curious. This body emits with great intensity all of the different rays that are produced in a vacuum-tube. The radiation, measured by means of an electroscope, is at least a million times more powerful than that from an equal quantity of uranium. A charged electroscope placed at a distance of several meters can be discharged by a few centigrams of a radium salt. One can also discharge an electroscope through a screen of glass or lead five or six centimeters thick. Photographic plates placed in the vicinity of radium are almost instantly affected if no screen intercepts the rays. With screens the action is slower, but it still takes place through very thick ones if the exposure is sufficiently long. Radium can therefore be used in the production of radiographs.—Minc. Curie in Century.

Sleeping Car Porters.

E. H. Harriman intends to substitute white porters for negroes on sleeping and parlor cars on the Union Pacific road. This change is to be made gradually and is of an experimental character. The Union Pacific passenger department has received complaints for nearly a year that negro porters were impudent and inattentive to their duties except when in receipt of liberal tips. In fact, in some instances aggressive insistence upon tips has become a crying nuisance. Orders have gone out on some divisions of the Union Pacific system to dispense with negro porters and employ in their stead white men at an advance of \$12.50 per month in wages. The reason assigned is "for the good of the service." If white porters prove effective and acceptable the change will probably be made general on all Harriman transcontinental lines.

Expensive Feminine Fashions.

We are living in an age remarkable for feminine extravagance. We refer, of course, to the moneyed classes. When our hostess comes down to breakfast with a rope or two of pearls round her neck she requires some simple confection, obviously by Worth or one of his famous contemporaries, to go with it, both jewels and raiment signifying to her guests that her wealth is something to be envied. It is neither a pleasant nor a healthy trait, but it is fashion, and a fashion which at the moment shows no sign of changing, for with millionaires plentiful their women folk are bound to enter for that social prize puzzle—"Which of us pays the most for her clothes?"—London Express.

Ironing Shoes.

Shoes of nearly every description are ironed with a hot or warm iron. A short time ago it would have been thought peculiar to iron men's shoes with a warm iron instead of treating them, but it is being done with the best results in some factories. This does not include wax or other greasy calf stock, but it does include box calf. Of course the warm iron process is much cheaper than the old method of treading and dressing; therefore its general adoption is not unlikely. It is not unusual now to iron patent finished leather, but it is usually preceded with a light dressing of oil.—Shoe and Leather Reporter.

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 thing for mankind, according to the London Globe. The intelligent animal constantly attacks boats, fields and gardens, and "what he does not eat," says an authority, "he sits on." Now he is himself to be sat on. We trust that those in charge of the campaign will remember the advice of one of our foremost naturalists and "shoot the hippopotamus with bullets made of platinum," for if they use the other kind his hide will surely flatten 'em.

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Risk Too Great For Him.

"If you are suffering from insomnia," said the old school doctor to the patient, "just lie down, prop your head on a pillow and get some one to take hold of your throat, pressing gently with the fingers on each side, and you'll soon fall asleep."

But the next day when he asked the young man if he had followed instructions the latter replied, gloomily:

"No, I didn't. There was nobody at home but me and the mother-in-law, and I couldn't quite make up my mind to risk letting her get that hold on me."

Herbert Spencer's Ear Stoppers.

The philosopher had an infirmity common to great minds and little. He was selfish in regard to conversation which bored him, and he carried this selfishness to such a pitch that he bought a pair of ear stoppers and applied them regularly. When 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 of his pocket his ear stoppers and hastily put them in place, not removing them till he believed all danger to be past.—Saturday Review.

Useless Phrase.

Bobby had returned from his first tea party, his round face wreathed in smiles. "I hope you were polite, Bobby," said his mother, "and remembered your 'Yes, please,' and 'No, thank you,' when things were passed to you."

"I remembered 'Yes, please,'" said Bobby cheerfully, "but I didn't have to say 'No, thank you,' mother, because I took everything every time it was passed."

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