

# MENTIONED FOUR YEARS IN A CELLAR

## EXTRAORDINARY PUNISHMENT OF A RUSSIAN NOBLEMAN WHO TRIED TO KIDNAP A GIRL



OLGA OSTRELSKY THE FUR MERCHANT'S DAUGHTER, WHO BARON LUPIANOFF ATTEMPTED TO ABDUCT

BARON CYRIL LUPIANOFF PHOTO TAKEN BEFORE HIS IMPRISONMENT

BARON LUPIANOFF'S CASTLE IN THE RUSSIAN PROVINCE OF KAZAN, NOW IN THE POSSESSION A DISTANT RELATIVE OF THE BARON'S

**S**T. PETERSBURG, Nov. 24.—(Special Correspondence of The Sunday Oregonian.)—Little by little there have come from the remote Russian province of Kazan the complete details of one of the most extraordinary dramas which even this modern world has ever yielded.

Four years ago, Baron Lupianoff, a wealthy Russian nobleman and landowner, endeavored to kidnap a girl named Olga Ostrelsky, the daughter of a rich fur merchant named Ivan Ostrelsky, in order to make her his wife. Instead of abducting the object of his ardent affections the Baron himself was kidnaped by the girl's father, Ivan Ostrelsky and incarcerated in the merchant's cellar for four years by way of drastic punishment for his projected outrage. Baron Lupianoff has now been liberated from his imprisonment and, much against his own will, has been compelled to make the story of his remarkable imprisonment public in order to enforce his own rights of property.

The records of this astonishing romance are chronicled in the official reports of the District Court at Kazan, as well as in the higher courts of the province of the same name. Russian newspapers have devoted many columns to reports of the case and discussion thereon, for it has been rightly held that it illustrates most graphically the medieval conditions which still prevail in the European provinces of the Russian empire.

### Dissipated Spendthrift.

Baron Cyril Lupianoff at the time of his adventure was 29 years of age, and resided in his own ancestral castle on an estate which extended from the northern districts of the province of Kazan into the adjoining province of Vyatka. His possessions covered an area of many thousands of acres and he was the most powerful magnate for many miles around. As a young man he had gone to St. Petersburg to enjoy life and in the course of a semi-decade of dissipation had succeeded in squandering a considerable portion of the family fortune. Returning to his estate situated in one of the remote parts of darkest Russia, he turned over to a new host and a confirmed woman hater, the mother of all the marriageable daughters for scores of miles around who had at first married the Baron out of a suitable matrimonial price, gradually abandoned their efforts to capture him and left him to enjoy life in the solitude of his bachelor establishment with the fair and the fair went so far that he dismissed all the female servants in his household and limited his staff of domestics and retainers to men. His pleasures were principally shooting and hunting in the primeval forests which covered his estates. He was tall, stalwart and handsome, with bold and energetic features and muscular limbs. His eccentric habits and his dislike to female society caused him to be regarded among his neighbors as a man to be avoided and the stories which were told from the quarrelsome and violent nature of his character gave him a most unfavorable reputation through all the country side.

### Fell in Love With Olga.

One fateful day Baron Lupianoff set eyes on Olga Ostrelsky, who at that time had just passed her 16th birthday and was a girl of striking beauty. She was tall and dark, with flashing black eyes and jet black hair. Baron Lupianoff—woman-hater as he has been for so long—was fascinated by her charms and recalling his former conquests in the Russian capital began assiduously to court her in the hope of persuading her to be his wife. He had come into contact with the girl through business transactions with her father who still carried on business as a dealer in furs. Ivan Ostrelsky's business establishment was situated in the City of Kazan, but the merchant resided in the vicinity of Kazanbush, some 20 miles from the capital of the province. He was the possessor of a stable of superbly bred Russian horses which enabled him to speed along the deserted roads between his residence and Kazan with three or four heavy in the summer by means of the light carriages peculiar to Russia, and in the winter by means of sledges. His wife had died soon after his daughter's birth and Olga Ostrelsky was committed to the care of an English governess, Miss King.

Olga Ostrelsky had chanced to be present in her father's store when Baron Lupianoff came into the City to purchase his winter furs. The Baron requested the merchant there and then to present him to his daughter and the eccentric nobleman took good care to continue the acquaintance thus casually begun. Henceforth he carried on his business transactions with the merchant, not in the store in the City of Kazan, but at Ostrelsky's private residence on the outskirts of Kazanbush, in order that he might utilize the opportunity of seeing Miss Ostrelsky. His visits became more and more frequent, at first under the pretext of business,

and subsequently for the avowed purpose of paying his attentions to the merchant's daughter, Ivan Ostrelsky, a man of plebeian birth, who had accumulated his great riches by his own industry and commercial efficiency, was considerably flattered by the attention which the nobleman paid to his daughter and favored Baron Lupianoff's suit. He encouraged the Baron to visit his house, frequently invited him to dinner, and gave him numerous opportunities of being alone with his daughter.

### Hated by the Girl.

Miss Ostrelsky, however, did not share her father's partiality for the aristocrat, who made no progress whatever with his suit, but on the contrary became more and more undesirable in the eyes of the heiress of plebeian birth, Olga Ostrelsky. It must be remembered, had been brought up in great seclusion in her country home, and was absolutely unacquainted with the weaknesses and flaws of the ladies of high society in the Russian capital. Baron Lupianoff, however, whose experience of women had hitherto been confined to the gay dames of the capital, wooed the innocent country girl in the manner of a style by which he had effected the conquest of so many feminine hearts in St. Petersburg. His audacious advances, however, only frightened the country girl and his conversation, full of artifices and veiled allusions which would have suited the taste of St. Petersburg ladies, only shocked Miss Ostrelsky, whose English governess, Miss King, encouraged her in her dislike of the amorous Baron. At the expiration of the first fortnight, Baron Lupianoff made a formal offer of marriage to Miss Ostrelsky which was immediately and emphatically rejected by the young lady.

Baron Lupianoff, however, who believed that he had to deal merely with the whims of a capricious young creature, continued his visits and his courtship and ignored or affected to ignore Miss Ostrelsky's aversion to his personality. At the end of the third week he renewed his offer which was again rejected. A third, fourth and fifth offer were all likewise rejected and on each occasion Miss Ostrelsky declared her disapproval of the aristocrat in emphatic language. On the last occasion she cried: "I dislike you more than I can express in words. If you were the only man in the world I would marry you. Your attentions are distasteful to me and your persistence after I have made my wishes known is discourteous and brutal. I shall never permit you to see me again."

### Sided With His Daughter.

Ivan Ostrelsky, who at first openly and afterwards secretly, favored the suit of the great nobleman, veered round and sided with his daughter after her determination became apparent to him. After her first and second rejection of the Baron's suit the merchant had shared the aristocrat's belief that these refusals were due to a maidenly caprice and Mr. Ostrelsky had encouraged the young man to continue his visits and to persist in his courtship. But after the final scene with the Baron Miss Ostrelsky told her father that she would never see her admirer again and that his visits to the house must be forbidden. Ivan Ostrelsky resented the competition of a "man," said the girl, and her father, who was well acquainted with her self-willed character realized that all further efforts to alter her determination would be absolutely futile. Accordingly he wrote a polite note to the Baron informing him that his attentions to Miss Ostrelsky were no longer desired and that it would spare embarrassment to all parties concerned if the aristocrat ceased his visits to the villa.

### Outrageous Conduct.

On the following day Baron Lupianoff rode on horseback from his own residence to the merchant's villa. Entering the grounds he dashed up to the house, opened the door and strode in without further ceremony. Entering the drawing-room he found Miss Ostrelsky sitting in the company of her governess, Miss King,

and frightened the ladies by his sudden appearance. Seizing Miss Ostrelsky in his arms he kissed her again and again and declared that he intended to marry her. The girl's screams soon brought the servants on the scene and they threw themselves on the Baron, with the intention of ejecting him from the house. Taking advantage of the diversion Miss Ostrelsky escaped from the grasp of her captor from the room and locked herself in her own chamber.

Meanwhile the Baron, who was a man of extraordinary strength, dispersed his assailants with ease, bestowing on them black eyes, bleeding noses and other conspicuous marks of his heavy fists. In his rage he demolished some of the furniture of the room and killed Miss Ostrelsky's pet dog, which had flown at his throat, by a blow with the butt end of his riding whip. Then, mounting his horse again, he rode off and disappeared. Ivan Ostrelsky, who was absent during this invasion of his premises now realized the dangerous character of the young aristocrat and took precautions to prevent a repetition of the violent intrusion. The approach of the winter season, however, and the fact that the merchant's retainers and half a dozen armed men were always in the house ready to protect their young mistress from outrage.

### Plans to Kidnap.

This took place in February, 1902. Henceforth Baron Lupianoff plotted and planned and schemed to kidnap the merchant's beautiful daughter. Finally, an opportunity presented itself on the occasion of the midnight service held in the cathedral at Kazan on Easter Sunday. The Baron by means of his spies ascertained that Miss Ostrelsky and her governess intended to drive from the villa to Kazan on the Sunday evening and to meet Ivan Ostrelsky at the Cathedral. The two women would accordingly be alone and almost unprotected during the long drive of 20 miles and the Baron perceived that this would be an excellent opportunity of carrying out his plan of kidnapping the girl. Notwithstanding the lawlessness prevailing in Russia and the license which aristocratic magnates enjoy in the province, the Baron entrusted the secret only to two accomplices, his own groom and his own personal valet, both sturdy muscular fellows.

On the evening of Easter Sunday the Baron and his two retainers left the castle mounted on powerful steeds and armed with revolvers and daggers, and provided with manna, eggs and other appliances for the projected outrage. At the castle a priest of the Orthodox Church was waiting in readiness to perform the wedding ceremony between the Baron and the girl as soon as he brought her to his home. After arriving at the wayside of the road leading from Kazan to the castle the Baron and his two retainers dismounted and awaited the arrival of the carriage containing Miss Ostrelsky and her governess.

### Kidnapers Kidnaped.

In spite, however, of the secrecy with which Baron Lupianoff had planned his coup, Ivan Ostrelsky had received information regarding the projected seizure of

his daughter. Baron Lupianoff's personal valet was a married man and in an incautious moment he had confided the secret of the scheme to his wife. This woman, having no particular love for her husband and seeing an opportunity for a liberal reward, betrayed the secret to Ivan Ostrelsky and received 2000 for her information. So, instead of allowing his daughter and her governess to drive at night to the cathedral, the merchant placed two of his own strongest retainers in the carriage and two others on the box

by the side of the coachman. The carriage was thus manned by five faithful servants of the merchant, all of whom were well armed and all fully prepared for an attack.

When the Baron and the two retainers held the carriage up they met with a reception for which they were entirely unprepared. Ostrelsky's five servants overpowered them after a short, sharp struggle, bound their hands and feet, pitched them into the carriage and drove them back to the merchant's villa where they

### THE SHINING THING

**D**OWN under a high mountain, where it was always dark and cold and always the same, there was a Thing. It had no way to tell the flight of time, and perhaps it was ages that it had lain there.

With it were other things, and sometimes it would talk with them, like this: "What are you doing?" it would ask. "Doing?" they would say. "What can we do down here under the mountain, in the dark?"

"I am trying to make myself pure," it would answer.

"Why should you make yourself pure?" they would reply.

"So that I may shine."

"Shine! What folly! Do you think you can shine down here under the mountain, where there is no light? So we might shine, too, and bright enough, if we ever had the light; but here is nothing but darkness."

But as the ages went on—they might have been minutes or centuries—the little Thing strove to make itself pure, and waited for the light.

At last it came. The river that had been running at the side of the mountain wore its bed deeper and deeper, and now, when there was a great flood, it burst down where the Thing and its companions were. The waters, eddying and swirling, swept around them and bore off the mud and rocks, and at last bore them away upon a great gravel bar and left them out in the air.

"Light at last!" cried the Thing.

"Ah, but you do not shine any more than we! So where now is all that purity of yours?"

"This was true. All silt were dull clods, or cobblestones, and the Thing shone no more than the rest. But still it was glad, and though its outside was dull, drank the light into its heart and believed that it would shine if the light could only get to it. So the days passed and many of its comrades crumbled up into mud and were washed away in the flood lines.

### THE SEED.

**I** WAS down in the dark ground and very much alone. It could not see, for one thing, and all the noises were muffled. Neither could it feel very far around.

But there were some small, hard things about with its own size next to itself, and with these it tried to talk. "How long have you been here?" it asked.

"Forever and ever, we imagine," they replied. "Why do you ask?"

"I do not know," it answered. "I only wondered."

Then it said: "How long will you stay?"

cried as he hurried it time and again against the cobblestones.

Then they took it home and gave it to the old grandfather, who sat in front of the house. He liked it because it was hard and heavy and he could throw it straight at the animals that broke sometimes into the garden. He called it his Pig Stone, and said, "Oh, igh! Bring me my pig stone!"—which meant about the same as the pigs are in the garden.

"Ah, this is sad," thought the Thing, "only to be thrown at the pigs, when my heart would shine." But it waited. Perhaps the light would come to its heart some day.

At last a man arrived. He came to the old house far on the African plain and talked with the old man and saw what he called the pig stone.

"Ah, grandfather," he said, "I fancy that trade was soon made. 'Now, I want for it; I will give you this fine pipe and a piece of gold.'"

The old man fancied the present, and the trade was soon made. "Now," thought the Thing, "we shall see."

But the man took it to a great rock and began pounding. "Ah, ah, he is breaking me to pieces!" thought the Thing. "If it is pure," said the man, "it will not split, but only scale off"—and pound, pound, he went.

"Ah!" said the Thing, with a last sigh; and its shell scaled off, and its heart alone was left.

How it shone! It almost dazzled the man's eyes. "It is pure!" he cried. "My fortune is made!"

"Ah, but you are not a star, and you will only find it the same, or even darker, the farther you go."

And so it began to feel. But the seed said: "If I cannot feel downward, I will reach upward." So it began to reach upward. But the ground was hard and cold, and its strength was often not enough to press it aside. Then it reached a barrier, hard and cold, against which it pressed in vain; it was frost and ice, the world above was still in winter. "Ah," said all the earth things around it, "you had better have stayed with us; you can never reach beyond the barrier of ice; you must die."

This seemed true; for day after day, though the seed did not yet know the darkness, it held its two little hands up, pressing against the frozen ground above it. But after a while it felt a peculiar thrill. Then came a glow from above, and instead of the hard frost, warm, reviving water came seeping down.

All day the little plant—for it was now no longer a seed—reached upward and pressed aside the icy soil. "I shall see the light at last," it thought.

It threw aside the last bit of dirt, but

arrived at midnight. The merchant himself was waiting to receive them and when the Baron was brought before him he addressed him as follows: "You are a dangerous character. You are worse than an outlaw for your rank and position give you undesirable power. I see my daughter will not be safe from your persecutions until she is married, so I intend to keep you prisoner until she has the protection of a husband. Your men must share your imprisonment. My cellars have been prepared for your reception. Adieu."

### Imprisoned Four Years in Cellar.

This speech ended, the Baron and his two companions were dragged down into the cellar to begin their long period of incarceration. During this they were well fed, well clothed and well attended. The cellar was well warmed in winter and well ventilated in summer. The Baron and his companions were reduced to passive obedience by chains attached to their ankles with leather straps, which prevented them from violent movements without otherwise seriously inconveniencing them. Every night they were permitted to leave the cellar and take one or two hours' exercise in the surrounding park. On these occasions they were tied together and closely guarded by three or four of the merchant's most faithful servants. In the earlier months of their captivity they attempted to break loose and to attract the attention of the merchant's household by noisy demonstrations. These outbreaks, however, were promptly suppressed by applications of the knot, and in time the Baron and his two servants became accustomed to their fate and found it more advisable to submit passively than to increase the severity of their punishment by resistance.

Three years and six months passed by before Miss Ostrelsky married, and Baron Lupianoff's captivity continued throughout this period. On the day of the departure of the merchant's daughter on her

honeymoon journey, the Baron and his two retainers were liberated and let loose in a country to which they had become practically foreigners. The Baron made his way to his home and found that he and his companions had been formally and legally freed persons. Their mysterious disappearance had created much curiosity at the time, but as months went by and no trace of them could be found, they were written off in the Russian state records as nonexistent and their property passed into the hands of their legal heirs. A distant kinsman had taken possession of Baron Lupianoff's great estates and was enjoying his position. The wives of the two servants had both taken new husbands and were anything but pleased to see their former partners in matrimony happy.

### Benefited Financially.

What must be described as one of the most striking features of this remarkable case has not, however, yet been told. As has already been stated when he returned from St. Petersburg to his estates, Baron Lupianoff's affairs were in an indifferent condition, owing to his years of dissipation in the capital. And though he then made a drastic change in his manner of living, it is doubtful if he ever would have succeeded in replenishing his depleted coffers. This, however, and a good deal more, has been accomplished by the Baron, who succeeded the Baron in the custody of his estates. An energetic, resourceful man of affairs, in the nearly four years of proprietorship he has completely transformed the Lupianoff estate, and made it pay as it never did before, with the result that, if his former owner had not been so miserably and miserably richer than that which he vacated so suddenly.

The present possessor of the Lupianoff estates refuses to acknowledge the identity of the man who has reappeared after three and a half years' absence as that of the rightful Baron Lupianoff. The unfortunate prisoner has, therefore, gone to law to recover possession of his property. His pleadings have already been filed at Kazan and the case will come on in the course of the winter. After Baron Lupianoff has proved his identity and his right to possess his own property, proceedings will doubtless be initiated against Ivan Ostrelsky for his treatment of the Baron and the Baron's servants. It is significant that Ostrelsky has gone to the South of France for the sake of his health. Baron Lupianoff has emerged from his incarceration greatly aged in appearance and, unfeeling in health, so that he has indeed been severely punished for his wrongdoing.

SERGIUS VOLHOVSKY.

# TRUE FABLES, by the Late Horace S. Lyman

struck something cold. "What is this?" it said. "Is this the bright world that I have imagined I should see?" It was cold and white and took away its life. It was a snow bank; the world was still a world of snow.

There it stayed two days—the world, for it, only snow. But a warm wind blew one evening. It roared in the trees, and cut great holes in the snow, which trickled away in drops, and running on the ground under the drift, made little streams. "Now I shall see the world," thought the plant.

And at last the snow disappeared; the little plant could look up. It felt the warm breeze, and the splashing rain. But all was dark. "Alas," it sighed, in the wind and to the rain, "is this the world dark?"

But presently the rain ceased and the wind fell. Through the darkness above, which seemed to disappear in long, drifting shadows, it began to see twinkling points of light. It did not know that they were stars, but lifted its head, and spread out its two little hands, and the stars twinkled down to it, and the whole sky was presently clear and full of stars; and on the two little hands there came two little drops of dew.

"But this is a beautiful world of stars," breathed the little plant softly. "It is well I did not stay in the ground." Then it went to sleep for all was cold and still; its head bent, and its two hands dropped, for they were heavy with dew.

It seemed to sleep a long time, drinking dew. But something touched it; it was a sunbeam, and the dewdrops on its head and in its hands were changed to diamonds. But it loved the sun when it saw him shining, and lifted up its head and spread out its arms. It was praising the sunshine.

### The Boss Had Good Judgment.

"What did you quit that good job for?"

"The boss called me a fool!"

"But he didn't fire you? You quit just for that?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then the boss was right."—Cleveland Leader.

### A Business Opportunity.

Rachel—Here is your ring, Solomon. I can never marry you, for I love another.

Solomon—Vere ing de man you love?

"Heaven's! You won't kill him, will you?"

"No, but I will sell him de ring sheep."—Family Journal.