

RUSSIAN ROYALTY.

An Empress Who Took Part in Some Singular Performances.

In the "Memoirs of Jacob Ivanovitch De Sanglen," there are some interesting particulars about Russian royalties. Jacob De Sanglen was employed in the Russian police service, and in 1811 and 1812, as chief of the chancery of the minister of police he was personally attached to Alexander I. Before her death, Sanglen had seen Empress Catherine several times. He relates that she abolished all ceremony during the evening receptions she used to give at the "Hermitage," and sometimes ordered a game of "cutting faces," in which she herself had great ability, making comic grimaces, or rapidly raising and sinking her left ear, which she could move almost like an animal. In the year 1812 Narbonne was sent by Napoleon to Vilna, ostensibly to welcome Emperor Alexander, but really to spy on the Russian army. But the Russian police were ordered to cause Narbonne's carriage to be led so that its occupant saw nothing of the arrangement of the army, and the servants placed in attendance on Narbonne were all officers of police. One evening Narbonne was invited to the royal box in a theater, but the emperor was not there, being engaged personally in examining Narbonne's papers, for the Russians had made Narbonne's French adjutant tipsy, and while he was in this state stole Narbonne's portfolio and opened it in the presence of the emperor. The instructions from Napoleon found among them were copied. Napoleon had requested to be informed of all things concerning the Russian generals, the friends (male and female) of the emperor of Russia, of the latter's state of mind, etc., and whether it would be possible to enter into secret relations with Alexander's surroundings. De Sanglen had promised Alexander I. never to publish, as long as he lived, anything about his connection with him (the emperor). He therefore kept all his notes, which were voluminous, secret, and they were first published in 1882.

Irish Bulls in Germany.

Herr Szafranski, a German journalist, has published under the title of "Humors of the Reichstag" a few utterances of German deputies. Here are some of them: Herr von Ludwig: "The people, the masses, know well enough that it is extremely difficult to become rich suddenly by honest toil, excepting always in the case of inheritance or marriage." Herr Liebknecht: "Yes, I should say the case is tragic, if it were not so sad." Herr Rieckert, taunting the ministry: "Upon the ministerial benches we hear nothing, nothing but profound silence." Baron de Tordeck de Rabenan, speaking of the taxes on wine: "If I were to define bottled wines, I should say that all wines that are in bottle are bottled wines." Herr Westphal: "To squeeze the juice out of a lemon, and then give it a kick—no, it is not too much." Herr von Schalscha: "If you were to take twenty members of this chamber, I do not think you could fix the limits of immortality." Dr. Greve: "Is there a more burning question than that of cremation?"

HE TAUGHT HER A LESSON.

One Wife Will Not Again Trouble Anybody for a Spool of Silk. One summer the wife of a Chicago man went to one of the resorts. At the end of a week she found that her black silk had given out, so she wrote her husband to "find a spool of it in the lower drawer of the bureau" and send it on. The dutiful husband spent three solid hours one hot day before he found the missing spool. Of course, it was not where his wife had said it was. After he had changed his saturated linen the man went down and sent the spool by registered mail to his wife. That night it struck him as absurd that she should have put him to all that trouble, and he resolved to teach her a lesson. He thought that with a little effort she might have found some silk at the summer resort that would have answered her purpose. Well, he bought a gross of spool silk and put it in a drawer of his desk. The next time she left town she found a spool of black silk under her plate at the place where she took her first meal, and ever since then she has been followed by a spool of silk, even to Europe. Wherever she may stop she finds the spool at her plate or on her dresser. She has learned the lesson.

Irish Bulls.

A recent number of London Truth has compiled the following specimens of Irish bulls: Irish Professor in Chemistry—"The substance you see in this vial is the most deadly of all poisons. A single drop placed upon the tongue of a cat is enough to kill the strongest man." A lady, invited to a very recherche musical party, had met with an accident to her front teeth which there was no time to repair. She said: "I will come, and as I dare not open my mouth, you must tell your friends I am deaf and dumb, but appreciate music." A young lieutenant going out to India with his regiment, writing home about the country, says: "The climate is magnificent, but a lot of young fellows come out here and drink and eat and eat and drink, and die, and then write home and say it was the climate that did it."

Cotton from Wood.

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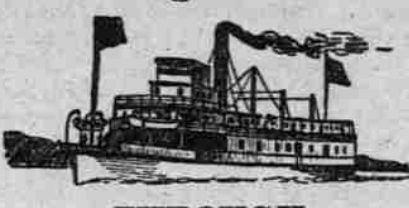
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