

# Russian Women Suffered Most, Says Princess Cantacuzene

## Granddaughter of General Grant Fled From Bolsheviki

By Hannah Mitchell  
 THE women of Russia, of the aristocracy and the bourgeoisie, have suffered beyond the women of all other countries in the last few years, according to Princess Cantacuzene.  
 The Russian princess is one of our own American girls who was married to a prince of one of the oldest families in Europe and has become a loyal citizen of her husband's country. Princess Cantacuzene was Julia Dent Grant, a granddaughter of General Grant. She was born in the White House while her grandfather was President and was known as the "granddaughter of the Republic." Two years ago, after the Bolsheviki had made Russia an unhealthy place for all persons of the upper classes, Princess Cantacuzene and her family returned to her native country. She is here to stay until Russia has been made safe again.

**Looks for a Republic**  
 That she and her family will return to Russia is certain, in the mind of the princess—never to resume their old places as acknowledged aristocracy in a monarchy, she believes, but as citizens of a republic.

In the mean time the princess is working for her less fortunate compatriots who had no "grandmother" country to which they could turn. She is one of the principal workers of the American Central Committee for Russian Relief and is devoting all of her energy to this work.

"Most of the women I knew," said the princess last week, "have been imprisoned or shot. Persons who would not declare for the Bolsheviki were put in prison. Declaration of political convictions compatible with the powers in command would have brought about their release, but these declarations were not in the nature of the Russian women. So they suffered hardship and some of them were executed. Others died from typhus and other diseases in prison."

"Of course, a great many of them have escaped to other countries. Some of those who got away early in the Bolsheviki régime are now working at any tasks they can find in Paris and London, and a few are in this country. The only part of their property that they could take with them was jewelry, and a number of my acquaintances have been living on the money this has brought."

**Hatred for the Bourgeoisie**  
 "Those who could not get out of Russia before the Bolsheviki were in positive control were the ones who suffered. The members of the aristocracy did not suffer any more than the bourgeoisie. After the first looting of estates and terrorizing of the upper class the Bolsheviki turned on the bourgeoisie with an even greater hatred than they had shown to the members of the aristocracy."

"The refugees of Russia are people of the bourgeoisie and aristocracy. They have escaped the country and are still pouring into the cities across the frontier. Finland has received thousands of them. They are living as best they can in great numbers in Constantinople and in Estonia and Serbia. These countries have been war swept to the extent that they have not enough of the goods of this life for even their own, let alone furnishing provisions for refugees from another country. I have had letters from various centers where these people have gathered, and the suffering is desperate."

The princess's apartment is, in background, a comfortable American apartment; its embellishments are Russian. Besides a number of paintings saved from the home in Russia, there are three cases filled with exquisite cameos.  
 "Those were saved by my husband," said the princess. "When word came that we must leave at once we cut a bath towel into two strips, to which the cameos were sewed. The prince wore the entire collection around his waist until we had reached a place of more security. We have had word our place in the country has been razed. The furnishings for our town house were put in storage, thinking that they would be less noticeable there than any place else. We have not heard anything of them since we stored them."

**Her Children in America**  
 Like Cornelia, the princess's most precious possessions are her children. They are safe in their "grandmother" country. The son, Prince Michael, or Prince Mike, as he pre-



PHOTO BY AMERICAN RED CROSS



THE PRINCESS CANTACUZENE of Russia, granddaughter of General U. S. Grant



AT THE top Mme. Breshkovsky, "the little grandmother of the Russian Revolution." Below, Mrs. T. J. Oakley Rhinlander, chairman of the New York Chapter of American Central Committee for Russian Relief

fers to be called, is in Harvard. Her two daughters, one sixteen years old and the other eleven, are also in this country.

Princess Cantacuzene was famous as a young woman for her beauty. She is a strikingly handsome woman with dark eyes and hair. She is unaffected and genuine. Although she was born an American she is absolutely true to the country which adopted her through her marriage. "Russia is my home," she said, "and I believe we shall return there. It may take several years for the Bolsheviki régime to wear out its power, but it cannot last. Then I think the country will follow the evolution of France after the French Revolution. There may be a dictator for a time, but eventually the government will be established along the lines of a republic, with something of the same principles, anyway. The old feudal system is dead. The days of monarchies are past, but, of course, law and order will be reestablished in time."

**Bolsheviki Methods Here**  
 "The Bolsheviki are using much the same methods in America that they did in Russia. I see and hear things continually that bear the stamp of the preliminary unrest they create. Conditions are unfavorable to one who has seen their system in operation elsewhere.  
 "In the first place, the Bolsheviki propagandists appeal to the idealistic side. They offer a millennium. They work on the hopes and aspirations. It is only after they have disrupted things that their followers find out that the result falls far short of the millennium. The

**A RUSSIAN mother who has fled to Estonia with her children to escape the Bolsheviki**

Bolshevists have been forced to make stricter rules than those customary in any other land.

"One of the strongest influences wielded by the agitators in the beginning was the fact that they impressed the peasants in Russia as being well educated. That influence will not have such force in this country. Whereas there was only a small percentage in Russia with any education at all, there is in America only a small number who are uneducated."

**Women Bolshevism's Foes**  
 "Women can do a great deal toward off the influences of Bolshevism. Instinctively they are protectors of the home and should feel a natural antagonism toward things that threaten it. The suffering of our Russian women has been a lesson to the women of the world."  
 As an adopted citizen of Russia Princess Cantacuzene has an appreciation of the Russian women and their qualities which only one coming from the outside could get. She said that without exception the women of Russia rose to meet the war situation. They took up the work that their men left and carried it on with the strength and will of young Amazons. Independence and unconscious feminism grew among them with their new situation. In the country the women handled duties never before thought of as belonging to them, and the new phase was full of promise for the

**Calls It German Plot**  
 "Of course, the whole thing was a German plot. In the war Germany felt that she could handle the Western front if she could be relieved of the pressure on the East. With Russia out of the war the situation was simplified. The court faction which had been friendly toward Germany in the Czar's time and had been thrown into prison under the provisional government was re-

leased immediately by the Bolsheviki leaders. German gold was found when the headquarters of some of these leaders were raided, and in a number of instances German spies were recognized and caught.

"The unrest among certain groups of people in this country and in certain vicinities is similar to that in Russia before the Bolshevists took control. But the fact that there are so many educated persons among those who most probably would be used for a revolution convinces me that the same results could not be accomplished here that were brought about in Russia. At the same time the problem is one which Americans should be informed upon and on the alert to avert."

**Rejoiced in the Revolution**  
 "Every woman rejoiced when the revolution came," said the princess. "The helplessness of the autocratic régime had brought desperation to these tireless women workers of high and low rank. New theories brought fresh hope and courage to all."  
 "The women leaders of the revolution in the upper classes preached true liberty. Catherine Breshkov-

sky, the 'grandmother of the revolution,' the dream of whose life had been the revolution, traveled about calling the people to arms against anarchy. Many other women strove to stem the destruction of the Bolsheviki party.  
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## Loyal Daughter Wins Freedom for Convicted Banker

**H**OW a Kentucky girl, pampered and protected, of an aristocratic, wealthy Blue Grass family, suddenly left penniless and forced to earn her own living when her father was imprisoned for wrecking his bank, not only achieved success in the business world, but succeeded against tremendous odds in obtaining her father's pardon within five years, only to collapse physically on the day of triumph, with a grave operation the only chance for her recovery—this, briefly, is the remarkable story of beautiful Kate Alexander, daughter of George Alexander, the Paris, Ky., embezzler.

Five years ago Miss Alexander was one of the most popular young women in the Blue Grass. She was the daughter of one of the wealthiest men in the state. She was blessed with a most charming disposition. She used her father's wealth to bring comfort and cheer to unfortunate and poor. Christmas, with gifts, she visited scores of families in unfortunate circumstances. She was personally known to practically every person in the county. Her hand in marriage had been sought by a number of young men, wealthy and of the best families.

**Kept Her Faith**  
 Then the catastrophe came. Like a thunderbolt from a clear sky it was told her by a friend that the bank of which her father had long been the head had been closed by the State Banking Commissioner and that there were rumors that the funds of the bank had been misappropriated. She steadfastly refused to believe the rumors. Her confidence in her father, her best friend since the death of her mother, was absolute. Then came the arrest, trial and conviction. He was sentenced to from seven years to seventy years.  
 Although crushed in heart she bore up bravely and began to fight to save her father from prison. She solicited the aid of friends and found hundreds eager to help her.

**Worked for a Pardon**  
 Following her father's conviction she laid out a plan of action and began work in earnest. She circulated a petition asking Governor McCreary to issue a pardon before the incarceration of her father. Hundreds of signatures of the best citizens were obtained, among them being many who had lost heavily through failure of the bank. They could not refuse the appeal, backed as it was by her earnestness, devotion to and trust in her father, whom she still believed innocent.  
 Those who signed it would remark afterward:  
 "Well, I guess I should not have signed it, but I could not refuse Miss Kate."  
 She personally took the document to Governor McCreary, who also yielded to her earnestness and childlike belief in her father, and was on the point of granting her wish when politics took a hand in the game and he was compelled to refuse. And again and again the courageous girl renewed her efforts, only to meet with defeat.  
 When Governor Stanley assumed office she laid siege to him and, as with McCreary, again politics inter-



Miss Kate Alexander, who won her father's freedom

vened and disappointment was again her portion. Governor Blake's attitude was the same.  
**Made Good on a Job**  
 Pride and independence kept her from accepting the offers of financial assistance from scores of relatives and friends who would have been glad to have come to her aid. She rejected suitors for her hand. She consulted a lifelong friend of her father's, head of a life insurance company. He told her that soliciting life insurance was a splendid field for a girl, and she took his advice and began work as an agent for his company in central Kentucky. Here is where her former good deeds, her sweet disposition and her popularity were to serve her well.  
 When it became known that she was soliciting insurance many friends did not wait for her to call on them but voluntarily hunted her up. Policy after policy, nearly all for large sums, began to roll into the main office.  
 When the year was up it was ascertained that Miss Alexander had sold more than \$500,000 of insurance and was still rapidly adding to that figure.  
**Loss of Health**  
 Then came the inevitable result of five years of worry and hard work. Friends and relatives noticed that her health was failing. Though she still retained that smile and cheerful greeting for every one, the bloom of health was leaving her cheeks. Physicians advised a long rest. She spent a fortnight in Florida in hope her health would

be restored, but while there Edward P. Morrow assumed the office of Governor and she rushed back to Kentucky to take up the fight in her father's behalf.  
 She proved to Governor Morrow's satisfaction that her father's health was impaired, that he was past seventy-one years of age and, according to the laws of nature, he had but a few years at the most to live. She wanted him to spend the remainder of his days outside the prison walls. She circulated another petition, obtaining the signatures of the judge who presided at the trial, the commonwealth's attorney, members of the jury who brought in a verdict of guilty and scores of the most prominent citizens of central Kentucky. She succeeded in winning over the Governor in a personal interview.  
 Then on Monday of last week the Governor placed in her hand the precious paper for which she had been fighting so bravely.  
**Collapsed at Prison Door**  
 She hastened to the prison with the pardon. Taking her father by the arm, she led him from the grim walls. As the gates swung open and the two walked forth, the father breathing the air of freedom for the first time in five years, the girl collapsed.  
 Her nerve had sustained her until her goal had been attained.  
 A friend, waiting in an automobile, rushed them to the railroad station and father and daughter started for Cleveland for an operation by a specialist—an operation of a most serious nature.

millions need America's help if they are not to die of starvation. The time is coming when Russia will rise up purified and be the wonder of the world. Every Russian with whom I have talked believes this. The superstitious point to the prophecy said to have been made by Count Tolstoy in 1910. According to the story, the Czar asked Tolstoy what he foresaw for the future, and the famous writer is said to have gone into what resembled a trance, and while in that state to have declared that he saw all Europe in flames and predicted such a war as the world had never known. You know the authenticity of the prophecy has been questioned, but it is interesting, whether it was uttered by Tolstoy or not. After describing the world cataclysm the prophecy runs:

**Saw a New Era**  
 "The end of that great calamity will mark a new political era for the world. There will be left no empires and no kingdoms, but there will be born a federation of united states, and there will exist four great, giant races—the Anglo-Saxons, the Latins, the Slavs and the Mongolians; and I see a change in religious sentiment, and the Church as known now will fall. The ethical idea will nearly vanish, and humanity will be almost without morality; and then a great reformer will arise about the year 1925. He will lay the cornerstone of a new religion: God, soul and spirit, with immortality, all will be molten in the new furnace, to form a new power of spirituality; and I see the peaceful dawn of a new day at last. . . . And the man determined on for this mission is a Mongolian-Slav already walking the earth. He will be a man of active affairs and does not realize now the position in history assigned to him by his superior powers."  
 "That prophecy, whatever its origin, has caught the imagination of millions of Slavs and it enables them to wait on with faith and courage for a new Russia."

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