Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Unlike the mineral preparations that drive the virus of eruptions and acres into the vital organs, this marvellous ointment discharges the poison before it heals the flesh. The pills inevitably cure dyspepsia, and all bilious disorders.

Married.

On Wednesday, April 16, by the Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, JOHN TURNURE, Jr., to Miss ELIZA VAN RIPER, all of this city.

On Saturday, April 19, by the Rev. Dr. Jones, Mr. AUGUSTUS D. FOWLER, of this city, to Miss JANE YOUNG, of Providence, R. I.

Providence papers please copy.

On Friday, April 18, by the Rev. S. Osgood, Mr. JAMES BILLIN to Miss ALICE, second daughter of the late James Parr.

At Cold Spring Harbor, on Wednesday, April 16, by the Rev. Mr. Edward, WM. EDWARD JONES to Miss SARAH HEWLETT.

In Philadelphia, on Thursday, April 17, by the Rev. P. F. Mayer, D. D., L. SHUSTER SMITH, of New York, to ANNIE E. P., daughter of the late Lawrence Shuster, of the former city.

Died.

On Saturday, April 19, Mrs. ELIZABETH MCCLANE, relict of the late John McClane, aged 46 years and 10 months.

The funeral will take place this afternoon, at two o'clock, from No. 10 Prince street. Her relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

On Saturday, April 19, of consumption, NICHOLAS CLINTON, in the 47th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family, and those of Michael and Peter Halpin, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this afternoon, at one o'clock, from his late residence, No. 101 Greenwich street. His remains will be taken to Calvary Cemetery.

On Saturday, April 19, J. W. CUSHING, in the 51st year of his age.

His relatives and friends, and the members of Polar Star Lodge, F. and A. M., are invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, Wooster street, near Broome street, to-morrow afternoon, at two o'clock.

On Saturday, April 19, EDWARD B. CORWIN.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 23 Forsyth street, this afternoon, at four o'clock, without further invitation.

On Saturday, April 19, CATHARINE BROUWER, aged 75 years and 11 months.

Her sisters and relatives are invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her brother, Samuel Brouwer, No. 173 Wooster street, to-morrow morning, at half past nine o'clock, to Greenwood.

On Saturday, April 19, JOHN PARTRIDGE, aged 15 years and 8 months.

The friends and relatives are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this afternoon, at two o'clock, from the residence of his father, No. 8 Rector street. His remains will be taken to Calvary Cemetery for interment.

On Saturday, April 19, THOMAS ROGERS, of the firm of Rogers, Ketchum & Grosvenor, in the 65th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, to-morrow afternoon, at three o'clock, from his late residence, No. 68 Hammond street, without further invitation. The remains will be taken to Greenwood.

On Sunday, April 20, after a short illness, MARY, wife of James Davey.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this afternoon, at two o'clock, from her late residence, No. 351 Water street, without further notice. Her remains will be taken to the Cemetery of the Evergreens.

On Sunday, April 20, JAMES HENRY PETRIE, the beloved son of Peter and Harriet Petrie, aged 2 years, 8 months and 1 day.

In consequence of the death of James, the funeral of Charles T. will be postponed until this afternoon, at three o'clock. The relatives and friends are most respectfully invited to attend their funeral, from the residence of their parents, No. 9 Goerck street, without further invitation. Their remains will be taken to Greenwood.

On Sunday afternoon, April 20, of inflammation of the lungs, JOSEPHINE, only daughter of Thomas and Harriet N. Cunningham, aged 6 years, six months and 3 days.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her father, No. 86 Twenty-sixth street, corner of Lexington avenue, this afternoon, at two o'clock.

On Saturday evening, April 19, CYRUS HUTCHINSON, only child of John and Matilda Davidson, aged 1 year and 4 months.

The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his parents, No. 313 Third street, this afternoon, at two o'clock.

On Sunday, April 20, LEWIS HENRY, son of the late Wm. H. Burritt, and nephew of the Hon. Samuel L. Burritt, of Jacksonville, Florida.

The relatives and friends of the family, and those of his uncle, Joseph C. Lawrence are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this afternoon, at three o'clock, from the Astor place Hotel, No. 733 Broadway, without further invitation.

California and Florida papers please copy.

On Sunday morning, April 20, at 12 o'clock, CATHERINE O'BRIEN, the beloved daughter of John and Ellen O'Brien, aged 2 years and 6 months.

The relatives and friends of the family are requested to attend the funeral, from the residence of her father, No. 366 Cherry street, this afternoon, at half past two o'clock, without further invitation.

On Sunday, April 20, JOHN JOSEPH O'REILLY, aged 2 years, 6 months and 10 days.

The funeral will take place from the residence of his parents, No. 1 James street, this afternoon, at two o'clock.

On Saturday evening, April 19, FRANCIS EDWARD, son of Francis and Jennie Henriques, aged 1 year, 9 months and 7 days.

The friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, this afternoon, at one o'clock, without further notice.

In Brooklyn, on Sunday morning, April 20, MARY, wife of J. H. Leeds, aged 39 years.

Funeral from the house No. 67 Orange street, this afternoon, at half past three o'clock. The remains will be taken to Newburg for interment. Funeral from St. George's church, Newburg, to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend, without further notice.

In Brooklyn, on Sunday, April 20, after a short and severe illness, DAVID HOWARD, son of the late John Howard, stone cutter, in the 27th year of his age.

His friends and relatives are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his mother, No. 80 Washington street, Brooklyn, to-morrow afternoon, at two o'clock.

On Sunday, April 20, after a long and severe illness, endured with great Christian fortitude and patience, ALMIRA, wife of Curtis Ackerly, Esq., in the 38th year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, without further notice, to-morrow afternoon, at three o'clock, from her late residence, in Division avenue, between Third and Fourth streets, North Brooklyn. Her remains will be interred in Greenwood.

On Saturday morning, April 19, of consumption, MARY T., wife of Joseph E. Hendrick, in the 43d year of her age.

The friends and relatives of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her brother-in-law, John J. Devereaux, No. 68 Tenth street, Williamsburg, this afternoon, at three o'clock.

On Saturday evening, April 19, GRACE, only child of William P. Wright, of this city, aged 7 years.

The funeral will take place from the residence of his father, at Weehawken, this afternoon, at three o'clock.

At Hoboken, on Sunday morning, April 20, ROBERT L. STEVENS, aged 68 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, in Hoboken, to-morrow afternoon, at two o'clock, without further notice. The funeral services will be at St. Paul's church, Hoboken.

In Jersey City, on Sunday afternoon, April 20, at four o'clock, after a lingering illness, JAMES W. DOYLE, aged 29 years and 4 months.

The funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon, at half past two o'clock, from his late residence, No. 49 Newark avenue. His friends and acquaintances, the members of Washington Engine Company No. 4, and the Fire Department in general, are respectfully invited to attend.

Boston and Lowell papers please copy.

In Jersey City, on Sunday morning, April 20, HENRY C. NICHOLS, son of Charles L. and Jennett Nichols, aged 20 years and 8 months.

His friends, and those of the family, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, to-morrow afternoon, at two o'clock, from the residence of his parents, No. 124 Warren street, Jersey City.

Weekly Report of Deaths

In the city and county of New York, from the 12th day of April to the 19th day of April, 1856.

Men, 68; women, 66; boys, 136; girls, 137—Total, 387.
Adults, 124; children, 263; males, 194; females, 193; colored persons, 8.

DISEASES.

Abscess, of the abdomen	1	Fever, puerperal	3
Abscess, of the lungs	1	Fever, remittent	3
Albuminaria and Bright's disease of kidneys	1	Fever, scarlet	35
Apoplexy	4	Fever, typhoid	1
Asthma (thymic)	1	Fever, typhus	4
Bleeding, from bowels	1	Fracture of the leg	1
Bleeding, from lungs	3	Fracture of ribs and thigh	1
Bleeding, from navel	1	Heart, disease of	3
Bowels, disease of	2	Hip, disease of	2
Bronchitis	7	Hooping cough	6
Burned or scalded	3	Inflammation of bowels	9
Cancer	1	Inflammation of brain	13
Cancer of the breast	2	Inflammation of lungs	20
Catarrh	1	Inflammation of spine	2
Casualty, kick of a horse	1	Inflammation of stomach	2
Casualty, shooting	1	Inflammation of throat	3
Casualty, struck by a boom	1	Jaundice, infantile	1
Colic	1	Kidneys, disease of	1
Congestion of the brain	6	Liver, disease of	2
Congestion of lungs	5	Lues veneres (infantile)	2
Consumption	43	Lungs, disease of	1
Convulsions, adult	1	Malformation of heart	2
Convulsions, infantile	22	Marasmus, adult	1
Convulsions, puerperal	1	Marasmus, infantile	24
Croup	14	Measles	2
Debility, infantile	5	Old age	1
Delirium tremens	2	Palsy	3
Diarrhœa	3	Pleurisy	1
Dropsy	5	Premature birth	4
Dropsy in the chest	2	Scrofula	1
Dropsy in the head	26	Smallpox	10
Drowned	1	Softening of the brain	1
Dysentery	2	Sprue	1
Enlargement of the heart	2	Stillborn	34
Enlargement of womb (?)	1	Suicide, by laudanum	2
Eruption (saltrheum)	1	Ulceration of stomach	1
Erysipelas	2	Ulceration of throat	2
Fever, bilious	1	Vomiting (excessive)	1
Fever, congestive	2	Worms	1
		Total	387

RECAPITULATION—DISEASES CLASSED.

Bones, joints, &c	4	Stillborn and premature birth	38
Brain and nerves	63	Stomach, bowels and other digestive organs	59
Generative organs	6	Uncertain seat and general fevers	26
Heart and blood vessels	7	Urinary organs	2
Lungs, throat, &c	111		
Old age	1		
Skin, &c., and eruptive fevers	50		
Total	387		

—Of which 11 were from violent causes.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Almshouse, Blkw'll's Isl.	2	Pent'ry Hosp'l, Blk's Isl.	1
Bellevue Hospital	2	Smallpox Hosp. Blk's Isl.	2
City Hospital	7	Ward's Isl. Emig't Hosp.	4
Jews' Hospital	1		
New York Juv. Asylum	1	Total	20

AGES.

Under 1 year	124	30 to 40 years	33
1 to 2 years	51	40 to 50 years	22
2 to 5 years	49	50 to 60 years	12
5 to 10 years	20	60 to 70 years	8
10 to 15 years	6	70 to 80 years	14
15 to 20 years	18	80 to 90 years	1
20 to 25 years	11		
25 to 30 years	18	Total	387

NATIVITIES.

British America	1	Poland	1
England	11	Scotland	1
France	3	Spain	1
Germany	19	Sweden	2
Holland	1	Switzerland	1
Ireland	39	United States	306
Italy	1		
Total			387

WARDS.

1	8	13	16
2	2	14	14
3	2	15	15
4	20	16	18
5 (includes City Hosp'l)	17	17	31
6	50	18	28
7	16	19 (includes Blkl's Island Hospitals)	12
8	24	20	32
9	16	21 (includes B'vue Hos'l)	19
10	18	22	23
11	31		
12 (includes R. and W. Island Hospitals)	5	Total	387

GEORGE W. MORTON, City Inspector.
City Inspector's Office, New York, April 19, 1856.

ADVERTISEMENTS RENEWED EVERY DAY.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

MRS. HENTZ'S GREAT WORK.
COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE;
OR, THE JOYS AND SORROWS OF AMERICAN LIFE,
By Mrs. Caroline Lee Hentz,
Is this day published and for sale by all booksellers in New York and elsewhere.
Published by T. B. PETERSON,
No. 102 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

OLD OR NEW BOOKS, OR MUSIC, IN ANY QUANTITIES, bought by F. M. HAVERTY, bookseller, 111 Fulton street.

NEWSPAPERS.

NEW BOOK STORE.—THE SUBSCRIBERS HAVE JUST opened a stock of choice books, lately imported from England, of old and new works, in all departments of literature, which they offer for sale at low prices. Among them are the following:—
Thane's British Autobiography, portraits, 3 v. hf. mor., 4to. London $15 00
Shaftsbury's Characteristics; Barkwelle ed., 3 v., 8vo. c. neat 9 00
Chelographimania; or, Portrait Collector and Pretseller's Chronicle, 8vo., calf, gilt 2 00
Poems of Catullus, by Nott, 1 vol. 8vo., calf, gilt 1 75
National Portrait Gallery, 5 vo., 4to., rus., gilt, London 22 00
French Portraits of Eminent Characters, 2 v., r., 8vo. h. c 6 00
Works of Montesquie 4 vols., 8vo., calf, gilt 6 50
Beloe's Anecdotes of Literature, 6 v., 8vo. calf, gilt 12 00
Cowper's Translations of Homer, 4 v., 8vo., calf, gilt 5 25
Aubrey's Lives of Eminent Men, 3 v., h. c 4 50
The Biographical Mirror of Ancient and Modern English Portraits, 3 vols., 4to, half calf, gilt 12 00
Physiognomical Portraits of 100 Distinguished Characters, 2 vols. in 1, h. mor 6 00
Bayle's Critical Dictionary, 10 v., fol., Lon. c. ed 40 00
Bryant's Ancient Mythology, 6 v., 8vo., rus. gilt 12 00
Rapin's Critical Works, 2 v., 8vo., calf 2 00
Plutarch's Morals, 5 v., 8vo., calf, gilt 6 00
Thornton's Plautus, 5 v., 8vo., calf, neat 6 00
Grow's Antiquities of England and Wales, 4 v., 4to., c. nt 12 00
Bacon's Works, 10 vol. 8vo., calf, gilt 20 00
Dryden's Works, by Walter Scott, 18 v., 8vo. calf, gilt 37 00
Pope's Works, by Roscoe, 10 vols. 8vo., calf, gilt 20 00
Also, constantly receiving additions to their stock, suitable for private libraries, to which the public are invited to call and examine. TUNISON & REEVE,
138 Fulton st., up stairs, between Nassau and Broadway.

THE PARIS CHRONICLE.—ON THE 1ST OF MAY next will be published a new semi-monthly journal, in the English language, of fashion, literature, the fine arts, industry and commerce. Each number will be embellished by a beautiful colored engraving of the fashions. The journal will contain a complete account of every new invention, whether in art, science or fashion, besides the varied news and gossip of the capital of the civilized world. Published by Charles Hartwick, 18 Rue Vivienne, Paris. Terms of subscription: 6 months, $4; 12 months, $8. Subscriptions to be received for the United States by Messrs. B. WESTERMANN & CO., No. 290 Broadway, New York.

THE LECTURE SEASON.

DR. O. A. BROWNSON WILL LECTURE ON THE RELATION of the Government to Religion, for the benefit of the New York Catholic Library Association, at the Broadway Tabernacle, on Tuesday evening, April 22, at 8 o'clock. Tickets 25 cents, to be had at the door on the evening of the lecture.

PHRENOLOGY, AT THE ODEON, IN BROOKLYN, E. D.—Mr. FOWLER commences a course of lectures on Wednesday evening next, April 23, at 7½ o'clock, to be continued four successive evenings. Seats to first lecture free; to subsequent ones, 12½ cents. Professional examinations, with charts and full written descriptions of character, daily, at 308 Broadway.

PERSONAL.

INFORMATION WANTED—OF HUGH AND JOHN Black, from Glasgow, Scotland; Hugh was last heard from in Jackson county, Michigan, in 1834 and 1844, and in London, Canada West, as proprietor of a distillery, in 1845; John was in Williamsburg in October, 1842, and 1844, and 1846; was engaged with Mr. Holmes, coachmaker, in London, Canada. They, or any person who know of their present residence, will confer a favor by addressing James Waddell, Louisville, Kentucky.

INFORMATION WANTED—OF CAPT. DANIEL SOMMERS, of New York. When last heard from, was in the mines at South Salmon river, Clymouth county, California, on October 21, 1854. Any information respecting him will be thankfully received by his afflicted wife, Harriet L. Sommers, 75 Murray street, New York. California papers please copy.

IF THE LADY WHO WROTE A LENGTHY AND BEAUtiful letter to Southern Merchant at the Manhattan Hotel, on the 24th of March, will call at Union square Post office, she will find a letter, which she will please answer and oblige.

THE TURF.

NEW YORK RACES—SPRING MEETING, THIRD WEEK in June, 1856, over the Fashion (formerly National) Race Course, Newtown, L. I. For Jockey Club purses and stakes see Spirit of the Times.
DE WITT C. GRINNELL, Treas'r Fashion Ass'on.

RED HOUSE PLEASURE GROUNDS—TROTTING.—A purse of twenty-five dollars will be given on Wednesday, 23d inst., free for all horses, mile heats, best three in five; under the saddle. Trotting to commence at 3 o'clock precisely. Entrance ten per cent, to close on Tuesday, 22d inst., at the Red House. J. D. WALTON.

UNION COURSE, L. I.—RUNNING—ON MONDAY, April 21, at half-past two P. M., a match for $200 ten mile out, carrying catch weights. William Whelan names br. m. Lilly Dale; William J. Shaw names gr. m. Fanny.
SHAW & WHITE, Proprietors.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

CAPE COD ASSOCIATION.—ALL NATIVES OF CAPE Cod and their descendants—all descended from those who landed on Cape Cod on the 11th of November, 1620—and all persons who have married on the Cape, are invited to meet at the Gramercy Park House, East Twentieth street, this (Monday) evening, 21st instant, at 8 o'clock, to complete the organization.

CAUTION.—THE PUBLIC ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST infringing on the patent of C. O. Wilson's match stands and safes. The genuine are stamped on the bottom, C. O. Wilson's Yankee Match Stands and Safes, Phila., and are warranted to stand any climate. Sold wholesale, by R. B. Watmough, sole agent for New York, No. 4 Murray street.
C. O. WILSON, Philadelpia.

NOTICE—THE CREDITORS OF TEXAS ARE REquested to meet the subscriber on business of the utmost importance to their interests, on the first Monday of May next, at residence, at Willard's Hotel, in the city of Washington. On and after the 15th April next copies of the circular which the subscriber has issued simultaneously with this advertisement, together with a letter addressed to the delegation in Congress from the State of Texas, will be delivered to such of the creditors as may apply for them, at the office of Messrs. H. Brower & Co., of this city. J. HAMILTON.
AUSTIN, TEXAS, March 18, 1855.

NOTICE.—A CONSTRUCTOR OF FLOATING DRY docks, to contract for the construction of one of first class, is needed, for which one can present himself, with good references and the patterns of some constructions. An architect is also needed, for building a wooden house. To treat about this, call at 98 Duane street (Hotel de France), room No. 5, on Monday, April 21, from 11 o'clock in the morning till 2 in the afternoon.

NOTICE.—THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR FIFTEEN Trustees of the New York Society Library will be held at the new Library Building, in University place, between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets, on Tuesday, April 29, between the hours of 1 and 4 P. M. And the annual meeting of the shareholders will be held on the same day, and at the same place, at 12 M. GEORGE C. ANTHON, Secretary.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.—NOTICE IS HEREBY given, according to law, to all persons having claims against Charlotte Osborn, late of Bellport in the town of Brookhaven, and county of Suffolk, deceased, that they are required to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscribers, the executors of the last will and testament of the said deceased, at the dwelling house of Edward Osborn, one of the executors, at Bellport aforesaid, on or before the 20th day of August next. Dated the 12th day of February, 1856.
EDWARD OSBORN, } Executors.
WILLIAM KEVAN, }

OFFICE OF THE MASTERTON, SMITH & SINCLAIR Stone Dressing Company, foot of Twenty-ninth street, East river.—A special meeting of the stockholders will be held at the company's office, on Wednesday, the 23d inst., for the election of seven trustees. Poll open from 9 to 10 o'clock A. M.
By order. ALEXANDER MASTERTON, Pres't.
NEW YORK, April 12, 1856.

OFFICE OF THE SECOND AVENUE RAIL ROAD COMpany—New York, April 7, 1856.—At an election held this day, in pursuance of an amendment to the by laws, the following gentlemen were elected directors of this company for the ensuing year:—

Denton Pearsall,	David M. Hughes,	George Ball,
Wm. L. Youle,	Waldo Hutchins,	Henry Hendricks,
Sidney Mason,	Corne'us McOon,	Zophar Pearsall,
John O'Brien,	Edward Haight,	A. B. Rapelye,
Charles Miller.		

At a subsequent meeting of the directors, Denton Pearsall was re-elected President; David M. Hughes, Vice President; John O'Brien, Treasurer. By order.
J. ATTWOOD, Acting Secretary.

REMOVAL.—EVANS & CARMAN HAVE REMOVED TO the St. Nicholas Hotel buildings, Nos. 190, 192 and 194 Spring street.

REMOVAL.—MRS. E. M. HUBBARD & CO. WILL REmove to No. 7 Bond street April 23. Second opening of spring millinery on Thursday, April 24.

RAILROAD CONTRACT.—PROPOSALS WILL BE RECeived for the immediate construction of ten miles of railroad, between Long Branch and New York. Apply at the office of the Florence and Keyport Co., 59 Beaver street.

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY OF NEW YORK ANNUAL Festival.—The St. George's Society will celebrate its seventieth anniversary, by a dinner at the Metropolitan Hotel, on Wednesday, April 23. Dinner will be served at 6 o'clock precisely. Tickets for the occasion may be had from the stewards: —William M. Smith, No. 6 South William street; Charles Cooper, 86 Sixth street; S. Milford, 131 Pearl street; R. Bainbridge, 47 Cliff street; also from any of the officers of the Society, at the Metropolitan Hotel, at the Society's office, 89 Greenwich street, and at the Albion office, 18 Beekman street. English and colonial visitors to this city are particularly invited to attend.

TAMMANY SOCIETY; OR, COLUMBIAN ORDER.—BROthers—The annual meeting of the society for the election of officers for the ensuing year, will be held in the council chamber of the Great Wigwam, on Monday evening 21st inst., at half an hour after the setting of the sun. General and punctual attendance is requested. By order,
LORENZO B. SHEPARD, Grand Sachem.
STEPHEN C. DURYEA, Secretary.
Manhattan Season of Blossoms, 4th Moon; Year of Discovery, 364; of Independence, 80; and of the Institution, the 67th.

A NEW AND INTERESTING TALE.

MY PEN.

BY NETTIE COOK.

Hurra! hurra for my pen so good!
Plain worker though he be;
An arrowy shaft of cedar wood
With point of steel is he;
He plunges deep in the murky flood,
And laughs aloud in glee,
For sorrow and sighing never could
With him keep company.

Then I'll hurra for my pen so good,
Though plainly garbed is he!
Such gay old fellow for mate, why should
I ever lonely be?
He cheers my life, whatever may bode,
And drives the blues away,
For failing friends, or fortune's smiles, should
Then I mourn a day?

THE GUNMAKER OF MOSCOW.

OR, VALDIMIR THE MONK.

A TALE OF THE EMPIRE UNDER PETER THE GREAT.

BY SILVANUS COBB, JR.

[Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1856, by Robert Bonner, in the Clerk's office of the District Court for the Southern District of New York.]

CHAPTER III—(Continued.)

That was not the time for bringing forward doubts and fears Ruric had many questions in his mind concerning the impediments that stood in the way of their union, but he kept them to himself now. At length he arose to take his departure, and he simply said, as he drew the maiden to his side:

"You will not allow the Duke to give your hand away?"

"Never, Ruric."

"If he asks you for your hand to bestow upon any of his friends, you will tell him—"

"That my heart is not mine to give, and that my hand cannot go without it."

"Oh—Bless you, Rosalind—bless you. God keep and guard you ever."

There was one warm, ardent pressure of lip to lip, and then Ruric Revel turned away, and was soon in the open court. Here he entered his sledge, and then drove to the barracks in the Khitagorod, where he inquired for Alaric Orsa, a lieutenant of the guard. The officer was quickly found, and as he met Rusic his salutation was warm and cordial. He was a young man, not over five-and twenty, and one of the finest looking soldiers in the guard.

"Alaric," said the gun maker, after the first friendly salutation had passed, "I may have a meeting with Conrad Count Damonoff. He has sought a quarrel—insulted me most grossly—aimed a blow at my head—and I knocked him down. You can judge as well as I what the result must be."

"Most surely he will challenge you," cried the officer, excitedly.

"So I think," resumed Ruric, calmly. "And now will you serve me in the event?"

"With pleasure."

"I may refer his messenger to you?"

"Yes—surely. And how shall I act? What will you do?"

"Knock him down again under the same provocation."

"I understand. You wish to retract nothing?"

"No. Listen; I will tell you all, since I seek your aid."

And thereupon Ruric went on and related all that had occurred at the time of the Count's visit to the shop.

"Good!" uttered Alaric, as the gunmaker finished. "He must challenge you, and then you'll punish him. He's too proud now. He can handle some of his flytops who associate with him, and perhaps he thinks he can do the same when he comes out among the harder men. But never mind; I will be punctual and faithful."

Ruric reached home just as his mother was placing the board for dinner. He often went away on business, and she thought not of asking him any questions.

CHAPTER IV.

THE CHALLENGE.

In the afternoon Ruric retired to his shop, where he went at work upon a gun which had been ordered some days before. As yet he had said nothing to Paul concerning the affair of the day before since his return from the Kremlin. He asked him now, however, if any one had called.

"Only the monk," returned Paul, without seeming to consider that there was anything very important in the visit.

"Do you mean the black monk—Valdimir?" asked the young man, starting.

"Yes, my master. He called here about the middle of the forenoon. He wanted one of the small daggers with the pearl hilt."

"And did you let him have one?"

"Certainly. He paid me four ducats for it, and would have paid more had I been willing to take it."

"And did he make any conversation?"

"Yes. He asked me why the Count Damonoff came here yesterday."

"Ha!—How did he know of their visit?"

"He was waiting at the inn for a sledge when he overheard the Count and has companion conversing upon the subject."

"And did he ask any questions touching the particulars?"

"Yes—many."

"And how answered you?"

"I told him the whole story, from beginning to end. I found he knew something of their purpose from what he accidentally overheard, and rather than have him go away full of surmises, I told him all."

"Of the message, too?"

"Yes, my master. I told him all that happened, from the showing of the paper which the Duke had drawn up, to the departure of the angry man."

"And what did the monk say?" Ruric asked, very earnestly.

"Why—he said he knew the Count, and that he was a proud, reckless fellow, and worth but little to society. That was all. He did not seem to care much about it any way; only he said he should have done just as you did, and that every law of justice would bear you out. He had more curiosity than interest, though I am sure all his sympathies are with you."

"Very well," returned Ruric. "It can matter but little what the monk thinks about it though I would rather have him know the truth if he must know anything, for I would not be misunderstood."

"He understands it all now, my master; and I trust you are not offended at the liberty I took in telling him."

"Not at all, Paul—not at all."

Here the conversation dropped, and the work was resumed in silence. It was past three o'clock when Ruric's mother came and informed him that a gentleman in the house would speak with him.

"Is it Stephen Urzen?" asked the youth.

His mother said it was.

"Then bid him come out here."

Claudia retired, and in a few moments more the gentleman made his appearance.

"Ruric Nevel," he said, bowing very stiffly and haughtily, "I bring a message from the Count Damonoff."

"Very well, sir," returned the gunmaker proudly, "I am ready to receive it."

Thereupon Urzen drew a sealed note from his pocket, and handed it to Ruric, who took it and broke the seal. He opened it, and read as follows:—

"RURIC NEVEL—An insult of the most aggravating nature has for the time levelled all distinctions of caste between us. Your blood alone can wash out the stain. I would not murder you outright, and in no other way but this can I reach you. My friend, the bearer of this will make all arrangements. If you care not meet me, say so, that all may know who is the coward. DAMONOFF."

When Ruric had read the missive he crushed it in his hand, and gazed his bearer some moments in the face without speaking.

"Will you answer?" asked Urzen. He spoke more softly than before, for he saw something in the gunmaker's face which he dared not provoke.

"Are you acquainted with Alaric Orsa, a lieutenant of the guard?"

"Yes, sir—I know him well."

"Then let me refer you to him. He will make all necessary arrangements, and I shall hold myself bound by his plans. I trust that is satisfactory."

"Yes, sir."

"Then you and I need have no more to say."

"Only on one point," said Urzen, with some little show of confusion. "You are the challenged party, and you will have the choice of weapons. The Count has not mentioned this—mind you, he has not; but I, as his friend, deem it no more than right to speak of it. I trust you will choose a gentleman's weapon. In the use of the pistol or the gun he is not versed."

"While you imagine I am," said Ruric, with a contemptuous curl of the lip; for he knew that the man was lying. He could see by the fellow's very looks that Damonoff had commissioned him to broach this matter.

"Of course you are," returned Urzen.

"And the Count is most excellently versed in the use of the sword, is he not?"

"He is accounted a fair swordsman."

"Ay—so I thought. But it matters not to me. The thought had not entered my mind before, save that I supposed swords would be the only weapons thought of. However, Orsa will settle it with you. I have given him no directions at all, save to serve me as he thinks proper, and to act upon the understanding that if I have given offence to the Count, I would do the same again under provocation. You understand now?"

"I do, sir," returned Urzen, in a choking tone.

"Then wait a moment, and I will give you a message to Orsa."

Thus speaking, Ruric went to his desk, and upon the bottom of the missive he had received from the Count he wrote:—

"Dear Alaric—I send this to you by the same hand that bore it to me, and you are hereby empowered to act for me as you may deem proper. I shall be governed strictly by your arrangements. RURIC."

Having written this, he showed it to Urzen, and asked him if he would bear it to the lieutenant. An affirmative reply was given and then simply folding the note in the opposite way from the original fold, the gunmaker superscribed it anew to the lieutenant, and handed it to his visitor. Urzen took it, and with a stiff bow, but without speaking, he turned and left the place.

That evening, about 8 o'clock, a sledge drove up to Ruric's door, and Alaric Orsa entered the house. He called the youth aside, and it formed him that the arrangements had all been made.

"Damonoff is in a hurry," he said "and we have appointed the meeting at ten o'clock to-morrow forenoon. It will take place at the bend of the river, just beyond the Viska hill."

"And the weapons?" asked Ruric.

"Swords," returned Orsa. "The Count will bring his own, and he gives you the privilege of selecting such a one as you choose."

"I thank you, Alaric, for your kindness thus far, and you may rest assured that I shall be prompt."

"Suppose I call here in the morning for you?" suggested the visitor.

"I should be pleased to have you do so."

"I will, then, I shall be along in good season with my sledge, and we will both reach the ground together."

Thus it was arranged, and then Orsa took his leave.

When Ruric returned to his seat by the fireplace he noticed that his mother watched him narrowly, and with more than ordinary interest. He had come made up his mind that he would say nothing to his mother about the affair till it was over; but as the time was set, and the hour drew nigh, his mind wavered. When it was over, where might he be? But he was cut short in his reflections by the voice of his parent.

"Ruric," she said, and her voice trembled while she spoke, "you will pardon me for prying into your affairs, but I cannot hide from myself that something of more than usual moment is on the tapis with you. Why are these men calling to and fro? And why are you so thoughtful and moody? You know a mother's feelings, and you will pardon a mother's anxiety."

"Surely, my mother," the youth returned, gazing up for a moment, and then letting his eyes droop again. At length he resumed—"I had made up my mind to tell you all ere you spoke."

There was something deep and significant in Ruric's tone, and his mother quickly caught the spark.

"What is it?" she tremblingly uttered, moving her chair nearer to her child's side.

"Listen," the young man said; and thereupon he detailed the circumstances attending the visit of the Count Damonoff to his shop. Then he told of his own visit to Rosalind, and its result; and then of the visit of Stephen Urzen.

"And now, my mother," he added, without waiting for any reply, "you know it all. You see how I am situated. Remember, our nation has reached its present point by successful war. The best of the nation is built upon military honor, and since our noble Emperor has opened the way of advancement to the lowest of his subjects, who are brave and true, the coward is looked upon with disgust upon all hands. Yet, my mother, I would have you speak."

For some moments Claudia Nevel was silent, but at length she said, while a tear glistened in her eye—

"I have given one loved being up to my country's good. Russia took my husband from me, and I could ill afford now to lose my son. Yet, rather than one stain should rest upon his name, I would see him dead before me. O, Ruric, you know whether dishonor would rest upon you, were you to refuse this challenge."

"I will speak plainly, my dear mother," returned the youth, in a tremulous tone, for his parent's kindness had moved him. "In my soul I should feel perfectly justified in refusing this meeting, for no principle of real honor is at stake. But were I to back out now from this I should never meet another generous look in Moscow. Every one would point the finger of scorn toward me, and the word coward would ring always in my ears. It may be a false state of things—I feel that it really is so; but how can I help it? It is the curse of all great military epochs. Battle alone makes heroes, and so all must measure their honor by the force of their arms. The Count carries even now upon his brow the mark of my blow, and all will say he has a right to demand satisfaction; though I know that he provoked the quarrel on purpose. I cannot refuse him on the ground of station, for he is above me in that. I must meet him."

"Then," said the mother, in a low, calm tone, but with much effort, "you shall not feel that your mother would thwart your design. If your own good judgment says go—then go. If they bring your body to me in the stern grasp of death, I shall pray for the soul that has gone, and shall hope to meet you in the home of the redeemed. If you come back to me alive, I shall thank God that you are spared; but alas! the joy will be clouded with the thought of blood upon your hands, and the knowledge that my joy is another's grief."

"No, no, my mother," cried Ruric, quickly and earnestly. "I will not have a fellow being's blood upon my hand if I can avoid it. Only to save my own life will I take his. He has done all this himself—all—all. The quarrel was his own, and the first blow was his. The challenge is his, and now is not the responsibility his also?"

"It is, my son, so far as he alone is concerned. If you have a responsibility, it must be to your own soul. But tell me—has not the Emperor made some law touching this practice of duelling?"

"Yes, but only the challenger is responsible. The party challenged is held free from blame in the eyes of the law."

"Then I shall interpose no more objection," said the mother. She tried to speak hopefully, but she could not hide the fearful sadness of her heart. "Could fervent prayer avert the blow it should not fall; but I can only pray as one without power."

A long time after this was passed in silence. Both the mother and son seemed to have something upon their minds which they wished to say, but dared not. But the former at length overcame her reluctance.

"Ruric my son," she said, keeping back the tears that struggled for utterance in their silent speech, "is there any little word you would leave? any matter of moment—"

"No, no," the boy answered, speaking calmly by effort. "I am yours and all is yours. But I shall not fail."

"Ah—be not too confident, my son. Let no such assurance lead you to forget your God. I have heard of this Count. It was he who slew Rutger; and Momjaco, too, he slew in the duel. He is an expert swordsman, and surely means to kill you if he can."

"I am aware of that, my mother. But do you know that we are all prone to overlook our own powers when wondering upon the feats of others? I may be pardoned for assuring you that the only man who has ever yet overcome the Count at the sword-play was one of my own scholars. While in Spain I practised with some of the best swordsmen in the kingdom—But listen: I will send one word. For yourself I can tell you nothing which you do not know; but yet you may see Rosalind. If you do, tell her—. But you know my soul. You can tell her as you please. But I shall not fail."

It was now late, and ere long Ruric kissed his mother, and then retired to his bed.

And the widow was left alone. With her eyes she followed the retiring form of her beloved son, and when he was gone from her sight she bowed her head and sobbed aloud. When she reached her humble couch she knelt by the side thereof and poured forth her pent up soul to God. When her head had pressed the pillow she tried to hope—she tried to fasten one hope in her