

## "SOULS ON FIRE"

(Continued from page 10)

need be, they can run you to earth, no matter what the difficulties."

"This quarrel is between Boris and his kinsmen," was the sharp answer. "Soldiers cannot settle it."

"They settled the attack on the Dukhof Monastery, it seems," persisted Armstrong. "I heard the firing when I came here to-night."

"The soldiers are only the people. They are ignorant and misguided. One has to teach them. Do you think they kill their fellow-men for love of their rulers? Are these men within filled with dreams of the emancipation of Russia? Not they. For the most part they are driven to our cause either by hatred of the tax-gatherer or through fear of the police. Some cannot pay the rent; others are thieves and murderers. A few men think and are willing to sacrifice themselves to an idea. Out of such materials revolutions are made. The seed must rot before the tree grows."

This unexpected outburst gave Frank new hope. A man filled with such aspirations could not well be a sanguinary monster.

"We in England sympathize with you," he said. "It is a poor reward to betray the faith two of us have placed in you."

The Russian looked at him in silence for a moment. "You see those hills?" he said suddenly, pointing to the ghostly trio in the middle distance.

"Yes."

"They are the sign of my house. 'Tents,' my people called them when first they crossed the Volga. On the center one Stenka Razin sat in his ivory chair and directed the plunder of passing vessels. His descendant lounges in a palace or drives in smart carriages through the gilded places of Europe. He moves his throne—that is all. Where Stenka robbed a few, Melnikoff robs many. Stenka slaughtered individuals, Melnikoff and his like are strangling a nation. What is your fate, or mine, or this angel-faced girl's, to the miseries of millions, the slavery of children yet unborn?"

"That is true, in a sense; but I always have believed, in my thoughts concerning this local struggle, that your efforts were directed rather toward forcing Prince Melnikoff to marry the charming Natushka than toward political reform."

"The one includes the other. If we destroy one governor we have another sent in his place. Our only chance lies in bringing him to our side. When Boris Melnikoff marries Natushka he is forced back into the fold of his own people. He is not a bad fellow. He sooner would do good than ill."

"I believe that; but you are going the wrong way to work, my friend. We have an English proverb which says: 'One man can bring a horse to the water, but twenty cannot make him drink.' Let the Prince get over his passing craze for Lord Valletort's daughter, and you may gain him more readily to your side."

The big man lifted the heavy portière of the gallery. He even laughed softly. "The easiest way to cure his passion would be for you to marry the lady yourself, nobility."

So the huge Ivan could use his eyes where other folks were concerned, if not in his own behalf!

Frank felt that further argument was unavailing. Inside the smoke-laden and intolerably stuffy sleeping apartment he heard Ivan obtaining news of the affray at the monastery. A few weary stragglers from the routed assailants had just arrived.

He lay down and vainly endeavored to sleep. His troubled brain, no less than sheer physical repulsion of the nauseating surroundings, kept him wide awake. At last he could stand it no longer. Gathering his discarded furs, he went into the

## How the Washboard wears out Clothes.

TAKE a new shirt. Soil it well! Then soap it, and rub the stains out of it on a Washboard.

Do this six times. Then look at the hems, collar and cuff edges, and the button holes, closely.

You'll find them all badly frayed, ripped, thinned,—worn out more than from three months' hard steady use.

Half the life of the garment gone,—eaten up by the Washboard.

Shirt cost a dollar, say,—washboard takes 50¢ of wear out of it,—you get what's left.

Why don't you cut out the washboard? Use a "Water Witch" instead.

This is a new wrinkle. It drives the water through the clothes like a force pump. It takes out all the stains, in half the time, without wearing a single thread, or cracking a button.

No rubbing, scrubbing, wearing, nor tearing, the clothes against a hard metal Washboard. That costs twice as much for hard work, and wears out twice as many clothes in a year.

Try the "Water Witch" for four washings!

Won't cost you a cent to try it either. You write to me for a "Water Witch" and I'll send it to you without a cent of deposit, or a cent of risk on your part.

I'll pay the freight too, so that you may test my offer entirely at my expense. Use it a month, free of charge.

If you like it then, you may keep it.

If you don't like it, send it back to me, at my expense.

If you keep it you pay for it out of the Work and the Wear it saves you,—at, say, 50 cents a week. Remember it washes clothes in half the time they can be washed by hand, it does this by simply driving soapy water swiftly through their threads.

It works like a spinning top and runs as easy as a Sewing Machine.

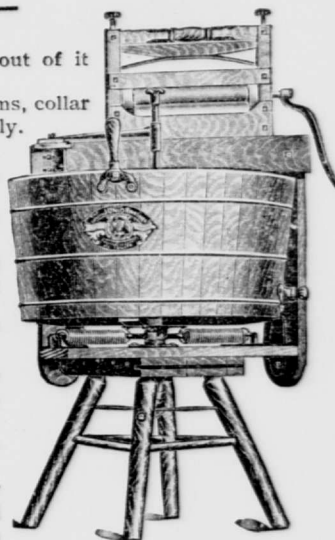
A child of 10 can wash with it as well as a strong woman. You may prove this for yourself, and at my expense I'll send the "Water Witch" free for a month anywhere so you can prove this without risk.

I'll take it back then, if you think you can get along without it. And I'll pay the freight both ways out of my own pocket.

How could I make a cent out of that deal, if the "Water Witch" wouldn't actually wash clothes in half the time, with half the wear, and do all that I say it will?

Write me today for particulars. If you say so I'll send on the machine for a month, so that you can be using it in a week or ten days.

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passage leading to the gallery, preferring the chill shelter of the rocky walls to the effluvia of the horde of men now crowded into the room."

Ivan was asleep already. None of the others paid heed to him. There was no call for vigilance. Neither friend nor foe could win his way out of the old robber's retreat without guidance by the one way: by the other, a bird alone could escape, and the changed weather made it possible to seek rest in the passage without risk of being frozen to death.

Searching for a corner where he would not be in a draft, Frank deposited his rugs on the floor and donned his fur coat in order to be as comfortable as the circumstances permitted. He had arranged his primitive bed, and was about to seek some brief repose, when he thought he heard a light step in the gallery without.

He looked through a little opening in the felt curtain that blocked the passage, and saw some one, whom he took to be Natushka, hurrying along the part of the gallery he had not traversed as yet. That weirdly picturesque young person was as great an enigma as any he had encountered in this land of mysteries.

Neither strength nor courage would serve to extricate Ermytrude and himself from their unpleasant environment; but knowledge might be useful, and watching the girl as she entered another doorway he did not scruple to slip after her as noiselessly as possible. As a subterfuge, if one was necessary, he lit a cigar, of which great consolation in affliction he had a small stock in his case.

Listening, he could distinguish two voices, one full and sonorous, though pleading and persuasive, the other shrill and querulous, the staccato tones of an old woman.

"I am so unhappy, mother!" he caught from Natushka. "I know not which way to turn. You are wise and far-seeing. You have advised me in the past. Why withhold your counsel now?"

"I am busy. Here are men wounded by those owls of monks. I must prepare herbs and potions. What have I to do with your love-sick fancies?"

"Ivan refuses even to look at me. My plotting comes to naught; but his prosper. In Petersburg, in London, here even, I have striven hard to defeat his mad notion that I must wed Prince Melnikoff. I thought I had succeeded when the English girl came to Bannoffka; but this foolish Ivan snaps her from his arms at the very altar."

There was a pause, apparently of indecision on the part of Natushka's companion.

"Where is this girl now?" she demanded at last.

"Sleeping in my room."

"Will she wake if I see her face? Will she scream and faint; for, look you, Natushka, Ivan loves me not, and would brain me with that big fist of his if he imagined I was crossing his path."

"She is weary—but what would you do, Maria Petrovna?"

"There is a sign which I look for. Thou hast it, Natushka. Nay, shake not thy pretty head. It is there. It marked as smooth a brow as thine sixty years ago, yet I married no Melnikoff. I will tell thee when I have looked."

"Come quickly, then!"

Armstrong, at a loss how to act for the best, imagined that the pair meant no actual ill to Ermytrude.

He drew back into the shadow, and the two women entered the gallery. The older one, an aged crone, by her gait, instantly detected the fumes of tobacco.

"Are you alone?" she whispered.

"Yes. Come! None will stir in hours yet."

In the gloom Frank believed that Natushka's confidante was a *snakharka*, or witch-doctor, a relic of a far-distant past yet found in Russia. Thinking that he might learn something of value if

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