

# BRUTALITY OF THE RUSSIAN GRAND DUKES

## MAXIM GORKI, THE NOVELIST, FLAYS RELATIVES OF THE CZAR.

### Draws a Scathing Pen Picture of the Grand Duke Boris and the Sycophancy of Russian Officialdom—The Author Now Languishing in a Dungeon Awaiting an Unknown Fate.

St. Petersburg.—In Russia the governing power is virtually in the hands of the grand dukes. It is to them the czar must turn for advice, and it is their advice which must be accepted, whether the czar would or not, for they are more to be feared by the Little Father than are the people. Palace walls guard him from the deputations of the working classes and prevent the placing of nihilistic bombs, but palace walls will not guard him from the machinations of his relatives, the grand dukes, and they would not always be averse to his death.

They can rule only so long as Russia remains an absolute monarchy. Once let reform get a start, let the people have a share in the government, and the day of the grand dukes is over. This they know, and it is against such a possibility that they will exert every influence.

As a class, the grand dukes of Russia are not worth representing any people. As a class they are a dissolute set to whom country, society, morals, must be sacrificed on the altar of their desires. There are exceptions to this rule, but they are not many. Grand Duke Boris is a fair example of the rule, and, as an illustration of his character, and of the influence of the grand dukes upon Russia, is given the following story written by the great Russian novelist, Maxim Gorki. Gorki is one of few men who dared picture Russian conditions as they exist, and for his daring he is now languishing in a Russian dungeon, removed, possibly forever, as many a Russian hero has been before him, from friends and associates, and if not to meet death, then to suffer exile to the Siberian mines that in his influence upon the Russian people may be removed. His story is as follows:

Bal pare at the Nobility club, the foremost social organization of St. Petersburg. Twelve o'clock, midnight. Five venerable members, two ministers of state, an admiral, a marshal of the aristocracy and a millionaire banker are in the reading-room, dozing at the great round table over magazines and newspapers. From the dancing hall near by flowed in the subdued strains of the quadrille.

Suddenly a boisterous voice: "Follow me, girls. Here is a quiet nook, set aside for our entertainment."

A tall man in a pink domino, a black velvet mask before his face, a lady in elaborate evening dress upon each arm. A waiter carrying a tray of liquor bottles, confectionery and glasses, followed.

"Put it on the round table, boy, and ladies, be seated in these excellent lounging chairs." Then, turning to the old gentlemen: "And you, there, move up a bit. This is no time for reading, anyhow." With that he grabbed several files of papers and threw them under the table.

"Sir," he stuttered at last, "you don't seem to know with whom you are dealing. I am councillor of state, Baron Schestakoff."

"Oh, you are, are you? A pawnbroker of the highest order. I believe, well, since you introduced yourself, have a drink and then once more good-by—good-by to all of you. You are in my way. Myself and friends desire to be alone. Do you hear?"

By this time the insulted gentlemen had risen, and all spoke at once. The masked man seemed to know them, for he addressed them by name and heaped incidents upon each. The admiral was saying: "I never encountered such impudence. We must make an example of this loafer."

"Loafer?" shouted the man in the mask. "Take a care that I do not pulverize you, admiral, and now, out with you, or I will have you freed head foremost."

Meanwhile one of the ministers had sent for the president of the club, who entered, still red with the excitement of the dance. "Leave the room at once," he demanded, "and when sober prepare to pay for your intrusion with expulsion. Waiter, remove the glasses and bottles and report to the board of governors for insubordination."

"Now, what are you up to?" laughed the man in the mask. "I didn't send for you. I am quite sure I didn't."

"Leave the room at once," shouted the president. "We will attend to your insults later."

president, police-master, the ministers of state, the admiral and banker. Boris enjoyed their confusion, looking for a minute or two from one to the other and grinning. Then he threw himself into a big arm chair and held his siles while indulging in another fit of laughing.

"Well, are you going or not?" he demanded, after a while. "How often shall I tell you that myself and friends decided to dispense with your precious company?"

The chief of police, the two ministers of state, the admiral, marshal, financier, coach. As it drove away, the marshal cried rapturously:

"Your imperial highness, Grand Duke Boris, we are all agreed that you played your part to perfection. To mystify a whole club for an hour—old Coquelin couldn't do better. Of course, I saw the joke at once, and entered into its spirit. Never laughed so much in my life, and how I enjoyed your imperial highness' jests with their excellencies. I never saw such a dumfounded parcel of fools! I shall not forget, in a hurry, the happiness of this evening, and those old

and president of the club looked at one another, bowed low and tiptoed out like so many whipped schoolboys. At the door the chief turned and came forward once more "to pay his respects to the ladies." And the rest meekly followed.

III. While Boris and his friends were laughing to split their sides the police-master interviewed the waiter.

"You knew that the masked gentleman was his imperial highness?" he asked, sharply.

"Yes, at your excellency's orders," reported the trembling Ganyamede. "His imperial highness forbade me mentioning it. He said he would have my ears if I squealed."

"Well, I will have your ears, and your nose, both, if it gets me into trouble," cried the chief. Then, turning to the ministers of state, the admiral and the rest, he added: "Gentlemen, I am astonished at your behavior. All of you seem to have been blind and deaf to-night. Cannot distinguish the imperial voice, his gait, demeanor. Gentlemen, you must have taken leave of your senses before you came here."

SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

Chicago bowlers captured a considerable share of the honors at the fifth annual bowling tournament which was held at the Milwaukee club.

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AUDUBON SOCIETIES GOOD ROAD

THIS ARTICLE DEALS WITH WHY THEY ARE NECESSARY.

There is Strong Logic on Their Side—Their Aid Inestimable to Man Not Alone of Value to the Feathered Tribe.

Part I.—Why They Are Necessary. How frequently we hear the expression "a freak of nature." Yet there is absolutely no truth in that expression, for nothing could possibly be less freakish than nature.

Why We Need Audubon Societies. And a good shot, the chances are that he will kill the tiger; if he goes unarmed, the tiger will kill him just as sure as eggs are eggs.

THE FAIRMEN'S LINE OF TRANSPORTATION.

THE SENTRY.

JAPANESE SPARE THE ROD.

Bring Up Their Children Respectfully Without Resorting to Corporal Punishment.



High Revelries at the Nobility Club.



It is to this that Russia bows.

