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1
 Collate the
 numbers of the
 pages. Was 486
 the last?
 What ever.

double-speak

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The six days from May 9 to May 13th had been plunged into work of
 as well as on
 the worst sort for our Nicky. On the 10th of May and the 11th, he had ~~had~~ to
 were
 hold ceremonial receptions. Ambassadors and celebrated envoys ~~had been~~
 and had so
 presented many ~~with~~ reputations ~~(carefully underlined for him in advance~~
 by his ministers that he had to offer
 Distinguished influences to whom he must pay the greatest attention. As he
 complained to Alix afterward and to his mother, ~~as indeed he complained on~~
 many such occasions, his cheeks were sore from being kissed by

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plenipotentiaries with stiff mustaches and harsh beards. Naturally, he

smiled gaily as he ^{complained} ~~spoke~~ to his women-folk ^{in a manner to suggest that} as if this were the most

laughable part of the endless ironies of social life. But ~~within him~~, he was

truly annoyed. He was fond of his skin.

~~Then~~ On the 12th of May, the banner of state had to be consecrated, ~~it~~

~~was~~ a long and intricate service, ^{that} ~~but it~~ could not be taken for granted. He

and Alix had had to memorize every step ~~and stage~~.

^{On} May 13th, ~~should have been easy~~ In advance he was told it would be

~~restful~~. But the royal regalia ^{was} ~~had to be~~ transported from the armory to the

throne hall of the Kremlin Palace, and ~~in the event~~ a host of small anxieties

(He had been told in advance that it would be ^{an} easy day but he felt

^(the moment) ugliest blazes if something went wrong. ^{Of course, tomorrow} ~~God might have made the world in~~

~~would be unique - he would~~ ~~seven days, but had five been enough for these last minute preparations to~~

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~~protect the unique day when Nikolai II would move from his present~~

~~condition as the acting Tsar to becoming the consecrated Tsar himself?~~
~~Himself wholly consecrated!~~ *no less than*

~~Still from the tenth through the thirteenth, these~~
~~these were only the preparations he did see, and the ceremonies he~~
~~only ceremonies~~

~~But the preparations~~

~~attended. The ones~~ he did not witness were as wide-spread as a ~~growing~~ city

~~beneath the city. The streets of Moscow, which I~~ *had only* ~~glimpsed~~ *only* in passing

~~while trying to obtain some notion of what passed through Nikolai's mind,~~

~~had now become~~ *(more prominent)* ~~more visible to me in the aftermath. On the days from the~~ *So I could not*

~~9th to the 14th, I travelled through it, and noted how many~~ *but one both* ~~stanchions~~ *Flags*

~~we were standing and what an endless number of~~
~~that had been installed for flags, how many endless~~ *platforms erected for*

~~spectators and patriotic displays, and now~~ *so many* ~~great number of false fronts put~~ *had been*

~~up to hide some of the uglier buildings on the route. Indeed, I was~~ *we were now hiding*

~~witnessing Potemkin's Village on a grander scale. Most of all, however, one~~

~~moved through Moscow that week~~ *kept* ~~constantly~~ seeing the letters "N" for

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Nicky, and "A" for Alix painted on ~~so~~ ^{all the} many walls, and endless ~~slogans~~ ^{repetitions}. X

of "God Save the Tsar," and "Glory to our Russian Tsar, Glory, Glory, Glory!"

One of the Russian authors I had read in preparation for understanding St. Petersburg and Moscow was Maxim Gorky. Like any good radical of this period—and we were on close terms with many radicals—sometimes I did not know whether we could count on monarchists doing their best for us, or would it be their enemies? In any event, Maxim Gorky, like any good radical, was full of rage at such egregious patriotism, ^{and} ~~such piety, all preening itself all over the place like a whore who has made a~~ ~~good marriage~~. His remarks were sardonic: Moscow, he indicated, was like a widow, a most salacious widow, who has bedazzled her crotch with French lingerie. Yes, ~~there was~~ ^{Chanting} old lady Moscow, on the ~~hunt~~ for a new bridegroom.

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I was not assigned to Maxim Gorky, and so did not have the pleasure of following him through the streets, if indeed he was there for the occasion. But the streets were exceptional. These days, the people of Moscow could have been mistaken for the denizens of St. Petersburg. There, up north, if you saw 100 men passing, at least ten were in uniform. Now ^{here} on the best street, Kuznetsky Most, Moscow was jammed with officers come to the city from many a nation ~~and~~ speaking many a language. A world congress was in the air.

I made a point of studying these ~~last~~ ^{the knowledge} changes. I hardly needed it for my particular mission and yet, for all I knew, I did. It is dangerous to look to make a large stroke when one is unfamiliar with the terrain—I need say no more. I set out to learn as much as I could and so noted almost at once ^{that} ~~how~~ many of the local merchants and lease-holders were profiting by what

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they charged for their rentals. During the procession, ^{on May 9th,} for example, anyone

who had a window on the street could rent out ^{their} the room ^{for} ~~that day~~ at 200 rubles ^{from dawn to sunset.}

~~rubles.~~ Carriages with coachmen gained 1200 rubles for the month.

Useless to argue that one only wanted the coach for ^{those or that one} a few days. One could

buy ten good horses for such a large rental. 1200 rubles! To be allowed to

stand in a narrow space on a flimsily-built platform ^(with a limited view) cost 10 to 15 rubles, &

~~indeed, most many Muscovites~~
found all this unbelievable. People were exhibiting ~~so~~ little respect for

money. One had to stand on tiptoe in the narrowest of spaces—woe to all

~~(woe to all who were standing next to a fat man.)~~
who were obese. And that was all you got for your fifteen rubles. Anyone

wealthy enough to afford a balcony had to spend 500, which was the equal,

I suppose, of purchasing four or five good horses. Those who belonged to

the English Club fared a little better. Since it was the English Club, each

member had an eye for the ladies, and each member was allowed therefore

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to bring as many as four lady guests. Being English, however, they were

quick to give
~~certainly opposed to keeping it altogether cushy, and so the instruction to~~

~~the members~~ *all members* on procession day, May 9th, had been that ~~they~~ must be in their

obliged to
 places by 8 in the morning—not standing on the newly-constructed balcony
until the parade was there to pass, but that they had
to be on hand at least in the premises of the Club. It proved to be a two-and-a-

half-hour wait. Of course, breakfast was served, a most special English

breakfast, with kippers, sausage, bacon, porridge and eggs, and the men,

whether English or looking to be taken for citizens of Great Britain, all wore

early-morning tail-coats. The ladies, needless to say, were in party dresses.

The only contretemps occurred when the police insisted on examining every

corner of the club. The building had the good fortune, and now the

immediately nasty fortune, to be on the Tsar's route. Even the janitors were

cross-examined by those police who invaded the stairs. The managers of

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the club did their best to mollify everyone by explaining that each and every

building on the route had been examined in similar fashion ~~by the police,~~

except that here, out of courtesy, there had been far less disruption.

Those who had come from outer parts of Russia or from abroad but

(overlooking the parade route)
had the money to rent apartments, ~~which could be had for~~ all of May,

~~and had to be good for~~
~~secured~~ a rent of up to 2500 rubles, equal again, by my measure, to 25 good

horses. Good hotel rooms were ~~hardly~~ ^{hardly} possible to find. The government

Then needed whole
~~had~~ occupied most of them ~~in order to have~~ floors open for foreign princes and

princesses, diplomatic representatives, noblemen, or honored artists, ~~or~~ ^{or honored}

tycoons. The French, determined to capture the occasion, would spend

200,000 rubles, which comes to two thousand horses (I grow tired of this

measure.) The French were obviously there to declare that they were the

great, good, loyal, and immovable ally of the Russians. Since that had been

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the Germans' role ten years earlier, (I recall the annoyance in Uncle Willy's

letter to Nicky) the Germans responded by ~~moving out of Moscow to~~
~~locating themselves in a palace~~

~~in the woods~~ ~~gem,~~
~~(costing only 7000 rubles, a modest palace, not at all near the center of town)~~

but then the Germans did not even give a ball, just a musicale. ~~In a certain~~

sense, ~~They~~ ^{also} may have been gambling on bad weather. The procession on

May 9th had not only had beautiful skies, but the heavens stayed open and

sunny all week, a rare event for Moscow. Given the firm Russian

expectation that nothing good prevails for too long, there were many who

feared that the day of the Coronation would not be fortunate and the skies

would be wet. Instead, another fabulous day came westward to Moscow

from Siberia. So, the dire predictions of the numerous ~~women~~ ^{seers} in Moscow,

~~women~~ ^{that} all
 (who had been quick to say there would be floods of rain, and it would be the

~~now to amend their views~~
 fault of the new Tsarina, had ~~to be amended~~. Even so, ~~she had been~~ ^{they}

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glance the heads at all mention of the future Alex
 introduced to Greek Orthodoxy, *after all* on the heels of the demise of

Alexander III, and *those* the women said, "She comes to us behind a coffin."

Now, however, given the balm and beatitude of this exceptional day, a

counter-sentiment arose, *Many were now* and everyone was saying, "We are close to the end

of the ~~Nineteenth~~ *Maybe the new one* Century. The Twentieth Century will be different.

Here is
for the Twentieth Century, Let miracles
 Miracles of beauty and comfort ~~will~~ come to us."

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I was not to see the Coronation itself. Soon enough, I will be able to speak of the preparations put together for the episode I ~~had~~ proposed, which would occur, in fact, on the 18th of May, four days later, but concerning the Coronation itself, I ~~can offer little~~ *will not be able to offer much* which is my own. Many of our agents ~~were on hand~~ *were on hand* attended, however, and from them I received a few insights on what might be ~~going on in~~ *passing through* the mind of Nicholas II, ~~but~~ *Stalk* the only real view ~~I had of the~~ occasion came from his diaries. On the 29th of April, a fortnight before the Coronation, ~~Nicky had written to his mother,~~ *(but already steeped in ~~extra~~ unhappy anticipation)*

It seems to me that we should look upon all the difficult ceremonies in Moscow ~~pointing toward the~~

~~Coronation~~ as a great trial sent to us by God, as in every step we will have to repeat what we did during those wonderful, happy days thirteen years ago ~~at the~~ ~~reference to the Coronation of his father.~~

Yes, thirteen years ago, his father had been crowned. No one had expected

The only thought that consoles me is that we

will never have to perform the same rite again in our lives and henceforth, our existence will be smooth and even, I truly believe this, God will help us!" ~~He then~~

Alexander to die so early

~~But~~ In general, I am terribly fatigued, there are so many petty, meaningless affairs before Moscow. It's as if my gentlemen ministers have decided to wear me out, they are so persistent and tiresome. I am amazed my head hasn't burst with all the rubbish being stuffed into it. Alix and the baby are doing extremely well, thank God, they look wonderful. Our little daughter gets rounder and chubbier.

That was not a good deal to go by, and if I did not know better, I

would have been vexed that the Maestro did not include me in the rare cadre

of devils who would be present to infiltrate the Coronation. But I knew that

the quickest route to his favor *any and every* was to accept the position assigned. Folly to

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wish for anything other. Moreover, he had taken the time and trouble to

commend me privately for the ^{action I had suggested} activities I was preparing, and ~~had even said~~

~~added,~~

~~in effect, "I ask you to forego all temptations."~~ See the Coronation for what

it is, a petty event in the grand scheme of things. Just one more piece of

cognitive indigestion. ^{You will miss nothing."}

So, I saw it all from a distance. I was not ^{present in} ~~inside~~ any of the cathedrals,

not the Assumption, the Archangel, nor the Annunciation. I did not attend

the banquet at the Kremlin Palace. All of that ^{was offered to me at} ~~came to me, as I say,~~ second

hand from other devils. To a degree, I am ^{even} ~~reduced to describing the~~ ^{much of}

^{This KR (as he is known)}
the occasion by way of Konstantin Romanov, ~~whom we have known as KR. He~~

^{was}
is not only an accomplished diarist, but a part of the royal family, a bachelor

uncle to Nicky, a Romanov who lives for his adventures in bathhouses.

While KR is not exactly shunned by the family, he is seen as ~~altogether~~

special. Unlike the Grand Dukes, he lives in a small palace, not a large one,

although it is ~~perhaps the~~ most elegant ^{these} of them all, and no one among ~~those~~

close relatives keeps a better diary. Here, for instance, ~~here~~ is his entry on

the eve of the Coronation:

KR Diary May 13, 1896, Moscow

So the great day is at hand. The heart beats in anticipation as at something out of the ordinary, significant, full of deep meaning.

This is followed by a full account on May 14, 1896.

There was not a single cloud in the sky. The cathedral square was flooded with bright sunshine. High up in the blue skies, the swallows darted with shrill cries. It was already hot. The troops were forming up, the spectators taking their places in the stalls. At 8 o'clock the family and crown princes gathered in the Great Hall of the Palace.

At 8:45, the doors opened and the Empress Marie appeared. Our hearts bled when we saw her; she was wearing a crown and a heavy purple mantle,

like a victim prepared for the sacrifice. Her face expressed suffering.

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Reading this, I, of course, thought that to understand the real cause of her suffering, KR would have done better to have recognized that the Empress Marie was developing a full-fledged distaste, close to hatred, for Alix. Of course, KR was also doing his best to ignore the immense narcissism of the Empress Marie. That tiny, beautiful woman who had been married to a giant, had been esteemed for her social graces, her skill at the fanciest balls, her snobbery with all its own refined species of elegance—yes, how ill-prepared she was to be no longer the true Empress.

In any event, KR followed her into the Ouspensky Cathedral.

KR Diary, May 14, 1896

She was escorted by Alexei and the Danish Crown Prince. The procession was so long, due to the number of foreigners, that by the time she reached the cathedral, we had not even reached the main

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entrance. We heard the sound of cheers from far away in the square, greeting her appearance on the front steps. Inside the Cathedral, the grand duchesses and princesses stood to the right of the throne, immovable on the dais. The Empress took her place on the throne, a little to the right of the thrones of the Emperor and the young Tsarina. We took our places.

A roar from the square heralded Their Majesties procession. The priest went out to greet and asperge them with holy water. Then Their Majesties entered and bowed to the cathedral icons. The Emperor was concentrated. His face had an expression of piety and supplication. His whole countenance expressed majesty. The young Tsarina is the embodiment of kindness and goodness, and the Dowager Empress looked as young as she did thirteen years ago on the day of her own Coronation.

When the Emperor and His Consort mounted their thrones, the attendants carrying their regalia blocked my view so I could not see anything. I could only glimpse the Emperor with difficulty as he recited the Credo. His assistants ~~were Vladimir and Mischev~~ ~~(CK), who~~ helped him put on the large purple mantle. At this point, his large Andreev chain with the diamonds, broke.

The chain broke! I queried ~~these~~ ^{the} devils, ~~who passed on further details~~ ^{had}

~~to me~~, but was unable to determine how much we had to do with that little

rupture. I have to add, ~~most miserably~~ ^[], it was painful not to know more, ~~on~~

this point. Given the ~~fortifications~~ ^{numbers} of the Cudgels ~~who were~~ surrounding

this ceremony, ~~it is not easy for us to interfere. Certainly not under these~~ ^{is it possible that we were a GP}

~~most arduous circumstances are we dependably in position~~ to encourage a

chain so important as the Andreev to break. [?] Or, had this been a lapse in

concentration on the part of the Dummkopf? ^{Was this, then?} For us, a bonus to us we had

not designed? ^{was it} Or ~~could it have been, indeed~~ the fruit of our concentrated

effort? ~~And, if so, what value did it have?~~ ^{will} Like humans, devils ~~can~~ speak

of their nerves, of good and bad nerves, of happy resolutions to serious

questions—happy, at least, for us—and small dilemmas that can prove as

unyielding as a burr you can't quite locate in the seat of your garment. ~~The~~ ^{For us, the}

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^{ones}
secret to maintaining ~~our~~ nerves nicely in balance is not to live with

unnecessary questions. ~~And this, if not ignored, could become a large one,~~

~~with no likelihood that I would ever necessarily know the answer~~

^{will not know the answer}
Since I cannot answer the ~~question~~ let me go back, at least, to KR's

description:

I could just see as He raised the crown onto His own head and took the orb and the sceptre; but I could not see anything of the Empress kneeling before Him, for I was only able to catch sight of Him raising Her to Her feet, kissing Her. I could hardly hear the speech of the Metropolitan. I could hardly hear the prayers read by the Emperor as he kneeled. It was only when everybody went to their knees and the Emperor alone was standing, that I was able to gaze on Him.

A little later, when the ceremony was over, KR added this line:

The Emperor embraced me; I nearly burst into tears and said, "Christ be with you."

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"Christ be with you," KR had said, and there was everything in the

~~world~~ to contemplate concerning those few words. There is, after all, such

a labyrinth of relations between the Maestro and the Dummkopf, ^{so many} ~~as well as~~

~~the~~ endless compromises, brutalities, games, deceits, reversals, and with it ^{outright} ~~treachery on both sides~~ — to be divine does not mean that you cannot break your word! But, also, with it all, ~~an ongoing~~ negotiations between our best devils, and the Lord's most ~~there are~~ There are real ongoing

superior Cudgels, ^{who,} ~~who,~~ given the local case, are often His Russian Orthodox

priests, still alive, still human, but wholly committed ^{in advance,} ~~by now~~ to become

Cudgels so soon as they pass through their mortality, ~~conceived in advance,~~

Such is ~~so to speak,~~ by the unwavering intensity of their living oath. Among our

own schools ^{of} ~~of~~ diabolical scholars, there is much contemplation of ~~who~~ contemplate the mysteries of

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priestly behavior, their regimen, their sanctification, and, often, most

difficult of all, their ceremonial procedure, which they fortify with ^{their} the relics,
~~employed, the~~ ^{their} thrice-holy icons, ^{the is} the instruments of ascension, ^(such as) the Chain, the

Cross, the Crown, ~~the insignia on~~ their Standards, the Sceptre to be placed in

the Tsar's right hand, ^{yes, all of that} and the Orb in his left (and then the Throne itself, most

resonant with blessings and curses from both sides, ~~as well as, not least, the~~

^{this} hallowed Throne upon which the Tsar Michael Fyodorovitch sat in the year

1613, ^(in the limited minds of most humans?) who, then, can disavow the intensity of belief that an indispensable

^{who among them cannot believe that an indispensable} magic power derived directly from God has indeed entered the pores, the

flesh, and the heart of the Tsar? I could not even state to a certainty how

much of this immanence belonged to the Dummkopf Himself, and how

^(The Maestro's pride and joy is to share in part his waves into God's gift.) much derived (secretly!) from our own E.O. There was no question in my

^{the also} mind that ~~our~~ Maestro wanted Nicky to believe in the God whom he

expected was out there for him, ~~going through their mutual paces within his~~ ^{waiting to bless the new}

Tsar and his bride even as they and everyone

bride, hearing the Metropolitan Palladius state aloud: "The seal of the Gift
else in the Cathedral heard) above,
~~of the Holy Spirit, hearing the hundred and one bells (and the hundred and~~

^{outside)}
one salvo fired off by cannon to herald the perfection of the Unction, Together

did Alex and Nicky hear

hearing the conclusion of this Eucharist whose origins were embedded in

^{very}
the bowels (theological structures also have bowels!) of Orthodox Russia.

Through our own speech! (we recognize that
~~Recognizing our own knowledge, since there are hours when well-protected~~
~~well-guarded~~

^{will intensify}
material objects ~~can accelerate~~ an awareness of the spiritual, even as they

also ^{can} (The two can proceed together*)
~~can evoke our own spells. I can say only that we were not opposed to~~

So, I can say that we were not opposed to Nicky's
~~the notion that Nicky believed~~ in His God. We wanted him to. We wanted

^{and}
him to believe that God was there, helping him, ~~yes~~ We too, were involved, and

in a manner ~~very~~ ^{yet} more complex than even I can comprehend, ~~but~~ all the

details of this ceremony had evolved through centuries of the most delicate

Even when most mismatched. An unhappy
marriage is still a marriage. The union is
Even more binding than the disunion.

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and incisive infighting between the Two Majesties. So, the form itself was
by now an accommodation of the scars, treaties, wounds, and healing lines
between our two great forces.

Let me see if I can even suggest something of the sacerdotal
atmosphere present on May 14th. I was, as I have repeated more than once,
not there, but many of the Maestro's assistants, and many of my colleagues
did provide me with a few intuitions, ~~and apprehensions~~. It was, as I ~~have~~ ^{must}
~~repeat~~ ^{repeat} ~~already indicated~~, a day of incomparable weather, and the procession had set
out from the Palace at half past ten on this brilliant morning, every inner
silence buried in the peals of a thousand church bells ^{throughout the city} some as light as
leaves, others as heavy as groans. The procession had started. All the
priests and dignitaries inside Assumption Cathedral came out to the
paradon to welcome the Monarchs. And before they entered, they were

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sprinkled with holy water and offered the Holy Cross for kissing. Once

within, there were repetitive expressions of the Trinity, three times were

prayers repeated, three times were the holy icons kissed, before they

ascended the steps of the dais in the center of the cathedral, that holiest of

centers within the holiness of the cathedral.

We had as much to do with the building of every church as the

we were even there when Michael
Cudgels. ~~I had spoken of their ascent to the throne, of Michael~~

ascended to the same throne as
Fyodorovitch, the first Tsar of the Romanov dynasty, and I will not bother

to describe how the Imperial Regalia were placed at their side, even as the

Metropolitan of St Petersburg importuned Nicholas II to make his public

confession (as if he would not!). And Nicky ^{did} makes his public confession in

a voice spoken so low and with such intent and with such brevity that no

the Tsar - about to be
one could hear. Upon which, having concluded, ~~he~~ takes the Holy Book

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and reads the prayer for the day, to the chorus of the Metropolitan saying,

"The blessing of the Holy Spirit be with thee. Amen."

All this is tiresome to describe unless one is at the center of it, there
to recognize the entrance of the Holy Spirit (for on all too many an
occasion, this blessing is our gift, or at the least—let me use the word—is
most infiltrated with our spirit as well.) It was at this point that the ~~diamond~~

~~chain~~ of the Order of Saint Andrew broke as His Majesty bowed his head.

No attention was paid to this. It was a rule of order among these

Metropolitans never to suggest that any element in so sacred a service is at

all awry. And so, as Nicky bowed his head, the Metropolitan made the sign

of the cross over him, laid his hands on the Tsar's head, and proceeded to

enunciate two prayers. One, I expect, for the poor broken ~~chain~~ *diamond*, and the

other, according to the established order. It was at this moment that

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Nicholas the Second reached out his hands to the arms of the Metropolitan,
took up the Crown, and placed it upon his head. After which came the
Sceptre to his right hand and the Orb to his left. After which he proceeded
to establish himself, or at least established his hindquarters, on the throne of
Tsar Michael Fyodorovitch. Whatever he felt from such contact, he rose but
a few moments later, handed over the Regalia to his attendants, and
beckoned to Alix, who knelt before him on a crimson cushion, its border of
golden lace, ^{and this} which ~~face~~ trembled delicately from the weight of her knees,
^{all the way} ~~and~~ the light, I was told, reflected out to the walls of the cathedral.

Whereupon Nicky took off his Crown and touched the Tsarina's head, ^{with}
ⁱⁿ just a touch, as if to anoint her.

The choir of the Cathedral possessed voices as close to the human
notion of heaven as is attainable by any chorus of voices. They sang, "We

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praise Thee, O God," and again many cannon sounded—^{one more}~~another~~ salute of a

hundred and one salvos!

It went on. No such service could ever be short. And for many, who were most illumined in the beginning, lethargy, weariness of the limbs from ^{Candle was profane} standing so long, and boredom entered the Divine Liturgy. No, not all are

ready for Holy Unction, and yet I have to wonder if just there is not the

genius of Russian Orthodoxy. ^{For the} The length of the service captured ^{many in}~~others in~~

the congregation who ^{had}~~had~~ ^{at}~~at~~ less interest in the beginning. It was as if one

never knew for certain when a heart was there to be captured by the D.K. or, ^{by ear} the Evil One. So I will ^{not enumerate, spoken by} pass by all the steps ~~that~~ the Tsar and the Tsarina

^{the in} took up after the descent ^{from} of the dais. A measured three paces here, and three

there, the Trinity to be commemorated again and again. For even those who

believed in the Father and in the Son ^{could be}~~was~~ never certain about the Holy

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Ghost, ^{1. For} such was our assumption, ~~for~~ the Maestro often hinted to us that

we had ^{enjoyed} quite a purchase on this last element, ~~and~~ I know the Maestro always

spoke well of the Trinity as if he knew ^{something that} ~~what~~ others did not. I have seen the

best man at a wedding who, unknown to all but the bride, has had carnal

knowledge of ^{the lady} ~~her~~, and there is a subtlety in the posture of such a fellow that

I do not find dissimilar from the ^{nuance of} ~~subtle~~ appreciation our Maestro is always

offering to the Holy Ghost.

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On it went, the Tsar and his retinue moved from Assumption Cathedral to Archangel Cathedral where ^{with a few variations} the service was repeated ^{with a few} ~~variations~~, and then on to the Annunciation Cathedral. As much again.

I was told that after all this, the Tsar and Tsarina were in need of rest, but were facing ^a ~~the~~ ceremonial meal in the Hall of Facets. In his diary, he would write that night, "All that happened in the Assumption Cathedral, though it seems but a dream, is not to be forgotten for life." To that he added, "We went to bed early." Whether this was from fatigue, or a resurgence of lust from the good and happy sense that it was done, and they

would never have to do it again, for indeed, it was a day like no other, I

could not begin to say. Never more, however, would I have liked to have

been in their room as they lay down. At the least, I would have learned how

much the corrupt sanctity—I use precisely those two words—the corrupt

sanctity of those holy and possibly captured Metropolitans had to do with

Nicky and Alix's raptures, ^{now} and how powerful had been the emanations from

the relics themselves. ~~With what resonance had they adorned the Cathedral.~~

No matter the extent of my desire, I could
~~Still, I would~~ not learn on this occasion how much the ~~symbolic~~ gestures

Ceremonies these

(performed by those most accomplished priests, had been able to serve ~~as~~

some sweet
~~enhancements to the ever-soaring sweet bubble of happy concupiscence. I~~

Between Nicky and Alix. I would not
~~and~~ know, and so suffered all the pains of a devil. For we are very little

without our knowledge.

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If it seems strange that I am ~~so~~ ^{a (ways)} hungry ~~always~~ to learn more, if this

seems at odds with the more common notion that Gods and devils have all ~~the~~

~~power~~ ^{a (ways)} I would suggest that the handiest rule of thumb for comprehending

~~my intelligence, my perceptions, my mental~~ powers, is to assume that I am

just as much brighter and more knowledgeable than the most ~~mentally~~

accomplished ~~human~~ ^{intellectual is more clever} ~~who can think of it in his or her turn~~ brighter than a

~~poor boy~~ clod in a poorly-endowed school. Yet, this distance established, I

still cannot begin to command answers to ~~the vast~~ ^{every} questions that bedevils

humankind. ~~Even as a devil, I can~~ ^{too} be unmanned by the extent of all I do

not know.

In any event, busy with my own preparations for the Peasants'

Festival, I missed the banquet that evening in the Palace of Facets. It was

the event of the season not only for Moscow but all of Russia—one of those

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social occasions which can offer ~~more~~ great profit for the future if you

happen to be invited—an orgy, so to speak, for the richest of the nouveau

riche. There had not been another event in the previous ten years so

important to attend.

Of course, there was also a ^{large spirit} ~~great~~ souring among many of the most

ambitious souls ^{They always} ~~who~~ were not happy with where they had been seated. If

this was long before any notion of ^{the A-list (B-list)} ~~A-lists~~ versus the ~~B-list~~ was introduced to

American society, the category ^{even begun on} ~~may~~ have been invented for this occasion.

One certainly knew on taking one's seat and studying the rest of the room

exactly how high or not so high was one's status here in Moscow. Indeed,

only the most elevated of the guests were fortunate enough to be placed in

the same room as the Tsar and Tsarina. The cream of the diplomatic corps

was there, the high clergy, the Holy Synod, the very highest of the court

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ladies, the Grand Marshall and the Grand Master of Ceremonies, those were

granted such a privilege. The others, ah, yes, the ~~B-list~~, were sent to the

Hall of Saint Vladimir. Nonetheless, ^{a spoilage} the ~~boasting~~ of ambition is the last

emotion even the most naive of monarchs ^{can} ~~wishes~~ to arouse among his ~~dinner~~

guests, and so Nicholas made a point of visiting every table in company

with Alexandra, followed by the Dowager Empress, ^{Mary} the Queen and Prince

of Naples, the Duchess of Edinburgh, the Crown Prince of Sweden, Duchess

Elisabeth and Grand Duke Alexei, yes, table by table all the way through the

Hall of Saint Vladimir, and were in turn greeted with an ovation that could

come only from the parched throats of people who had been ready to

assume that after all they had gone through to obtain a high invitation, they

were to be forgotten after all. What relief, what applause!

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the 14th. Now, it was the eighteenth, and the treasury funds assigned for ~~all~~

security

Any control of crowds

~~these purposes~~ were all but depleted. Security (that did not concern the

immediate safety of the Tsar was obliged, therefore, to remain minimal.

Once the Tsar arrived, there would be companies of soldiers to protect him,

~~One could not have thieves running wild in other parts of the city.~~

~~field itself was going to present.~~ Thirteen years ago, Khodynskoe Field had

been used as the site for a peasants' festival right after the Coronation of

I had been a satisfactory choice. True

Alexander III and, indeed, something like thirty peasants had lost their lives

through a few disorders in the crush, *yet* given the essential

uncontrollability of such large crowds, that ~~was~~ *had been perceived* as no great number—

one had to expect a few dire results *in so large an* given the size of the event. Moreover,

Nicky was most inclined to hold this open-air celebration in precisely the

same place his father had chosen. His hope was that this would be seen as

I find in other parts of the city, but heavy security was on the way. Obviously not required on the way. Night before, the police were needed elsewhere. One could not have thieves running wild in other parts of the city.

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the foundation of a tradition. To one of his ministers, he even said, "From

what you tell me, we have some need for that, do we not?" In turn, Nicky

was pleased by the murmur of approbation that came up from his ministers.

~~I can add that we had a couple of our people among the fine officials and~~

~~they were the loudest in approval.~~

The problem that was not examined, however,

The difficulty with commencing a new tradition was that the field was

now considerably less practical for the purpose than it had been in 1883. ~~to no~~
~~minister, but he had to go into that now that~~
~~the Tsarevitch had stated his preference, the~~
~~1891, a large exhibition had been held there, and a great deal of temporary~~

construction had taken place without ^{a very great} much concern about restoring the

terrain afterward. If one had been able to see Khodynskoe Field from ^{above,} ~~the~~

~~it~~ it would have borne resemblance to the skin of a wretch overwhelmed

with acne. There were sand pits, sand holes, wells half-filled—^{such} ~~these~~

pockmarks were everywhere. A few of the larger sand pits had widened

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into ravines. The sand, moreover, had blown and shifted into a variety of

knobs and hollows. Some pits were fifteen feet deep. Others were small

chasms and had been boarded over. There were gulleys, there were

hillocks. A number of wells had been abandoned. There were ~~ditches~~ ^{also} with

broad paths between ^{such obstacles} (where people might move with safety, ~~in all~~ ^{indeed} there was

level ground enough for half a million visitors, ~~provided they did not~~ ^{but it was crucial}

^{not} engage in unruly movement. *It was taken for granted that all would behave (just how this assumption developed I will explain later.)*

Now, of course, there had been other preparations for the festival, ~~the~~ and, in truth, more immediate concerns. If half a million people were to come to Moscow, how were the poor ones to

~~immediate~~ be absorbed in the ^{might have} days before? Some peasants had family members who

now worked in factories, tens of thousands, ~~indeed, and they moved in with~~ at least and they could

~~shelter their visiting relatives in~~ such relatives who, for the most part, lived in the slums of Moscow. They ^{could}

all sleep ~~with them~~ on the floor. The odor of old blouses and pants and linen

wrappings for their feet, the grease of sheep-skin jackets and sweat-ridden

capes, kaftans, and black woolen coats, ~~packed over every person~~ On

tenement, but there ~~was nothing new about~~

the other hand, there was not a monastery in Moscow which ~~failed to offer~~

food to the pilgrims. Many ~~stayed in railroad stations,~~ ^{who arrived even} ~~again, by the~~

~~turned out~~ ^(the) ~~thousands~~ ^{of incamers arrived at} the majority ~~came to~~ the field early. On the evening before

the day that the festival was to take place, crowds were ~~gathered and some~~

were already sleeping on the ground. These early arrivals came to a ~~great~~ ^{and}

number. Some said a hundred thousand, some said ~~four~~ ^{three} hundred thousand.

There was drinking, there was singing, there were bonfires. Balalaikas were

played. Word was out ~~everywhere~~. The gifts were going to be distributed

early. We ~~had~~ ^{As the crowds understood it,} arranged for this rumor to circulate, ~~that~~ the gifts would be

there at dawn. Thousand of peasants ~~stood~~ ^{moved in} close, therefore, to the wooden

~~barriers all night~~ ^{while it was still the middle of the night,} Those barriers shielded the huts and kiosks and counters

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where the gifts were to be distributed. Before long, many ^{of those} up front were ~~with~~ ^{whether they wanted to or not.} pressing on the barriers. Curses could be heard all through the ~~dark~~

~~morning~~ ~~of the~~ night. Then, a couple of hours before the first morning light, a good part of the working populace of Moscow began to arrive. The slums were marching in.

Back in the city on this night of the 17th, there was a gala at the Bolshoi Theatre, and so many ladies were in their finest diamonds that the ^(as many remarked seemed) glow of the gems ~~was~~ ready to compete with the sparkle of the footlights.

Yet, even there during the intermission, the gentry were talking about the Field. Who could believe how many were going to be at Khodynskoe?

^{One million souls!} Some even said one million. "Yes," was the word at the Bolshoi gala, "Our

ruler is being honored. Never before have so many turned out to ^{offer their} ~~honor the~~ ^{reverence to the} Tsar. Never so many of the common people."

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The distribution of the gifts had been scheduled to begin at ten in the morning. That would be at least two hours before the ~~Tsar~~ ^{Nicholas II} would arrive

with the Tsarina. But the ~~few police on hand~~ ^{Cossacks on hand} were already concerned. The ~~few~~ ^{police were directly fearful. They}

crowd was pressing with a dreadful restlessness against the wooden barriers.

Already, just before daybreak, it seemed likely
By six in the morning, it was certain they would break. I cannot begin to

speak of how many in our mixed cohort of clients and demons were

inspiring rumors. "The good stuff is gone," is what ~~we had instructed them~~ ^{they had been}

instructed
to say.

Or, better, "Some of the good stuff is going." ~~Or~~ ^{Even} better, "They

^{offer}
are giving it out already on the ~~far~~ side of the barrier."

Some of this had been foreseen, some was improvised, ^{in the hour} but we had

known it was bound to work so soon as we saw how few police were

present. So, we kept feeding the rumors, ^{on} until they stood upon one another,
^{lie upon lie:} "The mugs are gone. The beer" ^{been}

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~~"The mugs are gone. The beer is gone."~~ ^{there} "No, the beer is not gone, but there

^{not much} is ~~very little~~ left." The further ~~the~~ rumors traveled to the rear, the ^{quicker} ~~faster~~

~~did~~ those at the back ^{first} pushed forward. The barriers began to ^{tilt} ~~split~~, then were

knocked down. The kiosks were ^{instantly} ~~overrun~~. Peasants fell on the ground

trying to seize the gifts. Others, rushing forward, stepped over them. ~~Only~~

~~a few went down at first, but~~ Before long, the crowds pushing up from the

far rear was compressing the hundred thousand in the middle and that

hundred thousand was jamming into tens of thousands lined up before the

standing booths. Now, in every area, on every patch of ground, a man had

to do no more than stumble and another would ^{trip} ~~fall~~ over him. A third would

^{trip} ~~trip~~, a fourth would be knocked over by bodies pressing ^{into the blockage} ~~behind. Women~~

^{women} would scream. Women and children were knocked down. In the next five

minutes there were five hundred people ^{driven} ~~drive~~ down into ^{largest} ~~one of the~~ sand pits

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when they ~~swam~~ churned a boat-like people in
 or unable to hold back against forces pushing behind ~~even as others were~~ *a maelstrom,*

pushed over the lip of a well. Bodies piled upon bodies. I had never heard

such a sound of woe before—~~it came out of~~ *waves* thousands of throats roaring in

rage or screaming in terror *Unearthly* ~~all their own~~. The first sounds of physical agony,

~~commenced~~. I had an experience I had never encountered before. ~~It is an~~

It is an ~~experience one can offer to few events~~. Humans transfigured into a storm

~~at sea, and~~ moved forward in waves. Slighter people were *thrown* ~~hurled forward~~

~~and~~ upward like heavy spray from the impact of a wave. Bodies flew

through the air. Others screamed as they went under the surge of bodies *clambering*

up behind them. Now, ~~hundreds of bodies were down and~~ thousands of feet

hundreds of bodies, ~~thousands~~ were trampling upon ~~them~~. Children were wailing. Some were even saved.

Some! A few women, a few children were lifted overhead and passed

backward to avoid the crush going forward, passed from arm to arm

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overhead. When they reached the edge of the crowd, they collapsed,

minnows in the shallows, not able to breathe, finally able to breathe. Along

the edges of such ~~surfs~~ ^{others} petrified ~~onlookers~~ were braying out the names of

family members ~~or friends~~ ^{Some had faces already} petrified into grief

It came to an end, and in very much the manner that a storm dies.

Those who had broken through the booths and trampled over the kiosks

kept being catapulted forward by others behind them, until finally they came

to one end of the field. Others managed to wedge their way off to the side.

People in the rear, hearing the high note of the screams, drew back and

pushed no longer. And as the storm abated, peasants moved off in all

directions. The dead lay on the ~~ground~~ ^{ground} behind them

By the early hours of daylight, not only was the field still quivering

its chaos, but the disorder spread over many of the streets and avenues of

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Moscow. Tens of thousands of Muscovites who had been planning to be

~~present~~ ^{scheduled for} at the official opening ~~often~~ in the morning left their houses early.

But as they approached, so they saw wagons coming toward them carrying

~~their sinister and~~ ^a bloody burden of the dead and these ~~wagons~~ ^{sinister} were

surrounded by men and women ambulating along ~~while~~ wailing in grief.

~~These relatives~~ ^{those relatives} who had managed to locate any of ~~the fallen~~ ^{their own} ~~lay along~~ ^{two dead by the side} weeping in

a state not easily described. Some were hysterical in the classic sense, ~~not~~

laughing on the one hand, before groaning on the other. Lost in the daze of

not knowing whether to consider themselves lucky to have avoided the

catastrophe themselves, they had to wonder if they were in peril of losing

their souls forever by this unholy readiness to laugh. Yet how could they

not laugh if the smallest, meanest part of them had not secretly despised the

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dead relative for years? Yes, it had all happened and yet, it could not possibly have happened.

Those who were ~~walking~~ ^{still coming} toward Khodynskoe Field were bewildered by the sight of these ~~many~~ ^{these approaching} faces. ~~These walking bodies, coming toward~~ ~~them~~, screaming, sobbing, groaning, laughing. Hideous laughter. Every passing wagon showed peasants in their ~~best~~ ^{ruined} finery, but dead with bloody noses, broken faces, broken limbs, half covered, or near to nude. More than a few were covered with clothes found on the ground, ripped from the bodies of others.

~~Later came changing estimates of how many had been killed.~~

Probably, the best estimate was three thousand. ~~For~~ ^{Nicky} when first told of what had happened, received the information that the number was three

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hundred, but his minister was well known for a habit of always reducing the extent of bad news by ninety per cent. By nightfall, Nicky was told that it was 1300 people.

The first unidentified dead bodies were taken to Vagankovsky Cemetery. Until this hour, it had been for centuries restricted to the

followers of Orthodoxy. On this morning, however, everyone ~~lost their~~ ^{was losing}

^{their} head. Before it could be determined whether a given victim was Orthodox,

Catholic, or Jewish ~~possible~~, or Muslim or even Protestant—no matter. The

first impulse by the first police officials of the burial squads, formed before

the dead had even been counted, was to get ~~all the~~ ^{these peasant} bodies out and away and

~~quickly~~ ^{Quickly!} into a grave. (Get it done before the Tsar and ~~Tsarina~~ arrived.

~~And~~ The impact of these interments by promiscuous lot, was ~~as low as~~ ^{a further}

^{to} our purpose that was ~~not~~ ^{not} to be comprehended—even by us, certainly,

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not to its full extent—until we come to the mass graves of the Second World War. But, I anticipate. It is too soon to speak of the Maestro's subsequent ventures into the convoluted process of infesting reincarnation with confusion, collision, and disorder.

Along the route, the burial wagons took Tverskaya Street. The morning was reaching into its full glory. It was the tenth extraordinarily good day in a row. The onion domes of the forty times forty churches of Moscow were resplendent in the ~~light of the~~ sun. The domes, so artfully covered with gold leaf, were almost on fire, and their bells, celebrating this much-awaited peasants' event, offered their clangor, loud or delicately toned, to the ears of those walking away from the field, the sound of sobbing, weeping, guttural misery and uncomprehending rage ^{intradual} brought to one's ears to

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an unholy feud with the bells. Disorienting even to my senses. Notably
savage.

I was in such a state of excitement, elation, and certainty at the extent
of our triumph (and even a small wonder at the size of it) that my senses had

become extraordinarily keen. ~~It~~ ^{I felt} as if I could enter the failings of half the

people I passed and so many of them were sick in heart, ^{sick in} ~~soul~~, ^{sick in} ~~and stomach~~,

^{all but} as if lost in the vortex of a dream that clings like slime to all one's awakened

senses. ^{Meanwhile} ~~All this while~~, the gold of the sun reflected the gold of the onion

domes above each church. For the past half year, laborers in high peril of

slipping off church roofs because of winter ice had labored at fastening new

gold leaf to these now-resplendent domes.

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→ off Sandrine's brother, Nicolai Alexandrovitch
~~"Do you know what you are saying?" he told Uncle Alexey, and then~~
~~was the next to catch~~
~~hold of Nicky. I was impressed with the~~
~~said to the Tsar, "Nicky, to attend the ball tonight would be a disaster. Look~~
~~elegance of his speech. "Nicky, I beg of~~
~~you! Don't go to the French Ball tonight because~~
~~back a hundred years. We still live in the shadow of the park of Versailles.~~
~~what I tell you. Nicky, we~~

~~where~~ Louis the XVI and Marie Antoinette ^{could} were ready to dance all night
~~because they could have~~
~~and had absolutely no sense of the approaching storm. Nicky, I appeal to~~
~~we know. Nicky, search into your heart.~~
~~your heart.~~ What happened has happened. The blood of those men, women,
~~as a shadow~~ You cannot
and children ~~will~~ remain forever upon your reign. ~~In no way can you revive~~
~~Nicky,~~ You
the dead, but it is crucial to show your sympathy to their families. ~~Are you~~
~~cannot~~ this ~~our~~
~~ready to~~ allow the enemies of ~~the~~ regime to say that ~~the~~ young emperor

danced while his slaughtered subjects were taken to Potter's Field?" Then,
~~and it he lost the elegance of those~~
~~words in his rage to a fool~~
~~he attacked his~~ Uncle Sergei, the Grand Duke, the Governor-General of

"~~Why, I would ask, didn't Sergei?~~"
Moscow, ~~for not having anticipated how great was the need for police. He~~
~~went on from there. He spoke of incompetence,~~
~~he hinted that some nasty tricks had been~~
~~was eloquent but he did not prevail. The older Grand Dukes surrounded~~
~~placed with the money set aside for~~
~~the coronation events. He did not know~~

Exactly what he was telling about, he had been listening to rumors, but even before the Proclamation on May 9th, the word had been out that the Governor General of Moscow had been supplying off money to pay for his gambling, gambling debts. It was not laterally true. Sergei Alexandrovich's personal assistant had been the guilty one, ~~and he was not only indebted to the Crown, and the other gamblers,~~ but to ~~her~~ he was one of our agents - and he initiated the rumor that it was the Governor General.

That was probably probably the strongest blow - and actually, for indeed there was ~~very~~ money for soldiers or police by the night for the fight at Khabarovsk.

Poor Wishes. If he had one weakness, it was that he could not hold two ^{concepts} ideas in his mind long enough to decide ~~into~~ which one might have the most to offer. It was the nearest he ever came to feeling like a young lady who does not know how to keep two suitors from pummeling

Here begins Batch 2.

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 (1) (2) X
 For Judith - Khodinsky
 triple-space pp 24-23
 Renumbered as (1) to (12)
 -26-

I expect it is time for me to explain more closely what my relation has

been to the events at the field. Even as I was not present at the Coronation

so was I absent for the most part from the ~~event~~ ^{inglorious moments} I have just

described.

In truth, my major contribution is
 For me, it was enough that I had foreseen the possibilities of the
~~at the earliest~~ ^{not only} ~~but had~~
 project and that the Maestro had approved my intuition, ^{and} placed the largest part
~~greater part~~ ^{at} of his resources ~~on Khodensko~~ [?? Isn't it Khodynskoe?]
^{any full-fledged}
 rather than making an attempt to disrupt the Coronation itself.

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During the ~~first~~ weeks I was ~~present~~ ^{at} in Russia, first in St. Petersburg, (2)
 then in Moscow, I had assumed ^{at first that} I would be one of the Maestro's field
^{and so closely} officers in charge of disrupting the proceedings. But I was soon disabused X

~~that~~ The Maestro put it to me directly. I was ~~simply~~ not familiar enough

with the country to be in command of ^{Russian} ~~all~~ the devils and demons we ^{would} ~~could~~

^{to work} assemble for the purpose behind the scenes and ~~to~~ infiltrate ~~into~~ the field.

^{and work in the budget offices of the Moscow bureaucracy}
 Far better, suggested the Maestro, for me to be present as ^{an adviser} a close

observer on the day of the event, and ^{more} ~~most~~ important—my real mission—to

keep close watch on the Romanovs and the family discords ~~that were~~ bound

to ensue.

~~Given my initial excitement that my early proposal had been~~

~~accepted~~, I cannot pretend there was no disappointment in being relegated

In deed I know not much more about the *

to what I considered a tangential proceeding. Yet, in time, as I stayed ~~in my~~

* higher agents and clients we could murder
 at the Court. I felt the Maestro was →

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numbering me. Yes, in time, as I entered these ~~new~~ duties, studied the letters, and became ~~as~~ familiar with Nicky, Alix, and

their families, I ~~had~~ ^{came} to recognize the Maestro's wisdom. He had the morale

of his Russian cohort to contend with, ^{after all.} He could hardly put a foreign agent

^{directly} over them. Moreover, and this may be where I felt ~~down~~ ^{the true wound to my}—I may not have

^{been ~~seen~~ measured to be} been mean, rough, and dirty enough for the job. We devils have our vanity,

^{- of course!} and mine was that I was capable of handling any and every ^{rough} ~~sawyer~~

assignment, high or low. Now, I had to recognize, the Maestro was more

inclined to use his local ~~peasant devils, and on balance, that was fair~~ ^{not}

^{but I also} enough. I ~~also~~ had to comprehend what I should have known from the

start. ^{royal} my assignment to study the letters was not only my real and final

^{for the Convention} assignment ~~in Russia~~ but indeed, it would also be of ^{more} use now ^{more} than I

had at first expected. ^{For now, on the} ~~As it turned out, I was very much on the same in the~~

^{of Khodynshok, I did have} aftermath ~~of Khodynshok (see Nicky's letter to me), and so had first-rate reports to~~

(3)

X

to my
sense
of
myself
and
my
abilities

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~~offer the Maestro. If Khodinka was for its poor humans~~ ^{the field had been} a cornucopia of

a cornucopia of phobias and nightmares
blood, flesh, bones, and ~~phobias, nightmares~~ torn finery, and suffocation, the

~~ensued~~ ^{ensued} ~~enormous~~ ^{enormous} damage to the Romanovs that followed would yet eat at the foundations of

~~the Empire. The peasants, conceivably, could yet have forgiven Nicky, but~~ ^{while Nicky's} ~~as they had forgiven other Tsars~~ ^{him}

~~his relatives became so divided, and subsequently, many of the most~~ ^{serious, even fatal}

~~divisions took place in the next few days, that the strength of the family~~

~~was weakened, and respect for Nicky was lost.~~

^{relate} I will tell it in order, however, as I was to perceive it over the week

that ensued, ^{the previous} ~~and for these happenings, I can assert that~~ ~~strength of the Cudgols was in disarray~~ ^{too much had happened and they were} ~~somewhat close~~ I was, for example, ~~near~~ ^{able to come nearer} to Nicky when he and Alix first

showed up early in the afternoon at Khodenskoe. I was privileged again at

that time to be able by means of the ~~narrow~~ ^{constructed and} much-beleaguered passage

^{Nicky's} the Maestro still commanded for entrance into ~~his~~ ^{his} mind to report not only

* needed in too many places. In consequence, there were many gaps in the story. So many new assignments, so many of the wounded, the dead, and the grieving to attend to,

Comp
alive
of
spiritual
suffering
yes!
the

X

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Raymond Tsao
 that ~~Nicky~~ was pale as he approached the pavilion, but that the pallor came

not from weakness or grief, but ~~to the~~ ^{to the} ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~He~~ ^{He} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~full of~~ ^{full of} ~~unspoken fury~~ ^{unspoken fury} at the peasants ~~was comparable to~~ ^{was comparable to} ~~him~~ ^{him} How could they be

so pushy, so stupid, so ungrateful, so ridiculous, so self-destructive, and yet

it was his duty to forgive them. ~~I could~~ ^{Then, he felt} ~~understand~~ ^{First, it was} ~~him~~ ^{him}

a very large annoyance ^{All the same, he} ~~disappointment~~ ^{disappointment} at the ineptitude of the police. ~~That certainly~~ ^{That certainly} ~~whitened the~~ ^{whitened the}

~~face~~ ^{most} ~~of his rage~~ ^{of his rage}. But he was ~~more~~ ^{most} ~~angry~~ ^{angry} at himself. He could ~~hardly~~ ^{tell himself} ~~pay~~ ^{pay}

~~attention to every detail~~ ^{that} ~~he was not obliged to watch over such things, yet~~ ^{every detail} ~~yet he certainly had not paid attention~~ ^{yet he certainly had not paid attention} ~~to how many soldiers would be there to~~ ^{to how many soldiers would be there to}

protect the kiosks? How much of this could have been prevented? ~~He did~~

~~not know~~. Later that night, before he went to sleep, he wrote in his diary.
By means of his valet — who, I repeat, was ours —
~~and~~ I received the contents on the following day. The diary is worth

quoting:

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Up till now, thank God, everything went perfectly but today a great sin has taken place. The crowd spending the night on the Khodyn^{sc} meadow, in anticipation of the distribution of food and mugs, broke through the barrier and there was a terrible crush, during which it is terrible to say about 1300 people were trampled.

The news left an ugly impression. We lunched at 12:30 and then Alix and I went to the Khodyn^{sc} meadow to be present at the unfortunate popular celebration. There was nothing in particular to see; we looked out from the pavilion over the huge crowd surrounding the platform, where the national orchestra kept on playing the national anthem and "Be Glorified!"

Needless to say, this entry had been written at night ~~and very much in~~

in the echo of the aftermath. I kept studying the phrase, "a great sin has taken

place" but could not determine what he meant. Nor, so far as I know, could

any of our cohort. Yet, ~~it was not yet to have~~ end less, repercussions, ~~some~~ ^{the event} gone.

any of our people. Word of the disaster, as I have already indicated, was to

~~of a near by entry~~

~~have all the repercussions, but some~~ were anticipated quickly. Even on the

afternoon of May 18th, ^{directly} after the disaster, Sergei Witte, who may have been

the most effective statesman Russia possessed at the time, sent word to the

Tsar: "In respect for the dead, all festivities should be cancelled

immediately." Then he added, "Most particularly, the French Ambassador's

Ball." That was scheduled to take place ~~in a few hours, yes, right~~ on the

same night. It ~~had been planned to be~~ ^{would be} the largest ^{and grandest} social event of the

Coronation. The Governor General of Moscow, Grand Duke Sergei

Alexandrovich, who was married to Alix's sister Ella, ~~had~~ had taken over,

among his many other duties, the task as director of the peasants' festival.

~~Since he was the one whom many people were~~
~~asking to blame, he was also~~
~~was the one who replied to Witte: "The Tsar considers Khodynskoe a great~~

disaster but would inform you that in effect it was not so great a disaster that

it should darken the Coronation holiday."

~~His brothers gathered around him, though~~

~~The older Grand Dukes, his brothers, were in accord with him. The younger generation of Grand Dukes, Nicholas's first cousins, did not share~~
~~his conclusion. Their unanimous conclusion was hardly shared by Nicky's~~
~~this conclusion. Indeed,~~

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~~peasins, the younger generations of Grand Dukes~~ Nicky's closest cousin, *Sandro*

(Alexander Mikhailovich) married to Nicky's sister Xenia, ~~and called Sandro~~

Sandro's
~~by all~~ was in his own fury. So were ~~his~~ brothers, the other sons of Grand

Duke Mikhail. The attitude of their uncles, the older Romanovs, the senior

level of Grand Dukes, seemed *to them* monstrous ~~to them~~. How could one attend a

fancy ball on this night ~~of all~~? It would be an outrageous insult to the dead.

Sandro said as much to Nicky, ~~but~~ *next* in turn, Uncle Alexey, the oldest brother

~~to~~ Nicky's dead father, told Nicky to ~~behave~~ *ignore him.*

"Nicky," said Uncle Alexey, "surely you are aware that your cousins,

~~the~~ *I speak of* Mikhailovichi, and Sandro particularly, are not people you can listen to.

~~Beware of them~~ *Beware of them,* They are young, they are radical, and they are silly. ~~tell~~

I tell you,
~~you,~~ they will not admit it, but they are siding with the revolution. They

as Governor General of Moscow They wish to depose Sergei Alexandrovitch ~~and put in one of their own. They are~~
are looking to put in one of their own.

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They are planning to holdtrying to get the Moscow governorship for themselves. Think what ~~they~~ ^{such}

(9)

demotion wouldAnd to Ella.

will do to Sergei Alexandrovitch and to Ella. Your wife will be distraught,

X

How canbe made tothat her sister Ella ~~has to~~ suffer such an ~~unfair~~ ^{such an} disgrace.
 unfair and unmerited disgrace.

~~Opinions came in on both sides and I heard them all. The Lyders~~
~~were so in disarray for once that I found it possible to stay near to Nicky.~~
~~So I heard their several conversations.~~

Sandro's brother, Nicolai Alexandrovich, was the next to ~~reach for~~ ^{reach for}Nicky's ear.~~He~~ I was impressed with the eloquence of his speech. "Nicky, I begDon't go

of you, don't go to the French Ball tonight. Recognize what I tell you.

are still livingNicky, we ~~still live~~ ^{are still living} in the shadow of Versailles. Louis the XVI and MarieAntoinette could dance all night because they ~~could have~~ ^{had} no sense of theapproaching storm. But we ~~can't~~ ^{we} know. Nicky, search into your heart.Think of the~~What happened has happened.~~ The blood of those men, women, and

~~(I fear that that blood will)~~
 children remain forever as a shadow upon your reign. You cannot revive

~~no,~~ ~~you must~~
 the dead, but, Nicky, ~~it is crucial~~ to show your sympathy to their families. ~~That~~
 is crucial.

(You cannot allow the enemies of this regime to say that our young emperor

~~even as~~ ~~being~~
 danced while his slaughtered subjects were taken to Potter's Field." ~~Then~~
~~He had been most eloquent. He held~~
~~Nicky's attention. Then he lost it.~~
 he lost the eloquence of these words (in his rage to attack Uncle Sergei, the

Grand Duke, the Governor-General of Moscow. "Why, I would ask, didn't

Uncle Sergei act like a responsible Grand Duke?
 Can ~~he~~ ~~anticipate~~ how great was the need for police? ~~Any fool should~~
~~Sergei~~ ~~have been able to see that.~~ A common ~~man~~
~~would be hung for incompetence.~~ Sergei is vain,
~~there. He spoke of incompetence, he hinted that some nasty tricks had been~~
~~played with the money set aside for the Coronation events. He did not know~~
~~already. The word is that there was no money~~
~~left in the Coronation funds to pay ten thousands~~
~~of police. Now really, one cannot trust rumors~~
~~exactly what he was talking about, he had been listening to rumors, but even~~
 but I must say, Nicky, that even before you
 — go well done — word was
 before the Processional on May 9th, the word had been out that the

already out that people in high places, many
 of course, the ~~have~~ ~~what?~~ They say
 Governor-General of Moscow had been siphoning off money to pay for his
 that certain large gambling debts had to be
 — go there,

gambling debts. It was not literally true. Sergei Alexandrovitch's personal

If I was pleased with the speech and
 fascinated by it, but it was not all
 that accurate. I knew better. ~~Sergei~~ This

(83a) (11)

Grand Duke, Sergey-Alexandrovich
 was an immensely vain man,
 altogether ~~too~~ pleased with himself
~~and~~ his height, his waist, the
 beauty of his voice, the fine features
 of his own face, and he was a
 gambler as well. But, of late,
 he had been successful. He
 had not needed money ~~as~~
 as all the detractors were
 saying — to replace money off
 the claim was that he was taken ~~off~~ of it.
 It was in fact his trusted
 assistant (whose ~~name~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~known~~
 Sergei had often held in his
 hand) who was the guilty one.
 (He was not only in ~~charge~~ ~~of~~
 the ~~Consistent Fund~~ ~~and~~ ~~so~~ ~~much~~
 not that by May 19, there had not
 been money available to turn over
 police. In the lower ranks of the
 Korean bureaucracy, there ~~had~~ ~~been~~
 some concern, but then half the
 clerks were over, and I suspect they
 knew precisely how to transfer
 money & budgetary disbursements
 into unfaithful ~~and~~ complicated
 or, by way of long-term and

for Special Reserve Fund for
 Consistent Security

(*)

or

X

Keen also discussed with agent
that one possible by way - that
would be a dangerous matter
was a security & financial statement

~~to cut these dates in the morning~~
~~and write up all the necessary work~~

one of the Londoners
who is following back to America

aligning & connecting the
... of the ...

Presented by the
Public Law 100-209
Department of Justice

[illegible]

Grand Canyon, Paria Plateau, Panguitch, Utah

1

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assistant had been the guilty one. (He was not only in debt to the Crown,

and to other gamblers, but to use—he was one of our agents—and he initiated the rumor that it was the Governor-General.)

That was probably the strongest blow we struck. For indeed, there was no money for soldiers or police by the night before the 18th at Khodynskoe.

Poor Nicky. If he had one weakness, it was that he could not hold two ~~contrary~~ ^{opposed} ideas in his mind long enough to decide which ~~one~~ might have

the most to offer. It was the nearest he ever came to feeling like a young

lady who does not know how to keep two embattled suitors from

pummeling each other to squash. Just as he was ready to give real attention

to his cousin Nikolai's fine speech (for at heart, Nicky did not want to go to

the Ball—in his mind's eye he kept seeing ^{the} ~~bloody faces~~ ^{of the night before} so two if his uncles

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came upon the echo of the last argument to explain in the cleverest terms

possible that it would be an insult of incomparable dimension if the ball

were called off. The French Embassy had gone to ~~such~~ extensive and

generous lengths to prepare it. ^{The of the Tsar} ~~His~~ absence could create a rupture between

the French and the Russians. "Nicky, nothing like that can even be

considered at this time, no, not now! Your Uncle Willy is so furious at ^{our} ~~the~~

We can no longer count on him as our entente with the French. He is no longer your friend. Do you wish the

begin to look in his direction, French to ~~join with him?~~ Nicky, you have to go. It would be a sign of great

weakness not to appear. The French pride themselves on the ^{power of} ~~cold~~

Coldness of their hearts. They see it as a whetstone to sharpen their intelligence, ~~the understanding they can bring to heated emotion.~~ They detest sentimentality.

A warm-hearted man is seen as

~~They will not see you as a man, but~~ weak, womanly, sentimental in the

worst way, and not a man at all. Certainly not a ruler. Nicky, a rupture with the French, even a chill in relations will prove to be a disaster greater than ten Khodynkas.

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Nicky attended the ball, ~~given by the French Ambassador~~. He had the

first dance of the evening with Countess Montebello who was the wife of

the French Ambassador, and Alix danced with ~~the Count~~. In his diary,

^{this}
Nicky left ~~his~~ comment:

**The Montebello Ball was very magnificently
done, but the heat was unbearable. We left after
supper at two o'clock.**

I would say that one of the reasons he left was the smile on the face of
the Governor-General of Moscow. ~~The~~ Grand Duke Sergei was enjoying
the Ball. He had a favorite saying: "It does not matter how awful a day has
been. One has to possess the character, the wit, and the inner strength to be
able to ^{live to the full} ~~enjoy an evening~~ when the music is lively and the drinks inspire you.

That is also our duty, ^{our human duty}, let us
drink to the dead. One day we will
join them. But tonight we dance.

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~~Hearing this speech, Sandro and~~ X
~~It was a certainty that it was the reason for Sandro and his brothers~~
 his brothers chose to leave. It was the beauty
 of the
 to leave. That broad smile on Grand Duke Sergei's face! He was testing his

~~decided that~~ (16)
 own epigram! They ~~wondered if~~ he had lost his mind. So, they departed.

Indeed, these

~~The~~ four brothers left at the exact moment that ~~the~~ dancing began, left, yes,

~~indeed~~, as Nicky and Alix were taking their first steps. Uncle Alexey spoke ~~out~~

loud enough for them to hear, "There go the four imperial followers of

Robespierre."

~~debate whether a~~
 One did not have to wonder ~~if~~ war within the family had begun. I

was content. The Maestro would be pleased. He would be amused ~~when he~~ ^{once by}

~~Bedroom~~
 learned that I was able to insinuate myself into the Royal ~~Bed~~ long enough

that night to enter Nicky's mind again. It was incredible. I was in the

Bedroom. The Cudgels were in more disarray than I can ever recall.

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So, for a few minutes, (before ~~they~~^{he made} returned and I decamped) I was
 able not only to enter Nicky's mind but ~~to feel~~^{even for a little} close to him. Close enough
 to say that he felt doomed. Doomed and damned. Together with his hopes.

He knew it with some certainty of vision. His vision, not ours. It would
 take ~~20~~^{more than twenty} years to confirm what he knew on ~~that~~^{this} night. But ~~that~~^{this} was the night
 when he knew. If I had it in me to feel compassion (or for that matter could
 afford to), I might have been moved by how he suffered. He was appalled.

~~That night~~^{even} he told Alix that it might ~~even~~ be his duty to retire to a monastery
~~because there~~^{without interruption} where he could pray for the victims. It was no way to speak to a wife on a
 night so full of a ~~sense~~^{ghastly} of future disaster. It may even account for the letter

Alix would yet write to her friend, the German Countess Rantzau "I feel

that all who surround my husband are insincere. And no one is doing his
 duty for Russia. They are all serving him for their career and personal

help
 save
 inland

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advantage and I worry myself and cry for days on end as I feel my husband

is very young and inexperienced--~~of~~ of which they are taking advantage."

X

~~18~~
(18)

X

(19)

-27-

One can only repeat: Poor Nicky! There
~~For many who were near to Nicky, the worst of it is that there are~~

~~was~~ eight more days of fetes, balls, receptions, state visits, musicales. ———

a compendium of joyless gatherings to build the ~~connections~~ ^{designed future} of diplomatic

connections,
~~history~~ ^{on}

on the night after the 18th of May, there was a banquet at

Alexander Hall in the Kremlin and Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovitch,

Governor-General of Moscow, despite his embattled situation, went right

ahead with his ^{own} ball on the 20th ~~9~~ The 21st brought the Moscow nobility

together at the Hall of Columns, Prince Trubetskoi as host. Four thousand

guests appeared. On the 22nd, Nicky and Alix had to make a state visit to

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the Troisky-Sergeyevsky monastery. The 23rd was a succession of visits.

First to the Moscow Duma, then dinner with the English Ambassador at a

palace ball that night in the St. Andrew Hall in the Kremlin with thirty-one

hundred guests. The Germans, laying low, gave no more than a Musicale at

their embassy on the 24th which was followed by a Palace dinner for all the

ambassadors on the 25th. And, for conclusion, they were back at Khodynka

~~Field~~ on the 26th for a military review. Needless to say, a good many of the

ravines and pits had been filled in by then ^{in the field.} It was another brilliant day and

Nicky's carriage was drawn by six white horses. Thirty-eight thousand, five

hundred sixty-five enlisted men marched in company with 2,000 officers.

Sixty-seven generals watched.

It may be worth noting that on the 23rd, Nicky did succeed in giving

20,000 rubles as ^a the first installment on a children's home for those who

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were orphaned in the Khodynka disaster. The Correspondence Bureau of the government encouraged all foreign and local reporters to make no mention of the event of the 18th at Khodynka Field.

By now, I was awaiting orders to leave. I did not know if I could acclimate myself to Hafeld after these exceptional occasions, but the Maestro, in payment perhaps for my good intuition about our moves in Russia did say to me: "Respect Hafeld. It is more important than you think."

There was no reason to believe ~~him~~ or disbelieve him, ^{His} ~~the~~ power of
declarations were but one ~~fact~~ ^{max}
~~His thought was, for all part of his bearing him~~ ~~I must use the word his~~
presence which I can only describe
as an ~~immaculate~~ ^{immaculate} intelligence
~~that made sense of his own~~
Next to him, the oldest Frenchman alive
was comparable to a naked African in the
Still, I was in no hurry to leave. I collected what I could from the
In any event, I was in no hurry to
go back to Blafeld. I was busy collecting
~~aftermath~~ ^{aftermath}. The diaries were of more use than ever
tid bits on the aftermath.

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Sandro's wife, Xenia, who is ^(also) Nicky's sister, ^{was} in whole accord with

her husband ^{about the worth of the Governor-General of Moscow.}

Xenia, Diary, 19 May 1896, Moscow

Yesterday's misfortune keeps going round in my head like a nightmare! In my opinion, Uncle Sergei's behavior is beneath comment. He has washed his hands of everything, saying it's nothing to do with him. Yesterday, he didn't even take the trouble to visit the scene of the disaster—it's out of his hands. We talked of nothing else while I sat with Mama in the morning.

I kept trying to tell Ella my opinion about everything that had happened. Her reply was, "Dieu merci Sergei n'a rien a faire dans tout cela!"

Xenia almost burst into tears—she felt such a desire to strike Ella. To ^{long}

^{to believe!}
to thank God! To declare ^{to believe!} "Sergei had nothing to do with all this!"

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Φ

During the first weeks I was present in ~~Russia, first~~ in St. Petersburg,

~~then in Moscow~~, I had assumed I would be one of the Maestro's field

officers in charge of disrupting the proceedings, but I was soon disabused of
that before I came down to Moscow.

~~that~~ The Maestro put it to me directly. I was ~~simply~~ not familiar enough

with the country to be in command of ~~all~~ the devils ~~and demons~~ we could

assemble for the purpose behind the scenes ~~and/or~~ *on to* infiltrate ~~onto~~ the field.

For ~~B~~etter, suggested the Maestro, for me to be present as an adviser, a close

observer on the day of the event, and most important—my real mission—to

keep close watch on the Romanovs and ~~the~~ *whatever* family discords ~~that~~ were bound

to ensue *thereafter*.

~~Given my initial excitement that my early proposal had been~~

~~accepted~~, I cannot pretend there was no disappointment in being relegated

to what I considered a tangential proceeding. Yet, in time, as I ~~stayed at my~~

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~~to that limited degree,~~
~~duties~~, studied the letters, and became ~~as~~ familiar with Nicky, Alix, and

their families, I had to recognize the Maestro's wisdom. He had ~~the morale~~,
~~to contend with the morale~~ place
 of his Russian cohort ~~to contend with~~. He could hardly put a foreign agent

over them. Moreover ~~(and this may be where I felt pain)~~ ^{the rub) I} may not have
~~been~~ ~~mean~~ ~~judged~~ ~~him~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~
~~being~~ mean, rough, and dirty enough for ~~the~~ job. We devils have our vanity
~~this~~

and mine was that I was capable of handling any ~~and every~~ sort of

assignment, high or low. Now, I had to recognize, the Maestro was more

inclined to use his local ~~poor~~ devils, and, on balance, ~~that was fair~~ ^{I had to admit}

enough. ~~I also had to comprehend what~~ ^{it} I should have known from the

start—my assignment to study the letters was not only my ~~real and final~~ ^{last}

assignment in Russia, but indeed, it would also be of more use now ^{more} than I

had ~~at first~~ expected. As it turned out, I was very much on the scene in the

aftermath of Khodinka ~~(as Nicky termed it)~~ and so had first-rate reports to

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offer the Maestro. If Khodinka was for ~~the~~ ^{the (who perished on the Gily)} poor human ~~a cornucopia of~~

~~an olla-podrida of~~

~~blood, flesh, bones, and phobia, exploded, torn finery, and suffocation, the~~

~~wreckage to the reputation of~~
~~damage to the Romanovs that followed~~

~~Most of the~~ ~~might yet~~
 the Empire. The peasants, conceivably, could yet have forgiven Nicky, but

~~not~~ ^{They} his relatives became so divided, and ~~subsequently~~ many of the worst

divisions took place in the next few days, ~~that the strength of the family~~

~~was weakened, and respect for Nicky was lost.~~ ^{never regained.}

I will tell it ~~in order, however~~ as I was to perceive it over the week

that ensued, ~~and for these happenings~~ ^{it was now} I can assert that ~~any contact was~~

^{possible to come closer to the situation.}

~~somewhat close~~ I was, for example, ~~near to Nicky when he and Alix first~~

~~within viewing distance of~~

showed up early in the afternoon at ~~the Red Cross~~ ^{I was privileged again at}

~~at what the authorities had termed "the popular celebration."~~ ^{I was then privileged}
~~that time to be able~~ by means of the narrow and much-beleaguered passage

the Maestro still commanded for entrance into his mind to report not only

that Nicky was pale as he approached the pavilion, but that the pallor came

I could certainly feel it.

from his rage. ~~Some~~ turn red with rage. He was pale with rage. His

~~the rest that the~~

unspoken fury at the peasants was comparable to Alix's. How could they ~~have been~~

so pushy, so stupid, so ungrateful, so ridiculous, so self-destructive, and yet

~~— heavy as a load of iron chains lying upon the heart —~~

~~it~~ was his duty to forgive them. I could declare what he felt. First, it was

His duty was

In addition he was enraged at the

~~disappointment at the ineptitude of the police. That certainly whitened the~~

And worse

even

tell himself

~~pallor of his rage. But he was more furious at himself. He could hardly pay~~

that certainly

every detail,

~~attention to every detail, he was not obliged to watch over such things, yet~~

but none the less! Why

the ~~Con~~teclous of Security?

~~why had he not paid more attention to how many soldiers would be there to~~

So much

~~protect the kiosks? How much of this could have been prevented? He did~~

that time? Were the events inevitable, I

not know. Later that night, before he went to sleep, he ~~wrote in his diary~~

put down a few sentences in his diary

by the usual route

and I received the contents on the following day. The diary is worth

quoting:

Up till now, thank God, everything went perfectly but today a great sin has taken place. The crowd spending the night on the ~~Khodynskoe~~ ^{Khodinka} meadow, in anticipation of the distribution of food and mugs, broke through the barrier and there was a terrible crush, during which it is terrible to say about 1300 people were trampled.

The news left an ugly impression. We lunched at 12:30 and then Alix and I went to the ~~Khodynskoe~~ ^{Khodinka} to be present at the unfortunate popular celebration. There was nothing in particular to see; we looked out from the pavilion over the huge crowd surrounding the platform, where the national orchestra kept on playing the national anthem and ^{Be Glorified!}

Needless to say, this entry had been written at night and ^{so was} very much in the ^{end} echo of the aftermath. I kept studying the phrase, "a great sin has taken place", ^{it} but could not determine what he meant. Nor, so far as I know, could ^{my colleagues,} any of our people. Word of the disaster, as I have ^{already} indicated, was to have endless repercussions, but ^{most could be} some were anticipated quickly. Even on the ^{same} afternoon of May 18th, ^{was considered} after the disaster, Sergei Witte, who may have been

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to be
 the most effective statesman Russia ~~possessed at the time~~ *could present in these years*, sent word to the *Ph*

Tsar: "In respect for the dead, all festivities should be cancelled

immediately." Then he added, "Most particularly, the French Ambassador's

Ball." That was scheduled to take place ~~in a few hours, yes, right on the~~ *on this same*

was scheduled
 same night. It ~~had been planned~~ to be the largest social event of the

Coronation. The Governor General of Moscow, Grand Duke Sergei

Alexandrovich, who was married to Alix's sister Ella, and had taken over,

among his many other duties, the task as director of the peasants' festival,

was the one who replied to Witte: "The Tsar considers *Khodynka* ~~Khodynka~~ a great

disaster but would inform you that in effect it was not so great a disaster that

it should darken the Coronation holiday."

Sergei Alexandrovich's
 The older Grand Dukes, ~~his~~ brothers, were in accord ~~with his~~

But the in
 reaction. ~~Their~~ unanimous conclusion was hardly shared by Nicky's

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Not at all.
 cousins, the younger generations of Grand Dukes, Nicky's closest cousin,
his dearest friend,
 Alexander Mikhailovich, married to Nicky's sister Xenia, and called Sandro

by all, was in his own fury. So were his brothers, the other sons of Grand

Duke Mikhail. The attitude of their uncles, the older Romanovs, *this* the senior

level of Grand Dukes, *was* *as far as they were concerned* seemed monstrous to them. How could one attend a

This night of all!
 fancy ball on this night of all? *It would be an outrageous insult to the dead,*
a slap into the face of Russia's own honor.
 Sandro said as much to Nicky, *but* in turn, Uncle Alexey, the oldest brother

of Nicky's dead father, told Nicky to beware *of Sandro and*
his brothers,

"Nicky," said Uncle Alexey, "surely you are aware that your cousins,
these Mikhailovichs,
the Mikhailovichs and Sandro particularly, are not people you *should* listen to.

and inexperienced *worse than silly!*
 Beware of them. They are young, they are radical, *and* they are silly. I tell

you, they will not admit it, but they are siding with *unholy forces, they* the revolution. They
are on the side of every revolution. Now, they
 wish to depose Sergei Alexandrovitch and put in one of their own. *They are*

as Governor-General of Moscow, yes,

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trying to get ^{this office} the Moscow governorship for themselves. Think what ^{that} ~~they~~

will do to Sergei Alexandrovitch and to Ella. Your wife will be distraught

that her sister Ella has to suffer such an unfair disgrace."

As these opinions

*Opinions came in on both sides and I heard them all. The Cudgels
~~As I will soon explain~~ were in such disarray
 and rushing to so many places—so many dead
~~were in disarray~~ for once that I found it possible to stay ^{close} near to Nicky.*

~~So, I heard their several conversations~~

*Souls
to
Success!
—that!*

Sandro's brother, Nicolai Alexandrovich, ~~was the next to catch hold~~
*spoke to Nicky right after Uncle Alexey,
 and everything he told him was opposite.*
 of Nicky. I was impressed with the eloquence of his speech. "Nicky, I beg

of you, don't go to the French Ball tonight. Recognize what I tell you. *Whether
 we like it or not, we are still living!*

~~Nicky, we still live~~ in the shadow of Versailles. Louis the XVI and Marie

were naive. They

Antoinette could dance all night because they could have no sense of the

approaching storm. But we can. We know. Nicky, search into your heart.

What happened has happened. The blood of those men, women, and

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will
 children remain forever as a shadow upon your reign. You cannot revive

You are good, you are kind. I know if you could, you would revive the dead. But you cannot the dead, but Nicky, it is crucial to show your sympathy to their families.

So, Nicky,

How can you

You cannot allow the enemies of this regime to say that our young emperor

who are everywhere

danced while his slaughtered subjects were taken to Potter's Field." Then,

He had succeeded in touching the center of Nicky's feelings, but he was young - he did not have
 lost the eloquence of these words in his rage to attack Uncle Sergei, the

Grand Duke, the Governor-General of Moscow. "Why, I would ask, didn't

Sergei anticipate how great was the need for police?" He went on from

there. I had no direct influence on him, but
~~but, nevertheless, I could, by a little,~~ He spoke of incompetence, he hinted that some nasty tricks had been

Then

played with the money set aside for the Coronation events. He did not know

exactly what he was talking about, he had been listening to rumors, *the same* ~~but even~~

I had heard even

before the Processional on May 9th. The word had been out that the

Governor-General of Moscow *was* ~~had been~~ siphoning off money to pay for his

gambling debts. It was not literally true. Sergei Alexandrovitch's personal

enough experience to conserve his advantage and so he soon increase the heat or to his intent, so soon enough he was ranting about

some of the Coronation debts

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assistant had been the guilty one. (He was not only in debt to the Crown,

and to other gamblers, but to ^{us} ~~use~~ — he was one of our agents ~~and~~ ^{He even}

initiated the rumor that it was the Governor-General.)

That proved one of ~~the~~ ^{our} most effective gambits.

That was probably the strongest blow we struck. For indeed, there was certainly not enough money on hand to hire enough ~~for~~ ^{for} was no money for ~~the~~ or police by the night before the 18th at

Khodynskoe Field. And we had managed through our devices, our ~~own~~ ^{own} loyal colonels in the Russian Army to keep ~~most~~ ^{most} of the available ~~gold~~ ^{gold} a good way off at the gates to Moscow.
Poor Nicky. If he had one weakness, it was that he could not hold

two contrary ideas in his mind long enough to decide which ^{argument} ~~one~~ might have

the most to offer. It was the nearest he ever came to feeling like a ^{rich} young

lady who does not know how to ^{restrain} ~~keep~~ two embattled suitors from

pummeling each other to squash. Just as he was ready to give real attention

to his cousin Nikolai's fine speech (~~for at heart, Nicky did not want to go to~~

~~the Ball~~ ^{or} in his mind's eye he kept seeing bloody faces) so two of his uncles

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came upon the echo of the last argument ^{and procedural} to explain in the ^{sharpest} clearest terms

possible that it would be an insult of incomparable ^{consequence} dimension if the ball

were called off. The French Embassy had gone to such extensive and

^{or preparation.} generous lengths to ^{actually cause} prepare it. His absence could ^{create} a rupture between

^{France and Russia.} the French and the Russians. "Nicky, nothing like ^{this} that can even be

considered at this time, no, not now! ^{we depend on the} Your Uncle Willy is so furious at the

^{French alliance.} ~~Your black white front Berlin~~
~~entente with the French. He is no longer your friend. Do you wish the~~

~~French to join with him?~~ Nicky, you have to go. It would be a sign of great

weakness not to appear. The French pride themselves on the ^{calm,} ~~act~~

^{even cold sanity} ~~understanding~~ they can bring to heated emotion. They detest sentimentality.

They will not see you as a man, but weak, womanly, sentimental in the

worst way. ^{Foreign policy must not be} determined by ~~accidents~~ ^{unfortunate} accidents.

Nicky attended the ball given by the French Ambassador. He had the first dance of the evening with Countess Montebello who was the wife of the French Ambassador, and Alix danced with the Count. In his diary, Nicky left his comment:

The Montebello Ball was very magnificently done, but the heat was unbearable. We left after supper at two o'clock.

~~I would say that~~ ^{may have been} one of the reasons he left ~~was~~ the smile on the face of the Governor-General of Moscow. The Grand Duke Sergei was enjoying the Ball. He had a favorite saying: "It does not matter how awful a day has been. One has to possess the character, the wit, and the inner strength to be able to enjoy an evening when the music is lively and the drinks inspire you. That is also our duty."

I know to a certainty that ~~it~~ ^{the same smile} was the reason for Sandro and his brothers depart. They knew his epigram. On this to leave. That broad smile on Grand Duke Sargail's face! He was testing his night they saw it as ~~odious~~.
~~own epigram!~~ They wondered if he had lost his mind. So, they departed.
~~They were the point of the~~
~~to leave as it was a~~
 The four brothers left at the exact moment that the dancing began, left, ~~you~~

~~even~~
~~indeed~~ as Nicky and Alix were taking their first steps. Uncle Alexey spoke
~~loudly~~
~~loud~~ enough for them to hear, "There go the four imperial followers of

Robespierre."

~~One did not have to wonder. It was within the family had been I~~

I was content. The Maestro would be pleased. He would be amused when he learned that I was able to insinuate myself into the Royal ^{Chamber} ~~Chamber~~ long enough that night to enter Nicky's mind again. It was incredible. I was in the Bedroom. The Cudgels were in more disarray than I can ever recall.

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came back once again
So, for a few minutes, (before they ~~returned~~ (and I decamped) I was

able not only to enter Nicky's mind but to feel close *enough to let* ~~to him~~ ~~Close enough~~

to be able to say ~~to say~~ that he felt doomed. Doomed and damned. Together with his hopes.

He knew it with some certainty of vision. His vision, not ours. It would

take 21 years to confirm what he knew on that night. But that was the night

when he knew. If I had it in me to feel compassion (or for that matter could

afford to), I might have been moved by how he suffered. He was appalled.

That night he told Alix that it might even be his duty to retire to a monastery

where he could pray for the victims. It was no way to speak to a wife on a

night so full of a sense of future disaster. It may even account for the letter

Alix would yet write to her friend, the German Countess Rantzau. "I feel

that all who surround my husband are insincere. And no one is doing his

duty for Russia. They are all serving him for their career and personal

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advantage and I worry myself and cry for days on end as I feel my husband

is very young and inexperienced- ~~of~~ of which they are taking advantage."

6

-27-

For many who were near to Nicky, the worst of it is that there are

eight more days of fetes, balls, receptions, state visits, musicales, a

compendium of joyless gatherings to build the connections of diplomatic history, *a few more links in*
 (The Maestro once remarked: "I like *diplomatic history, there is no easy place*
~~history~~ *to disrupt the given.*"
~~on the night after the 10th of May~~ *on the 20th* there was a banquet at
 Alexander Hall in the Kremlin and Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovitch,

~~Governor General of Moscow, despite his embattled situation, went right~~
went right
 ahead with his ball ~~on the 20th~~ *on the 20th*. The 21st brought the Moscow nobility

together at the Hall of Columns, Prince Trubetskoi as host. Four thousand

guests appeared. On the 22nd, Nicky and Alix had to make a state visit to

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the Troisky-Sergeyevsky monastery. The 23rd was a succession of visits.

First to the Moscow Duma, then dinner with the English Ambassador at a palace ball that night in the St. Andrew Hall in the Kremlin with thirty-one hundred guests. The Germans, laying low, gave no more than a Musicale at their embassy on the 24th which was followed by a Palace dinner for all the ambassadors on the 25th. And, for conclusion, they were back at Khodynka

Meadow
~~Field~~

on the 26th for a military review. Needless to say, a good many of the ravines and pits had been filled in by then. It was another brilliant day and Nicky's carriage was drawn by six white horses. Thirty-eight thousand, five hundred sixty-five enlisted men marched in company with 2,000 officers. Sixty-seven generals watched.

It may be worth noting that on the 23rd, Nicky did succeed in giving 20,000 rubles as the first installment on a children's home for those who

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were orphaned in the ~~Khodinka~~ disaster. The Correspondence Bureau of
the government encouraged all foreign and local reporters to make no
mention of the event of the 18th ~~at Khodinka Field~~

φ

By now, I was awaiting orders to leave. I did not know if I could
acclimate myself to Hafeld after these exceptional occasions, but the
Maestro, in payment perhaps for my good intuition about our moves in
Russia did say to me: "Respect Hafeld. It is more important than you
think."

There was no reason to believe him or disbelieve him—the power of
his thought was, after all, part of his ^{*impenetrable*} ~~(bearing, his — I must use the word — his~~
~~immaculate sense of his own precience —~~

Awaiting his orders
Still, I was in no hurry to leave. I collected what I could from the
aftermath. The diaries were of more use than ever.

Sandro's wife, Xenia, who is Nicky's sister, ^{proved to be} is in whole accord with

her husband:

Xenia, Diary, 19 May 1896, Moscow

Yesterday's misfortune keeps going round in my head like a nightmare! In my opinion, Uncle Sergei's behavior is beneath comment. He has washed his hands of everything, saying it's nothing to do with him. Yesterday, he didn't even take the trouble to visit the scene of the disaster—it's out of his hands. We talked of nothing else while I sat with Mama in the morning.

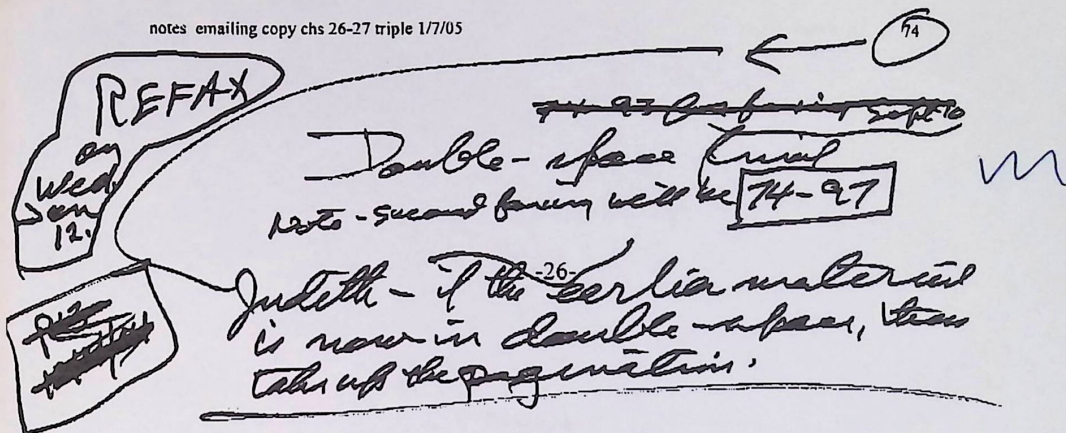
I kept trying to tell Ella my opinion about everything that had happened. Her reply was, "Dieu merci Sergei n'a rien a faire dans tout cela!"

Xenia almost burst into tears—she felt such a desire to strike Ella. ^{For}

^{Ella to}
(thank God!

To declare: "Sergei had nothing to do with all this!"

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I expect it is time for me to explain more closely what my relation has

been to the events at the field. Even as I was not present at the Coronation

so was I absent for the most part from the ^{episodes} ~~over however~~ I have just

described.

← V8 sent

For me, it was enough that I had foreseen the possibilities of the

project and that the Maestro had approved my intuition ^{and subsequently} and placed the ^{meadow} greater part of his resources ^{at Khodynka Field} ~~on Khodenskoe~~ ^{Field Cos Nizhny} ~~[?? isn't it Khodynskoe?]~~

to the field)

rather than making an attempt to disrupt the Coronation itself.

going in for

re saved
can
Jan 12

Faked by Dwyer
1/10/05

Handwritten signature

During the first weeks I was present in ~~Russia, first~~ in St. Petersburg,

~~then in Moscow~~, I had assumed I would be one of the Maestro's field

officers in charge of disrupting the proceedings, but I was ~~soon~~ disabused of

that ~~(before I came down to Moscow)~~ ^{state it} ~~which was hardly~~ ^{his}

that The Maestro ~~put it to me directly~~, ^{I was simply not familiar enough}

^{Simply put} ~~I was not sufficiently familiar~~ ^{normal}

with the country ~~to be in command of all the devils and demons we could~~ ^{mode}

~~assemble~~ ^{we would use} for the purpose behind the scenes ~~and/or~~ ^{or to} infiltrate ~~into~~ the field. ^{normal mode of communication}

For ~~Better~~, suggested the Maestro, for me to be present as ~~a medium, a channel~~

^{a close}

observer on the day of the event, and ^{more} ~~most~~ important—my real mission—~~to~~

keep ^a close watch on the Romanovs and ^{whatever} ~~the~~ family discords ~~that~~ were bound

to ensue ^{thereafter}

~~Given my initial excitement that my early proposal had been~~

~~accepted~~, I cannot pretend there was no disappointment in being relegated

to ^{to so} ~~what I considered~~ a tangential ^a proceeding. Yet, in time, as I ~~stayed at~~

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~~to that limited degree,~~
~~duties~~ studied the letters, and became ~~as~~ familiar with Nicky, Alix, and

~~of the Maestro's choice,~~

~~as I had to~~ their families, I had to recognize the ~~Maestro's~~ wisdom. He had the morale
~~to contend with the morale,~~
 of his Russian cohort ~~to contend with~~. He could hardly ~~place~~ a foreign agent

over them. Moreover ~~(and this may be where I felt pain)~~ ^{part I} may not have
~~been some judge of his~~ ~~to be strong enough~~
~~been some judge of his~~ enough for the job. We devils have our vanity

and mine was that I was capable of handling any ~~and every~~ sort of

assignment, high or low. Now, I had to recognize, the Maestro was more

inclined to use his local ~~peasant~~ devils, and, on balance, ^{I had to admit} that was fair

enough. ~~I also had to comprehend what~~ ^{it} I should have known from the

start—my assignment to study the letters ~~was not only my real and final~~ ^{became} ^{basic}

assignment in Russia, but indeed, it would ~~also~~ ^{real} be of ~~more~~ ^{more?} use now ~~than I~~

~~had been expected~~. As it turned out, I ~~would have~~ ^{did have} ^{interesting} ~~as the scene in the~~

^{in the} aftermath of Khodinka ^{some} ^{interesting} (as Nicky termed it) ~~and so had first reports to~~

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offer the Maestro. If Khodinka was for ~~the~~ ^{the (who perished on the list)} poor human ~~a cornucopia of~~

~~an olla-podrida of~~

~~blood, flesh, bones, and phobia, exploded, torn finery, and suffocation, the~~

~~wreckage to the reputations of~~

~~damage to the Romanovs that followed would yet eat at the foundations of~~

~~the Empire. The peasants, conceivably, could yet have forgiven Nicky, but~~

~~not Nicky's. Then his relatives became confused, and subsequently, many of the worst~~

~~divisions took place in the next few days, that the strength of the family~~

~~was weakened, and~~

I will tell it ~~in order, however~~ as I was to perceive it over the week

that ensued ~~and for these happenings~~ I can assert that ~~any contact was~~

~~possible to come closer to the situation.~~

~~somewhat closer~~ I was, for example, ~~near to Nicky when he and Alix first~~

~~showed up early in the afternoon at Khodinka's~~ ^{within a few minutes of} ~~was privileged again at~~

~~"the popular celebration."~~ ^{at what the authorities had termed} ~~I was then~~ ^{at what the authorities had termed} ~~that time to be able~~ ^{by means of the narrow and much-beleaguered passage}

the Maestro still commanded ~~himself~~ into his mind to report not only

that Nicky was pale as he approached the pavilion, but that the pallor came

I could certainly feel ~~its~~ its intensity
from his rage. *Some turn red with rage. He was pale with rage. His*

~~the rest that~~
unspoken fury at the peasants was comparable to Alix's. How could they *have been*

so pushy, so stupid, so ungrateful, so ridiculous, so self-destructive, and yet

— heavy as a load of iron chains lying upon the heart —
~~his duty to forgive them. I could declare what he felt. No, a duty~~
Moreover he was enraged at

This duty was
~~disappointment at the ineptitude of the police. That certainly whitened the~~
and even

~~And worse. He was more furious at himself. He could barely pay~~
pallor of his rage. But he was more furious at himself. He could barely pay

that certainly
attention to every detail. He was not obliged to watch over *every detail*
but none the less! Why ~~the arrangements for~~
why had he not paid more attention to *the arrangements for security?*
how many soldiers would be there to

So much
~~protect the kiosks. How much of this could have been prevented? Had it~~
that time? Were the events inevitable? I do not

hardly ~~not~~ know. Later that night, before he went to sleep, he ~~wrote in his diary~~
put down a few sentences in his diary
on the usual route
and I received the contents on the following day. The diary is worth

quoting:

Up till now, thank God, everything went perfectly but today a great sin has taken place. The crowd spending the night on the ~~Khadyukha~~ meadow, in anticipation of the distribution of food and mugs, broke through the barrier and there was a terrible crush, during which it is terrible to say about 1300 people were trampled.

The news left an ugly impression. We lunched at 12:30 and then Alix and I went to the ~~Khadyukha~~ ^{Khadyukha} to be present at the unfortunate popular celebration. There was nothing in particular to see; we looked out from the pavilion over the huge crowd surrounding the platform, where the national orchestra kept on playing the national anthem and ^{Be Glorified!}

Needless to say, this entry ~~had been~~ ^{was} written at night and very much in the echo of the aftermath. I kept studying the phrase, "a great sin has taken place", ~~but~~ ^{it} could not determine what he meant. Nor, so far as I know, could my colleagues any of our people. Word of the disaster, as I have ~~already~~ ^{indicated}, was to have endless repercussions, but ~~some were~~ ^{most could be} anticipated quickly. Even on the afternoon of May 18th, ~~after the disaster~~ ^{some}, Sergei Witte, who ~~may have been~~ ^{was considered}

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to be practical *could present in these years*
 the most ~~effective~~ statesman Russia ~~possessed~~ *possessed at the time*, sent word to the ~~the~~

m

Tsar: "In respect for the dead, all festivities should be cancelled

immediately." Then he added, "Most particularly, the French Ambassador's

Ball." That was scheduled to take place *on this same* ~~in a few hours, yes, right on the~~

very ~~same night, it had been planned to be~~ *would be* the largest social event of the

Coronation. The Governor General of Moscow, Grand Duke Sergei

Alexandrovich, who was married to Alix's sister Ella, and had taken over,

among his many other duties, the task as director of the peasants' festival,

was the one who replied to Witte: "The Tsar considers *Khodynka* ~~Khodynka~~ a great

disaster but would inform you that in effect it was not so great a disaster that

it should darken the Coronation holiday."

Sergei Alexandrovich's
 The older Grand Dukes, ~~his~~ brothers, were in accord ~~with his~~

But their
~~reaction. This~~ unanimous conclusion was hardly shared by Nicky's

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~~Don't~~
cousins, the younger generations of Grand Dukes, Nicky's closest cousin,

his dearest friend,

Alexander Mikhailovich, married to Nicky's sister Xenia, and called Sandro

for example, full of

by all, was in his own fury. So were his brothers, the other sons of Grand

Duke Mikhail. The attitude of their uncles, the older Romanovs, ^{the} senior

level of Grand Dukes, ^{was} as far as they were concerned seemed monstrous to them. How could one attend a

This night of all!

fancy ball on this night of all? It would be an outrageous insult to the dead, a slap into the face of Russia's own honor,

Sandro said as much to Nicky, ^{but} in turn, Uncle Alexey, ^{who rules here} the oldest brother

remaining

of Nicky's dead father, told Nicky to beware of Sandro and his brothers,

"Nicky," said Uncle Alexey, "surely you are aware that your cousins,

these Mikhailovichs,

the first and Sandro particularly, are not ^{the} people you ^{should} listen to.

and inexperienced worse than silly!
Beware of them. They are young, they are radical, and they are silly. (I tell

you, they will not admit it, but they are siding with the revolution. They

are on the side of every revolution. Now, they

wish to depose Sergei Alexandrovitch and put in one of their own. They are

as Governor-General of Moscow, yes,

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trying to get ^{this office} the Moscow governorship for themselves. Think what ^{that} ~~they~~ 

will do to Sergei Alexandrovitch and to Ella. Your wife will be distraught

that her sister Ella has to suffer such an unfair disgrace."

As these opinions *The Catechists were, for once, not* *(about)*
 Opinions came in on both sides and I heard them all. *They* ~~The Catechists~~
~~but I will soon explain~~ *were in such a disarray*
~~and rushing to all many places—so many dead~~
~~were so in dismay for once that I found it possible to stay near to Nicky.~~
close
 So, I heard their ~~several conversations~~
 souls to success! *— that!*

Sandro's brother, Nicolai Alexandrovich, ~~was the next to catch hold~~
~~spoke to Nicky right after Uncle Alexey, and~~
~~and then, he told him his speech.~~
 of Nicky. I was impressed with the eloquence of his speech. "Nicky, I beg

of you, don't go to the French Ball tonight. Recognize what I tell you. *whether*
~~we like it or not, we are still living~~
~~Nicky, we still live~~ in the shadow of Versailles. Louis the XVI and Marie

were naive. They
 Antoinette could dance all night because they could have no sense of the

approaching storm. But we can. We know. Nicky, search into your heart.

What happened has happened. The blood of those men, women, and

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will (That is unfair, but it is your shadow)
 children remain forever as a shadow upon your reign. You cannot revive

You are good, you are kind. I know if you
~~could, you would revive the dead. But you cannot~~
 the dead, but, Nicky, it is crucial to show your sympathy to their families.

(So, Nicky)

(that at the least, you

you can you

You cannot allow the enemies of this regime to say that our young emperor

who are everywhere

danced while his slaughtered subjects were taken to Potter's Field." Then

if he had succeeded in touching the center
of his subjects' feelings, but he was young — he did not
 have enough experience to

lost the eloquence of these words in his rage to attack ~~Uncle Sergei~~

~~Grand Duke~~ the Governor-General of Moscow. "Why, I would ask, didn't

Sergei anticipate how great was the need for police?" He went on from

there, I had no direct influence on him, but
~~but, nevertheless, I could, by a little,~~
 there. He spoke of incompetence, he hinted that some nasty tricks had been

Then

played with the money set aside for the Coronation events. He did not know

exactly what he was talking about, he had been listening to rumors, ~~but even~~

I had heard even

before the Processional on May 9th. The word had been out that the

Governor-General of Moscow was (some of the Coronation funds)
 had been siphoning off money to pay for his

gambling debts. It was not literally true. Sergei Alexandrovitch's personal

have enough experience to
 to preserve his advantage and so he soon
 increase the heat of his word, so on enough he was ranting about

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and ~~proceedal~~
 came upon the echo of the last argument to explain in the clearest terms
~~possible~~ that it would be an insult of incomparable ~~dimension~~ ^{consequence} if the ball

were called off. The French Embassy had gone to such extensive and

~~or preparation,~~ actually cause
 generous lengths to ~~prepare it~~. His absence could create a rupture between
 the two nations,
~~the French and the Russians.~~ "Nicky, nothing like ~~that~~ ^{this} can even be

considered at this time, no, not now! ~~Your Uncle Willy is as furious at the~~
~~French Alliance. Your Uncle Willy is as furious at the~~
~~entente with the French. He is no longer your friend. Do you wish the~~

~~French to join with him?~~ ^{attend the ball,} Nicky, you have to go. It would be a sign of great

weakness not to appear. The French pride themselves on the ~~cold~~

~~from cold sanity~~
~~understanding~~ they can bring to heated emotion. They detest sentimentality.

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That is also our duty."

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I know to a certainty that ^{this} ~~the~~ ^(same smile) was the reason for Sandro and his brothers
~~depart.~~ They knew ^{forget's} ~~his~~ epigram. On this
 to leave. That broad smile on Grand Duke Sergei's face! He was testing his
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~~There would be a point of a line between them and~~
~~to think of it as a line~~
 The four brothers left at the exact moment that the dancing began, left, ~~yes~~

~~even~~
~~indeed~~ as Nicky and Alix were taking their first steps. Uncle Alexey spoke
 loudly
 loud enough for them to hear, "There go the four imperial followers of

Robespierre."

~~One did not have to wonder. A war within the family had begun. I~~

I was content. The Maestro would be pleased. ~~He would be~~ amused when he
 learned that I ^{had been} ~~was~~ able to insinuate myself into the Royal ^{Chamber,} ~~Bed~~ long enough
 that night to enter Nicky's mind again. It was ^{hardly to be believed,} ~~incredible.~~ I was in the
 Bedroom, ^{yes the} ~~my~~ The Cudgels were in more disarray than I ^{could} ~~can~~ ever recall.

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88

came back once again
So, for a few minutes, (before they ~~returned~~ (and I decamped) I was

able not only to enter Nicky's mind but to feel close to him. *enough to hear*
~~Close enough~~

to be able to say
~~to say~~

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night so full of a sense of future disaster. It may even account for the letter

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that all who surround my husband are insincere. And no one is doing his

duty for Russia. They are all serving him for their career and personal

*held
face
involunt.*

N Diary May 18 1896 11/18/04 triple

himself convinced the Emperor to stay for supper, on the grounds that

leaving the ball would appear "sentimental." [leading in sentiment]

So the Emperor left the ball after supper. One would have thought

that Sergei would cancel the ball he was scheduled to give tomorrow, but he

has not done so. And that, as soon as he heard of the disaster, he would

have gone to the scene. I love him and it hurts that I am unable to disagree

with the criticism of the Mikhailoviches. I share that opinion rather than the

views of the Emperor's uncles.

~~Today their Majesties visited the wounded in hospital. At the~~

~~Emperor's command, during the service in the church of the Birth of the~~

~~Holy Virgin, "the devoted servants of the Tsar who unwittingly gave their~~

~~lives" were remembered. The Tsar has donated 1000 roubles for each of the~~

~~families of the victims. [p. 147]~~

Sketches of the Emperor's uncles

→ p 906

It was true, KR did love Sergei. ^(90c)
 He loved Nicky even more, but
 Nicky was the Tser — one did not
 go to bed with the Tser. And
 Sergei had been ^{KR's glory} ~~through~~ ^{through} their adolescence and
 young manhood. KR had wept
 in private when Sergei married
 Ella. She was so beautiful KR
 could not condemn Sergei for
 making such an exquisite choice
 and continued to laugh very
 much even if ^{KR often decided} ~~it was not~~
 that Sergei was ~~impossible~~ ^{impossible} vain,
 selfish and pretentious. Still,
 he was Sergei!

A few days 'later, KR would
 write: ~~these days~~ ^{these days}

And
 face
 what
 BFE

All these days I have been
 suffering for Sergei. I love
 him dearly and now I have
 to listen to condemnation of
 him from all sides, and yet I
 am not able to give even
 his defense.

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90
god

w

~~In the aftermath of the disaster,~~
 If I will pass any matter
 following in the week that
 followed the disaster, ~~the~~
~~philosophy that~~ there were

~~For many who were near to Nicky, the worst of it is that there are~~

eight ~~more~~ days of fetes, balls, receptions, state visits, musicales, ^{and}

~~compendium of joyless gatherings to build the connections of diplomatic~~

~~history~~ on the night after the 16th of May, there was a banquet at

~~Alexander Hall in the Kremlin and Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovitch,~~

~~Governor General of Moscow, despite his unsettled situation, went right~~

~~ahead with his ball on the 20th. The 21st brought the Moscow nobility~~

together at the Hall of Columns, Prince Trubetskoi as host. Four thousand

guests appeared. On the 22nd, Nicky and Alix had to make a state visit to

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ambassadors on the 25th. And, for conclusion, they were back at Khodynka 

~~Field~~ on the 26th for a military review. Needless to say, a good many of the

ravines and pits had been filled ~~in~~ by then. It was another brilliant day and

Nicky's carriage was drawn by six white horses. Thirty-eight thousand, five hundred sixty-five enlisted men marched in company with 2,000 officers.

Sixty-seven generals watched.

It may be worth noting that on the 23rd, Nicky did succeed in giving 20,000 rubles as the first installment on a children's home for those who

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were orphaned in the ~~Khodynka~~ disaster. The Correspondence Bureau of

the government encouraged all foreign and local reporters to make no *detailed*

mention of the event ^{on} of the 18th ~~at Khodynka Field~~

By now, I was awaiting orders to leave. I did not know if I could

acclimate myself to Hafeld after these exceptional occasions, but the

was quick to tell me; [unclear]
Maestro, in payment perhaps for my good intuition about ~~movements in~~

~~Russia did say to me:~~ "Respect Hafeld. It is more important than you

think."

There was no reason to believe ~~him~~ or disbelieve him—the power of

his thought was, after all, part of his ^{*impenetrable*} ~~bearing his~~ ~~I must use the word his~~

~~immaculate sense of his own prescience.~~

Awaiting his orders
Still, I was in no hurry to leave. I collected ~~what I could from the~~
another item on two from the
aftermath. The diaries were of more use than ever.

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Sandro's wife, Xenia, who is Nicky's sister, ~~is in whose record with~~
~~was also engaged.~~ ~~the~~

~~by hand.~~



Xenia, Diary, 19 May 1896, Moscow

Yesterday's misfortune keeps going round in my head like a nightmare! In my opinion, Uncle Sergei's behavior is beneath comment. He has washed his hands of everything, saying it's nothing to do with him. Yesterday, he didn't even take the trouble to visit the scene of the disaster—it's out of his hands. We talked of nothing else while I sat with Mama in the morning.

I kept trying to tell Ella my opinion about everything that had happened. Her reply was, "Dieu merci Sergei n'a rien a faire dans tout cela!"

Xenia almost burst into tears—she felt such a desire to strike Ella. ~~For~~

Ella to

(thank God! To declare: "Sergei had nothing to do with all this!"

I hardly know why I include such a small matter. ~~I was about to~~ ^{of necessity} forget most of these people, in ~~a very short time~~ ^{the hour} I arrived. ~~It was June, and I was off~~ ^{to the field,}

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~~D.T. speaks~~ I can say that on my arrival ~~I~~ ^I felt better than

I had in years. My morale was excellent. It seemed to me that this was the

~~came off as the~~ I had participated in ~~for a very long time~~ ^{Kodiyala had}
~~best major operation we had pulled in~~ I could ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~done~~ ^{done} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~any better~~ ^{any better}

~~Indeed, I can't overstate when~~ ^{time more efficiently}
~~it is sad to say but few devils are permitted to~~ ^{even a month}
~~Expand, if it's there, on D.T.'s relation to time.~~

~~retain much weaponry~~ ^{I think the Maestro employs}
~~the same principle as intelligence agencies, but with a twist~~ ^{devils}

Actually, we lived in the most peculiar relation to time. For us, it ~~was~~

~~time is, virtually~~ ^{substance} ~~we feel it. We can almost hold it.~~ ^{It}
~~existed almost as a species of substance. There was the kind of time when~~

~~And then we lose such a grasp almost without~~
~~warning. While we hold it, there is a fine kind of time~~
~~matters were going well and I could feel there was a purpose to everything~~

~~we did~~ ^() ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~good morale that was a hearty substance. Bad morale was rough~~

~~one's senses. I have not wished to burden the reader with my poor~~ ^{occasional}

~~for me~~ ^(a considerable) ~~morale, which had intensified to some degree while I was catering to~~ ^{such a} ~~sum~~

~~of small~~ ^(and people - or so it seemed!) ~~those details at Hafeld, but now, given the success in~~ ^{our} ~~Kodiyala~~ ^{at Kodiyala}

~~But I~~ ^{must with this} ~~could believe in the Maestro again, which requires considerable~~ ^{explanation}

~~explanation~~

↓
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Do one in intelligence is told anything
 about a project unless there is
 a need to know it, in turn

I have not
 encouraged to
 remember what
 do not
 have a new
 project

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Always, I have

In the absolute sense, I ~~always~~ believed in the Maestro. I had no

choice. I was ~~not offered a~~ ^{where was the} option? But to believe in him, or believe in

As just ~~remembered~~ ^{Khodinka} ~~that~~ ^{specific} ~~keep~~ ^{So} ~~as I say, that became~~ ^{on return} time of a different character. ~~And~~ now my morale was

close to excellent.

a second time
good in dealing with this Hitler family, I came to feel ~~for this short period~~

that he was — and this was of true importance to me
that he) ~~always~~ ~~knowing~~ ~~that he~~ ~~the~~ ~~to~~ ~~always~~ ~~know~~ what he was doing. Which was equal

to saying that I now believed the outside interest of the Maestro in this

Obviously, he
Hitler family had an aim that was larger, ~~may~~ ~~vaster~~ than I could

comprehend. So, yes, the
Yes, morale was excellent. The success of the Coronation

had been excellent for my morale
~~given me great confidence~~

With such ~~new~~ respect, filled with a lightness of spirit ~~that was~~

different considerably from the heaviness of ~~being when my loyalty had to~~

being loyal because there ~~was~~ ^{no} other choice,
~~be absolute and unquestioning and, if you will, miserable~~ I could now see

that even as I always had to satisfy the Maestro with my work, so he in turn
must think often of how to sustain morale
among his cadres. In consequence, I felt
elevated upon my return to Hafeld.

→ until the murder of Rasputin
 nine years later that in fact Rasputin
 Rasputin who became my most
 exceptional client. In the most
 memoria I have been able to
 recollect for he was indeed not
 only able to reach in the most
 closest relation with me but was also an
 powerful by one of the D.K.'s most extreme
 and equal Cudgels.

Acceptance by Colonel the David
 of any human whom they ^{accept}
 (acknowledge) has success in forming challenges with
 both of them ^{yet remains loyal to} more than
 look to tell the story of them, in
 and I will also ^{look to tell the story of}
 stay in all good time, but not
 until I receive ^{the twelve} without
 to Alan, Mary and Abby ^{the twelve}
 other through ^{the twelve}
 until 1908 when ^{will go off} at the age
 of nineteen ^{will go off} to Vienna
 and I, after a little while, ^{will commence}
 my exceptional task with a Russian.
 I am back to the

That is all for now, the road,
 for the present, we are back at
 the farm and the little about
 road that leads to Derral's house.

27.

(905)

On ~~May 20~~, ^{27.} two days after
~~the night after the day of the Russian~~
 Festival, ~~Sergei Alexandrovich~~
~~was~~ gave him a call for the
 train in accordance with his
 schedule. The night before on
 May 19, KR was to write in his
 diary, "One would think
 I thought that Sergei would
 cancel the call he was scheduled
 to give me." very
faint
initial

J-

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