

THE GEORGIAN MESSENGER

საქართველოს
საზოგადოებრივი
მედიის ცენტრი

Editorial Office: Bariatinsky street, 12.

Editor: Elisabeth Orbeliani.

First Year, №. 6.

TIFLIS, Sunday, March 30, 1919.

Price 1 ruble.

Published weekly.

Georgia and the Russian Volunteer Army.

Between Georgia and the Russian Volunteer Army there exists an irreconcilable antagonism. The reason for this does not arise out of any disputed territory, nor from any isolated incident, such as the Sochi affair. The first cause lies in the essential difference of the bases on which the two organizations are founded—on the one hand the Volunteer Army, on the other,—the Democratic Republic of Georgia. The Volunteer Army is seeking to revive in Russia that form of government which existed in the country under the rule of the autocracy. In all the districts which that army conquers, it resurrects the old order of things, as it was under the tsars, with all the oppression of civil and political liberty, with all the persecution and enslavement of the population. The generals of the Volunteer Army, wherever they appear, extirpate with fire and sword every trace of democracy, every vestige of local independence. In a word, the Volunteer Army is a weapon in the hands of its leaders, which serves for the restoration of an old form of government, which has outlived its usefulness and has been condemned by history. The Volunteer Army is the symbol of reaction and the enemy of democracy.

The Georgian people, even in the period of imperial rule, was the standard-bearer of democratic aims and ideals. Her ablest sons, even under the old régime, worked hand in hand with the leading circles of the Russian people, and waged an unceasing conflict with the imperial government for the cause of democracy in Russia. When the great revolution broke forth in Russia, the Georgian po-

litical leaders together with the Russian democrats, sought to direct it into the channels of the transfiguration of the state into the form of a European democracy. When these attempts underwent a fiasco, and Russia was deluged with waves of bolshevik anarchy, the Georgian people categorically refused to follow suit, but at the same time had no desire to give up the liberties which it had at length attained at the cost of so many sacrifices. It chose the path of independence, and founded its own little independent republic. The Georgian Republic is founded on the lines of European democracy. Just as in the leading European states, the power belongs not to a group of tyrants, but to the people itself, incarnated in the person of the Constitutional Assembly. In Georgia all the democratic rights are assured to the population—speech, the press, conscience, meetings, unions, strikes and the like are all free and untrammelled. In a word, Georgia is an oasis of true democracy on the former territory of the Russian Empire.

This, therefore, is the reason that the former imperial generals hate our country more than all others. They are dreaming of reconquering it with fire and sword so as to put an end to our liberty and independence. Not being able to attain their end by force, they are trying to take it by famine. After having conquered the Northern Caucasus and part of the seacoast of the Black Sea, the Volunteer Army has a firm grip on the natural trade-routes along which the necessary food-products such as grain, sugar and the like, are exported to the Caucasus. The Volunteer generals have declared a blockade against us, and do not allow any products to come into the country, intercepting everything which is

sent to us from the north. The Georgian people, however, which has borne many things before, will be able to stand this hunger blockade. It has had experience enough in its conflict with the representatives of the autocracy, and will stop at no sacrifices when it comes to protecting its political independence and its liberal institutions. We know that in this conflict that we are sure not only of the support of the neighboring small nations, but likewise of Russian democracy as well, upon whom the imperial generals are bringing the old yoke of slavery.

We are certain likewise that in this fight for what we stand for that the support of the European democracies will be on the side of the little democratic Georgian Republic.

The Peace Conference.

The English and French communications regarding the work of the Conference during the coming week term it the "decisive week", since during this period the disagreements between the delegates must be definitely settled, which have hitherto been going on. The most serious of these were the disputes between the Italian delegates and the representatives of other countries. The conflict was so acute that rumors were spread that Italy was recalling her representatives. The apple of discord in this case is that the representatives of England and the United States objected to the cession of the Slavonic Adriatic sea-board to Italy. Disagreements also came to light between the United States and Japan regarding the status of the yellow population in California. Australia also came out against Japan's demands. Sir R. Borden, the Canadian representative, declared that his country had no desire to be drawn again into Europe's quarrels. The rules for the league of na-

tions are also causing much dissent. France is strongly against Wilson's plan.

In the Commission on labor during this period have been discussed the conditions of womens labor, in connection wherewith the representatives of the womens organizations of France, England, America and Italy have been given a hearing.

The conference has definitely adopted the project for a tunnel under the British Channel. Its cost is estimated at 29 million pounds sterling.

TIFLIS*).

We cross the narrow bridge and pay a visit to the baths. Perhaps the reader knows something of the so-called Turkish bath, and imagines that the baths of Tiflis are of the same sort? There is certainly some similarity between the two, but there are profound differences; the treatment to which the visitor is subjected at a Turkish bath in Constantinople is not to be compared with what the Persian shampooer puts you through in Tiflis. He goes through a whole course of gymnastics with you, during which he jumps on your chest, on the small of your back, doubles you up as if you were a fowl ready for cooking, and, besides removing every particle of your epidermis, performs sundry other experiments at which the novice stares aghast. At the end of it all you make up your mind that it is not so terrible as it looks, and as you feel wonderfully refreshed you resolve to return again before long. The water is of a heat of about 100 Fahr., and is impregnated with sulphur and other substances which give it healing virtue; it is to these springs that Tiflis owes its existence, and they have always been of much importance in the daily life of the people. Formerly it used to be the fashion for ladies of rank to hire baths and

* See №№ 3, 4 and 5.

dressing-rooms for a whole day, spending the time in perfuming themselves, staining their finger tips, dressing the hair, and performing a dozen other ceremonies of the toilette, concluding with dinner, but the growth of European habits has rendered this custom less common.

The Cathedral of Zion is, as we said before, as old as the city itself, but, of course, it has suffered considerably at the hands of destroyers and restorers. Its style is the same as that of all the other churches in Georgia, and it doubtless served as a pattern for most of them. The inside has been tastefully decorated in modern times, and produces a pleasing effect, although it seems small to anybody who is familiar with the cathedrals of Europe. In front of altar is the Cross of St. Nina, formed of two vine branches bound together with the saint's hair; this cross has always been the most sacred relic in Georgia. There is also a modest tomb, which contains the body of Prince Tsitsishvili, a Georgian who was appointed Governor of the Caucasus by Alexander I, and who, after a glorious career, was foully murdered outside the walls of Baku by the treacherous khan of that city. From the cathedral the way to the European quarter leads through the so-called Armenian Bazar, of the most interesting parts of the city. Old arms, coats of mail, helmets and shields, such as are still used by the Khevsurs up in the mountains, silver ornaments and many other interesting trifles, may be purchased here, but nothing of great value is offered for sale, and the jewellery, with the exception of filigree work from Akhaltsikhe (which is hard to get and very expensive) is not very good.

Mushtaid is the finest promenade in the city. It is situated at the west end, and is approached by the Mikhailovskaya, a long street, with fine gardens on either side of it. Some of the best restaurants in the city are in these vineshaded gardens, and one of them is devoted to wrestling matches. It was my good fortune to be present at a famous contest in which the Kakhetian champion, Gidaneli, fought a certain bold Imeretian professor of the fancy art. The performance was highly interesting, and it was gratifying to learn from the bills that the proceeds were to be for the benefit of a young man who wanted to study at Petersburg, but had not the necessary means. The inner ring was formed of country gentlemen and officers, all sitting cross-legged on the ground; behind them, tier above tier, were at least a thousand spectators, breathless with expectation. A primitive band, consisting of a drum and a zurna (an instrument which sounds like the bagpipes), played a warlike air, to the sound of which the heroes danced round the arena amid the frantic applause of the crowd. Both men were fine fellows, but Gidaneli was a very Hercules, and withal

amiable-looking; he was the favourite, and justified his reputation of being invincible by utterly demolishing the Western man in a very short space of time. Every incident of the battle called forth from the bystanders loud yells of praise and encouragement which might have been heard miles off.

(To be continued.)

IN EUROPE.

FRANCE.

In the field of foreign politics French public opinion is as before taken up with the questions of the league of peoples and with the treaty of peace with Germany. In both these matters the French press is supporting the policy of its government in the Peace Conference. As was reported, between the representatives of France and those of the United States upon the above-mentioned questions, serious disagreements have taken place. The French delegates insist on the restriction of the powers invested in the governing board of the league; that Germany is not to be included in it, and on the restriction of commerce with hostile countries.

Regarding the question of the peace treaty with Germany French public opinion proposes that more decisive guarantees shall be exacted from Germany that she shall not repeat again her attack on France. A few days ago the French representatives insisted that the final conclusion of peace should be postponed for a while.

No matter of particular interest regarding French internal affairs has come in during the past week. Work on the Algerias railroad had already been begun. An aerial postal service has been established between Tangier and Paris. The demobilization of industry is going on apace. This question caused a lively discussion in the Chamber of Deputies, where the socialists declared that it was being carried out too slowly. The Chamber voted conference in the Government by an enormous majority.

GERMANY.

Civil war in Germany still continues. A third uprising has taken place in Berlin. The ferocity exhibited in the street-fighting has reached an unheard-of extent. Government aeroplane squadrons bombed the buildings held by the Spartacists. A strike has again broken out in Essen. A bloody outbreak took place in Lechtenburg. The communistic soviets of Hamburg, Bremen and Lübeck have declared that they do not wish these towns to remain within the boundaries of the German Republic. The position of German industry is becoming more

and more catastrophic. Want of fuel has caused the stoppage of the majority of the factories. The central government is discussing measures for the socialization of industry, hoping to pull it through the crisis by this means. There have been introduced into the Constitutional Assembly bills regarding the socialization of fuel, gas, and electricity.

In the field of foreign politics, the chief centre of interest in Germany for the last week has been the Polish-German frontier. Public opinion is also much exercised over the fate of Dantsig, which the Allies intend to hand over to Poland.

AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

Tremendous events are taking place in Hungary. The government of Count Karolyi has been overthrown, and the power is in the hands of the communists, who have joined in with the Social-Democrats. A soviet government has been formed on the type of the Russian bolshevik organization, and very shortly a congress of councils will be summoned, which will take over the government of the country. The chief of the new government is Gerba; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the bolshevik Bela Kus. The new government sent a greeting to the Russian bolsheviks and proposed to them to form an alliance.

Serious disorders are going on in Galicia between the government and the bolsheviks. The latter have seized Lemberg.

In Vienna banks and factories have been socialized.

SERBIA.

According to last reports in Serbia the dynasty of the Karageorgievich has been deposed and a republic has been proclaimed. No further news has been received.

RUSSIA.

In Moscow the congress of communists (bolsheviks) has ended. This assembly is of exceptional interest, as the party in power in Russia submitted to it an account of its previous activities. It is most significant that the bolshevik leaders, who have hitherto been talking with such great assurance about how easy a matter it will be for them to introduce socialism, have now been forced to make the admission that it is by no means as simple matter as they thought. Lenin declared that it was essential at any cost whatever to increase the productivity of labor: it was also indispensable to bring over on to their side the sympathies of the peasants, otherwise the power of the councils would go to smash. In order to bring the peasants over on their side the bolshe-

viks propose to increase the production of agricultural machinery and to supply the villages with them, to put a stop to the arbitrariness of the officials and to the requisitioning of grain, and to organize a system of agricultural schools. During the council, however, it became clear that the bolsheviks will not be in a condition to put these plans into effect, since the production of agricultural machinery is hampered to the utmost extent by the absence of fuel, as a result of which one factory after the other is shutting down. The bolsheviks have had heavy losses in killed and wounded on the Ufa front as a result of the advance of the forces of Admiral Kolchak, but these successes are by no means decisive. The end of the civil war in Russia is by no means in sight. The volunteer army is becoming more and more monarchical in character. Its agents are arresting republicans and moderate socialists, which is increasing the sympathy of the population for the bolsheviks. Bolshevik movements have occurred in the Black Sea Governments and in Siberia, and the mobilization ordered by Denikin has been going on very slowly: only 3 men showed up in the Crimea.

In the Ukraine the soviets have set fast foot. The troops of the Directory have been forced to retreat near Zhitomir. In the Northern Caucasus is noteworthy the unlucky expedition of the Volunteer Army in the Chechen country, where the latter wiped out almost a whole division.

GEORGIA.

The work of the Constitutional Assembly.

The Constitutional Assembly has discussed the program for the activities of the new Government. The chief aims of the Government are: to put the democratic institutions within the country on a firm basis; to defend the territorial inviolability and independence of the state, and to establish friendly relations with the Allied Powers and with the neighboring republics as well. The declaration of the Government was approved of by the Constitutional Assembly almost unanimously.

The Assembly then elected a number of commissions—on the constitution, budget, war and the like. These have already set to work. A whole series of congratulatory telegrams have been received from the population of Georgia and from the representatives and governments of the neighboring countries.

In the Akhaltsikhe district.

The district of Akhaltsikhe has been entirely cleared of forces inimical to Georgia. The population is everywhere coming to meet the Georgian forces

and administrative officials with much eagerness and with declarations of their loyalty to the republic. The representatives of the peasant population, who have met at Akhaltsikh, have passed a resolution to the effect that the inhabitants of the district have irrevocably decided to unite their fate with that of the Georgian Republic, and that the hostile acts against the latter were the work of a small group of adventurers and Turkish agents.

Official announcement of the Georgian Government.

The increase in price of bread is throwing the population into a panic and giving rise to uneasy rumors. The Government of the Republic herewith declares that it has, in connection with this question, entered into an agreement with the Commander of the Allied Forces, and that in the course of a few days the Georgian Government will receive at its disposal the necessary amount of flour to enable it to put an end to the food crisis.

The National Council of Abkhasia.

March 17 there met in Sukhum the National Council of Abkhasia, elected by the whole population of the country on the basis of a general, direct, equal and proportional franchise. The representative organ of Abkhasia declared to the Georgian Constitutional Assembly that the Abkhasian people has decided to remain within the boundaries of the Georgian Republic, on the basis of an autonomous government. The bases of this autonomy will be worked out by the Georgian Constitutional Assembly in agreement with the Abkhasian National Council.

To the women of England.

«The heart hath its reasons
Which reasons doth not know».

To you, women of the British Isles, I send my greeting from the heights of the Caucasus, and the odor of tender violets from the laurel-clad shores of the Black Sea. To your heart I turn with my appeal and with my women's griefs.

In our struggle to attain equal rights, have we not been following too blindly the path which has been trodden by heavy masculine feet? Have we not tried to too great an extent to imitate them and to impress their type upon ourselves? Have we not been false to our women's heart, whose simple intuition is often a better guide to happiness than all the complicated theories of superior masculine wisdom? Is not love that golden lever which lightens all the difficulties of life, and brings about complete accord, once the heart and not the head does the think-

ing. Then lastly, is not love with sympathy the fountain-head which supplies the world and the basis of all creative work? When the god of war unfolded above the whole world his bloody standard, and gathered in humanity drunk with his devouring flame; when the best social endeavours, backed up by the treaties of the pacifists, were turned into «pieces of paper»: when civilized Europe surpassed the barbarians in the ferocities of which she was guilty, inventing and putting into use more and more refined and perfected weapons of death and destruction; when she did not wish to destroy all that centuries of human thought had won for humanity, and did not recoil before the world-wide wail of mothers, wives and children; when the little nations perished under the mailed heels of the great ones, it was then that we women showed our «manhood», and, without listening to the call of our tender women's heart, we thrust our brothers, our husbands and our sons into the jaws of destruction, merely asking them to bring back from the war the helmets of the enemy*).

But were we weak in thus exhibiting a man's resolution? Were we not far lower than those simple women of old, who threw themselves between their warring brothers and husbands, and quenched the flame of murderous conflict? Would it not have been more truly womanly and more truly humane for us also to rush between the warring armies and ward off the murderous sword?

It might be that in that case that the wisest strategy of renowned generals and the coolest thinking of the acutest statesmen would seem like a cruel experiment before the simple logic of a woman's loving heart, which would have spared humanity from a legion of murdered, crippled or ruined families, from broken lives and from the hidden rage which fills the heart of the combatants. Is there a brave man, who, in the face of the fearful apotheosis of war, will have the courage to say this to the victors and to the vanquished—but I see no victors, but just tortured, deceived humanity, deafened by the hellish laugh of Satan triumphant.

And now, when the crossed spear is unable to unravel the knot of international complications, when the voices of the weak are again heard over the infernal music of war, would it not be fitting for us at the Peace Conference, by an appeal, whether direct or indirect, in defence of those principles which will in the future put an end to every possibility of war?

Remember that war, as the supreme form of physical force, is the grave of women's rights; we cannot be on an equality with those who have need of war. In the period of great wars, woman has been valued only as the source of new warriors, and Napoleon was correct in his anti-feminine aphorism.

* Georgia supplied Russia in 1914-17 with about 200,000 soldiers.

We must demand that the Peace Conference should be a conference where human rights are respected; the mighty in this world should not gather there to dispute the hegemony of two hemispheres with one another, but so as to give the little nations the possibility through their own representatives of restoring the rights which have been trampled upon, and in this way to lay a solid foundation for the true league of peoples, for general disarmament and the introduction of peace throughout the whole world.

Can it be doubted that woman should have a place at the conference, where the rights of the injured and the outraged are being restored, where the foundation of world-wide love is being laid down, and where the oppressive mourning for the victims of the madness of humanity is being removed.

If the male half of humnity is still hankering after enslavement, and shall close the doors of the worlds tribunal to us, none the less we shall be present in thought, for we shall send our representatives thither not with the parting words: «With thy shield or upon it», but with the demand «for love and justice».

Catharine Shukashvili.

GEORGIA*).

At the very outset it is necessary to remove from the mind of the reader an opinion which is almost universally held in Europe and which is perhaps the chief cause of that apathy with which politicians look upon the Caucasus. It is generally believed even by some of those who have been in the country, that Transcaucasia is inhabited by a vast number of tribes more or less wild, having nothing in common but the doubtful benefits of the Russian rule. Nothing could be more misleading. Students of ethnography may amuse themselves by making elaborate investigations into the origin and characteristics of the Khevsurs, the Swans, the Pshavs, the Ossets, it is sufficient for us to know that all these peoples are politically at least Georgians and have fought under the Kartvelian kings since the days of William the Conqueror.

The numerous local appellations given to the Georgians mean no more than Yorkshiremen, Cornishmen or Aberdonian do to us. If I succeed in impressing upon my readers the fact that there is a politically homogeneous region stretching from the steppes of Mugan to the Black Sea, my labor will not have been fruitless.

It is a significant fact that the pure Georgian language is now far more generally spoken than it has been for many centuries and that the dialects are rapidly disap-

* From Oliver Wardrop's «The Kingdom of Georgia». London, 1890.

pearing. This is due in a great measure to the growth of a taste for literature which is fostered by the newspapers and the periodical publications. There are besides many schools of handicrafts in Tiflis for the dissemination of the national literature among the peasants.

All this has helped to produce a national feeling stronger than any that has existed since the fatal partition of the kingdom in the fifteenth century. The jealousies between Kartlian, Kakhetian and Imeretian have been forgiven and forgotten and when Georgia's voice is again heard in Asia, she will speak with that authority which belongs only to a united patriotic people.

In order to understand the state of political feeling in Georgia during the present century, it is necessary to remember what her previous history has been. During a long period stretching back to ages of which we have only fragmentary records, the country had ever been at war; often conquered still more often conquering, never crushed, the brave little state maintained its existence for a thousand years alone in the very midst of those fierce fanatics whose fame made all allied Europe quake. At length rent by civil war and ravaged by the infidel it wisely resolved to throw itself into the hands of a Christian power able and willing to protect and avenge. After availing themselves of Russia's help, it was but natural that the Georgians should seek the repose of which they were so much in need, though they were ready to fight against the common foe.

Harsh measures on the part of Russia whose policy in Transcaucasia has been becoming more irritating ever since the removal of Prince Vorontzoff in 1854 and culminating last year in the enforcement of military service, have undoubtedly had some effect of this kind but unless there had been a simultaneous progress in the intellectual and social development of the Georgian nation this overbearing legislation might have been sullenly submitted to without complaint. There can be little doubt of the fact that the excessive precautions taken by the Russian police with a view to put down political agitation of any kind have produced the very thing they are intended to prevent.

A country squire in talking to me one day about a little market-town near his home said: they have posted a gendarme there; until he came, nobody ever bothered about politics, now there is nothing else talked of*.

During my stay in Tiflis, last summer, a rumour was rife to the

effect that a large number of young noblemen were about to be exiled in view of the visit of the Czar, who was expected to arrive at his new palace near Telav. The fact that this report was believed by the parties interested, is a powerful testimony to the arbitrary character of the proceedings in the Russian Police.

(To be continued).

Oliver Wardrop.

Gymnastics in Georgia.

Just as is the case in England, from ancient times various games and sports have been widely spread among the Georgian people. No one holiday in Georgia passed off without contests in wrestling, jumping, fancy riding, ball-playing, and the like. A number of types of sport and gymnastic exercises were first introduced by the Georgians and the Caucasian mountaineers. Unfortunately these are as yet almost unknown in Europe, such as, for instance, Georgian wrestling, Tcherkess riding and the like.

The century-long practice in these fields of sport has developed among the Georgians and the Tcherkessians remarkable ability in this line and has had a certain effect on their physical build. Shortly after the Czechs had introduced into Russia the sokol gymnastics, Caucasians, and in particular, Georgians, began to carry off the first prizes. At the last general meeting of the sokols in Prague in 1912 they stood very high up. Prominent Czech gymnasts have frequently testified to the ability of Georgians in this line as being quite remarkable, not only for the whole of Russia, but even for the whole of Europe.

At the present time in Tiflis there have gathered together all those Georgian Sokols who formerly stood at the head of this sport in various towns in Russia. Many of them are prominent gymnasts, and now that it has become possible, they intend to spread a knowledge of gymnastics among their people. This was forbidden by the Russian government. In consequence of this the first Georgian society of Sokols was opened under the revolution under the name of „Shevardeni“. In addition to a first-rate staff of leaders, the splendid hall is worthy of attention which the society possesses. It is the only one on the former territory of Russia, and is a copy of the best building of the sort. „Sokol VII“, in Prague. The gymnastic apparatus was also imported from the best firm in Bohemia-Vindish.

It would be very desirable that the Englishmen who are here at the present time and are interested in sport should visit the society, as the Georgian athletes would be very glad to become acquainted with the Englishmen, and would be very glad to learn English methods of sport, with which they are unfortunately but very slightly acquainted.

Exercises are held in the hall of the society from 7—9 P. M. on Tuesdays and Fridays. Any one who would like to look on may do so. Address of the Society: Corner of Alexandrovskaya and Feierwerkskaya Streets.

Shevardeni.

The king and the viziers.

(A Georgian Tale).

There was once a king who had three viziers. One day he summoned them and asked them: how long it would take to walk from the eastern side of the world to the western one; next—toward which direction is God's face turned; and lastly,—how much am I, the king, worth?

The viziers were unable to answer these questions. Therupon the king gave them the following command: «I give you three days in which to find an answer to my queries. If at the end of that time you either have not answered them yourself or found some one capable of doing so, I will have your heads cut off».

The viziers left the king's presence deep in thought. They questioned many of the passers-by, but could find no solution.

On their way out they passed near a mill, and asked the miller to bring them out some flour. The miller fulfilled their request, and, noticing how anxious they were looking, said to them: «If you will not take offence at my liberty, I should like to ask you something».

—„Speak on“,—answered the viziers.

—„Well then, why are you so sad, my lords?»

All three were silent, for they thought that this poor man could never solve their dilemma, but at last one of them said: „Who knows? God may help him to guess the riddle“, and they told him the cause of their anxiety.

„Why“,—said the miller,—„these questions require no thinking at all: I can answer them all“. The viziers rejoiced and went off to the king.

„Sire“, said they, „we ourselves could find no answer to your questions, but we have found a man who can do so“. The king sent for the miller and ordered him to speak.

„Tell me first—how long it would take to walk from the east to the west“.

„Well“, rejoined the miller, „neither you nor I have ever made the journey, but the sun and the moon perform it in 24 hours“.

„Then“, continued the monarch, „tell me to what side God's face is turned?“

The miller lit a candle and merely asked: „What side is the face of this candle turned to?“—„To every side“, responded the king. „So is God's“, said the miller.

The king then put his last question: How much am I worth?»

„I dont wish to give offence, sire, but our Lord Jesus Christ was sold

for 30 pence, and you are not worth more than he“.

Greatly pleased with the miller's answers, the king sent him away with many rich gifts.

Elisabeth Orbeliani.

THE GEORGIAN HUMOUR.

The tinker and his ass*.)

There was once a tinker who loaded his ass with grain, and took it to the mill. He ground the corn, and was on his way back, when the ass stopped and could go no farther. The tinker had in his pocket some salts of ammonia, which he proceeded to crush into powder with a stone, and put it under the tail of the ass, thinking: «Perhaps it will burn him, and make him hurry along». But the ass ran off so swiftly that the tinker could not keep up with him and he said to himself: «Some one may take the ass away, and I shall lose him». So he took a little sal-ammoniac, and treated himself as he had treated the ass, thinking thus to overtake the beast. He became so wild that he outran the ass, rushed right through the village, and as he sped past his own house he cried to his wife: «My ammonia has proved stronger, I cannot stop, look after the ass!»

The barber.

On my way hither I came to a certain village. Five friends were sitting there and joking together; they invited me to join them, and made me sit down beside them; they wanted to have their heads shaved. It happened that in the village there was one bad barber. He gave himself out to be an artist in hairdressing, and came to offer us his services. He began to shave one of the party, and tortured him grievously. Near by, a camel was bellowing, and the sufferer said: «He must be having his head shaved, or he would not roar so loudly». We laughed, and sent another man to be shaved. When the barber lacerated the second man, he pulled out five bistis (twopence), gave them to the shaver, and said: «I know thou wilt not let me out of thy hands alive, so here is thy hire, that I may not die in thy debt». Then the barber began to shave the third man: he cut his head, and put a piece of cotton wool on it to

* From the Georgian „Book of Wisdom and Lies“ by Sulikhan Orbeliani (1655—1725) translation by Oliver Wardrop.

stop the bleeding: this he did in about ten places. When one half of the head had been treated in this way, the sufferer made the barber stop, and said to him: „Thou hast treated my head on one half of my head, leave the other half alone, I want to wash my head there“. We laughed, and asked one another about our adventures. While the fourth man was being shaved, I asked him: «How many brothers have you?» He replied: «If this fellow lets me go alive there are six of us, but if not there will be only five left». The fifth was cut in many places, and plastered with cotton wool; when it was over, he gave the barber two phulis (a farthing). The barber was a sharp fellow, and said: «I have put five bistis' worth of wadding on thy head, and thou only givest me two phulis!» We laughed. Everyone had to pass through the barber's hands, willy-nilly. When he shaved me it hurt very much, but I made no sign. At the end, I paid him his fee, and thanked him, saying: «May the souls of thy parents enjoy the same peace that I have just enjoyed!» My friends reproached me: «Even a dried ass's head would have roared under such treatment, and why dost thou express great gratitude to him?» I answered: «If I had refused to be shaved you would have given me no peace: now I have gained this man's thanks, while I have cursed his parents». They asked: «How?» I said to them: «If the souls of his parents rest as I did under his razor, what terrible tortures they must be enduring in hell!» We drank wine and made merry.

MILK FOR THE FACE— „BETTY“.

Patented by S. S. Nadareishvili.

Most ideal substance for the face and hands. Removes all freckles, black-heads, and entirely eradicates wrinkles. Superb for those who shave frequently.

On Sale at the drug-store of V. S. Akhvediani.

Golovinski pr. 41.

LESSONS OF ENGLISH

Desired in return for Russian lessons or for payment.

Apply from 11 to 3 any day except Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday in person or by letter (Russian or French) Mezhevaia ulitsa № 11, second door, flat 2.

AMUSEMENTS.

OPERA HOUSE:

Monday, March 31-st—„SHOTA RUSTAVELI“, by D. Arakishvili.

Tuesday, April 1-st—„ROMEO and JULIETA“ and „THE VILLAGE HONOUR“ by Zuderman for the benefit of the poorest pupils of the 8-th Gymnasium.

Wednesday, April 2-nd—„SAMSON and DALILAH“.

Thursday, April 3-rd—„BOCCACIO“, a comical opera.

Friday, April 4-th—„ABESSALOM and ESTHER“, by Pafiasvili.