STORIES OF ADVENTURE.

OF AJACCIO.

When I told you some little time ago remember, by repeating the saying of the Emperor that I had the stoutest heart in all his armies. In making that remark, Napoleon was showing the insight for which he was so famous. He disfigured his sentence, however, by adding something about the thickness of my head. We will pass that over. It is ungenerous to dwell upon the weaker moments of a great man. I will only say this, that when the Emperor needed an agent he was always very ready to do me the honour of recalling the name of Etienne Gerard, though it occasionally escaped him when rewards were to be distributed. Still, I was a colonel at twenty-eight, and the chief of a brig. ade at thirty one, so that I have no reason to be dissatisfied with my career. Had the wars lasted another two or three years I might have grasped my baton, and the man who had his hand upon that was only one stride | should be descend to one of my lieutenants | hundred times, but I had never been face from a throne. Murat had changed his hussar's cap for a crown, and another light needed at the head of the regiment? How- that if you had met him without knowing cavalry man might have done as much. shoulder again in his hearty fashion, have said that he was a sallow little fellow However, all those dreams were driven away by Waterloo, and, although I was mine, otherwise I should not be Colonel of calves. His tight white cashmere breeches not able to write my name upon history, it is sufficiently well known by all who step towards changing your busby for a been struck by the singular look of his eyes "Thinking!" he cried. "You, you! some taxative properties which reduced them very important. In the figs and served with me in the great wars of the | cocked hat." Empire.

What I want to tell you to-night is about the very singular affair which first started me upon my rapid upward course, and which had the effect of establishing a se cret bond betweenthe Emperor and myself. There is just one little word of warning guns which we had taken at Austerlitz; dictation, looking up at him between each all that relates to green fodder or dry, which I must give you before I begin. When you hear me speak, you must always bear in mind that you are listening to one be that he wished to reward me for my tary had left the room, he strode across when I meet a Chamberlain and a Marshal who has seen history from the inside. I am talking about what my ears have heard and my eyes have seen, so you must not try to confute me by quoting the opinions of some student or man of the pen, who has written a book of history or memoirs. There is much which is unknown by such people, and much which never will be known by the world. For my own part, I could tell you some very surprising things were it discreet to do so. The facts which I am about to relate to you to-night were kept secret by me during the Emperor's lifetime, because I gave him my promise that it should be so but I do not think that there can be any harm now in my telling the remarkable part which I played.

You must know, then, that at the time of the Treaty of Tilsit I was a simple that wonderful as it appeared to me, it so it ended in my saying nothing at all. The money or interest. It is true that my appearance and my gallantry were in my favour, and that I had already won a reputation as being one of the best swordsmen in the army; but among the host of brave men who surrounded the Emperor it needed more than this to insure a rapid career. I was confident, however, that my chance would come though I never dreamed that it would take so remarkable a form.

When the Emperor returned to Paris, after the declaration of peace in the year 1807, he spent much of his time with the Empress and the Court at Fontainebleau. It was the time when he was at the pinnacle of his career. He had in three successive campaigns humbled Austria, crushed Prussia, and made the Russians very glad to get upon the right side of the Niemen. The old Bulldog over the Channel was still growling, but he could not get very far from his kennel. If we could have made a perpetual peace at that moment, France would have taken a higher place than any nation since the days of the Romans. So l have heard the wise folk say, though for my part I had other things to think of. All the girls were glad to see the army back after its long absence, and you may be sure that I had my share of any favours that were going. You may judge how far I was a favorite in those days when I say that even now, in my sixtieth year -- but why should I dwell upon that which is already sufficiently well known?

Our regiment of hussars was quartered with the horse chasseurs of the guard at little place, buried in the heart of the fortime to see it crowded with Grand seen a ghost. 'Fratelli dell' Ajaccio,' he before my eyes as he spoke, and his voice Dukes and Electors and Princes, who thronged round Napoleon like puppies round their master, each hoping that some bone might be thrown to him. There was more Germans than French to be heard in the street, for those who had helped us in the late war had come to beg for a reward, and those who had opposed us had come to try to escape punishment. And all the time our little man, with his pale face and his cold, grey eyes, was riding to the hunt every morning silent and brooding, all of them following in his train, in the hope that some word would escape him. And then when the humours eized him, he would throw a hundred square miles to that man, or tear as much off the other, round off one kingdom by a river, or cut off another by a chain of mountains. That was how he used to do business, this little artilleryman, whom we had raised so high with our sabres and our bayonets. He was very civil to us always, for he knew where his power came from. We knew also, and showed it by the way in which we carried ourselves. We were agreed, plans." you understand, that he was the finest leader in the world, but we did not forget that he had the finest men to leads

Well, one day I was seated in my quarters playing cards with young oleon. Bring him to my private cabinet Morat, of the horse chasseurs when at four o'clock.' who was our Colonel. You know what a you at once, and mind that you do credit fine, swaggering fellow he was, and the to the 10th Hussars." sky-blue uniform of the Tenth suited him | 1 was by no means flattered by the rea- day ?" to a marvel. My faith, we youngsters sons which had led to my Colonel's choice, diced and drank and played the deuce for he roared with laughter and Talleyrand asked me. I bowed once more without whether we liked it or no, just that we gave a dry chuckle also.

the head of the light cavalry, but because keep ourselves in touch with all that goes together," said the Emperor. "You will how it was that I won the special medal he had the surest eye for the nature of a on. You understand me, Monsieur Gerard?" be armed with a sword, but not with pisfor valour, I finished, as you will doubtless | position or for the strength of a column, and the best judgment as to when infantry driving at, but I bowed and tried to look and I shall say nothing to you. We will could be broken or whether guns were as it it was clear to me. exposed, of any mar in the army. We "Act very guardedly, then, and say were too young to anderstand all that, nothing to anybody," said Talleyrand. clinked our spurs and let the ferrules of ourselves in public with you, but we will tree. We shall approach them together. the labor. our scabbards wear out by trailing them await you here, and we will give you our If I signal to you to defend me, you will along the pavement in the hope that we advice when you have told us what has have your sword ready. If, on the other should all become Lasalles. When he came clanking into my quarters, both Morat and It is time that you started now, for the and see what happens. If you are called I sprang to our feet.

"My boy," said he, clapping me on the shoulder, "the Emperor wants to see you was only a hundred paces off. I made my escapes from us. I shall myself assist you." at four o'clock."

of the card table.

"What?" I cried. "The Emperor!" astonishment.

should he send for me ?"

cried Lasalle, twirling his moustache. "If | Emperor's presence. he wanted the help of a good sabre, why I had, of course, seen him in camp a when he might have found all that he to face with him before. I have no doubt for you. You can go." ever," he added, clapping me upon the in the least who he was, you would simply occurring to me I turned. "every man has his chance. I have had with a good forehead and fairly well-turned I. the Tenth. I must not grudge you yours. and white stockings showed off his legs to wild beast. I really thought he would Forwards, my boy, and may it be the first advantage. But even a stranger must have have struck me.

passed, and how many conjectures did I before Napoleon's gaze, at a time, too, tree at ten o'clock." make as to what it was that the Emperor when the Emperor was but an unknown | My faith, I was right glad to get out of thought that perhaps he had heard of the the door. De Meneval was writing to his stirrup-iron, I know where I am. And in but then there were so many who had sentence with his spaniel eyes. taken guns at Austerlitz, and two years | "That will do. You can go," said the of squadrons upon the march, there is no had passed since the battle. Or it might Emperor, abruptly. Then, when the secre- one who can teach me very much. But affair with the aide-de-camp of the Russian | with his hands behind his back, and he of the Palace, and have to pick my words Emperor. But then a cold fit would seize looked me up and down without a word. with an Emperor, and find that everybody me, and I would fancy that he had sent Though he was a small man himself, hints instead of talking straight out, I feel for me to reprimand me. There were a he was very fond of having fine- like a troop-horse who has been put in a few duels which he might have taken in ill looking fellows about him, and so lady's caleche. It is not my trade, all this part, and there were one or two little jokes so I think that my appearance gave him mincing and pretending. I have learned in Paris since the peace.

Lasalle. "If he had need of a brave man," the hilt of my sabre, looking straight ahead to get into the fresh air again, and I ran said Lasalle. It was obvious that my of me, as a good soldier should. Colonel had some idea of what was in the | "Well, Monsieur Gerard," said he, at | who has just escaped from the seminary mother and to tell her that the Emperor | you." was waiting, at that very moment, to have | I wished to make a brilliant reply, but I | together to greet me. my opinion upon a matter of importance. | could think of nothing save Lasalle's It made me smile as I wrote it to think phrase that I was all spurs and moustaches, of them. would probably only confirm my mother in | Emperor watched the struggle which must

At half past three I heard a sabre come when, finally, no answer came he did not clanking against every step of my wooden appear to be displeased. black with dapper ruffles and cuffs. We surround me upon every side. But a brave have promised the Emperor.' did not know many civilians, we of the man who-" He did not finish his sentence, army, but, my word, this was one whom and for my own part I could not under- he, sidling up to me, as a cat does when it comical upturned nose, and the straight, count upon me to the death. presence of the one man in France whom swordsman?" said he. even the Emperor had to consider.

"This is Monsieur Etienne Gerard, Monsieur de Talleyrand," said Lasalle.

I saluted, and the statesman took me in | Chambarant?" said he. of my spur, with a glance that played over | much of my exploits. me like a rapier point.

"Have you explained to the Lieutenant said I. the circumstances under which he is summoned to the Emperor's presence?" he asked in his dry, creaking voice.

They were such a contrast, these two men, that I could not help glancing from one to the other of them ; the little, black, sly politician, and the big, sky-blue huzzar, with one fist on his hip and the other on the Infantry touched me on the left elbow, hilt of his sabre. They both took their seats | sire." as I looked, Talleyrand without a sound, and Lasalle with a clash and jingle like a prancing charger.

"It's this way, youngster," said he, in was so appalling. "Do you imagine that his brusque fashion; "I was with the Em- I place veteran soldiers in these positions the watch adjusters. One adjuster in a peror in his private cabinet this morning that you may practise quarte and tierce when a note was brought in to him. He upon them? How am I to face Europe if opened it, and as he did so he gave such a my soldiers turn their points upon each Fontainebleau. It is, as you know, but a start that it fluttered down on to the floor. I other? Another word of your duelling, handed it up to him again, but he was star- and I break you between these fingers." est, and it was wonderful at this ing at the wall in front of him as if he had I saw his plump white hands flash muttered; and then again, 'Fratelli dell' had turned to the most discordant hissing Ajaccio,' I don't pretend to know more and growling. My word, my skin pring-Italian than a man can pick up in two | led all over as I listened to him, and campaigns, and I could make nothing of would gladly have changed my position for this. It seemed to me that he had gone out that of the first man in the steepest and of his mind; and you would have said so narrowest breach that ever swallowed up also, Monsieur de Talleyrand, if you had a storming party. He turned to the table, seen the look in his eyes. He read the drank off a cup of coffee, and then when he note, and then he sat for half an hour or faced me again every trace of this storm more without moving."

"And you?" asked Talleyrand. "Why, I stood there not knowing what from his eyes. I ought to do. Presently he seemed to

come back to his senses. have some gallant young officers in the reasons why yours should be the one

depended upon for action, but who could to none but ourselves." not think too much-you understand me, Lasalle-which would you select ?' he but I promised. asked.

would not penetrate too deeply into his do exactly what you are told."

" 'I have one,' said I, ' who is all spurs and moustaches, with never a thought your brains I will do the thinking. Is beyond women and horses.' " That is the man I want', said Nap- "Yes, 'sire."

were so taken by him that we all swore and and I must have shown as much in my face, it three times a week, he would not have

"Just one word of advice before you go, Monsieur Gerard," said he : " you are now at ten o'clock to-night." none of us any idea as to what this little asked me to take his place upon the Im-HOW THE BRIGADIER SLFW THE BROTHER | might resemble our Colonel ! We forgot affair means, and between ourselves, it is perial throne I could only have nodded that it was not because he drank or gambled | very important for us, who have the des- my busby. that the Emperor was going to make him tinies of France upon our shoulders, to

however, so we waxed our moustaches and " Colonel de Lasalle and I will not show | more probably two men, under a certain

passed between the Emperor and yourself. hand, I speak to these men, you will wait Emperor never forgives unpunctuality."

"Precisely," said he, smiling at my half of them were German Dukes who "Ta, ta, ta," said he. "I was a soldier

me to the palace. My faith, what a time I who had never known whatfear was, quailed man-but, there! You meet me at the fircould want of me! I paced up and down soldier. He looked mildly enough at me, the room. If I have a good horse under in a fever of anticipation. Sometimes I however, and motioned me to remain by me, and a sword clanking against my

pleasure. For my own part, I raised one the manners of a gentleman, but never But, no ! I considered the words of hand to the salute and held the other upon | those of a courtier. I was right glad then

wind. If he had not known that it was to last, tapping his forefinger upon one of the master. my advantage, he would not have been so brandebourgs of gold braid upon the front cruel as to congratulate me. My heart of my pelisse, "I am informed that you thing that my eye rested upon was a long glowed with joy as this conviction grew are a very deserving young officer. Your pair of sky-blue legs with hussar boots, and upon me; and I sat down to write to my colonel gives me an excellent account of a short pair of black ones with knee-breech-

her opinion of the Emperor's good sense. have shown itself upon my features, and

"Tolerable, sire," I answered.

fight the champion of the Hussars of it would not be troubling you too much to

"My comrades, sire, did me that honor."

"And for the sake of practice you insulted six fencing masters in the week old fox that he was. before your duel?"

times in as many days, sire," said I. "And escaped without a scratch?"

"I had the privilege of being out seven

"The fencing master of the 23rd Light

"Let us have no more child's play of the sort, monsieur," he cried, turning suddenly to that cold rage of his which

had vanished, and he wore that singular smile which came from his lips but never

"I have need of your services, Monsieur Gerard," said he. "I may be safer with a " 'I suppose, Lasalle,' said he, that you good sword at my side, and there are which I select. But first of all I must " They are all that, sire', I answered. bind you to secrecy. Whilst I live what " If you had to pick one who was to be passes between us to-day must be known

I thought of Talleyrand and of Lasalle,

"In the next place, I do not want your " I saw that he needed an agent who opinions or conjectures, and I wish you to

I bowed. "It is your sword that I need, and not that clear to you?"

"You know the Chancellor's Grove, in the forest ?" ·I bowed.

Had he known that I met a girl under remark.

"You know also the large double fir-

tree where the hounds assembled on Tues-

"Very good. You will meet me there

coming into troubled waters, and you might | I had got past being surprised at any. find a worse pilot than myself. We have thing which might happen. If he had

"We shall then proceed into the wood I had not the least idea what he was | tols. You must address no remark to me, advance in silence. You understand?

"I understand, sire."

"After a time we shall see a man, or upon to draw, you must see that neither Off I went on foot to the palace, which of them, in the event of there being two, way to the antechamber, where Duroc, "But, sire," I cried, "I have no doubt people who were waiting. I heard him should bring a comrade than that you whisper to Monsieur de Caulaincourt that should be forced to join in such a struggle?"

expected to be made Kings, and the before I was an Emperor. Do you think, "But the Emperor does not know of my other half German Duke who expected | then, that artillery men have not swords as existence, Colonel," I protested. "Why to be made paupers. Duroc, when well as the hussars? But I ordered you not he heard my name, showed me to argue with me. You will do exactly what "Well, that's just what puzzles me," straight in, and I found myself in the I tell you. If swords are once out, neither of these men is to get away alive."

"The shall not, sire," said I. "Very good. I have no more instructions

I turned to the door, and then an idea "I have been thinking, sire -- " said

He sprang at me with the ferocity of a

which could harden into an expression Do you imagine I chose you out because It was but two o'clock, so he left me, which would frighten a grenadier. It is you could think? Let me hear of your promising to come back and to accompany said that even Auguereau, who was a man doing such a thing again! You, the one

> barley and cats and rye, and the handling away up to my quarters like a schoolboy

But as I opened the door, the very first es and buckles. They both sprang up

"Well, what news?" they cried, the two

"None," I answered.

"The Emperor refused to see you?" "No, I have seen him."

"And what did he say ?" "Monsieur de Talleyrand," I answered,

stair. It was Lasaile, and with him was a "I believe that you are the very man that "I regret to say that it is quite impossible little gentleman, very neatly dressed in I want," said he. "Brave and clever men' for me to tell you anything about it. 1 "Pooh, pooh, my dear young man," said

we could not afford to ignore! I had only stand what he was driving at. I content. is about to rubitself against you. "This is to glance at those twinkling eyes, the ed myself with assuring him that he could all among friends, you understand, and goes no farther than these four walls. Beprecise mouth, to know that I was in the "You are, as I understand a good sides, the Emperor never meant to include me in this promise."

"It is but a minute's walk to the palace, not mean to inc'ude you in this promise, I shall be happy to tell you every word that

He showed his teeth at me then like the

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

WATCH ADJUSTERS.

Men Who Study Timepieces as Physicians Study Their Old Patients.

Perhaps the most beguly skilled and best paid men in the watchmaking business are great factory used to receive \$10,000 a

The adjuster's work is one of the import ant elements of cost in the making of a fine | return to the kettle and let boil fifteen watch, and a \$10,000 adjuster should be minutes; add a pint of sugar to every competent to perfect any watch, whatever | pint of juice, and boil twenty-five minutes, its delicacy and cost. It is the business of or until 12 begins to jelly from the spoon. the adjuster to take a new watch and carewill be advised to have it ad justed. There hour. are watch adjusters in large cities, working on their own account and earning very comfortable incomes.

under his hands gets to have a character of sugar, and when it has come to a boil, skim its own. He knows every wheel and screw and add two ounces of stick cinnamon, one and spindle that help to constitute the ounce of whole cloves, and one ounce watch. He knows its constitution as a physician knows that of an old patient. He can say what the watch needs after an accident, and can advise as to whether it is | few pears at a time, and when they can worth adjusting.

No new watch can be depended upon until it has passed through the hands of the cloves into each pear. Then add more to adjuster for however admirable the individual parts of the works, their perfect the syrup again and pour over the pears. balance is to be obtained only by such | Seal when cold. study and experiment as it is the business of the adjuster to make. The adjuster is definess in its prosecution.

Willing to Give Him His Choice.

saying I wasn't half-witted? are half-witted?

Dried Fruits Wholesome and Palatable.

Apples, peaches, prunes, prunelles, raspberries and blueberries are used commonly in the dried form. All of them are inexpensive, and when rightfully prepared, wholesome and palatable. Of course much time is needed to prepare them so that they will "tempt both eye and palate," but the result usually amply repays one for

The apples and prunes require the addition of lemon juice to give the needed acid. All of these fruits require long soaking and slow cooking, with the addition of sugar when nearly done if you wish to have them in perfection. Many, almost endless in The room whirled round me at the words, with his grand new scarlet and gold coat, that two would not be too many for my fact are, the ways in which you can use and I had to lean my hands upon the edge was fusing about among the crowd of sword; but would it not be better that I these fruits, either alone or in combination; pies, puddings, cakes and sauces are made from them. Hygienically, of course you should serve all fruit in the simplest possible way, but simple combinations may be used which are extremely wholesome and will tempt ofttimes an appetite which otherwise would take nothing. Many housekeepers still dry the windfall apples, sweet and sour, and thus have their own supply ready for spring. Blueberries are also prepared in the same way, although now the majority can them, a method, it seems to me, far preferable to the first.

Dates and figs are usually classed under the dried fruits and they are by far the most important so far as the amount of nourishment is concerned. The ordinary fruits furnish us with a certain flavor and dates, however, we find a large amount of real nourishment, and they furnish in their simplest form one of our most wholesome desserts. To those who do not care for the pressed fig, there is the pulled fig which can be steamed and served with cream and sugar.

If people who must economize closely would make use of the inexpensive dried fruits and use them for their desserts the greater part of the year, I believe their health would be much better than it is at present, and the cost of living would be

reduced in a perceptible degree. Drying is very simple. The fruit is simply pared, cored and sliced, then spread on boards or cloths in the sun, being taken in at night and turned from day to day until perfectly dry. The prepared product is then placed in a moderate oven and thoroughly heated; care must be taken that it does not scorch or brown. It is then, while hot, turned into bags and closely tied. Late in the fall some farmers place immense rocks high over the kitchen stove and continue the drying far into the winter. Evaporators are sometimes fitted up in the house, but many do not like the result so well as the simpler "dried apple." The flavor is not so natural. Pumpkin or squash, stewed until very dry, is sometimes spread thinly on tins and placed in a moderate oven until perfectly dry. It will then keep for any length of time. Great care must be taken in drying it that it does not brown, otherwise it will have a bitter taste.

Fruits.

Plums. -- To every pound of fruit allow three quarters of a pound of sagar. Prick the fruit with a fine fork to prevent their bursting. Let them simmer in this syrup for five minutes. Put plums in jars and pour over them the hot syrup.

Spiced Grapes. - Five pounds of grapes. three of sugar, two teaspoonfuls each of "You were chosen by your regiment to Monsieur de Talleyrand," I answered ; "if cinnamon, allspice, half a teaspoonful cloves; ask you to stap up to it and bring back the pulp grapes, boil skins until tender, cook from the top of my panache to the rowel I was not sorry to find that he knew so Emperor's written statement that he did pulps and strain through a sieve, add it to the skins, put in sugar and vinegar to taste, add spices; boil thoroughly.

Pears. -For ten pounds of fruit take five pounds of sugar. Peel, halve, and core the pears, add a little water to the sugar to make the syrup, and add one sliced lemon; skim, add the pears and simmer until they begin to change color, then can and seal

Pear Marmalade. - Boil the fruit to pulp, weigh it and take half the weight of sugar. Put the sugar with as little water as possible to boil and skim while boiling. When boiled to a crack add the pulp and boil. To every half dozen pears add two drops or so of essence of cloves.

Plum Jelly .- Take blue or white plums, put in a little kettle with a little water ; let boil till soft and the skins crack, then strain through a jelly bag, measure it and

Rhubarb Jam .- To every pound of rhufully go over all its parts, fitting them barballow a pound of sugar and two together so that the watch may be regulated ounces of candied lemon peel. Cut up the to keep time accurately to the fraction of | rhubarb, add the sugar to it, and let it a minute a month. Regulating is a very dif- stand for twenty-four hours, or until all ferent process from adjusting and much sim- the sugar is dissolved. Pour off the syrup, pler. A watch that cannot be regulated so and boil it for three quarters of an hour ; as to keep accurate time may need the hand of then add the rhubarb and the lemon peel the adjuster, and if it is valuable, the owner cut fine, and boil the whole for at least an

Sweet Pickled Pears. - Take one quart of good cider vinegar, put it into a porce-To the adjuster every watch that comes lain kettle and add to it four pounds of whole allspice. Put the spices into a muslin bag, and when the vinegar is spiced to taste, remove and put into the syrup a easily be pierced with a fork, put them in a stone jar, after sticking a couple of the vinegar until all are used. Then skim

Apple Butter. - One-half a bushel of a highly skilled mechanic, with wide Peppin apples and one gallon of fresh knowledge of his trade, and the utmost sweet cider. Cook thorou hly and put through a collander; then place on the fire and add six pounds granulated sugar. Stir constantly to prevent burning, and cook until quite thick, say two or three Mudge-See here, what do you mean by hours. Try a little in a dish and if it looks watery cook longer. When cold put in Yabsley-What shall I say ! That you stone jars and cover closely. Do not boil in brass or metal kettie.