

## The Russian Telegraph.

The following letter we find in the Rutland (Vt.) *Herald*. It is from Dr. FISHER, Surgeon and Journalist of the Collins Russian Telegraph Expedition. It is a private letter written from Sitka, in the Russian Provinces, and contains matters of interest:

SITKA, Sunday, April 23, 1865.

\* \* Such a complete isolation from all that is congenial or even interesting, I assure you it were impossible to imagine, and yet I have been here during the most interesting period of the year (they toll me) Easter holidays. I will describe in the course of my letter the way they celebrate them. The *Shubrick*, with Col. BULKLEY, left here on the 3d of this month, the second after our arrival, to return and complete arrangements for our Summer work. As you probably already know, I was left here with only a servant to remain till his return and glean all information possible of the natives, traders and coasters, also to copy some charts of the northern coast which the Governor has loaned us, and also to observe the horary oscillations of the barometer, as well as the thermometer, and make collections generally of interest to science.

You may judge that my time is pretty well employed, as I have made observations each day and each hour from 5 A. M. to 11 P. M., never yet having been absent from my point of observation during the time over two hours, which I am permitted to do, by having instructed my boy, who is intelligent, how to move "vernier" at the end of the first hour, where it remains for my computation and record, before charging it for the next. The Governor and his lady seem only too anxious for my comfort, and, in fact, it is somewhat of a bore for me to dine with them every day and be subjected to the infliction of the various courses served after the Russian style, which, with all my clumsy knowledge, I cannot classify or discover the component parts thereof.

\* \* Several of the officers speak French, and with them I get on nicely. The weather here at present is most villainous, assimilating to our March month—to-day sunshine, to-morrow six inches snow, next rain and wind in gales, and so on. I keep myself housed principally.

The observance of Lent in the Greek Church has just closed, and the Easter holidays follow and last for about one week. No labor is expected, and all devote themselves to feasting and drinking. I called at the room of one of the officers here, who, I was told, had just taken the sacrament, after having fasted for two days, as is the custom, and occurs only once a year and during this period. I found the room full of people, and all gorging themselves with food, as if it were the last and only meal they expected to have again. A large dish is placed in the centre of the table, containing what they name "Perogue." It is a sort of pie, and contains salmon, eggs, onions, pickles, meat and potatoes, and covered with crust. You can judge if I indulge largely in such a mess! The Russians consider this very fine, and, in fact, all their food is prepared in this villainous style. All smoke and drink brandy at the same time, and wind up with strong tea. The priests are not an exemption, neither are the females; all appear to keep themselves full of rum and tea. A pleasant society is it not? On the night of the 13th, being the last day of Lent, I was told I should attend church and witness the ceremony of the burial and resurrection of the Saviour. At 1 o'clock of that morning, one of the officers, Capt. HANSSON, who speaks the best English and whom the Governor recommended to me as an interpreter, came and woke me. Accordingly, I dressed myself in full uniform and accompanied him. On entering the church, we were presented, each, with a wax candle for which one ruble, 20 cents, is paid, and you hold it lighted in front of you during the service. After the long services are gone through with, responses, chants, &c., &c., burning of incense and walking around the mock coffin, covered with velvet and gold, by the bishops and attending priests and deacons, the audience in the meantime standing; it is taken on the shoulders of the priests, and the bishop in the centre underneath; a procession follows, according to rank, and marches outside and around the church, with heads uncovered, bearing the torches, crosses, banners, &c., meantime chanting a solemn dirge. I took a place, by a sign from the Governor, next behind him and joined the moving train. On entering again the service is soon concluded, and all congratulate each other, first the bishop, then the Governor, and so by rank down. Each salutes with the words, "Cristos vos crast"—Christ is risen—and kisses the other on each cheek; both male and female. I felt sorry for the Governor, and told him so; that he must stand for half an hour and be thus inflicted by men, women and children, both white and half-breed. I will be candid and tell you that I entered into this ceremony (being advised to do so) to a certain extent, and having given them three, open sesame words, saluted with a kiss the wives of several of the officers—the best looking ones, of course—the Governor's lady being one of the number. The Prince thought it a good joke and complimented me afterward on my acquiring the Russian habits so gracefully. I replied that I considered it one of the keys to the Russian language and wished to learn it from association, as I feared I never should master their alphabet or dictionary. On leaving the church about 4 A. M., at daylight, I went to the house of the chief factor, Mr. IVANHOFF, and found there a breakfast prepared—coffee, roast pig, partridge, &c. Afterward went, as did every one else, first to call on the bishop. Was introduced by the Governor, who told him on what business I was here, &c.

The next we visited the Governor at his house, who preceded us a few moments; afterwards each of the several officers' families, according to rank. It is, in fact, a similar custom to our New-Year day calls. In every place a table is prepared with cake, wine, &c. The Governor's lady sent us a large loaf of cake, which, with some apples, crackers, cheese and wine, I left on my table. Also a blank-book and pencil lying open, in which I found the names of most of the officers, when I returned from calling on about every family in the place. On the following day, the bishop and Governor called on me and gave their autographs in my book. On the following day, the privacy of my quarters was disturbed by a visitation, without any previous warning, from the ladies of the Governor, chief factor, Post-Captain, and some young misses that I did not remember. I entertained them with cake and champagne, and they seemed greatly delighted.

Thus closed the Easter holidays, and all again returned to work. Nothing has occurred of interest to relate since, till yesterday, the anniversary of the birth of the Emperor ALEXANDER was observed, and all labor was again suspended, and the people dressed in holiday attire. I dined at the Governor's, and met about fifty guests. Was placed next beside him at the table, with his Secretary on the other side. During the dinner and near its conclusion, the Prince arose, and, all standing, proposed the "long life of the King," which being drank, all sat down. No other toasts were observed. We soon withdrew, and in the afternoon I walked on the beach, where I saw a majority of the people and their families. This is the only walk to be had, as all in the rear of the town is mountain land, and is the only refuge for exercise.

To-morrow I leave here at 8 o'clock A. M., for an excursion on the small post steamer, which the Governor has placed at my disposal, in company with several gentlemen, the surgeon of the post, and several others, to visit a hot spring, which is used as a sort of hospital and bath for the sick, and where the company have erected a fort and some out-houses for bathing. The water is strongly impregnated with sulphur, and flows so warm that one cannot bear the hand in it. We shall return again at night if the weather is favorable. I hope when next I write to be able to give you more of news, as by that time the Colonel will have arrived and our plans for the movement will be more definite.