

MARIE, A STORY OF RUSSIAN LOVE

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CONTENTS

Translator's Note

- 1. The Sergeant Of The Guards
- 2. The Guide
- 3. The Fortress
- 4. The Duel
- <u>5. Love</u>
- 6. Pougatcheff
- 7. The Assault
- 8. The Unexpected Visit
- 9. The Separation
- 10. The Siege
- 11. The Rebel Camp
- <u>12. Marie</u>
- 13. The Arrest
- 14. The Sentence

Marie, in tears, fell at the feet of the Empress, who raised her up and kissed her, saying:

"I know that you are not rich; but I have to acquit myself of a debt to the daughter of a brave man, Captain Mironoff." Treating Marie with tenderness, the Empress dismissed her. That day Marie set out for my father's country-seat, not having even glanced at Saint Petersburg.

Here terminate the memoirs of Peter Grineff. We know by family tradition that he was set free about the end of the year 1774. We know too, that he was present at the execution of Pougatcheff, who, recognizing him in the crowd, gave him one last sign with the head which, a moment after, was shown to the people, bleeding and inanimate.

Peter Grineff became the husband of Marie Mironoff. Their descendents still live, in the Province of Simbirsk, and in the hereditary manor is still shown the autograph letter of the Empress Catherine II. It is addressed to Andrew Grineff, and contains, with his son's justification, a touching and beautiful eulogium of Marie, the Captain's daughter.