

Module 6: Novel

Translation 1 (translated by Leo Wiener, 1904)

“Eh bien, mon prince, Gênes et Lucques ne sont plus que des apanages, des country estates, de la famille Buonaparte. Non, je vous previens que si vous ne dites pas que nous avons la guerre, si vous vous permettez encore de pallier toutes les infamies, toutes les atrocités de cet Antéchrist (ma parole, j’y crois)—je ne vous connais plus, vous n’êtes plus mon ami, vous n’êtes plus my faithful slave, comme vous dites. Well, good evening, good evening! Je vous [sic] que je vous fais peur, --sit down and talk to me!”

Thus spoke, in July, 1805, the well-known Anna Pávlovna Scherer, lady of honour and intimate of Empress Máriya Fédorovna, upon meeting the dignified notable, Prince Vasíli, the first to arrive at her soirée.

Anna Pavlova had been coughing for a few days: she had the grippe, as she said (“grippe” was then a new word, used only by a few).

Translation 2 (translated by Louise and Aylmer Maude, 1943)

‘Well, Prince, so Genoa and Lucca are now just family estates of the Buonapartes. But I warn you, if you don’t tell me that this means war, if you still try to defend the infamies and horrors perpetrated by that Antichrist—I really believe he is Antichrist—I will have nothing more to do with you and you are no longer my friend, no longer my “faithful slave”, as you call yourself! But how do you do? I see I have frightened you—sit down and tell me all the news.’

It was in July 1805, and the speaker was the well-known Anna Pavlovna Scherer, maid of honour and favourite of the Empress Marya Fëdorovna. With these words she greeted Prince Vasíli, a man of high rank and importance, who was the first to arrive at her reception. Anna Pavlovna had had a cough for some days. She was, as she said, suffering from *la grippe*; *grippe* being then a new word in St. Petersburg used only by the *élite*.