



“Is not the work absolutely magnificent?” said The Drunk and The Clown. “If Our Comrade Majesty will only be pleased to look at it. What splendid battalions! What lightening progress!” and at the same time they pointed to the empty map for they imagined that everyone else could see this impressive piece of military planning.

“How is this?” said the Tsar to himself. “I can see nothing! This is indeed a terrible affair! Am I a simpleton, or am I unfit to be a Tsar? That would be the worst thing that could happen.”

“Oh! Yes indeed!” said the Tsar, looking first through one cold glassy eye and then the other, although he could still not see anything on this map. “The map is glorious,” said he, aloud. “I approve of it completely.”



*The monster ratifying The Plan.*

