

Nothing Under the Sun is New.

Nothing under the sun is new. The old was old in Solomon's day. The false was false and the true was true as the false and true will be always.

VANDYKE BROWN.

Michael Strogoff,

THE COURIER OF THE CAZAR.

By Jules Verne.

PART II. CHAPTER I.—CONTINUED.

"Once at Tomsk," he repeated to himself to repress some feelings of impatience which he could not entirely master.

To this was added the thought of his mother, of Nadia—the one a prisoner at Omak, the other dragged on board the Irtysh boats, and no doubt a captive as Marfa Strogoff was.

From the moment that Harry Blount had fallen by his side Jolivet had ceased his attentions to him. During the journey from Kolyvan to the camp—that is to say for several hours—Blount, by leaning on his companion's arm, had been enabled to follow the rest of the prisoners.

"This is nothing," he said—"a mere scratch! After two or three dressings you will be all to rights."

"But these dressings?" asked Blount. "I will make them for you myself!" "Then you are something of a doctor?"

"And on this affirmation, Alcide, tearing his handkerchief made lint of one piece, bandage of the other, took some water from a well dug in the middle of the inclosure, bathed the wound, which happily was not serious, and skillfully placed the wet rag on Harry Blount's shoulder.

"I treat you with water," he said. "This liquid is the most efficacious sedative known for the treatment of wounds, and is the most employed by our doctors. It has taken six thousand years to discover that! Yes, six thousand years, in round numbers."

"I thank you, M. Jolivet," answered Harry, stretching himself on a bed of dry leaves which his companion had arranged for him in the shade of a birch tree.

"Bah! that's nothing! You would do as much for me."

"I don't wish to sleep," replied the Englishman. "What will your cousin think of the affairs of Russia?" "That they seem for the time in a bad way. But, bah! the Muscovite Government is powerful. It cannot be really unsteady at an invasion of barbarians, and Siberia will not be lost."

"Oh, do not let us talk politics!" cried Jolivet; "it is forbidden by the faculty. Nothing can be worse for wounds in the shoulder—unless it was to put you to sleep."

"No doubt; but the villain is a Russian. He knows that it does not do to trifle with the rights of men; and he has no interest to retain us; on the contrary. But to ask a favor of that gentleman does not quite suit my taste."

"He will come. He will not fail to do that. He must join the Emir. Siberia is cut in two and very certainly Feofar's army is only waiting for him to advance on Irkutsk."

"I have as yet suffered nothing in my cousin's service. Well, well! Good!" murmured Alcide Jolivet; "there he is asleep. A few hours' sleep and a few cold-water compresses are all that are required to set an Englishman on his legs again. These fellows are made of cast iron."

At this question, to which he dared not reply, his heart sank very low. At the same time with Michael Strogoff and many other prisoners, Harry Blount and Alcide Jolivet had also been taken to the Tartar camp. Their former traveling companion, captured like them at the telegraph office, knew that they were penned up with him in the inclosure, guarded by numerous sentinels, but he did not wish to accost them. It mattered little to him, at this time especially, what they might think of him since the affair at Ichim. Besides, he desired to be alone, that he might act alone if necessary. If therefore he held himself aloof from his former acquaintances.

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CHAPTER II.

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