

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18, 1905.

Barlasch of the Guard

By HENRY SETON MERRIMAN

(Continued.)

As the slow autumn approached, it became apparent that Dantzig no longer interested the watchers. Vilna became the base of operations. Smokestack fell and, most wonderful of all, the Russians were waiting on Moscow. Dantzig was no longer on the route. For a time it was of the world forgotten, while, as Barlasch had predicted, free men continued at liberty, though their names had an evil sound, while innocent persons in prison were left to rot there.

Desire continued to receive letters from her husband, full of love and war. For a long time he languished at Konigsberg, hoping every day to be sent forward. Then he followed Murat across the Nieman, and wrote of weary journeys over the rolling plains of Lithuania.

Toward the end of July he mentioned the arrival of the Cossack at headquarters.

"With him came a courier," wrote Charles, "bringing your dear letter. I don't believe you love me as I love you. At all events, you do not seem to tell me that you do so often as I want to tell you. Tell me what you do and think every moment of the day—And so on. Charles seemed to write as easily as he talked, and did not find it difficult in setting forth his feelings. 'The courier is in the saddle,' he concluded. 'De Cossack tells me that I must finish. Write and tell me everything. How is Mathilde? And your dear? Is he in good health? How does he pass his day? Does he still go out in the evening to his club?'

This seemed to be an after-thought, suggested perhaps by conversation in the room in which he sat.

The other cable, written from Stockholm, was brief in his communications. "I am well," wrote Antoine Sebastian, "and hope to arrive soon after you receive this. Felix Meyer, the secretary, has instructions to furnish you with money for household expenses."

It would appear that Sebastian possessed other friends in Dantzig, who kept him advised of all that passed in the city.

For neither Mathilde nor Desire had observed Sebastian's hint, and he wrote to their father. They did not know whether he had died, neither had they received any communication giving an address or a hint as to his future movements. It would appear that the man direct and laconic mind which had carried out his escape denied it when those left behind should be in no position to furnish information.

In fairness to Barlasch, Desire had made little of this soldier's part in Sebastian's evasion, and Mathilde displayed a small interest in such details. She rather fastened, however, upon the sentence rendered by Louis d'Arragon.

"Why did he do it?" she asked.

"Oh, because I asked him," was the reply.

"And why did you ask him?"

"Who else was there to ask?" returned Desire, which was, indeed, unanswerable. Perhaps the question had been suggested to her by de Cossack, who, on learning that Louis d'Arragon had helped her father to slip through the Emperor's fingers, had asked the same in his own characteristic way.

"What could he hope to gain by doing it?" he had inquired, as he walked by Mathilde's side, along the Platenburg. And he made other interrogations respecting d'Arragon which Mathilde was no more able to satisfy, and he accompanied her to the Platenburg.

Since that time the dancing-lessons had been resumed to the music of a hired fiddle, and Desire had once more taken up her household task of making both ends meet. She approached the difficulties as impulsively as ever, and danced the staid couple round the room with undiminished energy.

"It seems no good at all, your being married," said one of these, breathlessly, while Desire laughingly attended to her dishevelled hair.

"Why not?"

"Because you still make your own decisions and teach dancing," replied the pupil, with a quick eye, at the thought of some smart remark in the Platenburg.

"Ah, but Charles will return a colonel, and I shall bow to you in a silk dress from the chaise and make you feel first. You are not so tired as you think you are."

For those that are busy, time dies quickly enough. And there is nothing more absorbing than keeping the world from the door, the bank of the river, the thousands would find time to arise and read the overtired few.

August succeeded a hot July, and brought with it Sebastian's curt letter. Sebastian himself—that shadowy father—returned to his home a few hours later. He was not alone, for a heavier set followed him into the passage, and Desire, always quick to hear and see and act, coming to the head of the stairs, perceived her father looking upward toward her, with his companion in rough soldier's clothes, turned to lay aside the value he had carried on his shoulder.

Mathilde was close behind Desire, and Sebastian kissed his daughter with that cold repression of manner which always suggested a strenuous past, in which the emotions had been relinquished for ever as an indulgence unfit for a stern and hard-fighting age.

"I took him away, and now return him," said the soldier, coming forward. Desire had always known that it was Louis, but Mathilde gave a little start at the sound of the next clipping French in the mouth of an esteemed Frenchman, so rarely heard in Dantzig—so rarely heard in all broad France today.

"Yes—that is true," answered Sebastian, turning to face with a sudden change of manner. There was that in voice and attitude which his heart had never noted before, although Charles had often seemed something approaching it. It seemed to indicate that of all men, with whom they had seen their father hold intercourse, Louis d'Arragon was the

only man who stood upon equality with him.

"That is true—and at great risk to yourself," he said, not assigning, however, so great an importance to personal danger as men do in those careful days. As he spoke, he took Louis by the arm and by a gesture invited him to precede him somewhat, with a suggestion of comradely familiarity starting in one usually so cold and formal as Antoine Sebastian, the dancing-master of the Platenburg.

"I was writing to Charles," said Desire to d'Arragon when they reached the drawing-room, and crossing to her own table she set the papers in order above. Those consisted of a number of letters from her husband, read and re-read, it would appear. And the answer to him, a clean sheet of paper bearing only the date and address, lay beneath her hand.

"The courier leaves this evening," she said, with a queer ring of anxiety in her voice, as if she feared that for some reason or another she ran the risk of failing to despatch her letter. She glanced at the clock, and stood, pen in hand, thinking of what she should write.

"May I enclose a line?" asked Louis. "It is not wise, perhaps, for me to address to him a letter—since I am on the other side. It is a small matter of a heritage which he and I divide. I have placed some money in a Dantzig bank for him. He may require it when he returns."

Then you do not correspond with Charles?" said Mathilde, clearing a space for him on the larger table, and setting before him ink and pen and paper.

"Thank you, mademoiselle," he said, glancing at her, with that light of interest in his dark eyes which she had ignited once before by a question on the only occasion that they had met. He seemed to detect that she was more interested in him than her indifferent manner would appear to indicate. "No, I am a bad correspondent. If Charles and I, in our present circumstances, were to write to each other, it could only lead to intrigue, for which I have no taste and Charles no capacity."

"You seem to hint that Charles might have such a taste then," she said, with her quiet smile, as she moved away, leaving him to write.

"Charles has probably found out by this time," he answered, with the bluntness which he claimed as a prerogative of his calling and nation, "that a soldier of Napoleon's who intrigues with the enemy, rather than one who merely fights."

He took up his pen and wrote with the absorption of one who has but little time and knows exactly what to say. By chance he glanced toward Desire, who sat at her own table near the window. She was stroking her cheek with the feather of her pen, looking with languid eyes at the blank paper before her. Each time d'Arragon dipped his pen he glanced at her, watching her. And Mathilde, with her needle-work, watched them both.

CHAPTER XII.

From Berodino.

However we brave it out, we men are a little tired.

War is the breeding of kings. Napoleon, the arch-ambler, from day to day saw, where men, leading cards or dice and the money to buy either, will yet play a game of chance with the tins of fate that God gave them for another purpose—Napoleon had dealt a hand with every hand in Europe before he met for the second time that northern adversary of cool blood, who knew the waiting game.

It is only where the stakes are small that the merely players, idly lingering in the rear, can return in safety to certain points—the trick trumped or that chance misadventure, playing the game over again. But when the stakes are great, the shadows of the game, and all men's thoughts fly to speculation on the future. How will the loser meet his loss? What use will the winner make of his gain?

The results of the Russian campaign were so stupendous to history that the historians of the day, in their bewilderment, sought rather to preserve these than the details of the war. "Thus the student of today, in piecing together an impression of bygone times, will inevitably find portions of the picture missing. As a matter of fact, no one can say for certain whether Alexander greatly led Napoleon onward to Moscow or was himself driven thither in confusion by the conqueror.

A hundred years ago celebrated generals fought a great deal more and talked much less than they do today. There were then no banners to be opened for anniversary dinners to be attended. Neither did the shorthand writer find a ready welcome in high places. Thus a successful warrior who had carried out a campaign, or an insignificant campaigner, was not compelled to make modest speeches about himself for the rest of his life.

Napoleon's generals were scarcely social lights. Ney, the hero of the retreat, the bravest of the brave, was a rough man who ate horse-flesh without troubling to cook it. Hap, whose dogged defence of an abandoned city without compare in the story of the war, had the manners and the mind of a peasant. These gentlemen dealt more in deeds than in words. They had not much to say for themselves.

As for the Russians, Russia remains at this time the one European country unshaken and unharmed by Napoleon's campaign. These prominent men have a quiet tongue. A hundred years ago Russians did great deeds and the rest was silence. Neither Kutusov nor Alexander ever stated clearly whether the retreat of Moscow was intentional or unavoidable; and these are the only men who knew. Perhaps Napoleon knew; at all events, he thought he did, or pretended to think it long afterward at St. Helena; for Napoleon the Great was a consummate liar.

He that is to say, the Russian retreat, and the French advanced farther and farther from their base. It was a great army—the greater even. For Napoleon had eight monarchs serving with the eagles; generals innumerable, many of them immortal. Davoust, the greatest strategist; Prince Eugene, the incomparable lieutenant; Ney, the fearless; four hundred thousand men. And they carried with them only twenty days' provisions.

They had marched from the Vistula, full of shipping, across the Pregel, loaded with stores, to the Nieman, where there was no navigation. Dantzig, behind them, was a Gibraltar of the north—was stored with provisions enough for the whole army. But there was no transport for the roads of Lithuania were unsuitable for the heavy carts provided.

The country across the Nieman could

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scarcely sustain its own sparse population, and had nothing to spare for an invading army. That had once been Poland, and was now inimical to Russia; but Russia did not care, and the friendship of Lithuania was like many human friendships which we make sacrifices to preserve—not worth having.

All the while the Russians retreated, and, stranger still, the French followed them, eking out their twenty days' provisions.

"I will make them fight a big battle, and beat them," said Napoleon; "and then the emperor will use for peace."

But Barclay de Tolly continued to run away from that great battle. Then came the news that Barclay had been deposed; that Kutusov was coming from the south to take command. It was true enough; and Barclay cheerfully served in a subordinate position to the new chief. September brought great hopes of a battle, for Kutusov seemed to retreat with less dispatch, like a man choosing his ground—Kutusov, that master of the waiting game.

Early in September, Murat, the impetuous leader of the pursuit, complained to Napoleon that a cavalry charge had not been made.

"The horses have no patriotism," he replied. "The men will fight on empty stomachs, but not the horses."

An ominous reply at the beginning of a campaign, while communications were still open.

At last, within a few days' march of Moscow, Kutusov made a stand. At last the great battle was imminent, after a hundred false alarms, after many disappointed hopes. The country had been left empty. The Russian, running in a wider valley than many of the rivers, which are merely great ditches, seemed to be in a position to choose his ground—Kutusov, that master of the waiting game.

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RAILWAY CASH

A Lot Of It Is Loaned On Call On

Wall Street—Over \$11,000,000 Last Week.

(Wall Street Journal, Monday.)

Last week one banking house loaned on call in Wall street over \$11,000,000 of money for the interest of the market. It is estimated by a railway chairman that there is over \$100,000,000 of railway money loaned on call in Chicago and New York at the present time.

The loaning of railway money on call in Wall street is a usual practice. Rock Island, Canadian Pacific, Great Northern, Union Pacific and Pennsylvania are at times very heavy lenders in the street. When these companies sell bonds, unless the proceeds are to be used immediately, it is not unusual for the interest of the market of the professional lenders to keep the interest on the securities sold. During the tight money period two years ago the Canadian Pacific's loans in Wall street were reported to average as heavy as the combined loans of any other heavy lender in the street. The Canadian road being an active building corporation, and a recent loan of \$10,000,000, generally has a heavy account to keep.

These loans are heavy at the present time, Charles never finished the letter, for the rates are below the 1 per cent, 5 per cent, 10 per cent, and 15 per cent. The money, the money is not usually put into call in Chicago and New York at the present time.

Such amount of the railway money as is loaned on call is of course used by the men in loans at all times. The railways are a monetary power. A hundred million is merely one of the cash reserves that come into play when the call money rates take to soaring.

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(To be Continued.)

A STOCK MARKET VIEW

Las Week's Transactions in New York Reviewed—The Money Situation a Puzzle But Should Prove a Brake on Speculation.

Robert Goodbody & Co. of New York in their weekly market letter, say given to the market has been very dear and yet the market has been very strong. As a result of the manipulated stock, as it seems as if the buyers were not really interested in the market, but were merely speculating on the price of the stock.

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