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RYRIE BROS.,

Toronto.

THE COURIER OF THE CZAR

By Jules Verne

Seen from a certain distance, from the top of the mountain which runs along the great Siberian route at a distance of some twenty versts, with its domes and belfries, its graceful spires, like those of minarets, its spiral domes, it has a somewhat oriental appearance. But that oriental appearance vanishes from the eyes of the traveler from the oment he enters the town. The town, half Ryzantine, half Chinese, becomes at once European by its macadamized streets, bordered with sidewalks, with their rows of gigantic birch trees, by its brick and wooden houses, some of which have several stories, by its many splendid equipages-in fine, by the whole body of its inhabitants being very advanced in the progress of civilization, and to which the latest fashions of Paris are not at all strangers.

At that epoch Irkutsk, refuge for the Siberians of the province, was crowded. It abounded in resources of every kind. Irkutsk is the emporium for all that countless merchandise which is exchanged between China, central Asia and Europe. They did not fear to draw there, the peasants from the valley of the Angara, the Mongols-Khalkas, people from Toungouze and Bouret, and to allow the wilderness to stretch out between the invaders and

Irkutsk is the residence of the governor general of eastern Siberia. Under him is a civil governor, in whose hands is concentrated the administration of the province, a head of the police, who has a great deal to do in a town where exiles abound, and lastly a mayor, one of the leading merchants, an important personage by his immense fortune and by the influence which he has over his fellow citizens.

The garrison of Irkutsk was then composed of a regiment of foot Cossacks, which numbered about 2,000 men, a body of foot gendarmes, who wore the helmet and blue uniforms striped with silver.

Besides, it is known that on account of particular circumstances the brother of the czar had been shut up in the town since the commencement of the invasion.

That situation must be given in de-

It was a journey of political importance that had led the grand duke into those distant provinces of eastern Asia. The grand duke, after having visited the principal cities of Siberia, traveling in military rather than princely style, without any retinue, escorted by a detachment of Cossacks, had go as far as the countries beyond the Balkan mountains. Nicholaevsk, the last Russian town which is situated on the shores of the sea of Okhotsk, had been

honored by his visit. Having reached the boundaries of the immense Muscovite empire, the grand duke was returning to Irkutsk, from whence he would soon return to Europe, when the news reached him of that invasion, which was as sudden as it was menacing. He hastened to reenter the capital, but when he arrived there communication with Russia had been cut off. He still received a few telgrams from St. Petersburg and Moscow. He could even answer them. Afterward the wire was cut under the circumstances already known to the

Irkutsk was isolated from the rest of the world.

The grand duke could do nothing but organize resistance, a thing which he did with that firmness and coolness of which he had given under other circumstances incontestable proofs.

News of the taking of Ichim, Omsk, of Tomsk, came successively to Irkutsk. They could not count on being soon relieved, but they must prevent at all price the occupation of the capital of Siberia. The few troops scattered over the province of Amur and

those in the government of Irkutsk could not arrive in sufficient numbers to arrest the Tartar columns. Besides, since Irkutsk could not possibly escape being invested, it was of the utmost importance to put the town in a posi-

tion to sustain a siege of some length. Those works were begun on the day on which Tomsk fell into the hands of the Tartars. At the same time as that last news the grand duke learned that the emir of Bokhara and the allied khans were directing the movement in person, but what he did not know was that the lieutenant of those barbarous chiefs was Ivan Ogareff, a Russian offi-

cer whom he himseff had cashiered. From the first, as has been seen, the inhabitants of the province of Irkutsk had been ordered to abandon the towns and villages. Those who did not seek refuge in the capital were compelled to retire beyond Lake Baikal, to where the invasion would not likely extend its ravages. The crops of corn and forage were requisitioned for the town, and that last rampart of Russian power in the extreme east was prepared to re-

sist for some time.

Irkutsk, founded in 1611, is situated at the confluence of the Irkut and the Angara, on the right bank of the river. Two wooden bridges, built on piles and so arranged as to open the whole width of the river for the necessities of navigation, joined the town with its eut-skirts which extended along the left bank. The outskirts were abandoned, the bridges destroyed. The passage of

tne Angara, which was very wide at that place, would not have been possi-ble under the fire of the besieged. But the river could be crossed either above or below the town, and as a conse-

It was, then, in works of fortification that the hands were first employed. They worked day and night. The grand duke found a spirited population in supplying that need, and afterward he found them most brave in its defense. Soldiers, merchants, exiles, peasants, all devoted themselves to the common safety. Eight days before the Tartars had appeared on the Angara ramparts of earth had been raised. A moat, flooded with the waters of the Angara, had been dug between the inner and outer wall of the fortification. The city could no longer be taken by a sudden assault. It must be invested and besieged.

The third Tartar column-that which had ascended the valley of the Yenisei-appeared in sight of Irkutsk on the 24th of September. It immediately occupied the abandoned outskirts, of which the very houses had been destroyed in order not to impede the action of the archduke's artillery, which

was unfortunately very insufficient. The Tartars organized themselves while waiting the arrival of the two cure. other columns which were commanded by the emir and his allies.

The junction of these divers corps took place on the 25th of September at the camp of Angara, and all the army, except the garrisons left in the principal conquered towns, was concentrated under the orders of Feofar-Khan.

The passage of the Angara having body of troops crossed at some versts down the river on some bridges of boats which had been established for that purpose. The grand duke did not attempt to oppose that passage. He could only have harassed them without preventing it, not having any fieldpieces at his disposal, and this is the reason he remained cooped up in Ir-

Ivan Ogareff, a clever engineer, was certainly able to direct the operations of a regular siege, but he had not the material to carry forward his operations quickly. So he had hoped to surprise Irkutsk, the end of all his efforts. One can see that things had turned On the one hand, the march of the Tartar army delayed by the battle of of \$33,000 a week, or nearly Tomsk; on the other, the rapidity with | every day till the books close which the works of defense had been carried on by the grand duke. For these two reasons his projects had failed. He found himself therefore under the necessity of carrying on a regular

Meanwhile by his advice the emir attempted twice to take the town at the price of a great sacrifice of men. He threw the soldiers against the earthworks which seemed to present some weak points, but the two assaults were repelled with the greatest courage. The grand duke and his officers did not spare themselves on that occasion. They led the civil population to the ramparts. Civilians and mujiks did their duty remarkably well. At the second assault the Tartars had succeeded in forcing one of the gates of the town. A fight took place at the be ginning of the principal street, the Bolchaia, which is two versts in length and terminates at the banks of the Angara. But the Cossacks, the gendarmes and the citizens opposed to them a strong resistance, and the Tartars had to return to their positions.

To be Continued.

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peptic, nervous, weak or rundown, you need the best medicine that medical science can suggest. We strongly recommend Paine's Celery Compound for your troubles. It has cured others afflicted as you are.; it cannot fail in your case. We sell the kind that your case. We sell the kind that makes sick people well. J. W. McLaren, Druggist, Chatham,

Mr. Skimp — "What would you charge to paint my portrait full front-view?" Artist—"Three hundred dollars." Mr. Skimp—"Dear me! Then what would you charge of a three-quarters view?"

Some things, which we are accustomed to look upon as unaccountable misfortunes, are sent into our lives simply to clear the way for better things than we have ever known be-

The upwa 1 path is seldom smooth.

PMSVISH CHILDREN.

Make the Mother's Life Une of Jure and Worry-How to Keep Buby nealthy and mappy.

common diseases of infancy, and it is also one of the most serious, for unless it is controlled, the constitution will be weakened, other diseases will find easy lodgement, and the child's whole ruture will be impossible. perilled. At the first sign of indi-gestion, or any trouble of the stom-ach or bowels, Baby's Own Tablets should be administered. They act with promptness and perfect safety in strengthening the stomach and re-moving the offending material. Mrs. W. C. Tefft, Markham, says:—"Up to the time my baby was a month old, he was a perfectly healthy child, then his stomach began to trouble him. He looked pinched and quence Irkutsk was in danger of being starved; his tongue was coated and attacked on the east side, which no his breath offensive. He vomited curdled milk, and was also consti-pated. After taking his food he would scream with pain, and al-though he seemed always hungry, his food did him no good. He was so restless and sleepless that I was almost worn out. Medicine seemed to do him no good until we gave Baby's Own Tablets. him the Tablets and they helped him almost immediately, and in a very short time he began to gain in weight, and is now rosy and heal-thy. Baby's Own Tablets cured my baby when nothing else helped him, and I would not be without them in the house." This is the only medicine for lit-

tle ones that gives an absolute guarantee of purity. Milton L. Hersey, M. C., Sc., (McGill) one of the best known analysts in America, says:— "I have made a careful chemical analysis of Baby's Own Tablets. My analysis has proved that the Tablets contain absolutely no opiate or narcotic; that they can be given with perfect safety to the youngest infant, and that they are a safe and effective medicine for the troubles they are indicated to relieve and

Such an endorsement, from high an authority, stamps Baby's Own Tablets as the safest, the surest and the most reliable medicine for the ills of children.

Baby's Own Tablets are good for children of all ages. They reduce fever, cure colic, prevent and cure indigestion and constipation, check diarrhoea, sweeten the stomach, albeen regarded by Ivan Ogareff as im-practicable before Irkutsk, a strong cutting of teeth, and promote sound, healthy sleep. Guaranteed to contain no opiate. Crushed to a powder or dissolved in water, they can be given with absolute safety to the youngest infant. Sold by all dealers at 25 cents a box, or sent post-paid on receipt of price, by address-ing the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

A BIG SUM NEEDED.

Toronto, Jan. 23 .- Rev. Dr. Warden Presbyterian Church schemes for the year ending February 28. There has been \$92,050 subscribed, but it is estimated that the amount required will be \$291,950, making a requisite out otherwise than he had reckoned. of \$198,950 within the next six weeks, to end the year without debt ,upwards

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ade good women to

-Fortify the enriching the blood-ke Hood's Sarsaparby purifying an in other words, illa.

District Dashes

Rienheim is forming a Board of

Married — At Blenheim, Mr. G. Thompson, to Mrs. H. Ellwood, both of Highgate.

Mrs. H. A. Thomson visited Chat-ham friends last week. - Ridgetown

There passed away at Florence on January 12 one of the pioneers of the district, in the person of William Walker, aged 80 years and 18 days.

Reeve Campbell, of Aldborough, has

been served with a notice of action to disqualify him, entered by ex-Reeve Tolmie, on the grounds of irregular A Merlin man has a Poland China

Tamworth sow that has netted him \$175 since last June in hogs sold be-sides retaining two for his own pri-

William Grew, of Chatham Town-ship, and Elizabeth Lane, of Blenheim, were married here on Tuesday by Rev. Mr. Brownlee of the church of the Advent .- Ridgetown Dominion

McGuigan Bros., of Cedar Springs on Tuesday delivered a herd of fat cattle in town for an eastern buyer The herd comprissing sixteen animals whose aggregate w. ght was 19,250 pounds

Mr. Cyrus Craig, of Ridley, has purchased the 100 acre farm of Mrs. Cyrus Bell, on Talbot street, paying \$1,500. He also sold fifty acres of his farm at Ridley to his brother, W.

Members of the Windsor avenue Methodist church, Windsor, are circulating a petition, which they will present to Rev. James Livingstone, asking him to reconsider his decision to go to Petrolea.

A number of young friends met at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. James Scane, Ridge Road, Monday evening and made Mr. Scane a presentation, the occasion being his 77th birthday.

—Ridgetown Plaindealer.

Mrs. Daniel Smith was brought to the home of her father, Mr. Alex. Ainslie, on Thursday from Grace Hospita!, Detroit. Mrs. Smith underwent an operation for cancer, and now lies in a critical condition.— Comber Herald.

A Masonic lodge of instruction will be held in Chatham on the 27th day of January and another at Leamington about the 25th of February, which Blenheim lodge will exemplify the first degree, Comber lodge the second degree and Past D. D. G. M's

The house of Benj. Tiffin, Thames ville ,was totally destroyed by fire Saturday while Mr. Tiffin and wife were away. The fire originated from one of the stoves. The town fire appliances were useless, as the house about \$600; no insurance.

Mr. A. S. Paterson, of Gosfield man, Mr. A. E. Paterson, died at his home on Friday night, aged 64 years. Deceased has been in poor health for some time. He leaves a grown up family. The funeral took place on Sunday.-Comber Herald.

A six-year-old son of Jos. Minchen, Tilbury East, had a narrow escape Saturday at Jos. Davidson's, Middle Road. While playing there he was accidentally thrown to his face, and a load of wood ran over his shoulder, and strange to say, the lad appeared but little injured and is expected to be all right in a day or two.-Tilbury

Mr. Lewis, the man with the musi cal heart, was in town yesterday, calling on the local physicians and incidentally allowing them to examine him in consideration of a fee. How-ever, the fee in this case was paid by doctors. Quite a change. Mr. Lewis is considered by the physicians to be one of the greatest human curiosities that they have heard of. He has travelled all over the United States and is now on his way through Canada. -Ridgetown Standard.

Mr. Donald Ferguson, 10th concession, died on Monday last, after an illness of about two years. Deceased, who was 69 years of age, was one of the best known and most highly respected men in the Township of Howard, where he lived all his was a Presbyterian in religion and has been an elder in the church here for several years. In politics he was Reformer. a staunch Reformer. Besides a widow, he leaves two sons, Hugh, accountant in the Traders' Bank, and Duncan, at home. The funeral took place yesterday afternoon, services be ing conducted by Rev. Dr. Munro at the house, and interment in Greenwood cemetery .- Ridgetown Stand

Last Wednesday evening a pleasant event took place at the residence of Richard Young, Esq., 6th concession, Harwich, when Dora, his eldest daugh ter, was united in marriage to Mr. Sydney E. Cooper, of Harwich, the Rev. Dr. Jamieson officiating. Miss and Mr. C. J. Ross, of Chatham, per-formed the part of groomsman. The ceremony was conducted under a beautiful arch, tastefully decorated At the close of a bountiful repast a toast of the bride was proposed, and many happy after dinner speeches were made. It is pleasant to know that the young couple will continue to reside in the community, where both are so deservedly popular.

There is no sorrow, Lord, too light To bring in prayer to thee; There is no anxious care too slight To wake thy sympathy.

—Jane Crewdson. What is

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ties we have set up on the floor. Our advice to men is to bring the ladies with them when they select a new vehicle. They will know what best suits the case.

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