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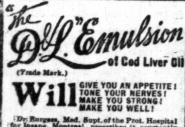


teest, but live in hopes no serious results will follow. Have you any of the follow-ing symptoms? Sore Throat, Ulcers of the Tongue or in the Mouth, Hair Falling Out, Aching Pains, Itchiness of the Skin, Sores or Blotches on the Body, Eyes Red and Smart, Dyspeptic Stomach, Sexual Weakness - indications of the second tage. Don't trust to luck. Don't ruit nd potash-which only st presses the symptoms for a time, only to break-out again, when happy in domestic Robert Don't let quacks experiment on you. Gar New Method Treatment is guaranteed to cure you. Our guarantees are backed by bank bonds, that the discount of the state of t will never return. Thousands ents have been already cured by Method Treatment for over twe med freatment for over twen. No experiment, no risk—not p.," but a positive cure. The sessolicited. We treat and cu Debility. Sexual Weaknes and Pelson, Stricture, Varicoceleration of Bladder Diseases, and a peculiar to men and women.

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THE COURIER OF THE CZAR By Jules Verne

It was Lake Baikal.

Lake Baikal is situated at a height of 1,700 feet above the level of the sea. Its length it about 900 versts, its breadth about a hundred. Its depth is unknown, Mme. de Bourboulon tells us that the sailors say that it wishes to be called "Mrs. Sea." If one calls it "Mr. Lake," it at once is in a rage. Anyhow, according to a Russian legend. a Russian is never drowned there.

This immense basin of fresh water, fed by more than 300 rivers, is embosomed in a magnificent circle of volcanic mountains. It has no other outlet but the Angara, which, after having passed Irkutsk, throws itself into the Yenisei a little above the town of Yeniseisk.

The first days of October had come. The sun now sank below the horizon at 5 o'clock, and the long nights allowed the temperature to fall to zero in the thermometers. The first snow, which was to remain until summer, already whitened the neighboring heights. During the Siberian winter this interior sea, with its ice several feet thick, is dotted with trains of couriers and cara-

It was at the southwest point of the lake that Michael Strogoff had just arrived, carrying Nadia, whose whole life, so to speak, was concentrated in her eyes. What could they both expect in this wild part of the province but to die there of want and destitution? And yet how many still remained to be made of those 6,000 versts that the courier of the czar should attain his end? Only sixty versts along the shore of the lake as far as the mouth of the river Angara, and eighty versts from the mouth of the Angara to Irkutskin all a hundred and forty versts, say a three days' journey for a strong and vigorous man even on foot.

Some fifty people found themselves assembled at the corner which forms ably hope to safely accomplish it. the southwest point of the lake. Nadia first perceived this group when

Michael Strogoff, carrying her in his arms, came out from the defile of the mountains.

"Stop!" she cried. "The Tartars! The Tartars!" The young girl feared for an instant

that it was nothing else than a detachment of Tartars sent to scour the shores of Lake Baikal, in which case flight would be cut off for both. But Nadia was soon reassured on

"They are Russians!" she cried. And after this last effort her eyelids closed, and her head fell down on the breast of Michael Strogoff.

But they had been perceived, and some of those Russians, running up to them, led the billed man and the young girl to the border of a little beach to which was moored a raft. The raft was about to depart

These Russians were fugitives of various conditions whom a common interest had gathered together on this point of the Balkal

Driven back by the Tartar scouts. they sought to take refuge in Irkutsk. and, not being able to reach that place by land, since the invaders had taken up position on both banks of the Angura, they hoped to gain it by descending the river which runs through the town. The fugitives had their raft fully prepared for the voyage, and had Michael Strogoff been even a few hours later he would have found the place desert-

Now, he was welcomed and bidden to go upon the raft at once, as its slow motion rendered it advisable to lose no time in setting out.

Their project made the heart of Michael Strogoff leap for joy. He could now play his last chance. But he had the strength to dissemble, wishing to preserve more strictly than ever his

The plan of the fugitives was very simple. A current of the Baikal skirts the higher shore of the lake as far as the mouth of _ 'e Angara. It is this current whiel - sey counted upon making use of to early reach the outlet of Baikal. From this point to Irkutsk the rapid waters of the river would draw them along at a speed of ten or twelve versts the hour. In a day and a half they ought to be in sight of the town. Every means for embarking was

wanting at that place. They had to supply this want. raft, or, rather, a float of wood, like those which generally float on the Siberian rivers had been constructed. A forest of pine, which towered along the shore, had furnished the floating material. The trunks, lashed together with willow branches, formed a plat-

would have easily found room. It was on this raft that Michael Strogoff and Nadia were carried. The young girl was once more herself. They gave to her some nourishment, as also to her companion. Then, lying down on a bed of leaves, she immediately fel'

form on which a hundred persons

into a sound sleep. To those who interrogated him Mi-chael Strogon said nothing concerning the events which had occurred at Tomss. He gave himself out as an inhabitant of Krasnolarsk who had not been able to reach Irkutsk before the troops of the emir had arrived on the left bank of the Dinka, and he added that very likely the main body of the Tartars had taken up their po fore the capital of Siberia. Even among

it was almost as important to preserve secrecy as to his mission as if

among enemies. One never knows what ears are listening when the tongue speaks. The friend of today may be the foe of tomorrow, and even the firm friend, if indiscreet, is more to be dreaded than the known enemy.

There was not, therefore, an instant to lose. Besides, the frost became more and more keen. The temperature during the night fell far below zero. Some pieces of ice had already formed on the surface of the Baikal. If the raft could easily make its way on the lake, it would not be the same between the banks of the Angara in case those pieces of ice should come to impede its

Therefore for all these reasons it was necessary that the fugitives should start without delay.

At 8 o'clock at night the moorings were unfastened, and under the action of the current the raft followed the lake shore.

Long poles, handled by robust mu-jiks, sufficed to guide it. An old sailor of the Baikal bad taken command of the raft. He was a man of sixty, all tanned with the breezes of the lake. A white and very thick beard descended on his breast. He had on his head a fur hat. Of a grave and austere appearance, his wide and long riding coat, drawn tight at the belt, hanging down to his heels, this silent old man, sitting at the stern, commanded by gesture and did not speak ten words in

Besides, the whole management consisted in keeping the raft in the cur-rent which ran along the shore, without allowing it to go far out into the Although the journey was not with-

out danger, the voyagers might reason-At any rate they had become accustomed to both hardship and danger. No fate could be worse than the one

that awaited them if they remained. So despite the past and present they were many hopeful, almost happy hearts on board that rude craft that floated along so lazily.

CHAPTER XVI.



special incident marked this journey on the lake. Nadia had remained in a profound stupor. Sleep had only over powered Michael Strogoff at long intervals, and

still his thoughts were ever watching over her.

At daybreak the raft, retarded by a somewhat strong breeze which was blowing against the action of the current, was still forty versts from the mouth of the Angara. Most likely they would not be able to reach it before a or 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

This was not an inconvenience; rather the contrary, for the fugitives would then descend the river during the night. and the darkness would favor their arrival at Irkutsk.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the mouth of the Angara was signaled by the old mariner between the high granite rocks of the coast. One could perceive on the right bank the little port of Livenitchnaia, its church, its few houses built on the steep. But there was a grave circumstance

The first floating ice that had come from the east was already forming between the banks of the Angara and hence descending toward Irkutsk.

However, their number could not as yet be great enough to obstruct the river nor the cold severe enough to unite them into one mass.

The raft arrived at the little port and stopped there for a short time. The old mariner had decided to put into port for an hour in order to make some indispensable repairs. The trunks, having become loose, threatened to sepa rate from one another, and it was of great importance to rebind them more firmly together that they might resist the current of the Angara, which is ware rapid

To be Continuel.

Uncertain Age. Oldbeau (growing romantic) - Ah, how I wish I had lived in the knightly days of old! Miss Youngthing (growing weary)-

Didn't you? Unaccountable. My wife is getting wrinkles fast, Which seems very queer to me, For she hasn't had a birthday Since eighteen ninety-three,

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And he hollers ere he's hurt

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