

Old Folks' Backache.



When people get past the meridian of life they are liable to be troubled more or less with kidney complaint. Pains and aches, stiffness and sore-

ness of the back, difficulty in urination and frequent rising at night are some of the troubles that seriously afflict the old.

There is no remedy brings such relief and comfort to those advanced in life as Dr. Pitcher's Backache Kidney Tablets. They soothe all irritation, tone up and invigorate the urinary organs, clear away all sediment, take the ache and pain out of the back and permit undisturbed rest at night.

SPRIGHTLY AT 69.

Mrs. Geo. Boutin, Harrington Street, Arrprior, Ont., says: "I have had so much benefit from using Dr. Pitcher's Backache Kidney Tablets that I do not hesitate to recommend them. Since I used them I am free from that constant backache that quite unnerved me and robbed me of all energy. My kidneys have been so invigorated that there now remains no annoyance or inconvenience from the secretions. I wish you could see my father. He is sixty-nine years of age and before using Pitcher's Kidney Tablets suffered acutely from rheumatism in his back. Now he is sprightly and nimble as a young man. He says never anything before did him as much good as Pitcher's Tablets. I am confident that those who have failed heretofore to obtain any relief from back aches and sluggish kidneys will find themselves well rewarded by using Dr. Pitcher's Backache Kidney Tablets. Dr. Pitcher's Backache Kidney Tablets are 50c a box, at all druggists or by mail, from Dr. Zina Pitcher Co., Toronto, Ont."

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Don't let your life be drained away, which weakens the intellect as well as the body. There is no room in this world for mental, physical or sexual decay. Our New Method Treatment will stop all Unnatural Losses, Purify the Blood, Strengthen the Nerves, Restore Vitality, and make a man of you. If you are in trouble, call and consult us. Consultation is Free. We treat and cure Drains, Blood Diseases, Varicose, Stricture, Gonorrhea, Discharges, Gleet, Kidney and Bladder Diseases. No cutting or operation. No detention from business. Everything confidential. Consultation Free. Books Free. Question Blank Free for Home Treatment.

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THE COURIER OF THE CZAR

By Jules Verne

On that day the sun, which had risen at twenty minutes past 6, had set at 5-40. Twilight would still have to struggle with night for two hours. Then space would be filled with thick darkness, for heavy clouds hung still in the air, and the moon would not appear. This profound obscurity would favor more completely the plans of Ivan Ogareff.

Already, for some days, an extremely keen frost had come as a prelude to the rigors of the Siberian winter, and on that night the cold was still more piercing. The soldiers posted on the right bank of the Angara, being forced to hide their presence, had not kindled any fires. They therefore suffered dreadfully from great lowering of the temperature. At some feet below them the ice blocks floated past, following the current of the river.

During all that day they had seen them in close ranks floating rapidly between the two banks. That circumstance, observed by the grand duke and his officers, had been considered as fortunate. It was evident that if the bed of the river became obstructed the passage of it would become altogether impracticable.

The Tartars would not be able to manage either rafts or boats. As to attempting to cross the river over the blocks of ice when the cold should have joined them, that was not possible. The field, newly commented, would not have been strong enough for the passage over it of an attacking column.

But Ivan Ogareff did not regret that circumstance, although it appeared favorable to the defenders of Irkutsk, for the traitor knew well that the Tartars were not seeking to cross the Angara and that at least on that side the attempt would only be a feint. Nevertheless toward 10 o'clock at night the state of the river visibly changed, to the extreme surprise of the besieged, and now to their disadvantage. The passage, up to that time impracticable, suddenly became possible. The bed of the Angara soon became free. The floating ice, which for some days had come down the river in great quantities, disappeared, and very little could be seen between the two banks.

The Russian officers, who had noticed this change in the state of the river, made it known to the grand duke. Besides, it was explained in this way that at some narrow portion of the Angara the floating ice had accumulated and found a barrier. We know that such was the case. The passage of the Angara was therefore open to the besiegers; hence the necessity for the Russians to watch with greater attention than ever.

In the camp of the Angara there was plenty of agitation, as was proved by the lights constantly flitting about. At a vast up above, as also down below the point where the fortification slopes down to the river, there was a dull murmur, which proved that the Tartars were on foot, waiting for some signal. Again an hour passed by. Nothing new.

Two o'clock in the morning was about to strike from the clock tower of the cathedral of Irkutsk and no movement had taken place to disclose the hostile intentions of the besiegers. The grand duke and his officers began to ask themselves if they had not been led into error, if it had really entered into the plan of the Tartars to attempt to surprise the town.

The preceding nights had not by any means been so calm. Firing had been kept up from the advanced posts, and shells had hissed through the air, and this time there was nothing of the kind. The grand duke, General Voronoff, their aids-de-camp, waited therefore, ready to give their orders according to the circumstances.

It has been stated that Ivan Ogareff occupied a room in the palace. It was a pretty large room, situated on the ground floor, and its windows opened out upon a side terrace. One need only step a few paces on this terrace to overlook the course of the Angara. A profound darkness reigned in that room. Ivan Ogareff, standing near a window, was waiting for the hour of action to arrive. Evidently the signal could only come from him. Once this signal was given, when most of the defenders of Irkutsk should have been called to the points openly attacked, his plan was to leave the palace and to go and accomplish his work. He waited then in the dark, like a tiger ready to spring upon its prey.

Meanwhile, some minutes before 2 o'clock, the grand duke asked that Michael Strogoff—it was the only name he could give to Ivan Ogareff—should be brought to him. An aid-de-camp came to his room, the door of which was closed. He called him, Ivan Ogareff, motionless near the window and invisible in the darkness, took good care not to answer. The grand duke was then informed that the courier of the czar was not at that moment in the palace.

Two o'clock struck. It was the moment that action had been agreed on with the Tartars, who were ready for the assault. Ivan Ogareff opened the window of his room and placed himself at the north angle of the side terrace. Below him in the shade flowed the waters of the Angara, which roared as

they broke against the piles of the buttresses.

Ivan Ogareff drew a flint from his pocket and lit with it a piece of cotton wool impregnated with priming powder, which he threw into the river. It was by the order of Ivan Ogareff that torrents of mineral oil had been cast on the surface of the Angara. Springs of naphtha had been discovered above Irkutsk on the right bank, between the village of Poshkavsk and the town.

Ivan Ogareff had resolved to employ this terrible means for setting fire to Irkutsk. He therefore made use of the immense reservoir which contained the combustible liquid. He had only to send a few canals to draw in streams into the river. These he had made that very night, some hours before. The cotton wool had been cast on the waters of the Angara. In an instant, as if the current had been made of alcohol, all the river became a mass of flames, up and down the stream, with the rapidity of electricity. Volumes of blue flames covered the whole surface of the river and shot far up into the sky.

The few blocks of ice that came floating down the river, being seized by the burning liquid, melted like wax on the surface of a furnace, and the water, sent off as vapor, rose hissing to the clouds. At that very moment the firing began at the north and at the south of the town. The batteries of the camp of the Angara threw an uninterrupted volley of shot and shell. Many thousand Tartars rushed to the assault of the ramparts. The houses along the high banks, constructed of wood, took fire in every direction. An immense light dissipated the shades of night.

"At last!" said Ivan Ogareff. And he had good reason to applaud. The diversion which he had planned was terrible. The defenders saw themselves placed between the back of the Tartars and the flames of the house conflagration. The houses, and every abode of man of the population hastened to the points attacked and to the houses which were being devoured by the fire, which was threatening to communicate itself to the whole city.

The Belchinsk gnat was almost free. It was with difficulty that any defenders had been left there. Ivan Ogareff re-entered his room, then brilliantly lit up by the flames from the Angara that overtopped the balustrades of the ramparts. Then he prepared to leave it. But scarcely had he opened the door when a woman rushed into the room, with her garments dripping wet, her hair in disorder.

"Sangarre!" cried Ivan Ogareff in the first moment of surprise and not imagining that it could be any other woman than the gypsy.

It was not Sangarre; it was Nadia. At the moment when, seeking refuge on the block of ice, the young girl had uttered that cry when she saw the fire spread over the current of the Angara, Michael Strogoff had seized her in his arms, and he had dived with her to seek even in the depths of the river a shelter from the flames. After having swum under the waters Michael Strogoff had, fortunately put his foot on ground at the quay, and he had Nadia still safe with him.

Michael Strogoff was touching at last his goal. He was at Irkutsk. "To the palace of the governor!" said he to Nadia. In less than ten minutes afterward, both arrived at the entrance to that palace, the massive stone walls of which were being licked by the long flames from the Angara, without, however, their being able to set the structure on fire. Beyond, the houses on the bank were all in flames.

Michael Strogoff and Nadia entered without difficulty into that palace, which was open for all. In the midst of the general confusion no one noticed them, although their clothes were dripping wet. A crowd of officers came for orders, and soldiers running to execute them blocked up the grand salon on the ground floor.

There Michael Strogoff and the young girl, in the midst of so great a crowd, found themselves separated from each other. Nadia, distracted, ran along the lower rooms, called her companion and asked to be led before the grand duke. A door leading into a room that was inundated with light opened itself before her. She entered, and she found herself unexpectedly face to face with him whom she had seen at Tomsk, in the presence of that man whose cursed hand an instant later would have delivered up the city.

"Ivan Ogareff!" cried she. On hearing his name pronounced the miserable wretch trembled. His true name being once known, all his plans would be ruined. He had only one thing to do—to kill the being, whoever it might be, who had just pronounced it. Ivan Ogareff threw himself on Nadia, but the young girl, with a knife in her hand, placed her back to the wall, resolved to defend herself.

"Ivan Ogareff!" cried again Nadia, knowing that that detested name would bring succor to her. "Ah, you shall be silent!" said the traitor.

To be Continued.

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