

A TERRIBLE NIGHT.

From the French of Bénédic de Révoil.

IN TWO PARTS.

I.

A Russian gentleman and myself were conversing, some months past, at a ball of the Hôtel-de-Ville, in the embrasure of a window, on the mildness of the temperature of the month of February, 1867, in which we were.

"You are very happy," said he to me, "to enjoy in your country, such a fine winter; it is not so in Russia, then the wolves are taking their fill—O the wolves!"

"The wolves, the wolves; I bet those voracious monsters have played 'you some villanous trick,'" said I to my companion.

"True enough, you are not deceived."

"Zounds, let us hear it."

"Willingly, if it will interest you."

My friend Arthur A... and Charles de P... grouped themselves on one of the sofas in a saloon far enough from the dancers, that the sounds of the orchestra should reach us only in a distant murmur; and M. de Geroskoff began in these words.

It was in Galicia, in the neighbourhood of Lembourg, where my sister Aninia and myself were on a visit to the Countess Labanoff. We had hardly passed the half of the time that our parents had fixed for us, when we received the sad news that my father had fallen suddenly and dangerously ill.

The regret of our amiable hostess, who parted unwillingly with my sister Aninia and whom she regarded already as her daughter-in-law, could not retain us—we decided to go without delay and to continue our road even during the night; the snow had ceased to fall, it was bright moonlight, and our driver, my father's old chasseur, was a man of consummate experience. Wrapped in furs, and provided with eatables, we got into our sleigh. We reached before night the great forest which separated us from the paternal mansion, and which extended to a great distance in the direction of Lithuania, to reunite itself with the immense forest of that country.

The road that we followed was so broad that the shade of the trees did not hinder the rays of the full moon from lighting us. But the quantity of lumps of ice and snow with which the road was filled, made it too