## Michael Strogoff,

THE COURIER OF THE CZAR.

By Jules Verne.

PART II. CHAPTER XI.-CONTINUED.

Ben minutes afterwards the lower border of the barrier was reached. There the waters of the Angara again became free. A few large blocks of ice, becoming by degrees detached from the field, and floating with the current,

descended towards the town. Madia understood what Michael Strogoff wished to attempt. She saw one of those blocks of ice that was only held by a narrow

tongue. "Come," said Nadia.

And both lay down on this morsel of ice, which a slight rocking loosened from the

barrier. The block began to make its way down the river. The river itself became wider, and the

Michael Strogoff and Nadia could hear the firing of guns, the cries of distress, the shouts of the Tartars that made themselves heard up the river. Then little by little those cries of deep anguish and of ferocious joy were lost in the distance.

"Oh! those poor companions!" whispered Nadia.

For half an hour the corrent quickly carried along the block of ice which was bearing Michael Strogoff and Nadia. At every moment they feared that they might sink under the water. Being caught in the stream, it followed the middle of the river, and it would not be necessary to give it an oblique direction until there was question of making for the quays of Irkutsk.

Michael Strogoff, with his teeth set, and his ears ready to catch the least sound, did not utter a single word. Never was he so near attaining his end. He felt that he was about to Bucceed !

Towards two o'clock in the morning, a double row of lights lit up the sombre horizon on the two banks of the Angara.

On the right was the glare from the lights of Irkutsk. On the left the fires of the Tartar

Michael Strogoff was not more than half a verst from the city.

"At last!" whispered he. But, suddenly, Nadia gave a cry.

At that cry, Michael Strogoff rose up from the block, which became very unsteady. His hand stretched out toward the head of the Angara. His face, all lit up with the reflections of blue lights, became terrible to look at, and then, as though his eyes had been reopened to the light:

"Ah!" cried he, "God himself is against us!"

## CHAPTER XII.

ERRUTSK, capital of Eastern Siberia, has, in ordinary times, a population of thirty thousand souls. A high hill of solid rock, skirting the right bank of the Angara, serves as a splendid position for its churches, crowned by a high cathedral, and for its houses, built in picturesque d' worder along its slopes.

Seen from vertain 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 moment he enters the town. The town, half Byzantine, half Chinese, becomes more European by its macadamized streets, bordered with sidewalks, with their rows of gigantic birch trees and 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 Siis the emporium for all that countless merchandise which is exchanged between China, Central Asia, and Europe. They did not fear Toungouze and Bouret, and to allow the wilderness to stretch out between the invaders and the town.

Irkutsk is the residence of the governorgeneral 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 two thousand 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 detail.

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 six days. It was necessary, then, that Irkutsk milita y rather than princely style, without should be delivered up by treachery before six any retinue, escorted by a detachment of days. Cossacks, had gone even as far as the countries beyond the Salkan mountains. Nickolaevsk, 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 menacing. He hastened to re-enter the capital, but when he arrived there, communication with Russia had been cut off. He still received a few telegrams from Petersburgh and Moscow he could even answer them. Afterwards, the wire was cut under the circumstances already known to the

reader. 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, of Omsk, of Tomsk, came successively to Irkutsk. They could not count on being soon relieved, but General Voranzoff. they must prevent, at all price, the occupation of the capital of Siberia. The few troops acattered over the province of Amour, and those in the government of Irkutsk, could

could not possibly escape being invested, it the chief of the merchants hears my words was of the utmost importance to put the and I beg him to report them as such town in a position to sustain a siege of some

length. which Tomsk fell into the hands of the expect at latest the arrival of the army of Tartars. At the same time as that last news relief." the grand duke learned that the emir of "In six days at most," answered the grand Boukhara and the alifed khans were duke. "A sharp and courageous emissary has directing the movement in person, but what been able to penetrate into the town this

From the first, as has been seen, the inhabitauts 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 resist for some time.

Irkutsk, founded in 1611, is situated at the confluence of the Irkutand the Angara, on the right bank of the river. Two wooden bridges built on piles, and so arranged as to open the which evtended along the left bank. The outskirts were abandoned, bridges destroyed. The passage of the Angara, which was very wide at that place, would not have been possible under the fire of the besi-ged. But the river could be crossed either above or below the town, and, as a consequence Irkutsk was in danger of being attacked on the east side, which no rampart protected.

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 afterwards 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 most, 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 21th day of September. It immediately occupied the abandoned ourskirts, of which the very houses had been destroyed in order not to impede the action of the arch duke's artillery,

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

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 Keofar-Khan.

The passage of the Angara having been regarded by Ivan Ogareff as impracticable before Irkutsk, a strong body of troops crossed at some versts down the river, on some bridges of boats which had been established for that purpose. I he grand duke did not attempt to oppose that passage. He could only have harassed them, without preventing, he not baving any field pieces at his disposal, and this is the reason he remained cooped up in Irkutsk.

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

One can see that things had turned out otherwise than he had reckoned. On the one hand, the march of the Tartar army delayed by the battle of Tomsk; on the other, the rapidity with which the works of defense had | Irkutsk the profession of a doctor. He was been carried on by the grand duke; for these two reasons his projects had failed. He found same time a man of the greatest courage and himself therefore under the necessity of carry-

tempted twice to take the town at the price panions in exile in common action. The of a great sacrifice of men. He threw the berians of the province, was crowded. It soldiers against the earthworks which seemed abounded in resources of every kind. Irkutsk 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 to draw there the peasants from the valley of civil population to the ramparts. Civilians the Angara, the Mongols-Khalkas, people from and moujiks did their duty remarkably weil. At the second assault, the Tartars had succeeded in torcing one of the gates of the town. A fight took place at the beginning of the principal street—the Bolchaia, which is two versts in length, and terminates at the banks of the Angara. But the Cossacks, the gen-darmes and the citizens opposed to them a strong resistance, and the Tartars had to return | him.

to their positions. Ivan Ogareff thought thenof trying to win by treachery what force could not give him. His project, it is known was to make his way alone into the town, and present himself before the grand duke, with some plausible tale to win his confidence, and, when the moment came, to deliver one of the gates to the besiegers; afterwards, that done, to glut his vengeance on the brother of the Czar.

The Tsigane, who had accompanied him to the camp of the Angara, urged him to put this

project into execution. And, indeed, it was necessary to act with- distely." out delay. The Russian troops of the government of Irkutsk were marching to the relief of Irkutek. They were concentrating on the higher waters of the Lena, and marching up

Ivan Ogareff, did not hesitate any longer. One evening, the 2nd of October, a council of war was being held in the large room of the governor-general's palace. It was there the grand duke resided.

This palace, rising at the extremity of Bolchaia street overlooked, for a great distance the course of the river. From its front windows one could perceive the Tartar camp, and had the Tarters possessed an artillery of a longer range, they could have rendered it uninhabit-

The grand duke, General Voranzoff, and the governor of the town, the head merchant, July. The invasion was on the 15th. If, at with whom had been joined a number of superior officers, had just past divers resolutions.

"Gentlemen," said the grand duke, "you know exactly our situation. I have a firm hope that we shall be able to hold out until the arrival of troops from 1rkutek. We shall then know well how to drive away these barbarous hordes, and it will not be my fault if rogated. they don't pay dearly for this invasion of

Russian territory."
"Your highness knows that we can rely on the whole population of Irkutsk," replied

"Yes," said the grand duke, "and I render homage to its patriotism. Thank God, it has not as yet suffered from the horrors of an epidemic, or a famine, and I have reason to not arrive in sufficient numbers to arrest the think it will escape them, but at the ramparts I head?

Besides, since Irkutsk could not help admiring their courage. I trust

"I thank your highness, in the nam of own in a position to sustain a siege of some the town," answered the chief of the merning.

Those works were begun on the day on chants " May I dare to sak you when you

he did not know, was that the lieutenant of morning, and he has informed me that fifty those barbarous chiefs was Ivan Ogareff, a thousand Russians are adv ancing by forced Russian officer whom he himself had cash-iered.

Kissely. They were two days ago on the banks of the Ler a, at Kirensk, and, now, neither cold or snow will prevent their arrival. Fifty thou sands good troops, taking the Tarters on the flank, would soon relieve

us." "I would add," said the chief of the merchants, " that 'the day on which your highness shall order a sortie we shall be ready to ex-

ecute your orders. " Very well, sir," answered the grand duke. Let us wait until the leading columns appear on the heights, and we will crush the in-

Then, turning to General Voranzoff: "We whole width of the river for the necessities of will visit to-morrow," said he, " the works on navigation, joined the town with its outskirts | the right hand. The Angara will soon become ice-bound, and perhaps the Tartars will be able to cross it.'

"Will your highness permit me to make an observation ?" said the chief of the merchants.

" Make it. sir." "I have seen the temperature fall many a time to thirty and forty below zero, and the river has been filled with floating pieces of ice, without being entirely frozen. This is owing, no doubt, to the rapidity of the current. If, then, the Tartars have no other means of crossing the river, I can assure your highness they cannot possibly cross in that manner." The governor-general confirmed the assertion. "It is a very fortunate circumstance," an-

swered the grand duke. "Nevertheless, let us be prepared for every emergency."

Then, turning to the head of the police: "Have you nothing to say to me?" he asked him. "I have to place before your highness,

said the head of the police, "a petition which has been addressed to you." "By whom?"

"By the exiles of Siberia, who, as your highness knows, are, to the number of five hundred, in this city."

The political exiles, scattered all over the province, had indeed been concentrated at Irkutsk from the commencement of the invasion. They had obeyed the order to rally at the town, and to abandon the villages where they exercised different professions Some were doctors, others professors, either at the Japanese school or at the school of navigation. From the beginning the grand duke, like the czar, trusting to their patriotism, had armed them, and he had found in them brave defenders.

"What do the exiles ask for?" said the grand duke.

"They ask your highness' permission," answered the head of the police, " to form a special corps, and to lead the sortie."

"Yes," said the grand duke, with an emotion which he did not seek to conceal, "these exiles are Russians and it is indeed their right to fight for their country."

"I can assure your highness," said the gove or-general, "that we have no better SC CTF

" Dut they must have a leader," said the grand duke. "Who shall he be?" "Would your highness like to have one?"

said the head of the police, "who has distinguished himself on many occasions?" "Is he a Russian?"

"Yes, a Russian of the Baltic provinces." "What is his name?"

" Wassili Feodor." That exile was the father of Nadia.

an educated and charitable man, and at the patriotism. When he was not occupied with the sick, he was engaged in organizing resisting on a regular siege.

Meanwhile, by his advice, the emir atMeanwhile, by his advice, the emir atexiles, up to that time scattered among the population, had borne themselves in battle in such manner as to draw the attention of the grand duke. In several sorties they had paid with their blood their debt to holy Russiaholy indeed, and adored by her children! Wassili Feodor had conducted himself heroically. On several occasions his name had been mentioned as the bravest of the brave, but he had asked neither for graces or favors, leader. When the head of the police had pronounced that name before the grand duke, the latter replied that it was not unknown to

"Indeed," answered General Voranzoff. Wassili Feeder is a man of valor and courage. His influence over his companions has always been very great."

"How long has he been at Irkutsk?" asked the grand duke. "Two years."

" And his conduct?"

"His conduct," answered the head of the police, "is that of a man who submits to the special laws under which he lives."

"General," answered the grand duke, "have the goodness to present him imme-The orders of the grand duke were ex-

ecuted, and a half hour had not passed before Wassili Feeder was introduced into his pre-

He was a man some forty years old or more, tail, and with a sad and severe countenance. One felt that all his life was summed up in this one word: struggle; and that he had struggled and suffered all his life. His traits reminded one remarkably of those of his daughter, Nadia Feodor.

More than any other thing the Tartar invasion had cut him in his dearest affection, and ruined the last hope of that father, exiled to a distance of more than eight thousand versts from his native place. A letter had informed him of the death of his wife, and, at the same time, of the departure of his daughter, who had obtained from the government permission to rejoin him at Irkutek.

Nadia had to leave Riga on the 10th of that time, Nadia had crossed the frontier, what had become of her in the midst of the invaders? One can conceive how this unhappy father must have been devoured with anxiety, since, from that time, he had received no news of his daughter.

Wassili Feodor, in the presence of the grand duke, bowed, and waited to be inter-"Wassili Feodor," said to him the grand

duke, "your companions have asked to form a picket corps. Do they know that in that corps they must fight to the last man?" "They know it," answered Wassili Feo-

"They wish you for leader."

"I, your highness?"
"Do you consent to put yourself at their

"Yes, if the good of Russis requires it."
"Captain Feodor," said the grand duke,

you are no longer an exile." "I thank your alghness; but am I to command those who still are exiles?"

"They are so no longer." It was the pardon of all his companions in exile, now his companions in arms, which the brother of the czar granted to him !

Wassili Feodor pressed with emotion the hand which the grand duke held out to him, and he left the room.

The latter turning then towards the offi-"The czar will not refuse to accept the letter of pardon which I am drawing upon

him!" said he, smiling. "We need heroes to defend the capital of Siberia, and I have just now made some." This pardon of the exiles of Irkutsk was in-

deed an act of wise justice and wise policy. Night had now come on. Across the windows of the palace shone the fires of the Tartar camp, and far beyond the Angara. The river was full of floating blocks of ice, some of which were stopped by the first piles of the ancient wooden bridges. Those which the current held in the channel floated down with great rapidity. Thus it was evident, as the chief of the merchants had observed, that the Angara could scarcely freeze along the whole of its surface. Thus the defenders of Irkutsk need not fear the danger of being assailed on

that side. Ten o'clock had just struck. The grand duke was about to dismiss his officers and retire to his apartments, when a kind of uproar

was heard outside the palace. Almost immediately the door of the room opened, an aide-de-camp appeared, and, ad-

vancing toward the grand duke: "Your highness," said he, "a courier from the czar !"

## CHAPTER XIII.

A simultaneous movement brought all the members of the council towards the half-open door. A courier from the czar, arrived at Irkutsk. If the officers had reflected for an instant on the improbability of that fact, they would have certainly considered it im-

possible. The grand duke had quickly moved towards his aid-de-camp.

"That courier!" said he. A man entered. He had the air of one worn out by fatigue. He wore the costume of a Siberian peasant, much worn, even torn, and on which one could see bullet-holes. A Russian bonnet covered his head. A scar, badly healed, crossed his face. The man had evidently followed a long and trying route. His shoes and stockings, in a bad state, even proved that he had made part of his journey

on foot. "His highness the grand duke?" said he

on entering. The grand duke went up to him. "Are you a courier from the czar?" he

asked him. "Yes, your highness."

" You come from—?" " Moscow."

"You left Moscow-?"

"The 15th of July." You are called-

" Michael Strogoff." It was Ivan Ogaress. He had taken the name and position of the man whom he believed to be powerless. Neither the grand duke nor any other person in Irkutsk knew him; he had not even needed to disguise his fentures. As he had the means of proving his pretended identity, no one could doubt him He came then, sustained by a will of iron, to hasten by treason and assassination the

conclusion of the drama of invasion. After the answer of Ivan Ogareff, the grand duke made a sign, and all his officers retired. The fictitious Michael Strogoff and he re

mained alone in the room. The grand duke looked at Ivan Ogareff for some seconds, and with the greatest atten-

"You were, the 15th of July, at Moscow?" he asked him. "Yes, your highness, and on the night from

the 14th to the 15th, I saw his majesty the Czar at the new palace." "You have a letter from the Czar?" " Here it is. And Ivan Ogareff banded to the grand duke

the imperial letter, reduced to the dimensions almost microscopic. " Was that letter given to you in that state?" asked the grand duke. "No, your highness, but I was compelled

to tear open the envelope, in order to better conceal it from the Tartar soldiers." " Have you then been a prisoner of the Tartars?

"Yes, your highness, during a few days," answered Ivan Ogareff. "It is on that account that, having set out from Moscow on the 15th of July, I only arrived at Irkutsk on the 2d of October, after a journey of sixty-nine days."

The grand duke took the letter. He unfolded it and recognized the signature of the czar, preceded by the sacramental formula, written with his own hand. Hence, there was no possible doubt concerning the authenticity of that letter, nor indeed concerning the identity of the courier. If his herce look at first inspired mistrust, the grand duke did not allow it to be seen, and soon the mistrust disap-

peared altogether. The grand duke remained some moments without speaking. He was reading slowly the letter, in order to thoroughly gather the

sense of it. Taking up again the speech:

" Michael Strogoff, do you know the contents of this letter?" he asked. "Yes, your highness. I might have been compelled to destroy it to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Tartars, and, if that should happen. I wished to bring its contents

to your highness." "Do you know that this letter enjoins us to die at Irkutsk rather than surrender the city?' "I know it."

"Do you also know that it points out the movements of the troops who have combined to check the invasion? "Yes, your highness, but those movements

have not succeeded." "What do you mean?" "I wish to tell you that Ichm, Omsk, Tomsk, not to speak of other important towns of the two Siberias. have been one after another oc-

cupied by the soldiers of Feofar-Kahn " "But has there been a battle? Have our Cossacks never met the Tartars?" "Several times, your highness."

"And they were repulsed?" "They were not in sufficient strength."

"Where have the encounters taken place of which you speak?" "At Kolyvan; at Tomsk." Up to this time, Ivan Ogareff had only told

the truth; but with the object of fighting the defenders of Irkutsk by exaggerating the advantages obtained by the troops of the emir, he added: "And a third time before Krasnoiarsk."

grand duke, those firmly set lips scarcely allowed the words to pass. "It was more than an engagement, your highness," answered Ivan Ogareff, " it was a

"And that last engagement?" asked the

battle." "A battle?"

"Twenty thousand Russlans, coming from RETURNED FROM THE GRAVE the provinces of the frontier and from the government of Tobolsk, came into collision with a force of a hundred and fifty thousand

Tartars, and in spite of their courage they have been annihilated."

"You lie!" oried the grand duke, who en-

"I tell the truth, your highness," coolly re-

plied Ivan Ogareff. " I was present at that

battle of Krasnoiarsk, and it is there where I

The grand duke became calm, and, by a sign

he gave Ivan Ogareff to understand that he

"On what day did this battle of Krasnoiarsk

"And now all the Tartar forces are concen-

A new aggregation of Ivan Ogareff in reck-

oning the numbers of the Tartar army, and

" And I must not expect any succor from

the provinces of the west?" asked the grand

"None, your highness, at least before the

" Very well, listen to this, Michael Strogoff.

Should no relief come to me, either from the

west nor the east, and were there six hundred

The wicked eyes of Ivan Ogareff lightly

blinked. The traitor seemed to say that the

brother of the czar was reckoning without

The grand duke, of a nervous temperament

had great difficulty in preserving his calmness

on learning this disastrous news. He walked

up and down the room, under the eyes of Ivan

Ogareff, who covered him as a prey reserved

for his vengeance. He stopped at the win-

dows, he looked out upon the Tartar fires, he

was trying to find out the noise, the greater

part of which was caused by the grating of the

A quarter of an hour passed without his

"You know, Michael Strogoff, that there is

a question in this letter of a traitor against

"He is to attempt to enter Irkutsk dis-

guised, to win my confidence; then, at the

proper time, to deliver up the town to the

"They say that that officer had been con-

"Yes-I remember. But he deserved it,

demned by the grand duke to a most humil-

whom I have to be on my guard."

"Yes, your highness.

thousand Tartars, I would not give up lr-

"And you would number them at-?"

"Four hundred thousand men!"

tending always to the same end.

was made prisoner."

did not doubt his veracity.

"On the 2nd of September."

take place?" he asked.

trated around Irkutsk?"

end of winter."

kutsk !"

treason.

said:

" Why?"

ating degradation."

vasion of barbarians!'

Ogareff against your person."

my journey across Siberia."

"Have you ever met him?"

" By throwing myself into the Irtych."

"Well done, Michael Strogoff," answered

the grand duke. "You have shown courage

"And if in conformity with the intention

present himself before your highness under a

"We would unmask him, thanks to you

who knows him, and by my order he should

Ivan Ogareff gave the military salute to the

in the corps of the couriers of the czar, and he

Ivan Ogareffhad just now played, with suc-

ess, his base role. The grand duke's confi-

lence had been accorded him full and entire.

He could abuse it when and where he thought

proper. He would even live in that palace;

he would know all the secrets of the de-

He held, therefore, to begin the work with-

Ivan Ogareff, having every facility for see

ing, and acting, spent the next day in visiting

the fortifications. Everywhere he was re-

ceived with congratulations by the officers.

soldiers, and citizens. This courier of the czar,

was like a tie which bound them to the em-

pire. Ivan Ogareff therefore recounted to

tars, and the forces at their disposal. To listen

to him, the succor would be insufficient, should

it even come, and it was to be feared that a

battle fought under the walls of Irkutse would

be as disastrous as the battles of Kulyvan, of

Ivan Ogareff was not at first lavish in these

sinister insinuations. He took care they should

penetrate by degrees into the minds of the

defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer

him, and then as though with regret. In any

case, he added always that it must defend it-.

self to the last man, and they must blow it up

If the defenders of Irkutsk could have been

discouraged, Ivan Ogareff had chosen an effi-

of Irkutsk were too patriotic to allow them-

selves to be frightened. Of those soldiers, of

TO BE CONTINUED.

cient means. But the garrison and population

Tomsk, and of Krasnojarsk.

rather than surrender it!

without limit

than a traitor.

and zeal during this difficult mission.

"And how did you enter Irkutsk?"

ducted me before your highness."

be lodged in this palace.

die under the knout. Go.

alse name--

vithdrew.

fense.

out more delay.

ice on the river.

deavoured, but in vain, to master his anger

By MRS. HENRY WOOD: Author of "East Lynne," "Oswald Gray," &c.

## CHAPTER I.

In a somewhat wild part of the coast of Eng. land, at least a hundred and fifty miles distant from the metropolis, is situated a small town or village, called Danesheld. The land on either side it rises above and overlooks the sea, higher in some spots than in others, and the descent of the rocks is in places perpendicular. There are parts, however, where they slope so gradually, that a sure foot may descend easily, and in these the hard nature of the rock appears to have softened with time, for grass grows upon the sides, and even wild flowers. In ancient times it was a settlement of the Danes, and there is no doubt that the name, now corrupted into Danesheld, was formerly written Danes' Hold. Outside the village, toward the east, a colony of straggling huts and cottages is built not close to the edgeof the heights, but some little distance from them; beyond, may be seen some scattered mansions; and again, beyond, these, rise the stately walls of Dane Castle, the castle and the village being about a mile apart. The castle is a lozz but not high building, its red bricks dark with age; a turret rises at either end, and a high square turret ascends over the gateway in the middle, from which latter turret a flag may be seen waving, whenever the castle's chief, Lord Dane, is sojourning at it.

the brow of the heights, are the ruins of what putting another question. Then, again taking up the letter, he read a passage of it and sight does that old ruin present to the eye of

On the other side of the winding road, op-

"Yes." "I thought it must be," was the comment haps you have no objection to tell me a little

"With all the pleasure in life," carelessly replied the young gentleman, still intent upon his fishing-rod. "The family are at the castle now, Lord and Lady Dane, and one of the

" Lord Dane helpless!" "He fell from his horse last autumn, hunting, and the spine was injured, paralysis of to make myself known, and they at once conthe spine, I believe, they call it. The effect is, that the entire use of his lower limbs has left

The sailor looked at him.

"No power in his legs, I suppose?" "None. Lady Dane retains power in hers. though, and in her tongue, too," said the young gentleman, breaking into a whistle.

"Which of the sons is at home?" "The younger one, the captain. The heir

forget her name..."
"Adelaide Errol. A wild Scotch girl. I

countenance; "nothing less laudatory." The other lifted his eyes from the fishing-

"From William Dane." "William Henry; it's all one; we dub him

Errol?" The young gentleman raised his eyebrows. "People profess to say so. The captain, gallant son of Mars though he is, has singed

tions, He----'

testily interrupted the stranger. The other accorded him a prolonged stare: "Why what else am I talking? Dutch?"

"What a very unreasonable person you seem to be!" was the equable rejoinder. "Don't I tell you that it is said he will? He is jou after her if you understand the French

" And she ?" The young man shrugged his shoulders. "There's no answering for women. Per-" haps she returns his love; perhaps she does

"Captain Dane is rich." "I wish I were a tithe as rich. Some arrangement exists in the Dane family by which the younger sons step into their fortune when they become of age, and the captain took possession of his; fifty thousand

the farthest end of the Asiatic world, not one "A large portion," remarked the sailor. "It's not to be sneezed at. But he comprised all the younger children in himself, remember; sons and daughters too. Had there been ten, the fifty thousand would have been divided among them. His uncle, William Henry, whom he was named after, left him his fortune also, for he had never mar-

The castle faces the sea, being about a quarter of a mile distant from it, and the grassland stretches out smooth and broad and flat between it and the edge of the heights. The high-road from the village winds up past the castle gates, and behind it is an inclosed gar-den. A little further on, and almost close to was the chapel in the days of the monks; its walls stand yet, and its casements, from which the glass has long since gone, are sheltered around the clustering ivy; traces of its altar, and of once-inscribed gravestones may still be seen inside, but no roof is there, and it is open alike to the calm sky and the stormy one. A picturesque the slanting beams of the setting sun, or in the pale, weird beauty of a moonlight night.

posite the castle, might be seen all the signs of husbandry, ploughed fields, grass-lands vith here and there a farm bouse, surrounded "I know all that, your highness, and I also by its substantial ricks and barns. And one know that Ivan Ogareff has sworn personal vengeance on the brother of the czar." sunshiny day in spring, perched upon a gate leading to a clover-field, and doing something. to a fishing rod, was a young man in the care-less attire favored by country gentlemen. He looked about eight-and-twenty, was tail and slender; his features were thin and sharp, and his eyes dark, but they had not a very open that wretch, who was afterwards to serve expression. His velveteen sporting coat was against his country, and to lead there an inthrown back from his shoulders, for the day was really warm. Hearing tootsteps, he lifted his eyes, and saw approaching, from the "His majesty, the czar," answered Ivan Ogareff, "relied especially on the fact that you direction of the village, a middle-aged man. were aware of the criminal projects of Ivan who wore the dress of a gentleman sailor. The latter lifted his glazed hat from his head "Yes; the letter informs me of it. And his as he newed the gate, but whether in courtesy majesty told it to me himself, while warning or whether merely to wipe his brow, which he me to distrust that traitor above all during proceeded to do, was uncertain.

" Is that Dane Castle?" asked the stranger.

"Yes, your highness, after the battle of Krasnoiarsk. Could he have suspected that of the sailor, spoken in an undertone. "Per-I was the bearer of a letter addressed to your highness, and in which all his projects were of the present history of its inmates," he continued; "I made acquaintance with one of the sons abroad." divulged, I should not now be stauding before

"Yes, you would have been lost," answered the grand duke. "And how did you escape?" sons. Lord Dane more helpless than ever. "During a sortie that was made this very ght to revel a Tartar detachment, I joined it with the defenders of the town, I was able

him, and he is nearly as helpless as a baby.

shall not forget you. Have you any favor to "Noue, if it be not that of fighting by the side of your highness," answered Ivan Ogareff She rules the roast, now the baron's laid " Let it be so, Michael Strogoff. From this day I attach you to my person, and you shall

is in Paris. He is a fast man, and a Parisian which is attributed to him, Ivan Ogareff should life suits him." "There was a young lady at the castle. I

dare say you may have heard, for that is what she is styled nere by the gossips." "I have heard her called an angel," regrand duke, not forgetting that he was captain turned the sailor, with an imperturbable

> rod and fixed them on his face. "Then, if you have heard that, I'll wager it was from no other than Harry Dane."

Harry here. The old peer is fond of the name of Harry, and rarely called his son anything else. Geoffry is the name of the eldest."

"I know. Is William to marry Adelaide

nis wings in the brightness of her fuscina-

"I wish you'd talk plain English, sir,"

them all the details of his journey. And this with a vivacity that was never wanting. Then sdroitly, without at first insisting on it too much, he spoke of the gravity of the situation, "Rhapsody-and I don't understand it. Is exaggerating as he had done while addressing Captain Dane to marry the young lady, or is the grand duke, both the successes of the Tar-

term in all its force; worships the very ground she treads on. If that's not English, I don't know what is."

only when a great many questions were put to not. My lady impresses on her the fact that the Honorable William Henry Dane is no bad match for a portionless damsel."

those citizens, shut up in an isolated town at | pounds."

had dreamed of speaking of capitulation. The disdain of Russia for those barbarians was In any case, no one for a moment suspected the hateful role which Ivan Ogareff was playing; no one could have imagined that the pretended courier of the czar was nothing else ried; and that was at least fifty thousand more. It is thought, too, that the gallant