

CHAPTER XVIII



IMULTANEOUS move ment brought all the members of the council toward the half open door. A courier from the czar arrived at Irkutski If the officers had reflected for an instant on the improba-

bility of that fact, they would have cer-tainly considered it impossible. The grand duke had quickly moved toward 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 ben-act covered his head. A scar, badly healed crossed his face. The man had evidently followed a long and trying ite. 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

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 Ogareff. He had taken the name and position of the man om he believed to be powerless. Neither the grand duke nor any other erson in Irkutsk knew him. He had not even needed to disguise his fea-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 the invasion. After the answer of Ivan Ogareff the grand duke made a sign, and all his officers retired.

The fictitious Michael Strogoff and he remained alone in the room. The grand duke looked at Ivan Ogareff for some seconds and with the greatest attention. Then he asked him:

You were on the 15th of July at Moscow?" "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 handed to the grand duke the imperial letter, reduced 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 or-der to better conceal it from the Tartar

soldiers." "Have you, then, been a prisoner of "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 signa-ture 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 fierce look at first inspired mistrust, the grand duke did not allow it to be seen, and soon the mistrust disappeared al-

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, he ask-

"Michael Strogoff, do you know the

contents of this letter?" "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 these movements have not succeeded." "What do you mean?" "I wish to tell you that Ichim, Omsk,

Tomsk, not to speak of other important towns of the two Siberias, have been one after another occupied by the soldiers of Feofar-Khan.

"But has there been a battle? Have our Cossacks ever 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 Kalvvan, 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 Krasnoi-

arsk." "And that last engagement?" asked the grand duke, whose firmly set lips scarcely allowed the words to pass. "It was more than an engagement, your highness," answered Ivan Oga-

reff; "it was a battle." "A battle?" "Twenty thousand Russians, coming from the provinces of the frontier and from the government of Tobolsk, came of their courage they have been anni-hilated." "You lie!" cried the grand duke, who "I tell the truth, your highness," coolly replied Ivan Ogareff. "I was pres-

ent at that battle of Krasnolarsk, and it is there where I was made prisoner!" The grand duke became calm, and by a sign he gave Ivan Ogareff to understand that he did not doubt his verac-

Krasnoiarsk take place?" he asked. "On the 2d of September."
"And now all the Tartar forces are concentrated around lrkutsk?" "And you would number them at"-

"Four hundred thousand men!" A new exaggeration of Ivan Ogareff than a traitor. tar army and tending always to the same end. "And I must not expect any succor

from the provinces of the west?" asked the grand duke. "None, your highness-at least before the end of winter."

"Very well. Listen to this, Michael Strogoff: Should no relief come to me, neither from the west nor the east, and were there 600,000 Tartars, I would not give up Irkutsk'!"

The wicked eye of Ivan Ogareff light-. ly blinked. The traitor seemed to say that the brother of the czar was reckoning without treason.

. The grand duke, of a nervous temperament, had great difficulty in preserving his calmness on learning this disastrous news. He walked up and down er the eves of Ivan Ogareff. who covered him as a prey reserved for his vengeance. He stopped at the windows. 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 ice on the river.

A quarter of an hour passed without his putting another question. Then, again taking up the letter, he read a passage of it and said:
"You know, Michael Strogoff, that

there is question in this letter of a traitor against whom I have to be on "Yes, your highness."

"He is to attempt to enter Irkutsk disguised to win my confidence; then, at the proper time, to deliver up/the town to the Tartars." "I know all that, your highness, and

I also know that Ivan Ogareff has sworn personal vengeance on the brother of the czar." "Wh 7?"

"They say that that officer had been condemned by the grand duke to a most humiliating degradation." "Yes. I remember. But he deserved it, that wretch, who was afterward to

serve against his country and to lead there an invasion of barbarians!" "His majesty the czar," answered Ivan Ogareff, "relied especially on the fact that you were aware of the crim-

inal projects of Ivan Ogareff against "Yes; the letter informed me of it." "And his majesty told it to me him-

self, while warning me to mistrust that July traitor above all during my journey "Have you ever met him?" "Yes, your highness, after the battle of Krasnoiarsk. Could he have suspected that I was the bearer of a letter addressed to your highness and in

"Yes, you would have been lost," answered the grand duke. "And how did you escape?

I should not now be standing before

"By throwing myself into the Irtish." "And how did you enter Irkutsk?" "During a sortie that was made this very night to repel a Tartar detachment I joined in with the defenders of the town. I was able to make myself known, and they at once conducted me before your highness.'

"Well done, Michael Strogoff," answered the grand duke. "You have shown courage and zeal during this difficult mission. I shall not forget you. Have you any favor to ask of

"None if it be not that of fighting by the side of your highness," answered Ivan Ogareff.

"Let it be so, Michael Strogoff. From this day I attach you to my person, and you shall be lodged in this palace." "And if in conformity with the intention which is attributed to him Ivan Ogareff should present himself before your highness under a false name"-"We would unmask him, thanks to

you who know him, and by my order he should die under the knout. Go." Ivan Ogareff gave the military salute to the grand duke, not forgetting that he was captain in the corps of the couriers of the czar, and he withdrew. Ivan Ogareff had just now played with success his base role. The grand duke's confidence 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 defense. He held, therefore, the situation in his hand. No one in Irkutsk knew him. No one could tear off his mask. He resolved, therefore, to begin the

work without more delay. Ivan Ogareff, having every facility of seeing, observing and acting, spent the next day in visiting the fortifications. Everywhere he was received with cordial congratulations by the officers, soldiers and citizens. This courier of the czar was like a tie which bound them to the amaire. Then Car-

adroitly, without at first insisting on it too much, he spoke of the gravity of the situation, exaggerating, as he had done while addressing the grand duke, both the successes of the Tartars and the forces at their disposal. To listen to him, the succor would be insufficient

Tomsk and of Krasnolarsk. Ivan Ogareff was not at first lavish and fifty thousand Tartars, and in spite In any case he added always that it | graft which are now his.

should it even come, and it was to be

feared that a battle fought under the

walls of Irkutsk would be as disas-trous as the battles of Kalyvan, of

had chosen an efficient means. But the garrison and population of Irkutsk were too patriotic to allow themselves to be frightened. Of those soldiers, of those citizens, shut up in an isolated town at the farthest end of the Asiatic six. His private property, consisting the following the farthest end of the Asiatic six. His private property, consisting the following the farthest end of the Asiatic six.

righting against the Tartars, opportunity of nities which were too seldom for his liking. Now, when Wassili Feedor was

To the czar, who has always been a The heaviest buyers at the Chicago them. liking. Now, when Wassili Feodor was informed of the unexpected arrival of a courier from the czar he had a presentiment that this courier could give him some tidings of his daughter. It was only a very slight hope, but still liking. Now, when Wassili Feodor was was only a very slight hope, but still woud mean bankruptcy.

Wassili Feodor went to find Ivan Ogareff. who availed himself of this opportunity to have daily relations with the commandant. Did the renegade think he could turn that circumstance to his own profit? Did he judge all men by himself? Could he believe that a Russian, even a political exile, could be so mean as to betray his country? Whatever was the case, Ivan Ogareff met with skillfully feigned eagerness all the advances made to him by the father of Nadia. The latter, the very next morning after the arrival of the pretended courier, went to the palace of the governor general. There he informed Ivan Ogareff of the circumstances under which his daughter had to leave European Russia and told him now what was his anxiety in her respectively.

though he had met her at the posthouse of Ichim the day on which she was there with Michael Strogoff. But then he had paid no more attention to her than the two journalists, who were at the same time in the posthouse. He could not therefore give any news of

his daughter to Wassili Feedor. "But at what time," asked Ivan Ogareff. "had your daughter to leave Rus-

sian territory?" "At nearly the same time as you," replied Wassili Feodor.

"I quitted Moscow on the 15th of "And Nadia also had to leave Moscow on that date. Her letter told me so ex-

pressly. "She was at Moscow on the 15th of July?" asked Ivan Ogareff. "Yes, certainly at that date." which all his projects were divulged

"Very well," replied Ivan Ogareff. hind him. Then, recollecting himself, he added: "But, no; I was forgetting. I was about to confound dates. It is unfortunately too probable that your daughter has had to cross the frontier, and only one hope remains—that she may have stopped on receiving news of the Tartar invasion!" [TO BE CONTINUED.]

JUST FOR SHOW.

(Youth's Companion.) An Easterner on his way to Califor- person to manufacture, sell or give nia was delayed by the floods in Kan- away, or keep for sale, cigarettes, cigsas and was obliged to spend the night arette paper or cigarette wrappers, or in a humble hotel - the best in the to be in any way concerned in owning town. The bill of fare at dinner time or keeping cigarette paper or wrapwas not very elaborate, but the travel-ler noticed with joy that at the bottom of the card, printed with pen and ual as such attempts to regulate the ink, was a startling variety of pies. He liked pies, and here were custard, lemon, squash, rhubarb, Washington, chocolate, mince, apple and berry ples, and several other varieties. He called the waitress to him.

said he. "I'm afraid we ain't got any rhubarb ple." she drawled. He took another glance at the list.

"Well, get me some squash pie. please. 'We haven't got that either." "Berry pie?" "Lemon die?" "Chocolate pie?"

"I'm sorry, we"-"Well, what on earth are they all written down here for? On today's "Well. I'll tell you." said the girl, apoten down there for show when we have mince pie, because when we have mince

pie no one asks for anything else." SCIENTISTS AND SMOKERS.

shows what constitutes a perfect smoking tobacco.

## details of his journey, and this with a VI ADIMIR IS SELFISH IN COURSE

Discontinuance of Autocratic Rule Would the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough at Sunderland House is becoming Leave Him Without Income. tragic. When the site was bought many of the duchess' friends warned

BERLIN, March 15 .- To anyone fa- might eventually be, the surrounding milar with conditions in Russia, it is slums were too appalling to allow of perfectly plain why Grand Duke Vladi-mir stands ready to defend autocracy, the poor tenants of squalid hovels neareven at the risk of his life, and even ly see right into the ducal windows, but against the czar himself. No man in it is almost impossible to approach or Russia holds so many and as many leave the house after dark without en-

a great many questions were put to him and then as though with regret. which he receives, but, what is far the back rooms. Hearing a great commore important, with the chances of motion below she looked out, and in the must defend itself to the last man, and No constitutial government, especi-

endeavored, but in vain, to master his they must blow it up rather than surrender it!

Russia, would allow the grand dukes to absorb so much of the nation's have been discouraged lyan (loggest loggest have been discouraged, Ivan Ogareff money. By imperial decree the grand dukes, as relatives of the czar, are allowed an income from the treasury of 60,000,000 roubles, or about two services of the structure. 60,000,000 roubles, or about two millions for each, if the money was equally ing her throat cut; she had her hands divided.

Vladimir needs the money, and he is going to fight for his rights to theft Some time ago while M. Witte was in power, he tried to put a stop to the disgraceful stealing by high officials i. e., the grand dukes-by preparing a law for the signature of the czar which would make every Russian official responsible for his actions and amenable to the punishments of the Russian

by the czar, would never have any and tells the story of an Englishman establishment.

value unless it was also stipulated in travelling in the west, who meets and To those acquainted with Chicago, it It that no matter of how august birth an official were his rank and family connections should not protect him. Without this the whole thing would be a traveling in the west, who meets and the west, who meets and the would be unnecessary to enumerate its that the play was offered to Otis Skin-present and future advantages for mer, but no definite announcement of manufacturing interests.—Those desiring information will address the Secre-

Vladimir, who well knew that Count on the moon may be nothing but coral works. Pahlen was hinting at the many crimes islands in the dry luna sea. He says committed by him, which would long that if the Pacific ocean should beago have sent him to the penitentiary come dry the mountains would look Chicago, March 7th, 1842. for life had he been an ordinary mor-tal, turned livid with rage, jumped seat and banging the table with his fist, roared:

## HE ENDED DISCUSSION.

"Never as long as I hold a seat in this council will I allow insinuations of this kind against members of the imperial family!" and sweeping papers and ink from the table with his sword, rushed out, slamming the door be-

And thus the law which was to have made Russian officials responsible for their actions came to an abrupt end, and they may go on stealing and robbing the people to their heart's content. because the czar's uncle is a thief and a murderer.

FOOLISH LEGISLATION.

(The Outlook.)

The daily press reports, an extraordinarily drastic anti-eigarette bill passed in Indiana, which forbids any

The bill will probably be as ineffect personal habits of the individual members of a state have always proved themselves to be in democratic com-There is something to be said for the paternal theory of govern-"Please get me some rhubarb ple," linent, for the theory that the few wise men ought to control the lives and habits of the great mass of men, because the great mass of men are children and unable to control their own lives and habits; but we conceive that there is nothing to be said for the notion that a majority of the people are to perform paternal functions for the minority, and are to control their personal habits and actions.

In other words, democracy and pater-nalism are absolutely inconsistent. It is entirely legitimate for a Democratic community to exercise whatever authority may be necessary over great oragnizations, whether of labor or capital, to prevent them from violating the logetically. "That list is always writthing entirely different from exercising control over the personal habits of the individual which do not violate the rights of others, and from the injurious effects of which he is the chief if not the only sufferer.

Such an act as this anti-cigarette law Scientists say that the rainbow shows of Indiana does much more harm than what constitutes a perfect ray of light. It can possibly do good, for it tends to Smokers say that Rainbow Cut Plug arouse the American spirit of independence against the law and so to promote the spirit of lawlessness.

## Duchess of Marlboro Sees a Man TryTHE ROYAL TRUST CO, OF MONTREAL ing to Cut Wife's Throat,

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MacDonald, James Ross, Hon. R. Mackay, Sir T. Q. Shaughnessy, Sir William C. VanHorne, K. C. M. G.

care they should penetrate by degrees into the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when a great many questions were put to a great many questions were put to a great many questions where put to a great many questions were put to a countering some disagreeable sight.

Transacts a General Trust Business.

A constitutional government would mean financial ruin to him, as it would do away not only with the salaries of the healt recommendation of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when a great many questions were put to the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when a great many questions were put to the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when a great many questions were put to the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when a great many questions were put to the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when a great many questions were put to the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when a great many questions were put to the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when a great many questions were put to the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when a great many questions were put to the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when a great many questions were put to the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when a great many questions were put to the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when the minds of the defenders of Irkutsk. He seemed to answer only when the minds of th Receiver, Assignee, Liquidator for the Benefit of Creditors; Agent or Attorney for the Transaction of Business; The Management of Estates; The Investment and Collection of Moneys, Rents, Interests, Dividends, Mortgages, Bonds and other Securities; To give any Bond required in

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much like those on the moon. There STRENGTH OF THE WELSH

of these sixty milions Vladmir gets in the farthest end of the Asiation of the farthest end of the Asiation of the farthest end of the Asiation of thuse are not the farthest end of the Asia of of the A

WHY RAINBOW.?

NOT SO LONG AGO.

(Communicated.)

CHICAGO STEAM POWER

L. C. PAINE FREER, Sec'y.

Chicago Hydraulic Company.

ago:

the motors of the cars to run the thrashers. James Ozello, a wine merchant and Plug Smoking Tobacco.

proprietor of a small hotel at Chicago,

who was swindled out of \$5,020 on an

LONDON, March 15 .- The position of

her that however magnificent the house

light of a lamp in one of the rooms of the opposite house she saw a terrible

of the man saved the woman from hav-

badly scarred and her clothes covered

alleged foot race at Clinton, Ill., has retaliated by inducing the "promoters" to visit Chicago on the pretext that he was ready to make another wager Nearly \$2,500 in currency was found in the possession of one prisoner. "That young Sawyer does more to promote the public health than any doctor in town." "So? I never heard of him as a doctor of special talent."

now what was his anxiety in her regard.

Ivan Ogareff did not know Nadia, al
mer, known an over the world as a redactionary but strictly honest man, arose to speak.

This law," he said, "even if signed of the s

Dr. Voigt says the so-called volcanoes tary or apply to the Agent, at the

Agent in St. John, N. B.

now the question is whether or not he knew the code and was answering whose glories they are enjoying in the quickened sense of human fellowship and a keen glad zest added to their

Employers tell me that the quality of the work the miners are putting in has improved. Waste is less, men go to their daily toil with a new spirit of gladness in their labor. In the long dim galleries of the mine, where one the hauliers swore at their ponies in Welshified English terms of l there is now but to be heard the haunting melody of the revival music. The pit nies, which like the American mules. have been driven by oaths and curses Here is an advertisement from a since they first bore the yoke, are bethe incentive of profanity. There is less drinking, less idleness, less gambling. Men record with almost inc lous amazement, how one football play-The Chicago Hydraulic Company and drink and the gladiatorial games, and is living a sober and godly life, putting his energy into the revival. More wonderful still, and almost incredible to those who know how journalism lives and thrives upon gambling, and how Toryism is broad-based upon the drinking habits of the people, the reporting and defending the move which declares war to the death against both gambling and drink.-From Great Religious Revival in Wales," by Monthly Review of Reviews for March.

> In advertising, like in all other things, persistency wins .- M. V. Kelley, Majestic Mfg. Co., St. Louis.



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