

ST. JOHN STAR, MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1905.

THE COURIER OF THE CZAR

By Jules Verne

(Continued.)

CHAPTER XIV.

MICHAEL STROGOFF and Nadia had left Semilowka about two hours when Michael stopped suddenly.

"Is the road deserted?" he asked.

"Without a soul on it," replied Nadia. "Do you not hear some noise behind?"

"Truly?"

"If these are the Tartars, we must hide ourselves. Look well."

"Listen, Michael," replied Nadia, ascending the road, which diverged some paces to the right.

Michael Strogoff stopped an instant alone, stretching his ears to listen.

Nadia returned almost immediately and said:

"It is a vehicle. A young man is leading it."

"He is alone?"

"Alone."

Michael Strogoff hesitated for a moment. Ought he to hide, or ought he, on the contrary, try the chance of finding a place in his vehicle, if not for himself, at least for her? For himself, he would be content to rest his hand on it and would push when needed, for his legs were far from failing him, but he felt that Nadia, dragged on foot since the passage of the Obi—namely, for more than eight days—was at the end of her strength.

He waited. The vehicle arrived soon at the turn of the road.

It was a very dilapidated vehicle, able to hold at most three persons—what is called in that country a kibitka. The kibitka is usually drawn by three horses, but this one was drawn only by one horse, with long hair and a long tail, but its Mongolian blood affirmed strength and courage.

A young man conducted it, having near him a dog.

Nadia at once saw that this young man was a Russian. He had a sweet and pleasant appearance which inspired confidence.

Moreover, he did not appear to be in the least hurry. He walked with a quiet step in order not to overdrive his horse, and to see him one could never have believed that he was following a route which the Tartars might cut off at any moment.

Nadia, holding the hand of Michael Strogoff, stood on one side.

"The kibitka stopped, and the driver looked at the young girl, at the same time smiling."

"And where are you going in this fashion?" he asked her as he looked pleasantly round.

At the sound of his voice Michael Strogoff said to himself that he had heard it somewhere, and without doubt it was sufficient to cause him to recognize the driver of the kibitka, for his face at once became serene.

"Well, now, where are you going?" repeated the young man, addressing himself more directly to Michael Strogoff.

"We were going to Irkutsk," answered the latter.

"Oh, my good man, do you not know, then, that there are many, many ways between this and Irkutsk?"

"I know it."

"And you are going on foot?"

"On foot."

"As for you, it's all right, but the miss?"

"She is my sister," said Michael Strogoff, who thought it more prudent to give this name again to Nadia.

"Yes, your sister, my good man. But, believe me, she will never be able to reach Irkutsk."

"Friend," replied Michael Strogoff as he drew near, "the Tartars have robbed us, and I have not a copeck to offer thee, but if you will take my sister near you I will follow the carriage on foot. I will run if it is necessary and will not delay you one hour."

"Brother," cried Nadia, "I do not wish it! I do not wish it! Sir, my brother is blind!"

"Blind?" said the young man in a voice moved with emotion.

"The Tartars have burned out his eyes," answered Nadia, stretching out her hands as though to implore pity.

And such was the exhaustion of the young girl that, rocked by the monotonous motion of the kibitka, she soon fell into a sleep that resembled an utter prostration. Michael Strogoff and Nadia made a lot for her on the birch leaves as well as they were able. The compassionate young man was much moved, and if a tear did not escape the eyes of Michael Strogoff in truth it was because the red-hot iron had burned them dry.

"She is pretty," said Nicholas.

"Yes," answered Michael Strogoff. "These darlings would be strong, for they are courageous, but they are really only weak. Do you come a great distance?"

"From a great distance."

"Poor young fellow! It must have hurt you much when they burned your eyes."

"Very much," said Michael Strogoff, turning as though he could see Nicholas.

"Did you not cry?"

"Yes."

"I also should have cried. To think that one can never see again those he loves! Anyhow they see you. That is perhaps some consolation."

"Yes, perhaps. Tell me, friend," demanded Michael Strogoff, "have you never seen me anywhere before today?"

"You, my good man? No, never."

"It is because the sound of your voice is not unknown to me."

"Do you see?" said Nicholas, smiling.

"He knows the sound of my voice. Perhaps you ask me this to learn whence I come. Oh, I am going to tell you. I am coming from Kalyvan."

"From Kalyvan?" said Michael Strogoff.

"Well, then it is there that I met you. You were at the telegraph office?"

"That may be," answered Nicholas.

"I lived there. I was employed as telegraph operator."

"And you remained at your post to the last moment?"

"Bli! It is especially at that moment one ought to leave there."

"It was the day when an Englishman and a Frenchman, rubies in their hands, disputed the turn at your wicket, and when the Englishman telegraphed the first verses of the Bible?"

"That, my good man, is possible, but I do not remember it."

"What! You do not remember it?"

"I never read the dispatches which I transmit. My duty being to forget them, the shortest way is to be ignorant of them."

This answer was characteristic of Nicholas Pissarov.

However, the kibitka kept on its easy course, which Michael Strogoff and Nadia liked to render more rapid, but Nicholas and his horse were accustomed to a gait from which neither the one nor the other could depart. The horse walked for three hours and then rested for one, at this day and night.

During the halts the horse pastured, the travelers of the kibitka ate in company with the faithful Serko. The kibitka was provisioned for at least twenty persons, and Nicholas had generously placed the reserved food at the disposal of his two guests, whom he believed to be brother and sister.

On the 22d of August the kibitka reached the town of Atchinsk, which was 380 versts from Tomsk. A hundred and twenty versts still separated it from Krasnolarsk. No incident had marked this journey. During the six days the two travelers, Michael Strogoff and Nadia, had remained just the same, the one in his unalterable calmness, the other two anxious and looking forward to the moment when their companion would separate from them.

On the evening of the 25th of August the kibitka was only half a verst from Krasnolarsk. One could see on the right and left, under numerous wooden crosses which are erected along the road at the approaches to the town. It was 7 o'clock at night.

The kibitka had stopped.

"Where are we, sister?" asked Michael Strogoff.

"A little over a half verst from the first houses," answered Nadia.

"Has the town, then, gone to sleep? No noise strikes upon my ear."

Ten minutes afterward the kibitka entered the principal street.

Irkutsk. He had outstripped the Tartars, and when the soldiers of the emir should arrive at Krasnolarsk they would only find an abandoned town there and no means of immediate communication between the two banks of the Yenisei; hence a delay of some days until a bridge of boats, difficult to construct, should open a passage to them. For the first time since the unucky meeting with the Ogares. On the courier of the czar felt himself less uneasy and could hope that no new obstacle would arise to the accomplishment of his plans.

The kibitka, after having proceeded about fifteen versts toward the south-east, came to and retook the long high-road across the steppe.

On the 28th of August the travelers had passed the town of Balaisk, which was eighty versts from Krasnolarsk, and by the 29th that of Ribinsk, forty versts from Balaisk.

The next day, after traveling more than thirty-five versts, they arrived at Kamsk, a more considerable town, watered by the river of the same name, a small affluent of the Yenisei, which descended from the mountains of Sayansk.

On going out from Kamsk Michael informed Nadia and Nicholas that they would find only one little town of some importance, Nijni Oudinsk, before Irkutsk. Nicholas answered that he knew that there was a telegraphic station in that town. Therefore if Nijni Oudinsk had been abandoned like Kamsk he would certainly be obliged to seek for some occupation in the capital of eastern Siberia.

From Kamsk to the neighboring town was very long, about a hundred and thirty versts.

After having crossed the little river of Birsousa the kibitka reached Birsinsk on the morning of the 4th of September. There, very fortunately, Nicholas, who saw his provisions becoming exhausted, found in an abandoned bakery a dozen cakes, prepared with mutton fat, and a large supply of boiled rice.

CITIZENS' LEAGUE.

Executive on Saturday Discussed Proposed District System.

The Citizens' League will this week settle down to active work. There will in all probability be two meetings of the executive, on Tuesday and Wednesday, and on Thursday evening the league will meet to discuss recommendations which will be placed before it by the executive.

A meeting of the executive was held on Saturday evening. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Keefe, who is ill, and Mr. McAvity, who was out of town. The executive considered the proposed change in the mode of electing aldermen. This subject, it will be remembered, was brought up at several meetings of the league. There was a free discussion at the meeting on Saturday, but no new arguments for or against a change were offered. A motion was made to postpone the meeting to a change in the present system is not advisable. This was debated on at some length, and when it was decided to postpone the meeting to the 11th inst. The members were equally divided and the motion was carried on the casting vote of the chairman. This subject will be brought up again at the meeting on Tuesday, and it is considered that a committee be chosen to look into the introduction of the district system at some time in the near future. It was thought that the proposed change could not be made this year, and that consequently there was no need of rushing the matter. It will in all probability be taken up by the league on Thursday night.

The executive has not yet considered candidates for the Council, but will do so at the meeting which will be held on Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock. There has been some talk privately among the members of the candidates who will be proposed by the league, but the question has not been formally discussed. On Tuesday the executive will by ballot decide which of the members of the present Council shall receive the support of the league, and new candidates to take the places of those retiring will also be considered.

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A SAD DEATH.

William B. Phair, of Fredericton Passes Away.

FREDERICTON, March 12.—The death occurred at 4 o'clock this morning, at his residence, St. John street, of William B. Phair, assistant postmaster of this city. Two weeks ago the community was startled to learn of Mrs. Madley's demise, last Sunday the citizens were still more shocked at the sudden passing away of Mr. Phair, and today, the third in succession, adds further to the sad and sudden another death. About a week ago Mr. Phair was confined to the house and his doctor pronounced his sickness a case of typhoid fever. It was understood that the attack was a slight one, and friends knowing the sick man's strong constitution, that he had never experienced a day's illness, thought the recovery would be only a matter of time. Friday complications arose, and that night his family became quite anxious. During yesterday afternoon improvement was shown, but at midnight a sudden change for the worse took place, and the patient sank rapidly to death ensued at the hour above mentioned. Mr. Phair, who was a son of the late Andrew Phair, former postmaster of Fredericton, was probably about as well known as any citizen in the place. He was a man of little past fifty, and for thirty-four years had occupied a position in the post office. He was married to Mrs. Cameron two years ago, he became assistant postmaster.

The deceased is survived by his wife, who was formerly Miss Ellingood, and three daughters, Katherine, Margaret and Dorothy, the former is a professional nurse and is at the present time in New York taking a special course. He leaves also his mother, Mrs. Andrew Phair, three sisters, Annie, Harriet and Cecil, and one brother, Byron, who is later also an employee of the post office.

Judge Wilson had the misfortune to fall on the icy sidewalk near his residence on Waterloo Row, last evening and fractured his right wrist. His hurt will probably be laid up for some time.

LATE SHIP NEWS.

Domestic Ports.

HALIFAX, March 12.—Arrd, 11th, str. Canada, from Liverpool, and 12th, str. Bavarian, from St. John; Baker, from Boston; Senlac, from St. John via ports.

ST. JOHN, March 12.—Arrd, 10th, str. Swallow, from St. John; Clifford C. Galloway, from do.

CLYDE, March 12.—Arrd, str. Bengore Head, from St. John via Dublin.

AVONMOUTH, March 12.—Arrd, str. Montclair, from St. John via Liverpool.

GLASGOW, March 12.—Arrd, str. Corinthian, from Halifax and St. John.

Foreign Ports.

PORTLAND, Me. March 12.—Arrd, U S revenue cutter, Algonquin, cruising; str. Canada, from Liverpool, and 12th, str. Bavarian, from St. John; Baker, from Boston; Senlac, from St. John via ports.

ST. JOHN, March 12.—Arrd, 10th, str. Swallow, from St. John; Clifford C. Galloway, from do.

CLYDE, March 12.—Arrd, str. Bengore Head, from St. John via Dublin.

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There is a Market-Place Where You May Buy "Peace of Mind."

and yet own something which you would like to turn into cash—if you could do it "quietly and privately," or,

if Your Tenant is Always in Arrears,

and your house is good enough to attract a desirable tenant; or,

if Your Employees are Careless

of your interests, and too secure of their "pull" with you; or

Your Wife is Growing Old

through trying to "manage" incompetent or wasteful servants; and these things get on your nerves, then

The "STAR" Want Ad. Columns Afford a Market-Place Where You Can Buy Peace of Mind.

JEWS AND GENTILES MIXED.

Trainload of Immigrants Passed Through From Halifax.

An immigrant train passed through here last evening from Halifax with 400 passengers bound for Winnipeg and other western points. Half of the passengers or more were English and the remainder mostly Jews. There was quite a large party of Russians, who, it was generally stated among the English passengers, had run away from their country to save themselves from going to the war. The foreigners were, on the whole, a very filthy class, according to those who came along with them in the steerage on the Dominion line steamer Canada.

The English passengers who passed through yesterday were a very respectable looking lot. The majority of them came over as second cabin passengers, and some of them are men of considerable means.

Among the passengers was a party of 72, who are being sent here by Mrs. Joyce, honorary president of the immigration department of the Imperial Institute, London, and wife of a prominent member of the English parliament. Fifty or more of this party were single girls from the ages of 15 years up to 25. There were also a number of men with their families. These are much more fortunate than the other immigrants, in that they have positions waiting for them when they arrive at their destination. The party was in charge of a Miss Allen of London, Eng., who came here last summer in charge of two similar parties. Miss Allen will accompany her party as far as Toronto, where about 25 of them will be located. The remainder will go to Winnipeg in charge of Mrs. Bartlett, a sub-matron, who accompanied them out.

This is the first of a series of parties which will be sent out monthly by Mrs. Joyce during the spring and summer. The next party will leave Liverpool on April 6th on the Canada. The Imperial Institute is making arrangements for the steamship company, whereby the immigrants coming out under their control are carried at steerage rates. Those among them who are unable to pay their fares are provided with tickets from headquarters.

HELD UP ON THE WAY HOME.

Anton Hekking of New York, the famous cellist, was aboard the delayed Pacific express which arrived yesterday. Mr. Hekking was pleased with his trip to Halifax, but does not think much of his luck while travelling. Some weeks ago he came from Boston to fulfil an engagement in Halifax. It was just at the time when the I. C. R. was out of the city, and he found it very difficult to get to the city. Later on Mr. Hekking again essayed the trip; his train to this city was late and he missed his connection. Now on his return he found himself a passenger on a train delayed for a whole day by reason of a snow bank and a stalled train in the way. Mr. Hekking, who is a very busy man, left at a hotel, and leaves this morning for a New York.

FRED KINDERGARTEN.

A concert is to be held this evening, March 13th, at 8 o'clock, in Orange Hall, German street, in aid of the free kindergarten. As the ladies and gentlemen on the programme have kindly volunteered their services in aid of the cause, the committee in charge trust they will receive a hearty response from the public. The following is the programme: Trio, Mademoiselle Geddes, McNeill and Miss Cochrane; solo, Mr. deWitt Kearns; reading, selection from Dickens, Mr. North; mandolin solo, Miss Doherty; address, The Kindergarten, by the president, solo, Miss Henderson; quartette, When Icicles Hang on the Wall, from Love's Labor Lost, Misses Fowler and Manning, Messrs. North and Fowler; solo, Mr. Kearns; violin solo, Mr. Phasanti; solo, T. J. Gunn; quartette, So Sweet a Kiss.

I increased my advertising immediately and have been doing so ever since.—A. A. Hendrickson, Hendrickson Wrist Machine Co., N. Y.

HAULTAIN'S OBJECTION TO LAURIER'S ACTION.

its executive jurisdiction, and necessitating the request for imperial legislation whenever the rapidly changing conditions of a new country may require them."

Haultain at some length contends that as territory included in the proposed provinces was "admitted into the union" in 1870, it is indefensible to now say, as the acts do, that Alberta and Saskatchewan will be admitted into the union July 1st, 1905, the object of this phrase in the bills being to make new and unassailable conditions with respect to the school question. The Northwest are entitled to the same provincial rights respecting schools, etc., as were prescribed when Prince Edward Island and British Columbia were admitted to the confederation.

Haultain lays stress on the point that this is a purely constitutional question affecting provincial rights, and is not concerned in any sense with the discussion of the relative merits of any system of education, and that the bills in this regard are a direct interference by parliament with the rights of provinces to do as to them seems best with their own.

Most emphatically Haultain sets forth: "It recognizes no power in parliament to make laws for the new provinces in contravention of the letter and spirit of the B. N. A. Act. Further, I recognize neither right nor justice in the attempt to dictate to the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan the manner in which they shall conduct their own business."

In incisive phraseology Haultain adds: "The new provinces have their own futures to work out, and I deplore the possibility that they may commensurate their careers, torn with dissension upon subjects such as these. . . . It seems to me that a great deal of this trouble might have been avoided had we been given the opportunity of discussing these proposals, and I feel I must place on record the fact that we of the Northwest are not responsible for the situation."

Haultain's outspoken words have created a sensation at the capital.

THOMPSON AT OTTAWA.

OTTAWA, March 12.—Thompson, the conservative member for the Yukon, has arrived, and will take his seat on Monday. The opposition benches will give him a routing reception.

General joy is expressed by the parliamentary friends of Ganong of Charlotte county over the news that his health is steadily improving. All hope to see him in his seat again this session.

PIPE-SMOKERS SHOULD KNOW

that a big package of Rainbow Cut Plug Smoking Tobacco costs only 10c and the quality is wonderfully good.

DELAIED BY LATE TRAINS.

Twenty-three and one half hours late the Pacific express from Halifax rolled into the station Sunday afternoon. A freight train was stalled near Dorchester in a snow bank and the passenger train was delayed until the former could be shoveled out. A considerable number of people were waiting to go west, and the depot presented a busy scene about 5 o'clock.

Among those who were detained by the train were Jas. P. Carby, the well known hockey player, who leaves on a three weeks' holiday trip to Montreal, Toronto and New York; Homer D. Forbes on his way to Montreal, where he will take in the Victoria-Rat Portage hockey match.