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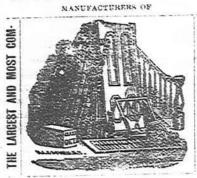
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words with some pride, for often by his GIVE US A TRIAL.

clemency he had shown that Russian justice knew how to pardon. Come THE Exposition. "Did not Ivan Ogareff," asked the Every attention will be shown visit-ors and we especially invite the people

ezar, "return to Russia a second time after that journey through the Siberian provinces, the object of which remains unknown? "He did." to visit our handsome store to inspect "And have the police lost trace of

him since?" "No. sire.

"Where was Ivan Ogareff last heard

"In the province of Perm." "In what town?" "At Perm itself."

"What was he doing?" "He appeared unoccupied, and there was nothing suspicious in his conduct.' "Then he was not under the surveillance of the secret police?" "No, sire."

"When did he leave Perm?" "About the month of March." "To go"--"Where is unknown."

"And since that time it is not known what has become of him?" "No, sire, it is not known." "Well, then, I myself know," answer-

ed the czar. "I have received anony-

By Jules Verne

THE COURIER

OF THE CZAR

CHAPTER I.

terday."

that occurs."

his majesty.

he had done the former time.

large antechamber adjoining.

inces from the Russian crown.

Asiatic Russia, or Siberia, covers a

miles and contains nearly 2,000,000 of

two countries, now under the Musco-

vast country. One resided at Irkutsk,

the capital of western Siberia. The

river Tchonna, a tributary of the Yeni-

No rail yet furrows these wide plains,

precious mines which make the Sibe-

Strelink, Albazine, Blagowstenks, Rad-

It was this wire, extending from Eka-

been cut, first beyond Tomsk and then

The czar had remained motionless at

the door was again opened. The chief

ly, "and tell me all you know of Ivan

"He is an extremely dangerous man,

"He ranked as colonel, did he not?"

"Very intelligent, but a man whose

spirit it was impossible to subdue and

possessing an ambition which stopped

at nothing. He soon became involved

in secret intrigues, and it was then that

he was degraded from his rank by his

"Two years since. Pardoned after

six months of exile by your majesty's

"And since that time has he not re-

"Yes, sire, but he voluntarily return-

ed there," replied the chief of police,

adding and slightly lowering his voice,

"There was a time, sire, when none re-

"Well, while I live Siberia is and

shall be a country whence men can re-

The czar had the right to utter these

"How long ago was that?"

favor, he returned to Russia.'

visited Siberia?"

turned from Siberia."

"Enter, general," said the czar brief-

of police appeared on the threshold.

sire." replied the chief of police.

"Was he an intelligent officer?"

between Tomsk and kalyvan.

courier this moment!"

'Ogareff."

"Yes, sire."

sei, separates the two Siberias.

that of the Tshowktshes.

"Telegrams reach Tomsk no longer

ing the hall, his majesty entered a

The czar had not so suddenly left the

General Kissoff.

"Whence?"

"From Tomsk."

yond that city?"

"Is the wire cut be-

"Yes, sire, since yes-

RE. a fresh dispatch." place beyond the frontier I have every reason to believe that they are correct." "Do you mean, sire," cried the chief of police, "that Ivan Ogareff has a hand gaze. in this Tartar rebellion?" "Indeed I do, and I will now tell you

"Telegraph hourly to Tomsk, general, and let me be kept informed of all "Sire, it shall be done," answered to foment rebellion among their no- and noble heart. These words were exchanged about madic population. He then went so far two hours after midnight, at the mosouth as free Turkestan. There in the provinces of Bokhara, Khokhand and bite his nails or scratch his head in ment when the fete given at the New Koondooz he found chiefs willing to doubt and indecision. Sparing of gesnalace was at the height of its splenpour their Tartar hordes into Siberia tures as of words, he always stood mo-An hour later General Kissoff, who and execute a general rising in Asiatic | tionless like a soldier before his supehad just re-entered, quickly approached Russia. The storm has been silently rior, but when he moved his step showgathering, but it has at last burst like ed a firmness, a freedom of movement, a thunderclap, and now all means of which proved the confidence and vivac-"Well?" asked the latter abruptly, as communication between eastern and ity of his mind. western Siberia have been stopped. "A courier this moment!" And, leav-

brother! The czar had become excited while speaking and now paced up and down ballroom of the New palace when the with hurried steps. The chief of police fete he was giving to the civil and mili- said nothing, but he thought to himtary authorities and principal people of self that during the time when the em-Moscow was at the height of its bril- peror of Russia never pardoned an exliancy without ample cause, for he had fle schemes such as those of Ivan Oga-A few moments passed, during which

just received information that serious | reff could never have been realized. events were taking place beyond the frontiers of the Ural. It had become he was silent, then, approaching the evident that a formidable rebellion czar, who had thrown himself into an threatened to wrest the Siberian prov- armchair, he said: "Your majesty has of course given

orders that this rebellion may be supsuperficial area of 1,790,208 square pressed as soon as possible?" "Yes," answered the czar. "The last inhabitants. Extending from the Ural telegram which was able to reach Nij-

mountains, which separate it from ni Udinsk would set in motion the Russia in Europe, to the shores of the troops in the governments of Yenisei, Pacific ocean, it is bounded on the Irkutsk, Yatu'sk, as well as those in south by Turkestan and the Chinese the provinces of the Amur and Lake empire, on the north by the Arctic Baikal. At the same time the regiocean, from the sea of Kara to Be- ments from Perm and Nijni Novgorod, ring strait. It is divided into several and the Cossacks from the frontier are governments or provinces, those of To- advancing by forced marches toward bolsk, Yeniselsk, Irkutsk, Omsk and the Ural mountains. But unfortunately Yakutsk; contains two districts, Ok- some weeks must pass before they can hotsk and Kamchatka, and possesses attack the Tartars."

"And your majesty's brother, his vite dominion-that of the Kirghiz and highness the grand duke, is now isolated in the government of Irkutsk and . Two governor generals represent the | no longer in direct communicati supreme authority of the czar over this | Moscow?"

"That is so.

"But by the last dispatches he must know what measures have been taken by your majesty and what help he may expect from the governments nearest some of which are in reality extremely to that of Irkutsk?"

"He knows that," answered the czar, fertile. No iron ways lead from these "but what he does not know is that rian soil far richer below than above its Ivan Ogareff, as well as being a rebel, surface. The traveler journeys in sum- is also playing the part of a traitor and mer in a kibick or telga; in winter, in a that in him he has a personal and bitter enemy. It is to the grand duke that Kalyvan, Tomsk, Krasnoiarsk, Nijni Udinsk, Irkutsk, Verkne-Nertsckink, secret intelligence, this is what the no less true, a heart of gold. Nikolaevsk, and 6 rubles and 19 copecks are paid for every word sent grand duke does not know and this is from one end to the other. From Irkutsk what he must know!"

"Well, sire, an intelligent, courageous courier"-

"I momentarily expect one. "And it is to be hoped ne will be expoditions" added the chief of police. "for allow me to add, sire, that Siberia is a favorable land for rebellions."

terenburg to Nikolaevsk, which had All communication was interrupted. Had the wires between Kalyvan and could possibly do so, and this promise This was the reason why the czar, to Tomsk been cut by Tartar scouts, or had the emir bimself arrived in the Yeniseisk provinces? Was all the low-cided that he should enter the personal er part of western Siberia in a fer- service of the emperor of Russia, in the ment? Had the rebellion already spread to the eastern regions? No one could say. The only agent which fears neither cold nor heat, which can nei- ed himself especially in a journey to ther be stopped by the rigors of winter nor the heat of summer and which flies with the rapidity of lightning-the electric current-was prevented from traversing the steppes, and it was no longer possible to warn the grand duke, shut up in Irkutsk, of the danger threatening him from the treason of Ivan Oga-

A courier only could supply the place of the interrupted electric current. It would take this man some time to the rebels and invaders he must dishighness the grand duke and exiled to play almost superhuman courage and intelligence. But with a clear head and

a firm heart much can be done. "Shall I be able to find this head and heart?" thought the czar.



CHAPTER II. HE door of the imperial cabinet was again opened, and General Kissoff was announced. "The courier?"

ed the czar eagerly. "He is here, sire,"

plied General Kissoff. "Have you found a fitting man?" "I will answer for him to your majes-

"Has he been in the service of the palace?"

"Yes, sire. "You know him?"

"Personally, and at various times he has fulfilled difficult missions with success."

"Abroad? "In Siberia itself." "Where does he come from?" "From Omsk. He is a Siberian." "Has he coolness, intelligence, cour

"Yes, sire; he has all the qualities necessary to succeed even where others might possibly fall." "What is his age?"

"Thirty." "Is he strong and vigorous?" "Sire, he can bear cold, hunger, thirst, fatigue, to the very last extremities." "He must have a frame of iron."

"Sire, he has." "And a heart?" "A heart of gold." "His name?"

"Michael Strogoff." "Is he ready to set out?" "He awaits your majesty's orders in the guardroom."

"Let him come in," said the cza:. In a few minutes Michael Strogoff,

brary. upon him without uttering a word, which he held in his hand, he said: while Michael stood perfectly motion-

broad shouldered, deep chested man. er but him." His powerful head possessed the fine features of the Caucasian race. His well knit frame seemed built for the performance of feats of strength. It would have been a difficult task to lious country, invaded by Tartars, move such a man against his will, for whose interest it will be to intercept when his feet were once planted on the this letter." ground it was as if they had taken root. As he doffed his Muscovite cap locks massive forehead. When his ordinarl- thee on the way." ly pale face became at all flushed, it and in the face of events now taking arose solely from a more rapid action of the heart, under the influence of a quicker circulation. His eyes of a deep blue looked with a clear, frank, firm

The slightly contracted eyebrows indicated lofty heroism-"the hero's cool something which you are ignorant of. | courage," according to the definition of After leaving Perm Ivan Ogareff cross- the physiologist. He possessed a fine thee acknowledge who thou art nor head, truly charming, was of the purest ed the Ural mountains, entered Siberia nose, with large nostrils, and a well and penetrated the Kirghiz steppes and shaped mouth, with the slightly prothere endeavored, not without success. jecting lips which denote a generous

Michael Strogoff had the temperament of a man of action, who does not

Michael Strogoff wore a handsome Moreover, Ivan Ogareff, thirsting for military uniform, something resembling vengeance, aims at the life of my that of a light cavalry officer in the field-boots, spurs, half tightly fitting trousers, brown pelisse, trimmed with fur and ornamented with yellow braid. On his breast glittered a cross and medals.

Michael Strogoff belonged to the spe cial corps of the czar's couriers, ranking as an officer among those picked men. His most discernible characteristic-particularly in his walk, his face, in the whole man, and which the czar perceived at a glance-was that he was sure that Michael Strogoff will 20 all "fulfiller of orders." He therefore that a man can do." possessed one of the most serviceable qualities in Russia-one which the celebrated novelist Turgeneff says "will lead to the highest positions in the Muscovite empire."

In short, if any one could accomplish this journey from Moscow to Irkutsk across the rebellious country, surmount obstacles and brave perils of all sorts, Michael Strogoff was the man. A circumstance especially favorable

was thoroughly acquainted with the riers, those who traveled the most rapcountry which he was about to traverse and 'understood its different dialects, not only from having traveled there before, but because he was of not travel as a courier of the ezar usu-Siberian origin.

stripping it he dragged the gigantic ger. Also, while supplying him with a many versts distant, thus exhibiting cient for his journey and would faciliremarkable strength in a boy so young. or even in higher latitudes, where the service, which is the sesame par expolar night is prolonged for many days, cellence. He contented kimself with he could find his way when others furnishing him with a podorojna. would have had no idea whither to di-

An electric telegraph, with a single Ivan Ogareff owes his first disgrace, forms of icicles, the appearance of the requisite, by one or more persons, and, wire more than 8,000 versts in length, and what is more serious is that this small branches of trees, mists rising moreover, it was by special notification alone affords communication between man is not known to him. Ivan Oga- far away on the horizon, vague sounds made available in the event of the Musthe western and eastern frontiers of reff's plan, therefore, is to go to Irkutsk in the air, distant reports, the flight of covite government forbidding natives Siberia. On issuing from the Ural it and under an assumed name offer his birds through the foggy atmosphere—a of any other countries to leave Russia. passes through Ekaterenburg, Kasi- services to the grand duke. Then, aft- thousand circumstances which are so passes through Ekaterenourg, Rasis services to the grand duke. Then, are though the podorojna is simply a permission mov, Tionmen, Ishim, Omsk, Elamsk, er gaining his confidence, when the many words to those who can decipher to take post horses, but Michael Stro-Tartars have invested Irkutsk, he will them. Moreover, tempered by snow betray the town and with it my broth- like a Damascus blade in the waters of er, whose life is directly threatened. Syria, he had a frame of iron, as Gen- cite suspicion as to his mission—that is de, Orlomskaya, Alexandrewskoe and This is what I have learned from my eral Kissoff had said, and, what was

The only sentiment of love felt by Michael Strogoff was that which he entertained for his mother, the aged Marfa. who could never be induced to leave the house of the Strogon's at Omsk, on the banks of the Istish, where the old huntsman and she had lived so long to- forget that he was no longer a courier, gether. When her son left her, he but a plain merchant, Nicholas Korpawent away with a full heart, but promising to come and see her whenever he

he had always religiously Lept. When Michael was twenty, it was decorps of the couriers of the czar. The hardy, intelligent, zealous, well conducted young Siberian first distinguishthe Caucasus, through the-midst of a difficult country, ravaged by some restless successors of Schamyl; then, later, in an important mission to Petrepolowski, in Kamchatka, the extreme limit of Asiatic Russia. During these long journeys he displayed such marvelous coolness, prudence and courage as to gain him the approbation and protection of his chief, who rapidly advanced

him in his profession. The furloughs which were his due traverse the 5,200 versts between Moscow and Irkutsk. To pass the ranks of he might be separated from her by thousands of versts and winter had rendered the roads almost impassable, he had never failed to devote to his old mother. Having been much emhe had been so long absent from her.

in complete ignorance of what the emperor expected from him. The czar, apparently satisfied with his scrutiny, went to his bureau and, the Moscow station. The stations on motioning to the chief of police to seat the Russian railroads are much used as himself, dictated in a low voice a letter places for meeting not only by those of not more than a few lines. The let- who are about to proceed by the train, ter penned, the czar reread it attentive- but by friends who come to see them ly and then signed it, preceding his off. It indeed resembles from the vaname with these words, "Byt po riety of characters assembled a small

The letter was placed in an envelope, which was sealed with the imperial arms. The czar, rising, told Michael Stro-

constitutes the decisive formula of the

Russian emperors.

goff to draw near. Michael advanced a few steps and then stood motionless, ready to an

The czar again looked him full in the face, and their eyes met. Then in an abrupt tone:

"Thy name?" be asked. "Michael Strogoff, sire." "Thy rank?" "Captain in the corps of couriers of the czar." "Thou dost know Siberia?"

"A native of"-"Omsk. sire." "Hast thou relations there?" "Yes, sire." "What relations?"

"I am a Siberian."

The czar fixed a penetrating look a moment, then, pointing to the letter

"Here is a letter which I charge thee, Michael Strogoff, to deliver into the Michael Strogoff was a tall, vigorous, hands of the grand duke and to no oth-"I will deliver it, sire."

"The grand duke is at Irkutsk."

"I will go to Irkutsk." "Thou wilt have to traverse a rebel-"I will traverse it."

"Above all, beware of the traitor prepared for a journey which was still of thick curly hair fell over his broad, Ivan Ogareff, who will perhaps meet "I will beware of him."

"Wilt thou pass through Omsk?" "Sire, that is my route." "If thou dost see thy mother, there

will be the risk of being recognized. Thou must not see her!' Michael Strogoff besitated a moment. "I will not see her," said he. "Swear to me that nothing will make

whither thou art going."

"I swear it." "Michael Strogoff," continued the czar, giving the letter to the young courier, "take this letter. On it depends the safety of all Siberia and perhaps the life of my brother, the grand duke." highness the grand duke."

"Thou wilt pass whatever happens?" "I shall pass, or they shall kill me." "I want thee to live." "I shall live, and I shall pass," an-

swered Michael Strogoff. The czar appeared satisfied with Stro goff's calm and simple answer. "Go, then, Michael Strogoff," said he,

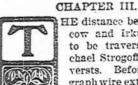
"go for God, for Russia, for my brother

smile.

and for myself." The courier, having saluted his sov ereign, immediately left the imperial cabinet and in a few minutes the New

nalace. "You made a good choice there, gen eral," said the czar. "I think so, sire," replied General Kissoff, "and your majesty may be

"He is indeed a man," said the czar.



HE distance between Moscow and Irkutsk, about to be traversed by Michael Strogoff, was 5,200 versts. Before the telegraph wire extended from the Ural mountains to

the eastern frontier of Siberia the disto the success of his plans was that he patch service was performed by couidly taking eighteen days to get from Moscow to Irkutsk.

In the first place, however, he must ally would. No one must even suspect When he was fourteen, Michael Stro- what he really was. Spies swarm in a off had killed his first bear quite rebellious country. Let him be recoglone. Tha was nothing. But after nized, and his mission would be in dan animal's skin to his father's house, large sum of money, which was suffitate it in some measure, General Kis-Gifted with marvelous acuteness, soff had not given him any document when every object was hidden in miss specifying that he was in the emperor's

The podorojna was made out in the rect their steps. He had learned to name of Nicholas Korpanoff, merchant, read almost imperceptible signs, the living at Irkutsk. It authorized Nicholas Korpanoff to be accompanied, if The podorojna is simply a permission

> goff was not to use it unless he was sure that by so doing he would not exto say, while he was on European territory. The consequence was that in Siberia, while traversing the insurgent provinces, he would have no power over the relays either in the choice of horses in preference to others or in demanding conveyances for his personal use. Neither was Michael Strogoff to noff, traveling from Moscow to Irkutsk, and as such exposed to all the impedi-

ments of an ordinary journey. To pass unknown more or less rapidly, but to pass somehow or other-such were the directions he had received. Thirty years previously the escort of a traveler of rank consisted of not less than 200 mounted Cossacks, 200 foot soldiers, 25 Baskir horsemen, 300 camels, 400 horses, 25 wagons, 2 portable boats and 2 pieces of cannon. All this was requisite for a journey in Siberia. Michael Strogoff, however, had neither cannon nor horsemen nor foot soldiers nor beasts of burden. He would travel in a carriage or on horseback

when he could, on foot when he could There would be no difficulty in getting over the first 1,500 versts, the distance between Moscow and the Russian frontier. Railroads, post carriages, steamboats, relays of horses, were at every one's disposal and consequently at the disposal of the courier of the

czar. Accordingly on the morning of the 16th of July, having doffed his uniform, ployed in the south of the empire, he with a knapsack on his back, dressed had not seen old Marfa for three years in the simple Russian costume, tightly -three ages-the first time in his life fitting tunic, the traditional belt of the moujik, wide trousers, gartered at the Now, however, in a few days he would knees, and high boots, Michael Stroobtain his furlough, and he had ac- goff arrived at the station in time for cordingly already made preparations the first train. He carried no arms, for departure for Omsk when the openly at least, but under his belt was events which have been related oc- hidden a revolver and in his pocket curred. Michael Strogoff was there- one of those large knives with which a fore introduced into the czar's presence Siberian hunter can so neatly disembowel a bear without injuring its precious fur.

A crowd of travelers had collected at neying to that faroff Siberia and at a added all the perils of an invaded counsemon," which, signifying "so be it," news exchange. The train in which Michael took his

place was to set him down at Nijni Novgorod. There terminated at that time the iron road which, uniting Moscow and St. Petersburg, will eventually continue to the Russian frontier. It was a journey of about 400 versts, and the her the young Livonian, who had been train would accomplish it in ten hours. Once arrived at Nijni Novgorod, Stroforms of the railway station. goff would, according to circumstances, either take the land route or the steamer on the Volga, so as to reach the Ural mountains as soon as possible.

Michael Strogoff ensconsed himself trict of the same name. It was here in his corner like a worthy citizen that Michael Strogoff was obliged to whose affairs go well with him and leave the railway, which at the time who endeavors to kill time by sleep. Nevertheless, as he was not alone in he advanced his traveling would behis compartment, he slept with one eye come first less speedy and then less open and listened with both his ears. Nijni Novgorod, the fixed population In fact, the rumor of the rising of the Kirghiz hordes and of the Tartar inva- of which is only from 30,000 to 35,000

The czar suspended his questions for pal among Russians, who know that spies are ever on the watch for any Makariew had the benefit of this con treasonable expressions which may be uttered.

At the Wladimir station fresh travelers entered the train. Among others, a young girl presented herself at the door of the carriage occupied by Michael Strogoff. A vacant place was found opposite

the courier of the czar. The young girl took it after placing by her side a mod-Michael Strogoff strolled through the est traveling bag of red leather which town quietly, looking out for some inn. seemed to constitute her luggage. Then, He was looking for supper rather than seating herself with downcast eyes, she a bed, but he found both at the sign of the City of Constantinople. to last several hours.

His supper finished, Michael Strogoff Michael Strogoff could not help lookinstead of going up to his bedroom ing attentively at his newly arrived felagain strolled out into the town. low traveler. As she was so placed as Why did not Michael Strogoff go to travel with her back to the engine. quietly to bed, as would have seemed

he even offered her his seat, which she more seasonable after a long railway might prefer to her own, but she thankjourney? Was he thinking of the ed him with a slight bend of her grace young Livonian girl who had for so ful neck. many hours been his traveling compan-The young girl appeared to be about ion? Having nothing better to do, he sixteen or seventeen years of age. Her was thinking of her.

"Alone." he said to himself; "alone in Slavonic type - slightly severe, and the midst of these wandering tribes! which would when a few summers had | And yet the present dangers are nothpassed over her unfold into beauty ing to those she must undergo. Siberather than mere prettiness. From be- ria! Irkutsk! I am about to dare all neath a sort of kerchief which she wore risks for Russia, for the czar, while on her head escaped in profusion light she is about to do so for whom? For golden hair. Her eyes were brown, what? She is authorized to cross the "This letter shall be delivered to his soft and expressive of much sweetness frontier! And the country beyond is of temper. The nose was straight and in revolt! The steppes beyond are full attached to her pale and somewhat thin of Tartar bands!" cheeks by delicate mobile nostrils. The Michael Strogoff stopped for an inlips were finely cut, but it seemed as if stant and reflected.

they had long since forgotten how to "Without doubt," thought he, "she must have determined on undertaking The young traveler was tall and up her journey before the invasion. Perright, as well as could be judged of her haps she is even now ignorant of what figure from the very simple and ample is happening. But, no; that cannot be, pelisse that covered her. Although she for the merchants discussed before her was still a very young girl in the literal the disturbances in Siberia, and she sense of the term, the development of did not seem even surprised. She did her high forehead and clearly cut fea- not even ask for an explanation. She as long as wanted; interest, 7 per cent tures gave the idea that she was the must have known it then, and, though on large loans; 8 per cent on small possessor of a great moral energy, a knowing it, she is still resolute. Poor point which did not escape Michael girl! Her motive for the journey must Strogoff. Evidently this young girl had be urgent indeed! But, though she may already suffered in the past, and the be brave-and she certainly is so-her future doubtless did not present itself strength must fail her, and, to say to her in glowing colors. But it was nothing of dangers and obstacles, she none the less certain that she had will be unable to endure the fatigue of known how to struggle and that she such a journey. Never can she pass had resolved to struggle still with the Irkutsk!"

Indulging in such reflections, Michael

"Do you mean to stay all night on the

Michael Strogoff could not help smil-

dreading spies as he did above all

But in the same dialect, although his

accent was very different, the Bohe-

"You are right, Sangarre. Besides

"Tomorrow!" repeated the woman in

"Yes. Sangarre," replied the Bohe-

Thereupon the man and woman en-

"Good!" said Michael Strogoff to him-

self. "If these gypsies do not wish to

From his Siberian origin and because

he had passed his childhood in the

steppes Michael Strogoff, it has been

anid, understood almost all the lan-

guages in usage from Tartary to the

Sea of Ice. As to the exact significa-

An hour after Michael Strogoff was

sleeping soundly on one of those Rus-

to strangers, and on the morrow, the

17th of July, he awoke at break of day.

He had still five hours to pass at

Nijni Novgorod. It seemed to him an

age. How was he to spend the morn-

ing unless in wandering, as he had

done the evening before, through the

streets? By the time he had finished

his breakfast, strapped up his bag, had

his podorojna inspected at the police

office, he would have nothing to do but

start. But he was not a man to lie in bed

after the sun had risen, so he rose, dress

ed himself and placed the letter with

the imperial arms on it carefully at the

bottom of its usual pocket within the

lining of his coat, over which he fasten

ed his belt. He then closed his bag and

This done, he had no wish to return

to the City of Constantinople, and, in-

tending to breakfast on the bank of the

Volga near the wharf, he settled his

bill and left the inn. By the way of

precaution Michael Strogoff went first

to the office of the steam packet com-

pany and there made sure that the

Caucasus would start at the appointed

hour. As he did so the thought for the

first time struck him that since the

young Livonian girl was going to Perm

it was very possible that her intention

was also to embark in the Caucasus, in

Michael Strogoff found himself in the

central square when the report spread

that the head of police had been sum-

moned by a courier to the palace of the

which case he should accompany her.

threw it over his shoulder.

things.

surprise.

guage.

it interest him?

we start tomorrow.'

bench?" asked the man.

out difficulty retrace his steps.

Such was the impression which she Having strolled on for about an hour, produced at first sight. Michael Stro- he seated himself on a bench against goff, being himself of an energetic tem- the wall of a large wooden cottage perament, was naturally struck by the which stood, with others, on a vast character of her physiognomy, and, open space. while taking care not to cause her an-He had scarcely been there five minnoyance by a too persistent gaze, he ates when a hand was laid heavily on observed his neighbor with no small in- his shoulder. "What are you doing here?" roughly terest. The costume of the young traveler was both extremely simple and demanded a large and powerful man appropriate. She was not rich-that who had approached unperceived. "I am resting," replied Michael Strocould easily be seen-but not the slightest mark of negligence was to be dis- goff.

lock and key, and which, for want of "Yes, if I feel inclined to do so," answered Michael Strogoff in a tone someroom, she held on her lap. She were a long, dark pelisse, which what too sharp for the simple merchant was gracefully adjusted at the neck by he wished to personate. "Come forward, then, that I may see a blue tie. Under this pelisse a short skirt, also dark, fell over a robe which you," said the man. "It is not necessary," he replied, and reached to her ankles and of which the he calmly stepped back ten paces or so. lower edge was ornamented with some The man seemed, as Michael observsimple embroidery. Half boots of worked leather and thickly soled, as if cho- ed him well, to have the look of a Bohemian, such as are met at fairs and sen in the anticipation of a long jourwith whom contact, either physical or

cerned in her dress. All her luggage

was contained in a leather bag under

trials of life. Her energy was evident-

ly prompt and persistent and her calm-

to give way or lose his self command.

ney, covered her small feet. moral, is unpleasant. Then, as he lookognized by certain details the fashion ed more attentively through the dusk of the costume of Livonia, and he which was coming on, he perceived thought that his neighbor must be a near the cottage a large caravan, the usual traveling dwelling of the gypsies

native of the Baltic provinces. But whither was this young girl go- who swarm in Russla wherever a few ing alone at an age when the fostering copecks can be obtained. care of a father or the protection of a As the gypsy took two or three steps brother is considered a matter of ne- forward and was about to interrogate cessity? Had she now come after an Michael Strogoff more closely the door already long journey from the prov- of the cottage was opened. He could inces of western Russia? Was she just see a woman, who advanced quickmerely going to Nijni Novgorod, or was ly and in a language which Michael the end of her travels beyond the east- Strogoff knew to be a mixture of the ern frontier of the empire? Would Mongol and Siberian she said: "Anothsome relation, some friend, await her er spy! Let him alone and come to arrival by the train, or was it not supper. It is waiting for you." more probable, on the contrary, that she would find herself as much isolated ing at the epithet bestowed on him, in the town as she was in this compartment, where no one, she must think, appeared to care for her? It

was probable. Michael Strogoff observed her with mian replied in words which signify: interest, but, himself reserved, he sought no opportunity of accosting her; although several hours must elapse before the arrival of the train at Nijni Novgorod.

mian, "tomorrow, and the Father him-At last the train, at half past 8 in the self sends us-where we are going." evening, arrived at the station of Nijni Novgorod. tered the cottage and carefully closed Before any one could get out of the the door.

carriages the inspectors of police presented themselves at the doors and examined the passengers. Michael Strogoff showed his podo-

rojna made out in the name of Nicholas | me, they had better use some other lan-Korpanoff. He had consequently no difficulty. As to the other travelers in the compartment, all bound for Nijni Novgo-

rod, their appearance, happily for them,

was in nowise suspicious. not a passport, since passports are no tion of the words exchanged between The young girl in her turn exhibited longer required in Russia, but a permit the gypsy and his companion be did indorsed with a private seal and which seemed to be of a special character. The inspector read the permit with attention. Then, having attentively exsian beds which always seem so hard amined the person whose description it contained, he said:

"You are from Riga?" "Yes," replied the young girl. "You are going to Irkutsk?" "Yes."

"By what route?" "By Perm." "Good!" replied the inspector. "Take care to have your permit vised at the

police station of Nijni Novgorod." The young girl bent her head in token of assent Hearing the questions and replies, Michael Strogoff experienced a mingled sentiment both of surprise and pity. What, this young girl alone jour-

time when to its ordinary dangers were

try and one in a state of insurrection? How would she reach it? What would become of her? The inspection ended, the doors of the carriages were opened, but before Michael Strogoff could move toward the first to descend, had disappeared in the crowd which thronged the plat-

Nijni Novgorod, Lower Novgorod, situated at the junction of the Volga and the Oka, is the chief town in the disdid not go beyond this town. Thus as

governor general. An important dispatch from Moscow, it was said, was the cause of it. "The fair is to be closed," said one. "The regiment of Nijni Novgorod has sion had transpired in some degree, inhabitants, contained at that time received the route," declared another. The occupants of the carriage, whom more than 300,000-that is to say, the "They say that the Tartars menace chance had made his traveling compan- population was increased tenfold. This ions, discussed the subject, though with addition was in consequence of the cel- Tomsk!" [Continued on next page.] caution which has become habit ebrated fair which was held within

the walls for three weeks. Formerly yourse of traders, but since 1817 the fair had been removed to Nijni Novgo-

The town, dreary enough at most times, then presented a truly animated scene. Six different races of merchants, European and Asiatic, were fraternizing under the congenial influence of

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Office of Judge of Probate, Manning, S. C., August 1, 1900.

I respectfully call your attention to annexed statute. You will please give this matter early

Statute. Very respectfully.

J. M. WINDHAM,
Judge of Probate.

Sec. 2064-(1942). Executors, Administrators,
Guardians and Committees, shall annually
while any estate remains in their care or custody, at any time before the first day of July of
each year, render to the Judge of Probate of the
county from whom they obtain Letters Testamentary or Letters of Administrators or Letters of Guardianship, etc., a just and true account, upon oath, of the receipts and expenditures of such estate the preceding Calendar
year, which, when examined and approvedshall be deposited with the Inventory and appraisement or other papers belonging to such
estate, in the office of said Judge of Probate
there to be kept for the inspection of such perthere to be kept for the inspection of s sons as may be interested in the estate former penalties.) Approved the 2d day of March, 1897.

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