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THE COURIER OF THE CZAR By Jules Verne

CHAPTER I. "Sire, a fresh dispatch." "When?" "From Tomsk." "Is the wire cut beyond that city?" "Yes, sire, since yesterday."

The czar fixed a penetrating look upon him without uttering a word, while Michael stood perfectly motionless. Michael Strogoff was a tall, vigorous, broad shouldered, deep chested man.

The czar suspended his questions for a moment, then, pointing to the letter which he held in his hand, he said: "Here is a letter which I charge thee, Michael Strogoff, to deliver into the hands of the grand duke and no other."

At the Vladimir station fresh travelers entered the train. Among others a young girl presented herself at the door of the carriage occupied by Michael Strogoff.

The young girl appeared to be about sixteen or seventeen years of age. Her head, truly charming, was of the purest Slavonic type.

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 trade.

Roofing Paper. 3-ply Roofing Paper... 75c per roll. 2-ply Roofing Paper... 52c per roll. 1-ply Tinned Paper... 83c per ton. CAROLINA PORTLAND CEMENT CO., 94-96 E. Bay St., Charleston, S. C. NOTICE. I have opened up a Sewing Machine store next door to Mr. S. A. Rigby's general merchandise store...