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A Christmas Present.

S. A. ORCHARD, : 1414, 1416, 1418 Douglas Street, Omaha.

BACK FROM SIBERIAN EXILE

Jacob Gerber of Omaha Returns Home After a Fearful Experience.

ESCAPED FROM THE CZAR'S CLUTCHES

Under a Fifteen-Year Sentence, He Secures Financial Assistance from a Faithful Wife and Traverses Thousands of Lonely Miles.

After braving innumerable perils and which worn out with many months' experience of a life that is unknown except as a vague unreality to the citizens of this country of the free, Jacob Gerber is once more in Omaha, having escaped from the Siberian exile to which he was doomed a year and a half ago because he had dared to come to America several years before without permission from the official minions of the czar.

He arrived in this city Sunday evening, after an absence of twenty-one months, but he is older by twenty years than when he left here in the early spring of 1891. He comes back to tell a story that corroborates Kenman's tale of Russian horrors.

After being a resident of this city for six years, Mr. Gerber returned to Russia to dispose of what property he had there and bring his family to this country. He had taken out his first papers here, and supposed that he was to all intents and purposes a citizen of the United States, but subsequent events proved that he had relied too much on the privileges of a half-completed citizenship, for he was so late in completing his citizenship as to be considered a foreigner.

It may therefore be imagined that the appearance of Gerber among his old acquaintances last evening created but little less surprise than would a visit from one known to have passed beyond into the great unexplored future, and there was a unanimous demand for an explanation of the manner in which the return of the exile had been brought about.

The story was forthcoming, and it was a recital that brought tears to the eyes of everyone who listened to it, so full was it of outrageous cruelty and human suffering. The evidences of the truth of the narrative were amply shown in the frightful scars and still unhealed sores in the living flesh of Gerber, and he will carry them to his grave.

He visited his old home, which is but seven miles from the German frontier, and remained there about ten weeks, when he learned that there was talk of arresting him. He quietly slipped over the border, but was soon afterwards apprehended, and almost before he realized what had happened he was on his way to Siberia. The charge against him was that he had left the country six years before without the necessary permission, and he was not given any opportunity to defend himself against it. He vainly asserted that he was an American citizen and showed his papers to that effect, but

they did not deter the Russian officers for an instant. He was heavily manacled, the irons being welded around his arms and legs in the very town in which he was born, and he was started on that fearful trip of over 12,000 miles without the slightest hope of ever seeing his wife or children again.

On the Road to Siberia. He supposed that he was going to the mines for life, and none of his loved ones had any reason to believe otherwise. It was not until he had reached his destination, nine months later, that he learned that he was sentenced for fifteen years. During that nine months he learned more by wretched experience of merciless treatment and extreme physical and mental suffering than the average man meets with in a lifetime, and besides which the horrors of war prisons become less dreadful.

He was placed in a herd of 600 convicts and started for the Siberian wilds. They were taken by rail from Warsaw to Nijni Novgorod, where they were placed on board a steamer on the Volga, and taken to Perno, and thence to Tomsk, where their transportation ended. They were then compelled to proceed over the remaining 2,000 versts of their journey on foot. It was 1,000 versts to Yakutsk, and 500 more to Iiga, which was their objective point.

The men were ironed together in pairs, and from the very moment that they started they suffered from the irons. Not once during the long, weary days of those nine months were the irons removed or were the metal bands binding them to their companions loosened, and they were turned into a sea, and the ground was their bed. They were not even provided with straw, but slept on the bare ground, and they were not allowed to sleep on only one side and in only one position, and the flesh became so bruised and discolored that to touch it meant the most agonizing torture.

Horrors of Siberian Exile. They were herded and driven like cattle, and no matter what additional insult, abuse or outrage might be heaped upon them it had no effect on their minds. They were never separated from the most dire. They were compelled to march through the middle of the road, even though the mud was ankle-deep, and they were not allowed to stop on either side, and they were denied even so much as a drink of water except at the regular stopping places, where they had to buy it for a miserable allowance of 10 kopeks a day, equal to 5 cents of American coin, which furnished them with all they had to eat or drink.

One of the most miserable things that they had to do was to dig for roots, which they furnished them with in order that they might make tea, and the remaining 9 kopeks bought the tea, salt and bread that comprised the whole bill of fare week in and week out. The bread was made wholly of barley. The grain was ground the same as for cattle and baked without the bran being sifted out.

The journey of 1,500 versts to Yakutsk by rail and water lasted five months, and the succeeding trip of 500 versts to Iiga required four months. The men became hoarse, despite all that they could do to prevent it, and it became a habit with them to remove their shirts and wear their trousers, and to do this in the middle of the road, in order to smoke out as many of the vermin as they could in the brief time allotted to them for the stop.

The shackles worn by each of the convicts weighed ten and a half pounds, and a strap was attached to the waist held the heavy chain clear of the ground, but the rough iron band around the leg would cut the flesh almost to the bone. Gerber has sores above the heels caused in this manner that will not heal for many a day, if indeed they ever do.

them about a week. Their money went farther in that way, but the lice would not get into their pockets and there would frequently be more of them than there would of the tea, and the men were compelled to buy often and in smaller lots even if it was more extravagant, or else drink a decoction that was horrible in its ingredients.

The guards were detailed by relays from each station along the road and each relay took them along two days travel. They covered from twenty-two to forty miles a day and rested every third day. The cold was intense at times, and the frosty manacles on the bare flesh of the convicts caused cases of frost bite and freezing that resulted in the death of many of those who started with the wretched company from Warsaw.

The dead were buried beside the road with nothing to mark their last resting place and the only report that was made was that such an individual had died on the way. A company of convicts from the mines passes over the road every week and the people in the little towns along the route know what day they are coming and drive down with little wagons to sell them bread.

At Neusohak, Gerber was stricken with typhoid fever and was left behind in the hospital. He lay there for six weeks, but his shackles were not removed or even loosened, and when he recovered he was put with another company of convicts who were being driven through and continued his journey. When he arrived at Iiga, he was taken out into the middle of the street, and a blacksmith was called, who took off his fetters. Gerber was told that from that time forward he would have to take care of himself, as he would cease to draw the ten kopeks per day that he had been receiving up to that time. He was a stranger in a strange land, scarcely able to help himself and without a cent. Unlike many, he had been sent there for virtually nothing at all, though he found a great number who had been just as unjustly treated as he had been.

Plans for Escape. He remained there three months before he found an opportunity to carry into effect the plan for escape that he had mapped out. He had excited the sympathy of a fellow prisoner who was engaged in business there, and induced the latter to write a letter home for him, asking his wife to send him some money. The money, amounting to \$24, was sent by telegraph, and Gerber's friend took him to Yakutsk with him, when going there to buy goods. He had been treated as worse than the other convicts at the start, and his beard and half of the top of his head had been shaved, but he had managed to save his beard at all subsequent seasons held by the censorial artist, and was consequently in a very presentable condition when he tried to escape.

He paid \$50 to get to Tomsk, a distance of 1,500 miles, and paid for it \$175. He had secured the dress of a nobleman, and carried an official portmanteau that seemed to have more to do with saving him from annoyance than everything else, for he was not molested and was not asked for his passports.

Hundreds Driven to Suicide. He had fully determined to commit suicide in case he was captured, and even arranged how to do it, having everything in readiness to tear up his clothing and hang himself with a rope made therefrom. He says that thousands commit suicide in Siberia every year by drowning. They are turned loose there as he was, and being threatened with starvation, while suffering from the pains they throw themselves into the river, and that is the last of them, as there is no attempt made to recover their bodies. Gerber says that last spring, when the water was high he saw the bodies floating down the river of Iiga, and he was concealed in the house of the guide, when an officer arrived to search the place for some game that the fellow had stolen and while searching the attic he found Gerber. He hurried away for assistance and a little later Gerber was in jail, where he remained for six hours, until some of his countrymen rallied to his relief, and he was released and permitted to go his way.

Money removed obstacles that he encountered, and he finally reached a small town within fifty miles of his home without being detected. He knew that it would not be safe to remain there long, and at once set about getting over the frontier and returning to this country. His wife was communicated with through another party, and Gerber received another sum of money amounting to \$100.

Driven Back to Russia. He tried to get over the line four times before he succeeded, as the cholera quarantine was being carefully enforced, and he was sent back each time he approached the border. He finally made a circuit of 300 miles, and was successful in leaving Russian soil behind him. He lost no time in getting as far away as he could, for he knew that he was not safe until he had reached America.

Thus it happened that he at last arrived in Omaha, and of the \$1,000 that had been sent him by his wife, he had only 10 cents in his pocket when the journey was over. But despite his poverty and the suffering that he had endured he said to his friends: "I could fall down and kiss the earth, for this is my country and I shall never leave it again. You don't know what a free land means, but I do, and I shall never forget."

Gerber had about \$4,000 worth of property in the country when he left here less than two years ago, but there will be little of it left after he gets his family over here. They are still at the old place, but will come here in the early spring. Gerber will resume his former occupation as a peddler as soon as he can secure the money necessary to purchase his outfit, and he is now in the employ of a merchant in this state, working principally in the counties of Butler, Polk, Madison, Seward, Buffalo, York and Polk.

He undoubtedly has a deeper conviction of the real value of American citizenship today than any other man in Omaha, and will not let a single day pass without enjoying the rights of citizenship at the earliest possible moment.

From Newberg. C. F. Moore, druggist of Newberg, Ore., says: "Since our customers have become acquainted with the good qualities of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy we sell but little of any other cough medicine. Chamberlain's medicine all give good satisfaction."

For the City's Health. Yesterday afternoon the Board of Health had before it the matter of using the old pumping station at the foot of Burt street. Manager Hunt of the American Water Works company said the plant was only used a short time each day, and that the water pumped about 2,500,000 gallons daily, was used by the sanitizing works and the Union Pacific shops. It did not get into the mains to the prejudice of the water from the Florence station. No action was taken.

The board will recommend that the chain gang be used to clean the streets in the business part of town. Mr. Howell and Chief Seavey will prepare an ordinance intended to restrain the habit of throwing advertising matter loosely in the streets. The commissioner reported forty cases of diphtheria during the month of November and twenty deaths from the disease. Diphtheria had threatened to become epidemic but the physicians now have it under control, and about stamped out.

Considerable business of minor importance was transacted by the board.

Not from a Financial Standpoint. "I do not recommend Chamberlain's Cough Remedy from a financial standpoint, for we have others in stock on which we make a larger profit," says A. Magenti, a prominent druggist of Braddock, Pa., "but because many of our customers have spoken of it in the highest praise. We sell more of it than any similar preparation we have in the store." For sale by druggists.

For the Poor. The Hebrew benevolent societies will hold a fair from Tuesday until Saturday of this week at Metropolitan hall, the proceeds of which will be devoted to charitable work in Omaha. The bazaar will have the usual variety of useful and beautiful articles for sale, and for the further entertainment of visitors there will be concerts and balls.

UNION PACIFIC'S CHANGES.

Passenger Auditor Wing Succeeded by C. S. Stebbins.

It will be a surprise to the local railway world to learn that W. S. Wing, auditor of passenger accounts of the Union Pacific, has resigned and that he will be succeeded by C. S. Stebbins. It is understood that Mr. Wing's resignation took effect December 1, but as yet no official recognition of the change has been taken by the executive department of the road, those in charge evidently waiting for the return of Mr. Clark. Mr. Wing had been connected with the auditor's office for many years, and was one of Mr. Erastus Young's most trusted lieutenants, but with a desire to make money more rapidly than by drawing a salary of less than \$300 per month, he became interested in a different scheme outside, notably in the smelter in Kansas and in mining operations in Colorado. He has been successful in these ventures and naturally wished to give more attention to his individual business.

He wanted to resign. It is understood, months ago, but Mr. Young would not have it, and the matter remained in the same condition as before until thirty days ago, when the resignation was tendered.

Mr. Stebbins is a Clark appointee and one of the best railroad men in the west. He was until the dissolution of the Transmississippi association chief clerk to Secretary McFadden and had charge of the passenger end of that body. Up to 1886 he was general ticket agent of the Union Pacific under Mr. Kimball, and now after years comes back to the "first love of his life."

Should the rumors heard about the headquarters prove authentic it is not too much to expect a number of changes in the auditing department consequent upon Mr. Wing's retirement from the head of passenger accounts.

Defining Their Jurisdiction.

Mr. J. A. Munroe, freight traffic manager of the Union Pacific, will shortly issue an official bulletin defining the duties of Mr. Wood and Mr. Woodworth, assistant general freight agents. It is thought that Mr. Woodworth will have charge of the local and through business west of Cheyenne or Green River. Mr. Wood to take care of the local and through business east of the dividing point, which as yet is not decided. Mr. Wood, being the senior freight man, will undoubtedly have charge of the office in the absence of Mr. Munroe, who by the way goes to Chicago tonight on business connected with the Western Freight association.

Railway Notes and Personal.

Mr. Ed Dickinson is in Portland and is expected back December 15. It is rumored that the Adams Express company will occupy the room next door to the American Express company now occupied by Kaley, the druggist.

In respect to the memory of Jay Gould the offices in Union Pacific headquarters were closed all day, while the offices in the Missouri Pacific closed at noon.

Ex-Governor Bullock, one of the government directors of the Union Pacific, passed through Omaha on Saturday enroute east to attend the funeral of Mr. Gould. Mr. Bullock has just completed a daylight inspection of the Union Pacific and has been on the road nearly two months.

Charged With Forgery. About 11 o'clock this forenoon a young fel-

low appeared at the paying teller's window of the First National bank and presented a check for \$40 purporting to be signed by Abner Travis, a colored garbage man. Travis has an account at the bank but the teller refused to cash the check, as the signature was not in Travis' writing.

The fellow said that Travis had given him the check that morning, and the teller engaged him in conversation while an officer was telephoned for. The man was taken to the station, where he said his name was John Curtis, and he was locked up on a charge of forgery.

Draw Your Own Conclusion.

Mr. J. O. Davenport, manager of the Fort Bragg Redwood Co., Ft. Bragg, Cal., has this to say of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy: "I used it for a severe cold and cough and obtained immediate relief. In the Fort Bragg Redwood Co.'s store we have sold large quantities of Chamberlain's medicines." For sale by druggists.

INHUMAN PARENTS.

Children Cruelly Beaten and Driven from Home.

Yesterday afternoon Carrie Hart, a 14-year-old girl who lives at Seventeenth and Mason streets, came to the station and asked for protection from her parents. She said that her father had beaten her with a sunflower stalk during the morning until she could hardly stand, and she was afraid to go home.

A profusion of long red welts and dark bruises on the child's back and shoulders testified to the severity of the punishment. About three weeks ago her father choked her until she spit blood, and her screams attracted the attention of an officer, who saved her from further violence at the time. Her father is John Hart, a grader, and a warrant will be issued for his arrest for inhuman treatment.

Another and somewhat similar case is that of Eddie Babington, a 7-year-old boy, whose mother lives with a man at Twenty-fourth and Burt streets. About a year ago Eddie was driven from home by his mother's cruelty and for about a week he lived on the streets, sleeping in alleys and doorways, and living upon such refuse as he gathered from garbage barrels. He was finally taken in charge by the police, and through the generosity of some of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, he was sent to the Sister's orphanage. Lately he has gone back to live with his mother, and he says that during last night she and her paramour threw him into the street and told him never to come back again.

Matron Cummings will file a complaint against the woman mother and will endeavor to have a guardian appointed for the boy and put him in some family where he will be taken care of.

The standard cure for cold and cough, Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, should be kept by every mother who loves her darlings.

Stolen Jewelry Identified.

Mrs. Clara Miller of Twenty-ninth and Webster streets identified the jewelry found on Frank Johnson and George Kelly, a couple of toughs who were arrested last week, as property which had been stolen from her residence. A charge of larceny and house-breaking against the Johnson and Kelly firm is the result.

Perfect action and perfect health result from the use of Dr. Witt's Little Early Risers. A perfect little pill.

The Tiffany "Blue Book" Tiffany & Co.,

NOW Messrs. Tiffany READY. & Co., announce that their annual catalogue for 1893 known as the Tiffany & Co. "BLUE BOOK" is now ready, and upon request, will be sent without charge, to any address. Although it convenient form has been retained, the '93 edition grown to 230 pages, containing many new features and suggestions, valuable to intending purchasers of holiday gifts.

Tiffany & Co.,

UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK.

KIRK'S DUSKY DIAMOND TAR SOAP

HEALTHFUL, AGREEABLE, CLEANSING. For Farmers, Miners and Mechanics. A PERFECT SOAP FOR ALKALI WATER. Cures Chafing, Chapped Hands, Wounds, Burns, Etc. A Delightful Shampoo. WHITE RUSSIAN SOAP. Specially Adapted for Use in Hard Water.

DR. R. W. BAILEY

Teeth Filled Without Pain or Danger. A Full Set of Teeth on Rubber for \$5.00. Perfect and guaranteed. Teeth extracted in the morning. New ones inserted in the evening of same day. See specimens of Removable Bridge. See specimens of Flexible Elastic Plate. All work warranted as represented. Office Third Floor Paxton Block, Telephone 1085, 10th and Farnam Sts. Take elevator or stairway from 15th St. entrance.

Royal Baking Powder

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report. ABSOLUTELY PURE