

NOTHING TO EAT IN LIBERIA

Eleven Negroes Return in a Pitiable Condition.

Roots and Snakes Are Staple Articles of Diet and a Shilling a Day Is the High Water Mark for Wage Workers.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Eleven negroes, part of a colony of sixty-eight who sailed from here for Liberia a year ago, returned today in a pitiable condition, with their clothes in rags and their pockets empty, although when they left they had a large sum. One of the men said:

"I saw it was no place for me to live just as soon as I got there. All the land was covered with brush, and just as soon as you got on it you couldn't see the sun. There is nothing that will grow there but coffee trees after you get the land cleared, and they don't begin to bear anything for four or five years. There was no chance to support a family by working, so I didn't work at all. They only pay a shilling a day wages. Every body gets the same—a shilling a day. I couldn't support my family on that."

"When it came to building a house to live in there wasn't anything to build it with. All the wood had been cut and used, and there was nothing but bamboo and a little palm wood left. There were some rooms in some of the houses that the people let us sleep in till we got places for ourselves, and as we only stayed about four months we didn't have any trouble about that. But there was hardly anything to eat. The society gave us a little beef and pork, and flour, rice, coffee and sugar to start on, and once in a while they gave us a little afterward. Most of the time all we could get to eat was roots and snakes. They all eat snakes down there when they can get them."

NEW ROUTE TO THE SEA.

Scheme to Connect the Mississippi With Lake Superior and the Ocean.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 19.—The discrimination against Minneapolis as a wheat receiving point will result to the city's advantage after all. Minneapolis is to have connection by water with the sea by way of a canal connecting the Mississippi and the St. Croix with Lake Superior. It is not generally known that the scheme was pronounced eminently practicable more than twenty years ago, when a survey of a proposed route was made. A canoe party ascended the St. Croix river from Stillwater, following the branch which runs through northwestern Wisconsin. At a point about due south of West Superior after making a portage of a mile they found a stream supposed to be Black river that emptied its waters into Lake Superior.

So much for the ancient history of the affair. In regard to the present and the future, a gentleman who has an excellent opportunity for knowing said today that the matter was now being brewed and would be given to the public shortly. As a significant point he referred to the fact that Senator Washburn had secured a place on the senate committee that he said was gotten specially to give him a chance to work successfully in the new deal. Congressman Castle, who lives at Stillwater, one of the towns that would be most benefited by the canal scheme, is also in favor of the improvement.

The canal will be built big enough to carry the largest whaleback boats on the lakes. The effect of it would be a revival of river navigation and the necessity for large improvements on the Mississippi river below Hastings and all the way down to St. Louis. This would enable a boat to load at Minneapolis and, by shooting the rapids of the St. Lawrence, carry its load to Liverpool, or it would permit a good sized boat to take a load of goods at Superior and carry it to New Orleans. The St. Paul chamber of commerce has taken up the idea and is pushing it in its own peculiar way. It is recognized that the canal is the only thing needful for the business supremacy of the Twin Cities of the northwest.

THEIR CHILD NOT BURIED AT SEA

The Appeal of Bereaved Russian Immigrants Moves a Steamship Captain.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—John Canola and his wife Margaret, Russian immigrants, passed through the immigrant office today, and their first duty in the land of their adoption was to bury their 2-year-old child Ella, who died at sea Tuesday on board the Anchor Line steamer Circassia. When the little one died the captain of the vessel ordered that it be wrapped in a piece of canvas and dropped over the side, as is usual in cases of death at sea. As soon as the sailors came to carry out this order the parents objected excitedly, the bereaved father knocking one of them down. Then the chief officer came and explained in their own language that it was customary to bury bodies at sea, but the father begged piteously that he be allowed to bring his child ashore and bury it. Meanwhile the mother rushed to her trunk, and coming back with her hands full of gold coins, said: "Here, man, take the money, but leave my child's body." The distress of the couple finally prevailed and the ship carpenter was ordered to make a coffin in which the little one's remains were laid. Several other immigrants accompanied the remains to the cemetery today.

AIR LINE TO THE ATLANTIC.

Northern Pacific Said to Be Interested in New Canadian Railways.

QUEBEC, Dec. 19.—The rumor that the Northern Pacific railway is quietly securing an interest in existing Canadian railways and in lines now under construction, for the purpose of ultimately controlling an eastern outlet to an Atlantic port, is revived by the fact that a number of its officials, including Messrs. G. S. Jones, New York, and McNaught, of St. Paul,

Minn., are interested in the newly constructed Lower Laurentian railway, the opening of which they recently attended in company with the treasurer of the road, who is none other than John C. Eno, the ex-president of the Second National Bank of New York. Mr. McNaught, the Northern Pacific's leading counsel, is president of the new railway, and another director is Jules Tessier, Eno's most intimate friend in Quebec, through whose influence as a member of the legislature the very profitable subsidy accorded the railway by the government is said to have been secured. The Lower Laurentian railway is destined to form part of any air line that would be constructed from Duluth or Sault Ste. Marie to Quebec, running as it does from a point north of Three Rivers to Riviere-a-Pierre, the westerly point of the Quebec and Lake St. John railway. Even now it forms a profitable investment without any government subsidy, running as it does through a rich lumbering and agricultural district. But the chief interest attaching to the new line is that this company controls other links of railway and Canadian charters for railways that would make together an almost uninterrupted air line from the southwest and Lake Superior to Quebec and the lower St. Lawrence.

MILLS DECLINES.

Offered Second Place on the Ways and Means Committee.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Mr. Mills has been offered second place on the committee on ways and means, together with the chairmanship of another important committee, and he declined to accept such assignment.

The tender was made in a letter from Speaker Crisp, which reached the Texas stateman last night. It is said to have been peremptorily courteous in tone and otherwise, but Mr. Mills would not have it. The answer to the proposition will reach Speaker Crisp sometime today. In it Mr. Mills will say that he has served on the committee on ways and means for ten years, was chairman in the Fifty-third congress, and that if any reason existed why he should not be at the head on the committee the same reasons will prevent his acceptance of a subordinate place on the committee.

CHANDLER AS A DETECTIVE.

Disguised in Shabby Clothes He Observes How Men are Naturalized.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—For three days in October last a small, nervous man fitted in and out at Judge McAdam's court room in the superior court chambers. He was shabbily dressed and a well worn felt hat was pulled down over his head. He wore a pair of spectacles and seemed to be paying strict attention to the process of turning out ready-made American citizens that was going on around him. It has now been ascertained that he was none other than Senator William E. Chandler. Charges of fraud in the naturalization of voters in this city have been frequent in the past. Senator Chandler disguised himself and observed the proceedings. He has drawn up the result of his observations in this city and will submit it in the form of a report from his committee to the senate. It is alleged that he has collected evidence of more than 2,000 cases of fraud in naturalization in this city last fall.

ENDED IN BLOODSHED.

Participants in a Political Demonstration Get into a Free Fight.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 19.—There was a good demonstration and a torch light procession given here last night in honor of Governor Jones, who is a candidate for re-election. Special trains brought in hundreds of miners from the neighboring towns and settlements. After midnight, while one of the trains was returning to Blossburg, a bloody riot occurred in one of the cars when the train was near Brookside. Clifford Price attempted to restore order among the drunken passengers, when Bass Wood, a farmer, opened fire at Price, killing W. R. Black, a miner, fatally wounding Jas. Glover, whose occupation is unknown. Wood came near being lynched, but a posse of officers hurried him off to jail here.

A MORTGAGE ON "HEAVEN."

Schweinfurth, to Avoid Prosecution, Makes a Settlement with James Ogilvie.

ROCKFORD, Ill., Dec. 19.—Schweinfurth has decided that he does not care to go to law with James Ogilvie, the Alpena man who gave him \$2,100 when he became an inmate of the Weldon heaven, and who now wants his money back. State's Attorney Works and Schweinfurth have had several conferences, the result being that today Spencer, Agnes, John E., William G. and Lincoln S. Weldon placed on record a mortgage deed in favor of Ogilvie for \$1,584, the property mortgaged being a portion of the heavenly estate.

BRAZILIAN CONGRESS.

President Peixotto Congratulates on the Downfall of Fonseca.

RIO JANEIRO, Dec. 19.—Congress re-assembled today. President Peixotto in his message to congress said that the people of Brazil had during the events of November 23 shown their virility and a jealous regard for their national liberties which were threatened by Marshal Da Fonseca. Continuing, President Peixotto said that the duty of congress was to deal with the existing commercial crisis by taking immediate steps to reorganize the banking system of Brazil.

KILLED BY HIS NEPHEW.

A Well Known Miner Shot in Battle Without Warning.

BUTTE, Mt., Dec. 19.—Last evening H. J. Cunningham, a well known mining man, was shot and killed by his nephew, Chas. Price. The men were walking quietly along the street conversing in low tones, when suddenly Price drew a revolver and fired three shots, one of which took fatal effect in Cunningham's left breast. Price was arrested but refused to talk. It is hinted that there is a woman at the bottom of the affair.

FIFTY SECOND CONGRESS.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Mr. Manderson presided in the senate today and after he had called that body to order Mr. Cullom presented the list of committees which were read and unanimously adopted as follows: Civil Service—Power, chairman; Gallagher, Effer, Gray, Vilas.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

Finance—Morrill, chairman; Sherman, Jones of Nevada, Allison, Aldrich, Hiseock, Voorhees, McPherson, Harris, Ransom, Carlisle.

THE EXILES.

A RUSSIAN STORY.

He filled the album of the governor-general's wife with caricatures, sketches and colored designs, executed quadrilles upon the young ladies' plan, played chess with the governor, invented charades, and organized dancing-parties to which the few ladies of Yakoutsk were invited. All this for fifty-four dollars a month.

M. Lafleur was at all these little parties given by the governor. At these reunions the dancing-master resumed all his advantages. Nothing was more comical than to see him regulate the movements of the "Siberienne" with the delicate sounds of his pocket violin, interrupted during certain steps the time for which he beat himself, supplying in those intervals with his voice the missing music of the instrument.

On such occasions he assumed the noble attitudes of the old French school, which had reached him by one knew not what traditions; then, suddenly, shaking himself, loosening his joints and twisting himself, he mingled the free and easy movements of the balls of the barriers of Paris with the classic rigidity of the dances of the old-time court.

Yegor finally obtained, to his great joy, permission to hunt with the governor's guns. He had bought, secretly, at Irkutsk, a double-barreled carbine and a pair of revolvers; but these weapons remained carefully hidden.

The chase would give him an opportunity to study the region. He made many excursions during the winter, and was even accompanied, once or twice, by Mlle. Agrafina, with a few Cossacks as escort.

He sometimes quitted the town with a sledge drawn by horses, and remained away three days, in order to accustom the governor to prolonged absences.

Yegor was treated with affability by the governor and all his family. Notwithstanding, he never took Nadege to the government palace. He asserted that the young girl suffered from weakness to justify her seclusion.

One spring morning, Yegor, at an early hour, had started with his sledge over the softened snow. Driving himself, he was proceeding, as fast as two good horses of the country could go, along the great western highway, when he met another sledge in which was a traveler carefully enveloped in furs, in whom Yegor thought he recognized the man of the whip of the Oukboul mipe, the corporal whom he had struck and defied. Such a meeting in this spot was passably strange! What strengthened Yegor in his supposition, almost inadmissible, however, was an involuntary movement he surprised. He could not doubt that this man was the Russian, Yermac.

It was he, in fact. Yegor knew it with certainty that very day. Yermac had been relieved of his vow of expiation and humiliation. The governor of western Siberia, when he learned the motives for the resignation of the Ipravnik of Nerchinsk and was informed of his entrance into the service of the mines, resolved to induce the honest functionary to reconsider his determination. He fell to work and succeeded in overcoming his obstinate resistance and excessive scruples. At last, Yermac yielded; but he made a condition, namely, that he should leave the district. General K— gave him a letter of recommendation to the governor of Yakoutsk and enabled him to go to him.

On the day succeeding this meeting, Yegor saw the ex-guards enter the governor's office. An instant afterwards, the latter summoned his secretary.

"Monsieur Semenov," said he, "this is our new chief of police, M. Yermac; aid him in taking possession of his post. M. Yermac, however, has been long in the administration and has no apprenticeship to undergo."

The governor noticed the constrained air of the two men, the smiles of irony upon their lips, and their strange glances.

"Perhaps you know each other already?" said he.

"Your Excellency is not deceived," replied the new chief of police. "Monsieur Semenov seems greatly surprised to see me again here."

"After having left you with those convicts at Oukboul; yes, I admit it," said Yegor.

"Ah! very well. I see how it is!" exclaimed the governor.

"But," resumed Yermac, "I beg Monsieur to believe that the chief of police of Yakoutsk has left at the bottom of the mine the remembrance of the sometimes rigorous relations of the Oukboul guard with the convicts placed under his surveillance." And he added, with emphasis: "I never remember but one thing—the strict accomplishment of my duty."

"I extend to you my compliments, Monsieur," answered Yegor, and regret that the somewhat haughty fashion in which you have spoken forbids me to thank you personally."

"Very well, Messieurs, very well," interrupted the governor, who feared that the words exchanged might become bitter.

"You will have leisure to renew your acquaintance under different and, above all, better conditions."

These words cut short a sort of presentation deprived of all cordiality.

Yegor saw in the presence of the former corporal of the mines another obstacle to his projects.

"This Yermac," thought he, "cannot have completely forgotten the affront I put upon him. Should he find occasion to avenge himself while executing his duty, he will seize upon it; he is an attentive observer capable of making an excellent police bloodhound. He will watch me closely."

Something, a secret presentiment, told him to beware of this fatal man.

CHAPTER VI.—THE ESCAPE.

Summer came, the fair season opened, and the merchants of Irkutsk brought stoves, utensils and tea, while from the shores of the Arctic Ocean, from the borders of the Sea of Okhotsk and even from Kamchatka came fur-hunters loaded with spoils and searchers for the tusks of the walrus and mammoth.

Yegor Semenov took advantage of the opportunity offered to purchase provisions and garments indispensable to the execution of his project.

But, though he acted with the utmost prudence, the chief of police Yermac, who watched all his actions with the evident desire of taking him in fault, knew that the governor's secretary had made considerable purchases.

nance felt by the exiles for contracting these marriages which bind the future of the children they may have. His attention redoubled and took the character of veritable surveillance.

Yegor did not confine himself to procuring what could assure materially the success of his attempt. He studied minutely all the maps of the country he could procure, questioned the merchants and hunters, and learned the language of the natives. At last, he found himself prepared to adopt the following plan:

Furnished with a passport from the governor for himself and his betrothed, he could, at the commencement of the journey, take advantage of the relays of horses established upon the right bank of the Lena as far as the spot where the Aldan flows into the great Siberian river. At Aldanskoi, a town situated at the mouth of the Aldan, he would find horses purchased by M. Lafleur, and a Yakoute guide, selected by the same M. Lafleur, whose kindness was inexhaustible.

The Parisian, in his hatred of tyranny of every kind, had placed himself entirely at Yegor's disposal. He was to go on before, in the little cart serving to transport the merchandise in which he dealt. Besides the camp tent, the provisions and the winter garments, he was to take the little Pole. They could leave Yakoutsk without exciting the least suspicion—such was their belief at that rate.

M. Lafleur would accompany the fugitives to the Verkho-Yensk Mountains. This chain of mountains crossed, the exiles were to hide in one of the impenetrable forests which cover the region beyond, there to await the first snows.

They counted upon winter as an auxiliary to level the roads, freeze the rivers and cover their flight with its darkness. It was only with a sledge that it was possible for them to go towards the north as far as Njini-Kolinsk, the last Russian town, situated at the point where the Kolima pours the tribute of its waters into the Arctic Ocean, and not far from the polar regions where the immortal Nordskiold was able to confirm his discovery of the north-east passage.

According to the calculations of Yegor Semenov, they could hope, with the favor of the long winter night, to penetrate to the country of the Tchoukchis. Although the tribes of these natives are not equally hospitable, Yegor did not shrink from the difficulties he might encounter when this moment should come; nothing could ever approach the infamous life of a convict from which he was escaping.

Among the Tchoukchis it was already liberation; it would only remain to find the means of reaching Behring's Strait, on the return of the summer season and of the free waters, which bring yearly into that locality American and English whalers.

The interesting daughter of the poet Davidoff, in whose eyes Yegor assumed unnatural proportions, drew from her chaste love all the stimulants capable of increasing the ardor of the man who was about to expose his life for her, wishing to relieve her from the shame of being an exile's daughter. She could not forget that Yegor, thanks to the favor he enjoyed with the governor, had ameliorated and rendered supportable her situation, and that it was, above all, to fulfill the sacred promise made to the dying