

COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS

The Ways and Means for Springer—Mills Not in It.

The Texas Heads Interstate and Foreign Commerce—Stout City's Interest in Prairie Schooners Recognized by the Speaker.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The following is the list of the house committees as arranged by Speaker Crisp:

Judiciary—D. B. Culbertson, chairman; W. C. Oates, W. D. Bynum, F. R. Stock, S. H. Goodnight, J. J. Boatner, J. A. Buchanan, Virginia; A. C. Chapin, F. C. Layton, S. P. Wolverson, E. B. Taylor, Ohio; James Buchanan, New Jersey; J. W. Ray, H. H. Powers, Case, Kentucky.

Interstate and Foreign Commerce—R. C. Mills, chairman; G. D. Wicks, Andrew P. Rice, George Raynor, G. S. Bricker, T. J. Geary, I. W. Houk, Ohio; S. R. Malloy, Josiah Patterson, J. J. O'Neill, Missouri; Charles O'Neill, Pennsylvania; John Lind, C. S. Randall, Bellamy Storer, J. H. Ketchum.

Banking and Currency—Henry Bacon, chairman; Scott Wike, W. H. Crain, W. H. Cate, W. W. Dickerson, Louis Sperry, M. K. Gantz, N. N. Cox, Tennessee; S. W. Cobb, Missouri; K. H. Walker, Massachusetts; M. Brosius, Hosen Townsend, T. J. Henderson, Illinois.

Weights and Measures—R. P. Bland, chairman; Charles Tracy, J. R. Williams, C. B. Kilger, M. Robinson, Rice Pierce, J. E. Epps, G. F. Williams, Massachusetts; W. A. McKeighan, H. B. Bartine, Abner Taylor, Illinois; T. W. Stone, Pennsylvania; M. N. Johnson, North Dakota.

Rivers and Harbors—N. C. Blanchard, chairman; T. C. Catehings, Charles Stewart, B. F. Lester, Georgia; R. H. Clarke, Alabama; A. E. Haynes, T. A. L. Weadock, A. Jones, Charles H. Paige, Binger Hermann, S. M. Stephenson, W. A. Stone, Pennsylvania; J. A. Quackenbush, Merchant Marine and Fisheries—Samuel Fowler, chairman; M. W. Fithian, L. W. Moore, A. G. Caruth, J. A. Buchanan, Robert E. DeForest, M. E. Zanzer, Herman Stump, H. H. Wheeler, Michigan; A. J. Hopkins, Illinois; L. E. Atkinson, J. H. Wilson, Kentucky; Geo. D. Perkins, Iowa.

Elections—Charles T. O'Ferrall, Virginia, chairman; L. W. Moore, Texas; J. E. Cobb, Alabama; T. R. Paynter, Kentucky; James B. Brown, Indiana; D. N. Leach, New York; G. G. Lawson, Georgia; N. P. Gillespie, Pennsylvania; George Johnston, South Carolina; Nels Haugen, Wisconsin; A. A. Taylor, Tennessee; R. E. Doan, Ohio; H. N. Johnson, Indiana; John E. Reyburn, Pennsylvania; C. D. Clark, Wyoming.

Ways and Means—Wm. M. Springer, chairman; Benton McMillan, H. G. Turner, Georgia; W. L. Wilson, West Virginia; A. B. Montgomery, Kentucky; J. R. Whiting, Michigan; B. F. Shively, Indiana; W. Bourke Cochrane, New York; F. Stevens, Massachusetts; J. C. Bryan, Nebraska; E. DeForest, M. E. Zanzer, Michigan; Joseph McKenna, California; S. E. Payne, New York; John B. Lazell, Pennsylvania.

Appropriations—W. S. Holman, chairman; W. H. Forney, J. D. Sayres, W. C. Breckinridge, M. W. Doekery, Wm. McClain, B. Beckwith, J. C. McPherson, J. R. O'Neill, J. N. Livingston, D. B. Henderson, Wm. Cogswell, H. H. Bingham, Nelson Dingley, W. W. Grout.

Agriculture—W. H. Hatch, chairman; Clarke Lewis, S. E. Alexander, H. M. Youmans, G. W. Shell, J. C. Farnham, E. White, Anthony Bineth, C. H. Moses, J. F. Long, E. H. Funston, E. H. Wilson, Kentucky; J. L. Jolley, Daniel Waugh, H. P. Cheatam.

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Postoffices and Postroads—John S. Henderson, chairman; J. H. Blount, A. Enloe, K. P. Wilson, E. J. Dunphy, J. D. Alderson, E. V. Brookshire, J. C. Kyle, J. M. Pattison, Ohio; J. C. Crosby, J. H. Hopkins, J. A. Caldwell, J. L. Wilson, Washington; C. A. Bergen, E. F. Loud, John T. Caine.

Public Lands—T. C. McRae, chairman; J. A. Pendleton, S. G. Tacker, L. Amerman, J. W. Bailey, D. A. Dearmond; J. J. Seelye, D. D. Hays, E. C. Stout, J. A. Pickler, Hosea Townsend, Willie Sweet, C. D. Clarke, Wyo.

Indian Affairs—W. S. Peel, chairman; J. M. Allen, A. Turpin, H. Y. Rockwell, W. H. Brawley, Thomas Lynch, T. D. English, B. H. Glover, O. M. Kemp, J. L. Wilson, Washington; Joseph McConna, W. B. Hooper, New York; A. J. Hopkins, Pennsylvania; D. A. Harvey, Oklahoma.

Territories—J. E. Washington, chairman; C. B. Kilgore, C. H. Mansur, T. J. Campbell, W. F. Barrett, W. V. Branch, W. F. Terry, Jerry Simpson, D. D. Donovan, G. O. Rife, G. W. Smith, Illinois; Geo. D. Perkins, Jas. O'Donnell, Antonio Joseph.

Military Affairs—J. H. Outhwaite, chairman; Joseph Wheeler, W. S. Newberry, D. H. Patton, H. H. Rockwell, J. L. Mitchell, Oscar Lapman, E. F. McDonald, J. C. Crosby, H. H. Bingham, C. E. Belknap, W. W. Bowers.

Naval Affairs—H. A. Herbert, chairman; William Elliott, A. J. Cummings, J. A. Eysenheiser, W. F. Daniels, Adolph Meyer, W. W. Lawson, Vermont; William McKenna, Henry Page, C. A. Boutelle, H. C. Lodge, J. P. Dolliver, E. W. Wadsworth.

Railways and Canals—T. C. Catehings, chairman; P. G. Lester, Virginia; W. H. H. Caney, W. Bentley, F. E. Beltzhoover, John Davis, C. W. Cobb, K. Holvoersen, J. A. T. Hull, E. F. Loud.

Manufactures—C. H. Page, chairman; L. F. McKinney, M. D. Lagan, J. D. Warner, H. B. Beeman, Sherman Hoar, A. H. Williams, North Carolina; M. D. Harter, E. B. Taylor, Ohio; E. A. Morse, J. K. Reburn.

Public Buildings and Grounds—J. H. Bankhead, chairman; J. Abbott, Clarke W. McKim, W. C. Tarney, J. W. Warwick, M. H. H. C. Newberry, J. D. Warner, H. H. Williams, N. C. S. L. Milliken, George W. Shook, W. H. Enochs, Willis Sweet.

Pacific Railroads—J. B. Riley, chairman; S. T. Latham, Edward Lane, J. B. Chapman, F. T. Ellis, J. W. Covert, James N. Castle, F. S. Coolidge, H. D. Snodgrass, John Rankin, J. P. Fitch, John Lind, D. A. Taylor, Ohio; John T. Caine.

Leaves and Improvement of Mississippi—W. S. M. Robinson, chairman; T. R. Terry, Rice Pierce, R. Norton; W. R. Mallory, D. H. Everett, M. D. Harter, S. R. Edger, H. H. Fawcett, J. C. Burrow, Edward Schull, J. M. Wilson, Kentucky; P. S. Post, Illinois.

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Wicks—J. C. Tarnsey, chairman; W. F. Irvine, W. W. Dickson, L. E. McGanna, Charles Dungan, T. L. Bunting, James Buchanan, New Jersey; M. Brosius, N. P. Haugen, L. Wilson, Washington.

Millitana—Ed Lane, chairman; N. C. Richard, W. J. Stone, W. J. Coombs, L. S. Stachonse, H. H. Wheeler, Michigan; Louis Schwartz, Illinois; O. M. Hall, T. E. Cutting, W. H. Henderson, Illinois; J. T. Baents, G. W. Enochs, W. R. Griswold, J. D. Tillingham, chairman; J. A. F. Heard, Louis Turpin, H. S. Greenleaf.

FELL INTO A COFFIN.

Accident to a Workman at Springfield, O.
SPRINGFIELD, O., Dec. 26.—Webb & Co. of this city, undertakers, have just moved into a new office in a building which is being completed. There is a skylight in the building and directly beneath the skylight was a pile of coffins. A day or so ago the clerk was attracted by a terrific crash from the direction of the skylight. He rushed to see what was the matter. When he reached the pile of coffins he saw a man lying in a coffin. His hands and face were bleeding and he was evidently badly hurt. The sight of the bloody man in the coffin dazed the clerk for a minute. Then he took in the situation. The man was one of the workmen and he had tumbled directly through the skylight into the coffin. The man proved to be John Yeger. He stated that his fall had been caused by trying a new fire escape. He thought he was only slightly injured and walked home without aid. His injuries proved fatal, however, as he died today in great agony.

THE EXILES.

A RUSSIAN STORY.
The chief of police, having brought his own horse with him, was not escorted by the guide furnished at each relay station. Yeger had every interest in not letting this man, in whom he saw an irreconcilable foe, outwit him; the contrary would expose him to being stopped. He, therefore, invited him to profit by his guide as far as the nearest relay station and to accompany him to Aldanskoi.

This proposition somewhat astonished Yermac, but he affected to accept it with genuine pleasure. He thanked the exile and added:

"Who would have thought, when we were at the bottom of the Oukboul shaft, that we would again encounter each other, on a fine September morning, among the marshes of the country of the Yakoutes?"

"Do not talk of the mine," said the exile. "It recalls to my great confusion, facts that I have bitterly regretted, believe me, Mousieur!"

"We will drop it, then," he said, dryly, and he colored.

The exile noticed that he uttered not a word that could open the way to a reconciliation.

"I believed this road utterly unavailable for carriages," said Yermac. And he pointed to the traces of the wheels of M. Lafleur's little cart, attentively watching the exile as he did so.

"I thought the same," he replied. "I was told so, but I see my informant was mistaken. We have just breakfasted," continued he, "on the spoils of the chase. You see—let killed in the neighboring pond. I am going to shoot another brace or two; they will be better for our next meal than dry biscuit."

"I will wait for you here," said Yermac. "You do not hunt! Why then do you carry a gun?"

The chief of police vaguely caught a glimpse of a hidden design in Yeger's words and the invitation they conveyed; but he shrunk from seeming afraid and replied, resolutely:

"Now I think of it, why should I not participate in the amusement? I am your man."

Yeger ordered the guide to go in advance and asked Nadege to get into the saddle. He motioned to his dog Wab to follow the latter. The Yakoute, on foot and singing an improvisation, led by the bridles the horses of Yeger and the chief of police.

Nadege, before departing, cast upon her lover a supplicating look, which she strove to render persuasive. He understood its generous signification.

The two hunters, full of distrust for each other, passed along the edge of a pond over ground covered with a profusion of dwarf cedars. Nadege heard them discharge their weapons several times. From afar, she even saw a number of large birds fall, stricken by their shot. This only partially reassured her.

If she could have seen Yeger closer, and noticed his fierce eyes, compressed lips and clenched hands, she would have feared some violence on his part. The young man, disguised and overhelmed, no longer hesitated at the thought of crime. He loaded his gun with bullets, and, without further delay, when Yermac took aim at a fencible, which had just risen, covered him and fired.

The chief of police heard whistle about his ears not small hunting shot, but a ball, which shattered the face of his cap. He no longer doubted the intentions of the escaped convict, for, in his view, Yeger was nothing else. He thought of replying in kind, as he was also furnished with like munitions, but that would bring on a duel, and the rigid functionary immediately discarded the idea as an egregious weakness, an effect of fear.

It was not his business to disembarass himself of his adversary, no matter how criminal he might be. His strict duty forbade that, except as a last resort. It was alive, with his hands tied behind his back that he should return him to the seat of government.

But he had not, however, sufficient heroism to await the second shot that was intended for him. He allowed himself to fall among the leafy bushes, just as the second report was heard. Once on the ground, Yermac slung his gun across his back and crawled upon his hands and knees, gliding through the humps of dwarf cedars. In this way, he succeeded in getting altogether out of range.

The fact is that Yeger, after having reloaded his weapon, advanced cautiously, his finger upon the trigger, in the direction where the chief of police had concealed himself from his sight. He feared a trap, a surprise, a sudden attack, but found no one on the spot where he supposed the chief was in ambush. He scoured the surrounding thickets, still maintaining his caution, and, at last, lost an exact idea of the respective positions they had occupied at the moment he assailed the too zealous agent of the law.

Finally, he found himself again on the edge of the path which, in the distance, Nadege was following. His face was livid, his eyes wild and his legs bent beneath him.

"Have, perhaps, killed him?" murmured he, "or wounded him—which amounts to the same thing in such a place as this, without help! But he brought it on himself!"

He hastened to rejoin Nadege. He heard the noise made by the horses as they tramped over stony ground. Ten minutes afterwards, Nadege saw him arrive alone, with a disturbed expression on his face. She swooned and slipped from her animal. He caught her in his arms.

"Ah, Yeger! what have you done," murmured she, on opening her eyes. And she gently repulsed the young man.

"It was for you!" cried Yeger. "For you and your brother—two lives! If I only had been involved, I should have hesitated—yes, I swear it!"

"What are we going to do?" demanded Nadege, after a silence painful for both.

"First, remount your horse," he answered.

And he aided his companion to regain her saddle.

Then he unfastened from his leather belt a teal and a fencible suspended by the legs, and, calling the guide, who had gone on before:

"Take these fowls," said he. "And now let us be going!"

"But this horse!" said the guide, pointing to the animal of the traveler left behind.

"The horse! Set it free. It will not stray, and its master will rejoice us presently. Forward!"

The little party started. The guide resumed his interrupted chant, and Yermac's horse, abandoned upon the path, after having lifted his nostrils to sniff the wind, began to neigh.

"Poor beast!" Yeger could not help exclaiming.

TOOK THE REVOLVER ROUTE.

The Son of a Wealthy Contractor Committed Suicide in a Hardware Store.
CINCINNATI, Dec. 26.—About 8:30 o'clock this morning a handsome young man, wearing a silk hat and dressed in the latest style, entered Bodes' hardware store on Main street and purchased a 38-calibre revolver. He requested the clerk to load it, which was done and returned to the purchaser. The visitor then deliberately pointed it toward his right temple and pulled the trigger. He pitched forward and fell dead at the feet of the horrified clerk. A photograph of a woman of wonderful beauty was found in one of his pockets. It was taken by "Cyria," Newport, Ky. The body was taken to the morgue. He has been identified as Robert Moore, aged 24, son of a wealthy contractor who lives in the suburb of Fairmount. No cause has been assigned for the rash act.

BOB SIMS CAPTURED.

A Six-Pound Cannon Brought the Outlaw to Terms.
MOBILE, Ala., Dec. 26.—A telegram from Desota says that Bob Sims, the notorious outlaw, surrendered to the sheriff and posse at an early hour this morning. When Sims saw the sheriff training a six-pound cannon on the cabin in which he was hid he walked out and throwing down his gun gave himself up.

PACKING TO DATE.

Western Packing Shows a Good Increase Over Last Year.
CINCINNATI, Dec. 26.—The Price Current says that the week's packing in the west has been approximately 570,000 hogs, against 625,000 the preceding week and 475,000 last year, making a total of 8,965,000 since November, against 8,640,000 last year. Indications are that the maximum movement has been reached, but good supplies are still in sight. The leading places compared as follows:

CITIES	1890.	1891.
Chicago	1,570,000	1,250,000
Kansas City	565,000	470,000
Omaha	280,000	230,000
St. Louis	170,000	180,000
Indianapolis	200,000	182,000
Milwaukee	188,000	151,000
Cincinnati	165,000	163,000
Cedar Rapids	112,000	131,000
St. Paul	77,000	135,000
Wichita	43,000	18,000
Nebraska City	45,000	50,000
All others	615,000	695,000

THE MARKETS.

Live Stock.
STOUC CITY, Dec. 28.
Hogs—Light, \$3.15@3.55; mixed, \$3.55@4.00; heavy, 3.60@3.65.
Cattle—Steers, 1,100 to 1,300 pounds, \$3.00@3.40; feeders, \$2.30@3.00; stockers, \$2.40@3.00; cows, common to good, \$1.00@2.00; yearlings, \$2.00@2.45; bulls, \$1.50@2.00; veal calves, \$2.50@3.50.
CHICAGO, Dec. 28.
Hogs—Light, \$3.40@3.75; mixed, \$3.50@3.85; heavy, \$3.50@3.90.
Cattle—Extra and native beefs, \$4.00@4.40; stockers and feeders, \$1.75@2.00; mixed cows and bulls, \$1.00@1.25; Texans, \$1.20@1.60.
Sheep—Natives, \$4.20@5.20; westerns, \$3.75@4.90; Texans, \$3.75@4.70.
SOUTH OMAHA, Dec. 28.
Cattle—Choice beefs, \$3.25@4.50; cows, \$1.25@2.40; feeders, \$1.25@2.75; bulls, \$1.20@2.10.
Hogs—Light, \$3.40@3.50; mixed, \$3.50@3.85; heavy, \$3.50@3.85.
KANSAS CITY, Dec. 28.
Cattle—Westerns, steady; cows, strong; natives, \$4.85@5.80; cows, \$3.50@3.70; stockers and feeders, \$3.30@3.90.
Hogs—All grades, \$3.50@3.70.
PRODUCE AND PROVISIONS.
CHICAGO, Dec. 28.
Flour—Spring patents, \$4.50@5.00; winter patents, \$4.00@4.60.
Wheat—Cash, 90¢; January, 91¢; May, 96¢.
Corn—Cash, 40¢; December, 40¢; January, 41¢; May, 42¢ bid.
Oats—Cash, 32¢; January, 31¢; May, 32¢.
Rye—80¢.
Barley—85¢.
Flax—94¢.
Timothy—\$1.24.
Whisky—\$1.18.
Fork—Cash, \$7.45; January, \$10.25@10.75; May, \$10.95@11.35.
Lard—Cash, \$5.97; January, \$6.00; May, \$6.35.
Short ribs—Cash, \$5.10.
Shoulders—\$4.37; January, \$4.50; short clear, \$5.50, \$5.45.
Butter—Creamery, 10¢@27¢; dairy, 19¢@26¢.
Cheese—Full cream cheddars, 11¢@12¢; Bats, 11¢@12¢; Young Americas, 12¢@13¢.
Eggs—Fresh 23¢@24¢.
Hides—Cows and light green salted, 2¢; salted bull, 4¢@4½¢; green salted calf, 6¢@6½¢; dry flint, 8¢@8½¢; salted hides, 6¢@7¢; dry calf, 8¢@9¢; deacons, each, 25¢.
Tallow—No. 1 solid, 4¢; packed, 2¢@2½¢; cake, 4½¢.
MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 28.
Wheat—Closing: No. 1 Northern, December, 85¢; May, 91¢; on track, No. 1 hard, 89¢; No. 1 northern, 87¢; No. 2 northern, 81¢@84¢.

TOPEKA IN MOURNING.

Thousands Gathering to the Funeral of the Late Senator Plumb.
TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 23.—A bright, beautiful morning dawned upon the capital city of Kansas where the funeral obsequies of the late Senator Plumb are soon to be celebrated with all the pomp and grandeur, military and civil, that the great state of Kansas can command. The city is draped in mourning, while Kansas avenue, one of the broadest and finest thoroughfares in the United States, is a dense mass of funeral emblems. All night long special trains on all the roads have been arriving in town with thousands of visitors, while every thoroughfare leading to the city is now, and has been since daylight, a solid moving procession of vehicles of every description. The streets and public squares of the city along which the funeral cortege is to move are thronged with people eager to pay their last tribute of respect to the illustrious dead.

Arrival of the Remains.
TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 23.—The remains of Senator Plumb arrived at 10 o'clock this morning and were escorted from the depot to the capitol with all proper ceremony. In the procession from the depot were the commanding members of the Eleventh Kansas, Colonel Plumb's regiment; a squad of police, sergeant-at-arms of the United States senate, senators and members of congress and the family and relatives of the dead senator, several Grand Army posts, the governor of Kansas, judges and commissioners of the supreme court, members of the state senate, city officials, members of the board of education and other organizations.

The public schools were adjourned immediately after the opening of the exercises out of respect to the memory of Senator Plumb. The president's desk in the senate chamber, where the remains are lying in state, is the apex of a vast pyramid of tropical plants and flowers and ferns.

LOST THE MATCH.

A Youth "Backed" to Marry an Heiress—Somebody Told.
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—It was reported today that Florence Blythe, the successful claimant in the lower courts to old Blythe's four millions, was engaged to J. W. Keyes, a young notary of Frisco. Young Florence came of age last Friday. She denied today the engagement with Keyes. She admitted that there had been an engagement, but it was broken some time ago. There is an amusing story in connection with this engagement. A young Keyes was backed by a local speculator named Sexton, who put up several hundred dollars for dinners and other entertainments to the heiress. Sexton expected to get big returns from his investment when Keyes married. It is probable that Florence Blythe learned of this bargain and broke off the match. She is the natural daughter of Millionaire Blythe by Julia Perry, whom he picked up one day in London and who went to his lodgings and lived with him for several weeks. The appeal of the other Blythe heirs is before the supreme court, and on its decision rests Florence's chance to handle millions.

POOR MAN—AND WRETCHED YEGOR!

Some provisions were taken from the sacks, and the improvised repast only needed a little gaiety to render it charming, but even M. Lafleur, despite all his efforts to animate his friends, could not inspire it. The horses, set at liberty, pastured in a neighboring meadow.

Yeger and Nadege had good reason for being full of care.

The chief of police, as we have seen, had escaped from Yeger, at the same time acquiring convincing proof that the trip to Aldanskoi was but the first step in an escape across Siberia. Besides, the shattered face of his cap was evidence sufficient to convince the most incredulous that a criminal attempt had been made, for why should the governor's secretary have tried to take the life of the chief of police if his presence had not been an obstacle to his plans? The shots fired by the exile clearly established what he was about.

As soon as he could safely quit his hiding place, Yermac searched for his horse. He heard it neighing frequently and comprehended that the animal had been abandoned. He finally saw it in the distance, wandering at will. Now it approached him, and then it tore madly away as if under the influence of fear.

He strove to overtake it, but his strength failed him. On leaving Yakoutsik, he had brought with him only a few pounds of biscuit, but even this slight supply of provisions was in the valise fastened to the horse's saddle. The recovery of the animal was, therefore, an imperative necessity.

Happily, the horse eventually recognized its master and ran to him. But the fugitives had now more than three hours' start of him. However, the chief of police resolved to continue his pursuit of them. Once at Aldanskoi, he would procure, thought he, a reliable messenger to inform the governor of the exile's escape, and ask for a squad of Cossacks.

Let us return to the fugitives and the brave man who was aiding them.

After a few hours' rest, they resumed their travels. They found only marshes before them; green grass and hills became rare. The sky clouded; snow fell—the first of the autumn—and the thermometer sank to two degrees below zero. When they again erected their tent, they were forced to light a fire. Afar off, in the narrow valleys of the Verkhio-Yansk Mountains, they heard a torrent roaring. The next day they forded it.

This operation was not effected without considerable fatigue; the banks of the torrent were encumbered with up-rooted trees and enormous blocks of stone precipitated from the neighboring heights. But, at last, they were out of the marshes and were approaching the Verkhio-Yansk chain. Once there, they would be safe!

As they advanced, the forests, rare at first, were more frequently met. In them the poplar trees grew to an enormous size, and upon the dry lands dwarf cedars mingled with birches and firs. In the last-mentioned forests, hoth-cocks abounded, and M. Lafleur and little Ladislav, who was a capital shot, hunted them with success.

At length, the passage of the formidable chain of mountains was begun. The wind blew, that day, with violence and increased the difficulties of the undertaking.

The cart made its way toilsomely among the fragments of rock which strewn the narrow road. The ascent of the rugged slopes was dangerous in the extreme. The travelers wound about enormous masses of black rock entirely bare, the summits of which sloped at an elevation of several hundred feet. They passed along the edges of deep abysses.

They pushed slowly through a gloomy defile in which the wind raged. On emerging from it, M. Lafleur advised Yeger to put the cart in an elbow formed by the rocks, which would enable Nadege and little Ladislav to rest for a few instants sheltered from the blast and to gather a fresh supply of strength. This advice was adopted and the party halted. The horses were tied to huge trees.

While the young girl and her brother took some provisions from the sacks, Yeger, M. Lafleur, and the Yakoute Tekel scaled the sides of the mountain to make observations. Stones loosened by their feet rolled down behind them.

They reached a narrow platform which the whistling wind swept over. Behind them, the side of the mountain inclined menacingly. Thick clouds floated above their heads and a torrent, the noise of which was brought to them at intervals by the blast, roared near at hand.

From this culminating point, they saw, as it were behind a suddenly raised curtain, the imposing chain of mountains stretching as far as the eye could reach, its axis running towards its frozen pole, amid vast solitudes that could readily be imagined. It was as if the gigantic waves of an ocean lashed by a tempest had been suddenly petrified and the vertigo of a troubled gaze had all at once put them again in motion.

The aspect of these massive portions of a tremendous frame, black with northern trees, with their lofty summits loaded down with snow, their crystal glaciers packed between high slopes, their sombre defiles often torn by the lightning, and their steep, inaccessible walls—all this saddened the heart, froze the senses and troubled the mind.

And beneath the dark sky stretching to infinity, the parallel chains and their lateral extensions with their few grassy plains, the ramifications of desolate valleys dimly seen through narrow gorges, the unfathomable ravines, the gaps from which ascended in bluish vapor the foam of waterfalls, the immeasurable circular basins, the blanched elevations and the sharp peaks.

The spot was lugubrious, desolate and sad—more than sad—sinister. It seemed chosen for the accomplishment of a crime.

Suddenly, from this post of observation, the Yakoute discovered, upon the western side of the mountain over which the travelers had passed, a man on horseback, advancing with difficulty and struggling obstinately against the wind which poured furiously from the ravine. He described him to the two Europeans.

"Mon Dieu!" cried M. Lafleur. "It is the chief of police!"

"Think heaven!" Yeger could not help exclaiming, for he felt himself released from a heavy load.

"Think heaven! eh! That's very charitable!" muttered M. Lafleur. "But he is going straight towards Mlle. Davidoff. Perhaps, he has even seen us. What does the man want?"

"Alas! the wretch has not been touched by our adversity; he feels no pity for our misery!" murmured Yeger. "He wants my life and those of the poor children I am striving to save from oppression and infamy!"

The chief of police was constrained by the force of the wind to continue his journey on foot. He drew his gray horse along by the bridle.

"What are you going to do, my poor friend!" asked the Parisian.

TO BE CONTINUED.