

THE EXILES. A RUSSIAN STORY.

Voracious and given to theft, they steal everything from the hunters and even garments from sleeping men; they devour the corpses and attack the sick. When travelers pass, placing numerous heavy stones over the earth which covers it, the stones over the hiding-places by gliding the robes, stoning, aiding each other in the work with harmony and rare intelligence. If the provisions be elevated in the air on a pole, the foxes dig with their paws until the pole falls, or even with wonderful dexterity make a short ladder to reach the coveted prey.

"The blue fox," continued M. Lafleur, "is found on all the shores of the Arctic Ocean and on the banks of the rivers which flow into it. It is smaller than the common fox, which it greatly resembles, but its head is more like that of a dog. Its hair is very long, very thick and very soft to the touch—it is grayish blue or white. The tip of its muzzle is black and its ears are nearly round. Its voice is at once like the bark of a dog and the yelp of a fox. These animals are always met in considerable bands; they prefer open and cold places.

"It is a curious fact," added he, "that the blue fox, far from fearing the water as do the other foxes, easily crosses the arms of rivers or lakes to reach islands that it may ravage the nests of aquatic birds. When game vanishes from a region, the blue foxes emigrate in a body, which is a habit very rare among carnivorous animals.

"I had," M. Lafleur pursued, "for my Chateau-Thierry collection, superb specimens of the skins of all the Siberian foxes, but, alas! my collection is to be made over again—I can never return to Yakoutsik," added he, sadly.

After having eaten, the Yakoute woman asked permission to sleep beside the bivouac fire, which was granted by Nadege. She stretched herself out upon the snow and, drawing over her face and shoulders her sarak of reindeer skin, began to snore. The little blue foxes, closely pressed to her bosom, paid her in warmth for the maternal care she bestowed upon them.

CHAPTER XIII.—TEKEL'S RETURN.

That night was not a quiet one. There remained more than three-quarters of the ram killed by M. Lafleur. The odor of the raw flesh attracted the wolves. They roamed around the encampment despite Wab's growls and barkings, which were sometimes furious.

M. Lafleur, always serviceable, accompanied by the dog of the Himalayas, went to the nearest thicket and brought back a number of branches with which to feed the fire.

The flames intimidated the wolves, the eyes of which could be seen shining in the distance. While Wab kept off some of them, others more daring bore away the remains of the ram and made but a mouthful of them.

Soon the number of animals increased so greatly as to cause much uneasiness. At a signal from Yegor a general discharge of fire-arms was made in every direction. Yegor and M. Lafleur fired several times and the little Pole blazed away with his two revolvers. The chief of police, disabled by his wound, alone remained inactive.

The wolves hit by the shot uttered lugubrious howls, and the fugitives heard them roll and twist upon the ground in the convulsions of death. The others retired a short distance, but returned to the charge, and it became necessary to repulse them anew with balls.

At last, they were again driven back. But at daybreak they presented themselves in greater force than ever, ready to renew their attack. Wrangling with each other, they threw themselves upon the bodies of their companions lying in the snow and devoured them. This was but slight nourishment for so many famished animals.

Yegor and the others loaded their weapons, thinking that the wolves, their appetite stimulated by the raw flesh, would soon leap upon them. Ladislav passed his revolvers to Nadege and charged the carbine belonging to the chief of police. The latter grasped in his free hand an enormous spear. Thus they waited, ready for whatever might take place.

Suddenly, on the summit of the rock against which Nadege's tent was erected appeared a huge gray bear. It descended bravely and went straight towards the wolves.

The latter, disturbed at their feast, boldly wheeled about. Then, the bear, retreating a few steps, placed its back against the rock, quatted upon its haunches, thrust forward a wide-open, frightful mouth and crossed its fore paws over its breast. At this defensive attitude, the wolves formed a semi-circle about their adversary, prudently keeping several yards away.

Yegor and his companions were filled with amazement. After rapidly consulting, they decided to let these animals come to blows before interfering; besides, it was necessary to economize the supply of powder.

The gray bear and the wolves continued to observe each other, but the thing was becoming monotonous; the wolves seemed to be inviting the bear to begin the combat. They were trying to provoke it by growls, which certainly seemed to contain an accusation of cowardice. The bear, without departing from its calmness, was allowing the ardor of its adversaries to wear itself out.

Finally, some of the bravest or most famished leaped upon the hairy mass, which was as motionless as a rock. They threw themselves on the bear, attacking it in every direction.

Then the enormous beast began to lift its fore paws and, using them as clubs, struck right and left among its assailants. Each time one of its heavy paws descended a wolf fell with a fractured skull.

"Shall we aid the auxiliary that has come to us?" said Yegor to M. Lafleur.

The Parisian nodded his assent.

The two friends, summoning all their courage, took position beside the bear. A few gun-shots made a gap in the army of wolves; this was a useful diversion. For an instant the bear was frightened by the reports, but it quickly recovered and seemed to understand that help was being rendered it.

The exasperated wolves, far from retreating, rushed in a body upon the bear; all which advanced openly with heads erect fell victims to the claws or teeth of the formidable beast.

Yegor and his companions looked out for the wolves which approached treacherously, cravhing to seize their terrible adversary by the stomach, a spot but poorly defended. The struggle soon grew frightful!

The bear hurled its innumerable foes afar as fast as they arrived within its reach. Those mortally wounded lay on the ground, howling and groaning; those which got off with slight wounds fled as rapidly as possi-

ble. A discharge of fire-arms accompanied their retreat.

There were several assaults of this kind, intrepidly sustained by the bear and its two improvised auxiliaries. At last, the wolves, seeing how many corpses of their number lay upon the field of battle, totally relinquished the struggle and disbanded.

The gray bear remained, impassible, astonished and in no way proud of its victory. "Shall we attack it in its turn?" asked Yegor, resolutely.

"Wait, my friend," responded the Parisian. "The creature has been a great help to us. Besides, these gray bears are not ferocious. I am going to thank it for its aid with a dancing lesson; that is what is called in my country paying in ape's money. It is to be hoped that it will not settle its account by devouring me."

While speaking, M. Lafleur drew his little violin from his pocket. The bear followed, without losing anything, all his movements. Without taking time to give the la, the dancing-master, gravely marking the steps, played and danced nobly an old-time minuet.

The animal yawned at first, but the sharp sounds of the instrument astonished and, perhaps, charmed it. It shook its head with an approving air.

It is well known that the ear of the bear, insensible to bursts of thunder or the fall of avalanches, has the gift of perceiving and appreciating the weakest and softest sounds. The gray bear seemed to grow familiar with the dancer and his music. It belonged, for that matter, to a species void of ferocity, feeding mainly on vegetables and fish. At the commencement of winter, the Ostiaks are often seen conducting flocks of gray bears to Berezoff, where the flesh is sold on the butchers' stalls.

Carried away by the cadence of the air, the animal also began to shake itself and dance.

While executing his minuet, M. Lafleur gradually moved away from the encampment; the bear followed him, as if magnetized by his bow.

Yegor had great trouble to prevent his dog Wab from going up to smell at close quarters this companion, suddenly grown so sociable.

Finally, M. Lafleur, thinking that he had drawn the animal far enough away to have removed all danger, quickly wheeled about, scraping forcibly upon the treble string. The bear, evidently annoyed by the altogether unexpected lack of harmony, departed with the heavy step of a mystified beast.

Some hours later, clouds of crows settled upon the bleeding bodies of the wolves, and the travelers thought it advisable to move their camp, advancing in the direction in which Tekel was to come with the nartas.

The Yakoute woman did not follow them, but resumed her road, bearing with her the three blue foxes.

Two days afterwards, as night was coming on—to speak the truth, it had been night all day—a sharp noise and a pattering sound on the hard snow announced from a distance the arrival of Tekel and the sledges, so impatiently awaited.

Soon the two nartas were in sight. The reindeer were running rapidly.

Yegor's joy was overwhelming, Nadege's eyes were filled with tears of emotion, and Ladislav clapped his hands.

"What fine teams!" cried M. Lafleur.

But Yermac's forehead suddenly clouded. The chief of police turned away to hide his annoyance.

The situation of this Muscovite functionary was passably strange. The former judge, incapable of relying upon his own judgment, regulated himself only by strict justice and the written law, without admitting any examination, interpretation or modification. Distrustful of his rights and his authority, he remained deaf to that interior voice which tells every man what is just or unjust, and limited his intellectual activity to the strict application of the law. In his eyes, men were made to obey the laws and the laws were not written in the interest of humanity. Further, he was always ready to sacrifice himself to his duty, as he had clearly shown.

And yet he was almost forced to lend assistance to people who had forfeited their privileges, who were braving the law and personally defying it. Now, he was about to be compelled to follow him. How far and during what time they alone could tell.

Yermac felt himself unable to resist this humiliation. Better had it been for him, he thought, to have succumbed beneath their repeated attacks than to become in their hands an object of pity and derision.

But what would he do if a patrol of Cossacks suddenly appeared? Would he denounce, as his duty strictly ordered him to do, Yegor and Nadege as escaping convicts and M. Lafleur as an accomplice in an attempted crime? But he owed his life to these unfortunates! What a cruel perplexity! A dolorous struggle took place in the conscience of the chief of police.

Tekel, as he advanced, hesitated for a moment. He did not recognize the locality. The forest razed by the conflagration gave the face of the country a new aspect. The Yakoute was greatly surprised, on approaching the encampment, to find that it had been established by Yegor and his party, the people in whose service he was.

He leaped lightly from the narta he was driving and displayed his teams for the general admiration. His Yakoute comrade was presented after the reindeer. He was quite a young man of a very pronounced Tartar type, and answered to the somewhat harsh name of Chort.

The costumes of the two Yakoutes presented a mixture of the garments of the Russian peasants and those of the natives of the fur countries. They were long pelisses of gray cloth in the Muscovite fashion, breeches of well-tanned reindeer skin and tobaccos or boots of thick reindeer hide. These boots are so made that the foot can enjoy perfect ease in them, the tip of the sole is turned up like the runner of a skate. They reach to the knee and are bordered by a wide band of black cloth. All the seams in the garments of Tekel and Chort were covered with bands of this cloth. It is to be added that their boots were fastened about the ankle by strips of leather.

Let us pass to the sledges.

Nartas are Siberian sledges. They are narrow, long, and very light, with accommodations for two persons besides the driver. The latter is but illy seated. He places himself on one side and is always ready to leap to the ground at the slightest accident. In the box of each narta is a receptacle for food to be used while traversing uninhabited sections, and also for certain indispensable utensils.

Tekel had had the foresight to fill the boxes of his two nartas with flour, barley, dried and smoked fish, etc., while an abundant supply of lichen was showed that he had not forgotten the reindeer. He had furnished with hatches, numerous knives and hunting and fishing implements. Felt and buffalo each of the vehicles and cold at need were used in the erection of tents.

Each narta was drawn, after the manner of the natives, by three stout reindeer.

Generally, the Russians prefer to harness to these vehicles a large number of dogs. They find it easier to feed them with the flesh of animals killed on the road and, at need, with fish, than to renew, without going out of their way the mosses on which the reindeer live.

As to the animals, they left much to be desired. Three out of the six were white. Two had magnificent horns measuring from four to five feet. The others lacked either the right horn or the left, except one—it had been used to ride upon—which had its horns sawed off near the skull. Besides, it was the season with which the reindeer shed the hairy skin in which their horns are provided, and long, bloody strips hung from the antlers. It will be remembered that a reindeer's head greatly resembles that of a heifer, but the body is slenderer and the limbs cleaner cut. The broad foot of the creature facilitates traveling over the snow. Without the reindeer, the tribes of the extreme north could not exist. The animal is for them what the horse and the cow are for us, the camel and the goat for the Arab of the desert. It serves at once as a beast of burden and nourishment; it gives milk and garments to those who raise it.

Yegor informed Tekel of what had occurred during his absence, and was very glad to learn that this servant had by chance laid in a supply of provisions; they would replace those which had been abandoned to the flames of the forest.

That evening, the repast was exceptionally comfortable, thanks to the elements furnished by the new arrivals from Zakhversk; Yakoute butter, without salt and hardened by the cold, which was broken into pieces; strouganina, or raw fish frozen and cut into thin slices; reindeer brains, frozen also; and black bread dried in small cakes—all dishes reputed to be delicious and choice. The Yakoutes added some wild onions gathered in the neighborhood.

After the meal, the two natives made their preparations for the night. The reindeer unharnessed and set at liberty, Nadege and Ladislav were placed in one of the nartas and well covered with its felt cloth. To the chief of police—in consideration of his wound—was assigned the other narta. They wrapped him up warmly in it. Yegor and the Parisian rolled themselves in their furs. As to the Yakoutes, they scarcely took the most simple precautions against the cold, justifying their title of "men of iron" bestowed in Siberia upon their race.

The next day, at an early hour, the fugitives were to continue their journey.

CHAPTER XIV.—ARRESTED.

In the light produced by the atmospheric refraction, the travelers had taken the eastern highway, guiding themselves by means of a tiny compass, a geyraw figuring among the charms attached to Yegor's watch-chain; the compass with which the latter had provided himself had been lost during the burning of the forest, together with the map of the comparatively unknown districts to be traversed by the fugitives; but this map was photographed, so to speak, upon the exile's brain, in consequence of the thorough study he had made of it during the long hours he had devoted to planning his escape.

The severe cold necessitated the adoption of every available means of braving the rigors of the season, at the very commencement of the journey.

The nartas went at the average speed of eight miles an hour. In the first, driven by Tekel, were Yegor, Nadege, and Ladislav. The chief of police and M. Lafleur occupied the second.

An interminable plain presented itself to the sight, not with a distant prospect—the light was too faint for that—but with such uniformity in the sheet of whiteness, of which the nartas seemed always to occupy the centre, that without the patter of the hoofs of the reindeer in the snow, without the scraping sound produced by the runners of the sledges, the travelers might have believed their vehicles motionless.

They crossed several frozen lakes. The camp, after the first day, was even established on one of those marshes which remain eternally frozen beneath the surface, and which are called tundras.

The second day dawned amid an intense cold that promised well for the progress of the fugitives. They resumed their journey, carefully shunning some inhabited points where posts of Cossacks were located, and where it would have been difficult to furnish a satisfactory explanation of the object of this trip between the Indiguirka and the Kolima in such rough weather.

Suddenly, a Cossack, driving a very light little sledge drawn by numerous dogs, shot by the nartas like an arrow.

This Cossack had a droll look, with his lance slung across his back and his fur hood pulled down over his eyes. One might have thought him astraddle of an overturned iron chair and being drawn along, despite himself, by a dozen dogs.

It was a courier despatched by the commander of a post established to the north of the plain which the fugitives were crossing, parallel to the Stanovoi-Grebete chain, in which rise the Indiguirka, the Kolima, and the Omolon rivers.

The Cossack, after having passed the two nartas, turned his team about and started to overtake them; Yegor and M. Lafleur, therefore, ordered their drivers to put the reindeer to the top of their speed.

They had so much the air of flight that the Cossack's curiosity was stimulated. He wished to take a nearer look at these travelers who were in such haste and who, contrary to the custom of the country, shunned speaking with the people whom good luck threw in their way.

In less than five minutes he rejoined the nartas, and Yegor and his companions were forced to stop and enter into conversation with him.

"I wish you a safe journey, Messieurs," said the Cossack. "And here is a piece of advice for you—go a little to the left, if you would not miss the ostrog of Verkhne-Kolimsk."

The ostrog was the post from whence the Cossack had been despatched.

"They are not going to the ostrog," said Yermac.

"Where are they going, then?" asked the Cossack, more puzzled than ever, for he could not understand how they could disclaim making a halt at this post, deemed a precious refuge by those obliged to cross these vast solitudes. "Are your passports in proper shape?" demanded he of Yegor, who having quitted his sledge, had advanced to talk with him.

"Our passports are in proper shape," answered the young man. "If you were charged with verifying them, I would show them to you with pleasure. But what good would that do, since you are only an ignorant fellow?"

"Not so ignorant, after all! I am a courier to the neighboring posts, the bearer of information relative to some vernal ice-camp from Yakoutsik! There are—(and the Cossack counted the travelers)—there are four of them (he, however, saw five per sons), and you answer so well to the descriptions that I shall be compelled to ask you to go pay your respects to our Esauoulet!"

Changed the Subject.

He (gently)—Are you not afraid some one will marry you for your money?

She (sweetly)—Oh, dear, no. Such an idea never entered my head.

He (tenderly)—Ah, in your sweet innocence you do not know how coldly, cruelly mercenary some men are.

She (quietly)—Perhaps not.

He (with suppressed emotion)—I would not for the world have such a terrible fate happen to you. The man who wins you should love you for yourself alone.

She—He'll have to. It's my cousin Jennie who has money, not I. You've got us mixed. I haven't a cent.

He—Er—very pleasant weather we're having.

LA GRIPPE. On December 19th I was confined to my room with the Grippe. The Treasurer of the "Commercial Advertiser" recommended that I should try a bottle of "Ayer's Cherry Pectoral," as it had cured him of the same complaint. I sent for a bottle, and in two days I was able to resume my business, and am now entirely cured.

As I took no other remedy, I can but give all the credit to the "Cherry Pectoral," which I gratefully recommend as a speedy specific for this disease.

Yours very truly,
F. T. HARRISON,
29 Park Row, New York, N. Y.

Taking Her Down.

Little Dot—Ma, may I take the baby out in my doll's carriage?

Mamma—Why, what for?

Little Dot—Susie Stackup has a new doll 'at shuts its eyes an' cries 'Wah, wah!' I'm doin' to bend the baby in a doll, and let her hear him yell. Then I des she'll stop puttin' on airs.

Learning the Ropes.

New Reporter (breathlessly)—Big railroad accident on the A. B. C. road. Shall I go to the superintendent of the A. B. C. road for particulars?

City Editor—Certainly not. Go to the superintendent of the X. Y. Z. road.

A Fami in Character.

Friend—Considering that your living expenses are fully up to your income, I don't see how you contrived to get such a reputation as a philanthropist.

Mr. Spendall—Oh, I never give anything, I do the hat pushing.

All That is Needed.

In our physical needs we want the best of anything required, and we want all that is required to be done, to be done promptly and surely, and those in pain, especially, will find all that is needed in what is herein recommended. Mr. T. J. Murphy, 61 Debevoise pl., Brooklyn, N. Y., says: "Having been afflicted with sciatic rheumatism for some time past and finding no relief, I tried St. Jacob's Oil, which I found very efficacious."—Miss Clara Alcott, Mahwah, N. J., writes: "I bruised my limb and it became greatly swollen and stiff. I used two bottles of a patent liniment which did not relieve me. A physician was called who ordered the limb to be poulticed, and he gave me medicine internally, without benefit. I then got a bottle of St. Jacob's Oil, which cured me. It acted like magic."—Mr. Lorenzo Buck, Bancroft, Shiawassee county, Mich., says: "I had chronic rheumatism for years, contracted during the war. After sitting or lying down, at times, I could not get up from stiffness and pain. At work my strength would give out, then I would pass through a sickness of several weeks. I had to walk with a cane and was at one time so ill I could not lie down without terrible pain in my back and limbs. I tried St. Jacob's Oil, that morning got up out of bed without assistance. Today I'm a new man and walk without a cane." Mr. A. H. Cunningham, Perryopolis, Fayette county, Pa., writes: "My wife was sorely afflicted with lame back for several years. She used innumerable liniments, but experienced little relief until St. Jacob's Oil was used. I can confidently say we owe her cure to its wonderful effects and would not keep house without it."

"Two Souls With But," Etc.

He (to himself)—She hates me or she would not be so cold and distant.

She (to herself)—He doesn't care for me one bit, or he wouldn't sit way off in a corner like that.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, Lucas County.

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & CO., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every copy of CATARRH that may be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

Sworn to before me and subscribed to my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1888.

A. W. GLEASON,
Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by druggists, 75c.

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When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria,
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria,
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria,
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

The value of the crown of England, exclusive of the cost of the metal, is £104,000. It has been four times in pawn; and once for £2,000 only!

Sudden Changes of Weather cause Front Diseases There is no more effective remedy for Coughs, Colds, etc., than BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES. Sold only in boxes. Price 25 cents.

The best isinglass dissolves completely in hot water, leaving no visible residuum.

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A century ago there were only fourteen newspapers in London.

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Is your blood poor? Take Beecham's Pills. Is your liver out of order? Use Beecham's Pills. 25 cents a box.

A flour is now made from the banana, which is said to be a useful article.

"August Flower"

I had been troubled five months with Dyspepsia. I had a fullness after eating, and a heavy load in the pit of my stomach. Sometimes a deathly sickness would overtake me. I was working for Thomas McHenry, Druggist, Allegheny City, Pa., in whose employ I had been for seven years. I used August Flower for two weeks. I was relieved of all trouble. I can now eat things I dared not touch before. I have gained twenty pounds since my recovery. J. D. Cox, Allegheny, Pa.

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DON'T DELAY
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And irregular meals are causes of Dyspepsia, which will soon become incurable except by careful attention to diet and taking a reliable stomachic medicine like Hood's Sarsaparilla. Read this:

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I took two or three bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla and entirely recovered, much to my gratification. I frequently have opportunity to praise

Hood's Sarsaparilla

and am glad to, for I consider it a great medicine. C. I. Thompson, Traveling Salesman for Schlotterbeck & Van, Portland, Me.

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Tut's Tiny Pills. The dyspeptic, the debilitated, whether from excess of work or mind or body or exposure in malarial regions, will find Tut's Pills the most genial restorative ever offered the invalid.

Common Soap. Rots Clothes and Chaps Hands. IVORY SOAP DOES NOT.

Do You Cough? Don't Delay! Take Kemp's Balsam. The Best Cough Cure.

Fast Eating. And irregular meals are causes of Dyspepsia, which will soon become incurable except by careful attention to diet and taking a reliable stomachic medicine like Hood's Sarsaparilla.

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Epileptic Fits, Falling Sickness, Hysterics, St. Vitus Dance, Nervousness, Hypochondria, Melancholia, Insobriety, Sleeplessness, Dizziness, Brain and Spinal Weakness.

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