German Balloons Hovering Over Russian Forts.

They Come From the Prussian Border and Sail Directly Against the Wind--Methods of Modern Warfare Will Be Revolutionized.

St. Petersburg, April 1.-The presence of balloons over the forts and encampments in Poland is becoming more frequent than ever and this fact is causing such indignation among army officers who are helpless to prevent military secrets from becoming known to the German officers who are known to be taking observations from a height that places them beyond the reach of any bullets aimed at them. One of these balloons from the German frontier recently appeared at Kovno. It hovered above the fortress there until the officer in command became so greatly exasperated that he ordered some of the soldiers to fire at the balboon and if possible to bring it to the ground. Had the soldiers been able to hit the big silken bag floating so high in the air and make a hole in it, it would have meant a horrible death for its occupants, but the range was too great and the powder burned in the attempt was useless. The Germans continued their observations in no way bothered by the firing and when they had concluded they returned whence they came. The impression grows stronger daily that the Germans have at last solved the long studied problem of aerial navigation. These balloons that have appeared over various places in Poland are under perfect control. They more in any desired direction, and the wind currents have representible effect on them. In fact and the wind currents have no perceptible effect on them. In fact, in at least one instance it is known that the balloon sailed directly against a strong wind. Some of the observers accounted for this on the ground that the upper current was moving in an opposite direction from the current nearer the earth. This argument was rendered fallacious in a very short time by the balloon stopping over the military camp at Dombrowico, and then maneuvering to obtain positions from which the camp could be studied in detail. The motive power employed and the means adopted for steering are utterly unknown, but all the facts in connec tion with the appearance of these balloons go to show that they are under absolute control. The possibilities of a perfect system of aerial navigation are thoroughly understood by Russian officers, but they are absolutely helpless to guard against them. It is the fact of their utter helplessness that renders their indignation more deep and bitter. A few nights ago the inhabitants of

Warsaw were startled by an intense bright light that fell from the sky upon the city. All eyes were turned upward, but nothing could be seen save a path of light that ended in a small focus. Many people in their excitement thought it was a comet in close were was a comet in close proximity to the earth and were greatly frightened. Suddenly the ray of light swept in another direction, and when their eyes became accustomed to the darkness that followed they could see far up in the sky a balloon. Then it dawned upon the people that it was an electric search-light that had caused the brilliant illumination and that the Germans were continuing their observations of Russia's defenses with its aid. The balloon remained over the city until 1 o'clock in the morning, when the light was extinguished and the balloon, heading westward toward the frontier of Prussia, disappeared.

then started in the direction of the fort works near Keletz, where it hovered a while, when it returned across the frontier.

Reports of similar occurences have been received from Sosnovitsky and other places along the frontier. The balloons come from Prussian in the night time and projecs their rays of powerful search-lights in every direction. The balloons, which were at a great height, remained stationary. sometimes for the space of forty minutes, and would then proceed in any desired direction. There is no doubt that the steering apparatus, what-ever it is, is admirably adapted for its purpose, for the balloons apparently answer to it as readily as does a vessel to her helm. Russian officials hold that with manageable balloons the system of warfare will be ed. It is self-evident that none changed. of the present fortifications would be able to withstand an attack from above them. Shells could be dropped with almost unerring certainty, and no city could defend itself from an enemy far up in the air beyond the reach of any missile. Even modern cannon with their great range could not at present be used against balloons, for the reason that gun carriages have not been made that will allow of a perpendicular elevation.

# UNANIMOUS FOR GROVER.

Minnesota Democrat + Declare for Cleveland and Tariff Reform,

St. PAUL, Minn., April 1.-As was expected the state democratic convention, held here yesterday, unanimously indorsed Cleveland. Resolutions instructing the delegation to vote for him so long as there was any possibility of his nomination went through with a cheer.

The platform adopted declares against protection and favors tariff reform. The expression on coinage is as follows:

'In accordance with the traditional In accordance with the traditional policy of our party as to both gold and silver, we hold that the sole coinage function of the government is to examine the relative values of the metals of coinage stability. established by the commercial world, and if there has been sufficient fluctuation in make the existing ratio unequal, then to readjust ratios so the number of grains of either metal in a dollar be equivalent. equivalent in value, and then permit the free and unrestricted coinage of both metals. We join the democracy of New York in demanding the repeal of the Sherman silver coinage act."

ROTTEN BACON DID IT. Senator Manderson Says the Armour

Caused the Battle of Wounded Knee. Washington, April 2.-Indian Commissioner Morgan will prepare a reply to the statement made by Senator Manderson during the debate on the clause of the Indian bill authorizing the appointment of army officers as Indian agents whenever vacancies occurred, reflecting very severely upon P. D. Armour, of Chicago, and Inspector Cox, of the Indian department. The statement was made in debate that the Sioux war of 1890 was caused by the Armours sending out 120,000 pounds of rotten bacon which the civilian in-spector, Cox, had accepted for the inspector, Cox, and accepted for the in-terior department; that Captains Penny, of the Sixth infantry, and Le-roy Brown, of the Eleventh infantry, refused to accept this bacon for the Indians because it was not fit for any human being to eat; that Commissioner Morgan was ordered to send an inspector out to the Sioux reservation to examine this meat and he sent the same man Cox, who had inspected it in Chicago; that Cox examined it when the thermometer was 20 degrees below zero and reported that it was all right: then the two officers mentioned were ordered to issue the bacon to the Indians anyway, but refused and ap-

pealed to the secretary of the interior.

"This injustice and robbery, for the Indians were robbed," said Senator Manderson, "caused the battle of Wounded Knee, and the precedent and subsequent killings of and by the

It is not often that a senator attacks his party's officials in open debate in such a forcible way as Man-derson did. Secretary Noble is ter-ribly enraged over it and has ordered Commissioner Morgan to prepare an explanation of the proceedings charged, if he can. The section of the bill allowing army officers to be appointed agents passed. But this is appointed agents passed. But this is only the beginning of a general overhauling of the methods of conconducting business with the Indians.

Senator Pettigrew in his defense of

the civilian Indian agent finally attacked General Miles, charging that Miles had made statements that would not bear investigation, etc. There promises to be a very lively time among interior department officials before the charges made relative to their methods of conducting Indian business are

cleared up.
It is said that the Armours deny ever having furnished any meats to the Indian office that were not perfectly sound and that they will demand an investigation. They say that if any crookedness was carried on it was without their knowledge and that their business reputation for years re-futes such a charge. It is probable that all the persons mentioned by name in Senator Manderson's speech will be called upon to testify. Man-derson refuses to talk for publication, but says if given the chance he will prove all he charged in his speech.

### SUDDEN DEATH.

Herman Pazedack, a Young Student, Drops

Dead at Tipton. MASON CITY, Ia., April 2.-A dis patch has just been received in this city announcing that Herman Pazedack, a son of Julius Pazedack, of this city, had dropped dead on street at Tipton. He had just grad-uated from the Iowa State university, and was to have entered upon a pro-fessorship at the beginning of next

Duluth District Lumber Cut.

DULUTH, Minn., April 2 .- All lumbermen in the Duluth district have this week finished their work for the winter, and a careful canvass of the returns shows a cut of over 360,000,000 operate logging railways will increase the total during the season to about favored the free wool bill. Later another balloon was seen over the Prouschkauff railway station. It over 35 per cent. on any preceding remained stationary for a time and year. Loggers report that there has and appointments to committees were an-

Live Stock.

SIOUX CITY, April 4. Hogs-Light, \$1.50@1.60; mixed, \$1.45@

4.55; heavy, \$4.25@4.40. Cattle—Steers, 1,100 to 1,300 pounds, \$3.00@4.90; feeders, \$4.50@3.15; stockers, \$2.00@2.40; cows. common to good, \$1.00 & 3.00; yearlings, \$2.00@2.75; bulls, \$1.50@ 2.75; veal calves, \$2.50@4.01.

Chicago.

Chicago.

CHICAGO, April 4.

Cattle—Choice beeves, \$3.60@5.00; cows, \$1.30@3.75; feeders, \$2.25@3.75; bulls, \$1.50@3.75; Texans, 2.5@3.75.

Hogs—Light, \$4.50@5.00; mixed, \$4.50@4.95; heavy, \$4.20@4.95.

Sheep—Natives, \$4.50@5.50; westerns, \$4.50@6.15; Texans, \$4.10@5.80.

South Omaha

S UTH OMAHA. April 4.
-Light, \$4.75@4.63%; mixed, \$4.55 @4.60; heavy, \$4.50@4.60. Cattle—Stockers and feeders, \$2.40@3.20; cows, \$2.40@3.20. common, \$1.00@1.10.

Kansas City.

KANSAS CITT, April 4. KANSAS CITT, April 4.
Cattle—Extra fancy steers, \$3.40@4.20;
cows, \$1.40@3.4); stockers, \$2.55@6.50;
feeders, \$2.55@6.50.
Hogs—Extreme ranges, \$3.75@4.60.

Produce and Provisions,

CHICAGO, April 4. Flour—Spring patents, \$4.25@4.60; win-ter patents, \$4.25@4.63; Wheat—Cash, 185%c; May, 795%c. Corn—Ca.h, 394%c; May, 40%c. Oats—C. sh, 185%c; May, 28.0.85%c. No. 2 white, 31%c; No. 3 white, 29@31c. Rre—76c.

Rye-75c. Barley-56c. Timothy-\$1,28.

Flax—\$7.0.
Whisky—\$1.13.
Pork—Cash, \$10.273/; May, \$10.30@10.40.
Lard—Cash, \$6.25; May, \$6.73/;
Shoulders—\$1.50@5.00; short clear, \$6.20;
short ribs, \$5.673/@5.70; May, \$5.60.
Butter—Creamery, 20@.7c; dairy, 18@

Butter—Cream Cheddars, 11½@
2ic. Cheese — Full cream cheddars, 11½@
11½c: flats, 11½@12c; Young Americas,
12½@13c.
Egrs—Fresh, 12@12½c.
Hides—Heavy and light green salted
6c; salted bull, 4½@1½c; green salted
calf, 6@6½c; dry flint, 8c; dry salted
hides, 6@7c; dry calf, 8@9c; deaconz,
and, 25c.

Tallow-No. 1 solid, 4c; packed, 2@2%c

MINNEAPOLIS, April 4.

Wheat — Closing: April, 75c; May, 75% @75% c; on track, Na 1 hard, 79c, No. 1 northern, 78c; No. 2 northern, 72@75c.

#### FIFTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, March 29 -The vice-pres ident laid before the senate today three

A RUSSIAN STORY. requests from organized labor in the Distriet of Columbia which asked first representatives according to democratic principles such as prevailed in every other com-munity, and second the proper enforce-ment of the eight hour law, and third, a sufficient appropriation to provide text books in the public schools.

Mr. Stewart, of Nevada, • hen the order calling for the introduction of the bills

calling for the introduction of the bills was reached, said: "I desire to give nowas reached, said: "I desire to give notice that on Monday next after the morning business I shall move to take up senate bill 51, a bill to provide for the free comage of gold and silver and for other purposes.' In reply to Mr. Hoar, of Massachusets, Mr. Stewart stated that the bill was now on the calendar with an adverse report. The bill is No. 257 on the calendar, with twenty-one bills preceding it, which have been reached under rule 3 and passed over without prejudice. Rule 3 limits debate to five minutes and prohibits senators from addressing the senate more than once on the same motion. To take the bill out of this category and bring it before the senate for general discussion and action requires a majority vote of the senate.

Mr. Wolcott, of Colorado, made a forcible speech in support of his resolution requesting the president to withhold from settlement in severalty the lands now occupied by the Ute Indians in southern California.

Mr. Wolcott severely criticised the Indian rights association, and said that they had been misled by a corporation.

Mr. Dawes, warming, repudiated the

statement.
Mr. Weller poured oil on the troubled waters, and Mr. Wolcott's resolution was finally adopted. The senate then went

into executive session.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—In the senate today Mr. Mills, senator-elect from Texas, subscribed to the oath of office and took his seat. The bills and petitions introduced during the morning hour were quite barren of public interest. Mr. Stanford, of California, delivered a speech in favor of his legal tender dollar bill and moved to refer his nill to the finance committee. into executive session. to refer his bill to the finance committee, which motion was adopted. The senate resumed consideration of the Indian ap-propriation bill.

WASHINGTON, March 31 -In the senate washington, March al.—In the senate today Mr. Allen, of Washington, presented a petition in relation to congressional assistance to the Niearagua canal and remarked that he would like to know what progress was being made by the committee on foreign affeirs in considering this matter. ing this matter.

Mr. Sherman replied that the Nicaragua Mr. Sherman replied that the Nicaragua canal was progressing satisfactorily under the work of a private corporation chartered by congress. Congress had done nothing whatever to aid the enterprise. A special committee of foreign relations was now taking testimony as to the present condition and future prosperity of the enterprise, but would probably be more diligent in its investigation fi it were more hopeful of congressional assistance.

istance.

Mr. Hawley, of Connecticut, from the committee on military affairs, reported and the senate passed a bid empowering the managers of the National soldiers' home to select their employes from among soldiers who served in the late war instead of restricting them as now to the officers. An animated silver discussion was An animated silver discussion was caused by a series of resolutions introduced by Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, which is to be continued tomorrow. Pointed references were made by Mr. Morgan to the attitude of the presidential candidates on the question. Mr. Hill was present during the discussion but took no part in it. The senate by a vote of 29 to 34 refused to strike out the house provision authorizing the detail of army officers to act as Indian agents.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Owing to the action on the silver bill yesterday the attendance this morning was small and an expected red letter day in the annals of silver legislation was thereby lost, the house devoting its time to the tariff lebate. A letter was read from Mr. Mills. of Texas, stating that he had transmitted his resignation as a member of congress to the governor of Fexas to take effect today. Bills were passed for the relief of Dan-iel McClure and to establish a port of de-

rns shows a cut of over 360,000,000

Besides this companies which at logging railways will increase of the whole on the tariff bill. Mr. Harer, dem., of Ohio, was the first speaker. He

never been such a favorable winter in their trade and the sales of lumber are already unprecedented.

THE MARKETS.

ing was reported.

Mr. McMillin, of Tennessee, said it was

the purpose of the ways and means committee to close general debate on the wool bill Saturday next and asked unanimous consent that the house should take a recess at 5:30 today until 8 o'clock tonight, the evening session to be devoted to the debate on the pending tariff bill. Agreed to. The house went ito committee of the whole on the tariff bill, Mr. Blount in the chair. Mr. Butler, dem., of Iowa, took the floor in advocacy of the measure.

WA-HINGTON, March 31,-In the house today a resolutiont was passed against the use of the Marellie tower on Lyber island, Georgia, for a signal station; also to protect foreign exhibitors at the Columbian exposition from prosecution for exhibition of wares protected by American patents and trade marks; also a bill to fix the time for holding courts in the district of West Virginia. The house went into committee of the whole on the free wool bill, Mr. Bronson, of Pennsylvania, taking the floor in opposition to the bill.

Washingt N. April 2 -In the house to-day the river and harbor bill was reported by that committee and referred to the

union calendar. Mr. Fithian, of Illinois, reported a bill for the free admission to American registry of ships bui t in foreign countries.

The committee on commerce reported a resolution granting to the Compagnie Franciscise du Telegraph de Paris, of New York, the right to land a cable on the shores of to land a cable on the shores of South Carolina and Virginia, fron there to be laid o the island of Cuba or San Domingo or both. The house then went into committee of the whole on the free wool bill, Mr. McKinney, dem., of New Hampshire, speaking in favor of the measure.

Mr. Burrows, of Michigan, closed the debate in a speech in opposition to the bill.

## AUSTRALIA'S MISERY.

Half Time Relief Work Ordered-Blankets and Shelter for the Poor.

MELBOURNE, April 4.- The govern ment is placing men employed on the relief work on half time in order to give work to a greater number. Without the aid thus given the men em ployed would be absolutely without means of earning a livelihood.

The mayor has directed that the exhibition building at Sydney be used as a shelter for the unemployed working-men and their families. The government is serving blankets to the most needy among the unemployed.

# THE EXILES.

CHAPTER XXIX.—THE ICE-BOUND SHIP AND ITS SKELETON CREW.

Nadege and Ladislas had much repugnance for seal flesh—perhaps, because they had tasted the strange food preparations of the native couple who had visited them that M. Lafleur induced Yegor to resume hunting the white bear.

Hunger was making itself cruelly felt in the hut, when one morning Yegor and his friend went courageously upon the frozen surface of the sea. The cold, very sharp for some days past, had solidified it, this time, beyond all danger of accident. The hunters walked for more than four

miles among the heaps of broken ice blocks which formed the hummocks adhering to the shore. The two Siberian dogs accompanied them. Wab had been left at the hut for the security of Nadege and Lad-They arrived in front of broad and lofty

icebergs, which had come there from afar off, from the west, doubtless, and probably from the coast of Greenland where the mountains of ice incessantly detach themselves, with the crash of thunder, from immense glaciers often more than fifty miles

Suddenly, from the summit of a painfully climbed iceberg, Yegor saw, hidden, buried behind enormous icy masses, a stout ribbed ship, motionless and enclosed in a field of He uttered a cry of surprise and pointed out his discovery to M, Lafleur, who at that moment rejoined him.

Upon the frozen and greenish white sea, where the whiteness of the snow imitated the foam of the waves, the black carcass of the ship stood out darkly, with white network spread by the snow over all the parts in relief, as if to bring out the hues of morning. But the deck, the masts, the yards and the cordage, covered with beautiful star-shaped snow crystals, which shone with a thousand lustres in the sun, drove away this first impression, substituting for it the comparison of a gigantic gewgaw of spun glass.

The first movement of Yegor and M. Lafour was to retreat down the side of the iceperg, which would hide them, and from whence they could observe whether they had to deal with friends or enemies. The ship bore neither sails nor flag; the thick, square shape of its ribs was that of the fishing vessels which face the dangers of the avigation of the polar seas. The dogs

barked. They silenced them.

After half a minute's attention, M. Lafleur saw moving on board a creature enveloped in an animal's skin; perhaps, the ookout of the ship had seen and was watching them.

"We are observed!" said M. Lafleur. "Wait a little, my friend," answered Yegor, who saw the dogs with their hair standing on end; and with the words, aiming his gun, he fired at the so-called look-

"What are you doing?" cried M. Lafleur, "I was sure that it was not a man?" said

Yegor, with a laugh. "Let go the dogs!"

A huge white bear shook itself upon the deck, perplexed by the hiss of the ball about "It is a bear!" cried the Parisian, "and

the first we have met to-day." The two dogs were already running around the ship, barking furiously, but keeping at

a prudent distance. "But the ship?" said Yegor, with some constraint. "It is, perhaps, the phantom ship of the legends."

"Those legends are laughed at on the banks of the Seine," observed the Parisian. "For us, this enormous bulk of wood is nothing else, to all appearances, than the den of a bear-some ship abandoned by its

"Very likely," said Yegor, "and in that case we will, perhaps, find in it supplies that will enable us to dispense with pursuing our unprofitable hunt."

"As to the bear," said M. Lafleur, "it is

ipon a territory to which we have a much better right." "The least we can do is to dislodge it." said Yegor.

The bear had disappeared. It had, without doubt, taken refuge in the between

The two hunters glided to the base of the iceberg, and approached the vessel without further delay. Yegor quickly recognized it

as a Dutch whaler. Soon they reached the round sides of the thip. They hailed-no one answered. "Evidently there is not a living soul on

board!" hid Yegor,
"Otherwise, we would have to believe that the bear was tame!" observed M. Lafleur.

They climbed upon the deck, leaving their logs on the ice, and there a horrible specta-cle presented itself to their gaze. Five men-five skeletons clad in sailor's

arments-were stretched upon the deck, amid objects and wrecks of all sorts. "Poor fellows!" cried Yegor.

In their horror, they forgot the bear Nevertheless, the sound of steps was heard "Attention!" cried M. Lafleur. "That

must be the bear!" The dogs continued to bark as if to keep them on the lookout.

At this moment the white head of a bear appeared at one of the hatchways, with its pointed muzzle, its open and menacing mouth

and its ferocious looking red eyes. Yegor, without loss of time, lodge a ball in the animal's neck. Mortally wounded, it bounded with rage towards its assailant.

M. Lafleur fired in his turn; but he hit the bear on the ear, and the creature paid no attention to such a trifle. Yegor, on seeing it advance towards him.

endeavored to snatch a hatchet that lay within reach of his hand; he seized it, but the hatchet was soldered to the deck by the ice and resisted every effort to loosen it. All would have been over with Yegor, if the Parisian, quickly springing forward, the butt of his gun in the air, had not dealt upon the animal's head so terrible a blow that the weapon broke. The animal, a little disconcerted only, was hesitating between M. Lafleur and Yegor, when the latter, who had succeeded in disengaging the hatchet, lifted it as high as he could reach, and, bringing it down with all his strength, broke the skull of the terrible peast. When he saw it stretched on the deck, he finished it with two or three well directed blows. Little did he care about mangling the fur.

"All honor to you!" cried M. Lafleur. "At

last we will have a roast!" "Oh! never for our table!" exclaimed Yegor, with a look of disgust. And he called his companion's attention to the fact that the bones of the corpses, especially the skulls, had been gnawed by bears.

"But," said M. Lafleur, "was the bear we have killed the one we mistook for a lookout! We had better be careful, for the dogs continue to bark!

The Parisian was right, for scarcely had he finished speaking when another bear, an enormous one—it was the female—rose up menacingly from behind a pile of boxes that the snow had converted into a slope.

"Attention!" eried Yegor. Yegor lifted his hatchet, M. Lafleur, drawing back a few steps, unsheathed his huge hunting-knife. But the bear, astonished at this reception and these defensive

preparations, made a half turn and ran away, growling, prudently looking behind it to assure itself that it was not too closely pursued.

The hunters allowed it without opposition to slide down the side of the ship, pursued by the barking of the dogs, which they strove to restrain by reitorated calls, and when they saw it run over the hummocks towards the ice hills, they experienced great relief.

"Decidedly," observed M. Lafleur, "this kind of a hunt is too exciting for my temperament. If we only find here some boxes of biscuit, they will be of great help to us during the winter."

"But suppose the bears have devoured

everything!" said Yegor. M. Lafleur made a grimace.
"We shall soon know about that," said he.

They went to the hatchway and descended to the between-decks. A spectacle more horrible still than that on deck awaited them there—the bones and skulls of ten corpses transformed this place into a veritable charnel-house.

"Why were not the first who died buried by the others?" asked Yegor of M. Lafleur.
"Because, my friend," replied the latter, "the entire crew must have been stricken with that terrible disease known as the scurvy. Those who have it are attacked by an intolerable stiffness of the legs; they limp; they can neither sleep nor even rest they lose all appetite, and their inflamed gums are extremely painful, while a general weakness of the body promptly comes on— it is the indication of approaching dissolution. The death of these brave mariners must have occurred last winter. But what if, in this between-decks which is carefully stopped up and in which the air has not been renewed, we ourselves should take the

"It is easily taken, then!"

"Yes; but always under like conditions." "Such is, happily, not the case with us. Let us have some air and go straight to the

provisions. With his hatchet which he still retained possession of, Yegor cut the ropes which closed the scuttles. Air and light penetrat-

ed into the between decks. "We inherit everything," said M. Lafleur. "On one condition."

"That we give sepulture to the remains of these unfortunates.

"What is that?"

"Agreed. But look-they possessed an organ. "It was, without doubt, to abridge the

weariness of the long winter." Beside the stove, in company with the oal-box, a hand-organ stood upon a low table. M. Lafleur turned the handle, and, by a sort of poignant irony, the instrument gave vent to some strains of a gay dance

Then, Yegor and M. Lafleur, affected in the highest degree by the contrast of this lively music with the heart-rending picture before them, felt tears come into their

On the organ was a large book.

Yegor glanced at it-it was a Dutch Bible. Upon the margins of the book could be read, traced by the failing hand of the captain. the names of the first sailors who died, followed by some sad reflections. Yegor, who knew English and German, understood enough of the Dutch language to obtain from this record the explanation of this tragedy of the polar seas. The whaler had been surprised by the ice at the Island of Barentz, belonging to the Spitzbergen group. M. Lafleur had not been wrong in considering the scurvy the active cause of the death of all the crew.

The name of the captain figured a little further on in these lububrious pages. His second in command had taken up the pen and had passed it, in his turn, to a survivor. The last marginal note read thus:

"But four of us are left: Molis Stoke, of Haarlem, sailor; Dijrk Hooft, called the Spreker, of Medenblik, sailor; Heymann arsyeldt, of Elburg, our si myself, Alberdingk Huijdecoper, of Rotterdam, chief cook. We have no longer the strength to assist each other. Something horrible may possibly happen-what if the white bears which are prowling around the ship should come on board and devour us

"Poor men!" thought Yegor, as he closed the Bible. "That is probably what took

Already M. Lafleur was searching everywhere. From time to time, while Yegor was running over the margins of the Bible, he

cried: "Lard! - biscuit! - rum! - concentrated milk!-fifty boxes of it! The preserved meat has been eaten by the bears! Twenty pots of pemmican !- sugar! Oh !- flour !bottles of red wine and a box of candlesintact! More biscuit!-a cask full! A package of vermicelli! Chocolate! - twenty pounds at least! But what havoc! The foxes have aided the bears! Green beans in

boxes! Sardines in oil!" "Well, my dear friend," said Yegor to him, "let us bandle up some of these things and carry them away. We will carefully close the scuttles."

"What if we should not find the whaler

again?" "Oh? the sea is as solid as a rock. But let us load ourselves with as much as our strength will permit."

see some matches." "Take them. They will replace these stolen from us the other day by the Tch-

"There is some charcoal!" "We can do without that. Give preference

to those articles which will restore the strength of Nadege and her brother." Two hours afterwards, Yegor and the Parisian, bending beneath their loads, were bearing to the hut the first installment what they had found. M. Lafleur had wished to take the organ, claiming that a little music would cheer the party up; Lad-

had some trouble to dissuade him from it; as to himself, he bore away the Bible. They reached the hut, enjoying in advance the happiness they were about to

islas would turn the handle and he would

accompany him on his pocket violin. Yegor

"We shall see," observed M. Lafleur, "if Yermac will turn up his nose at the milk and sugar, the sardines in oil and the salted

The two dogs preceded them.

Yegor was surprised at not seeing Wab come to meet him. A presentiment of evil stole upon him. He laid all he was carrying on the ice and ran towards the hut, calling Nadege and Ladislas.

At last, he entered the hut. It was empty. Nadege, Ladislas, and Yermac were nowhere to be seen. The fire had long since

died out. Marks of a struggle were every-

M. Lafleur rejoined him. He found him

in dismay.
"What does all this mean!"

"I do not know-I cannot understand it.

My reason totters-and I feel as if I were going to die!" "Where could they have gone?" "I cannot imagine; but I am convinced

that a terrible misfortune has happened! Look, Monsieur Lafleur-the table is overturned, the furs are scartered and soiled, and there are ashes as far as the door. They

have taken one of our guns."

"And also my harpoon," said the Parisian.

"Could Yermac have made a stroke in his peculiar fashion?" "What stroke could be have made!" ask-

ed Yegor, dreading to hear his friend's re-"Carry off Nadege and the child," answered he, "to force us to retrace our steps, to deliver ourselves up to him when he

should be backed by some force or other."
"Oh! that would be odious!" cried Yegor. 'What shall we do? Shall we set out, in pursuit of them without loss of time? But I am annihilated, incapable of walking a step. Let us examine the tracks on the

They lighted their lantern, for night had

come on, and went out. The snow was trodien all around the hut. The footprints led to a mound, behind which it was easy to see that a sledge drawn by several reindeer had been sta-tioned. From thence they could follow over the hardened snow the direction taken by

the sledge. "A narta!" cried Yegor-"and we can only pursue them on foot! We shall never overtake them! Oh! what a day! and this

"I begin to think that he must have had a

hand in this business,"said M. Lafleur. "If he were not its author, he would be here-he would have defended Nadege and the child. In his place, I would have fought for them while I had life! It must have been Yermac. He has taken advantage of some circumstance, of some chance." "But," said the Parisian, suddenly, "the sledge has not gone towards the Russian

"You are right," answered Yegor, astonished that he himself had not noticed this fact.

"At this advanced hour and fatigued as we are, it would be difficult for us to set out. Believe me, Yegor, it is better for us to wait until to-morrow, In the meanwhile, per-haps, we may be enlightened by some revealing indication. Come in, my friend; after our fatigue and our emotions, the cold will seize upon us-come. Yegor allowed himself to be drawn alons

by his friend, without making the least resistance. CHAPTER XXX.-WAB'S INTELLIGENCE.

What a sad evening that was, passed at the corner of the fire, while the winter wind blew violently without. Yegor and M. Lafleur looked at each other. without daring to exchange their painful reflections. They had joyously brought

all sorts of provisions, but they touched nothing. "Even the dog," murmured Yegor, "even the dog-all gone! It is inexplicable. would never willingly have followed Yermac. What are we to think? What must

At this moment they heard a barking outof-doors. "It is the Siberian dogs," said M. Lafleur.

we decide upon?"

village.'

Yegor listened attentively.
"No; it is Wab," said he, rising; "but the animal is worried by something—perhaps wounded." And he opened the door of the hut. It was, indeed, Wab. The creature bounded in and laid at its master's feet the little silk embroidered reindeer skin bag which

the Tchouktchis had stolen from them a few days before.
"Look!" cried Yegor. "Those beggare who came here have had something to do with our misfortune. Wab has brought back the bag they robbed us of. The animal must have followed Nadege to their

Wab leaped upon Yegor, licking his hands and uttering little cries of joy. The young man caressed the animal with a tenderness had displayed. "We noticed," said M. Lafleur, "that the

Tchouktchis, who came from the east, retraced their steps instead of going towards the west as was very probably at first their intention. The tracks of the sledge also go to the east. Evidently, Wab has return from their hut, which signifies that their village is not far distant from here. But what role must we assign to the chief of police in all this?" "That is a very difficult matter to deter-

mine!" answered Yegor. -"At least we possess some indications," said the Parisian. "I now recall the strange fashion in which the native stared at Nadege, while speaking to his wife of his kama-

"You have hit it, my excellent friend!" cried Yegor. "This chief of their tribe has come here in consequence of the report of the two natives. Oh! my poor Nadege! In what affliction she must be! But the chief of police?"
"We always come back to him?" exclaim-

ed the Parisian. The latter had scarcely ceased speaking, when a faint voice uttered his name "Who calls me?" asked he, growing slight-

ly pale.
"Monsieur Lafleur!" again repeated the voice. The two watchers raised their heads This name had fallen from above, through the aperture made in the roof for the escape

of the smoke. "Well! here is the chief of police!" cried

Yegor. "Open the door!" again said the voice "You think it is he, do you?" demanded 11. Lafleur, a trifle reassured. "I will admit him then. Those skeletons, those bones, which we saw to-day, together with the strange surprise which awaited us on our return, have completely upset me."

An instant afterwards, Yermac entered

the hut behind M. Lafleu-"Can one ask where you have been?" said M. Lafleur to him, roughly. "Certainly,

we have not been in the habit of troubling you about your movements; but things have happened here which make us desire to know why you return at this hour of the "To what things do you allude?" asked the chief of police, who now perceived the

disorder of the hut and Yegor's dejection and divined the absence of Nadege and her brother. "Has some misfortune occurred?" added he, questioning instead of replying. "Nadege!-Ladislas!" "Gone!" said Yegor.

"Upon the sea, as was the case the other day!—or lost along the coast!"
"Abducted!" said M. Lafleur. "When we arrived, everything here was in extreme

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disorder."