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- MARCHAND,

Travellers' Guide.

tion of the food he had bought to

fir.ally climbing to his seat, he rough-

turning the angle at the gate, under

"But your companions are," said

from his cocket, he hastily unfolded

gaid, looking at Platoff, "Louis Miroff

Then, seeing that the officer hesitat-

ed, he added :- "You saw the pass-

ports properly made out in our names.

Perhaps there was an ill-suppressed

touch of eagerness in Platoff's voice.

The officer's suspicions were plainly

Without replying he held his lantern

to Platoff's face, and then turned it on

Poussin, who sat white and miserable

on the front seat. That woebegone

countenance confirmed the officer's

of a brief delay," he said. "No doubt

all will be explained, but I dare not as-

man at once to bring the captain of

the Cossack guard. He will know

sume any risks. I will despatch

again before his arrival?"

Surely that is sufficient."

stood near the sledge.

-twenty-half a minute.

meteor into the gloom.

before by contrast.

back seat.

No one moved or spoke.

less fingers. He shouted flercely, and

died away, and the flashes of red fire

vanished, leaving the night darker than

CHAPTER XXIII.

PURSUIT AND ESCAPE.

Platoff's brave deed would probably

have resulted disastrously had it not

been for the presence of mind which

prompted him to drag his companions

o the bottom of the sledge. This, no

oubt, saved their lives, for although

the bullets whistled by on all sides no

When the firing ceased, Platoff rose

o his feet and looked back. The lights

the military post had vanished be-

which was on somewhat higher

hind a slight crest. In the village be-

as he rose and climbed on the seat.

"All seems quiet behind us,"

shooting?" demanded

"No," said Platoff; "I can't hear

Maurice, who was leaning over the

voice, and Phil poked his head and

Platoff, briefly explained what had

just taken place, and then turned his

stuck to the road in spite of the lack

Hand me the lines," said Poussin.

"I will drive now." And with a touch

It will be increased if you are caught

r company. Put us off right here,

of guidance, and were dashing forward

shoulders from under the rugs.

attention to the horses, which

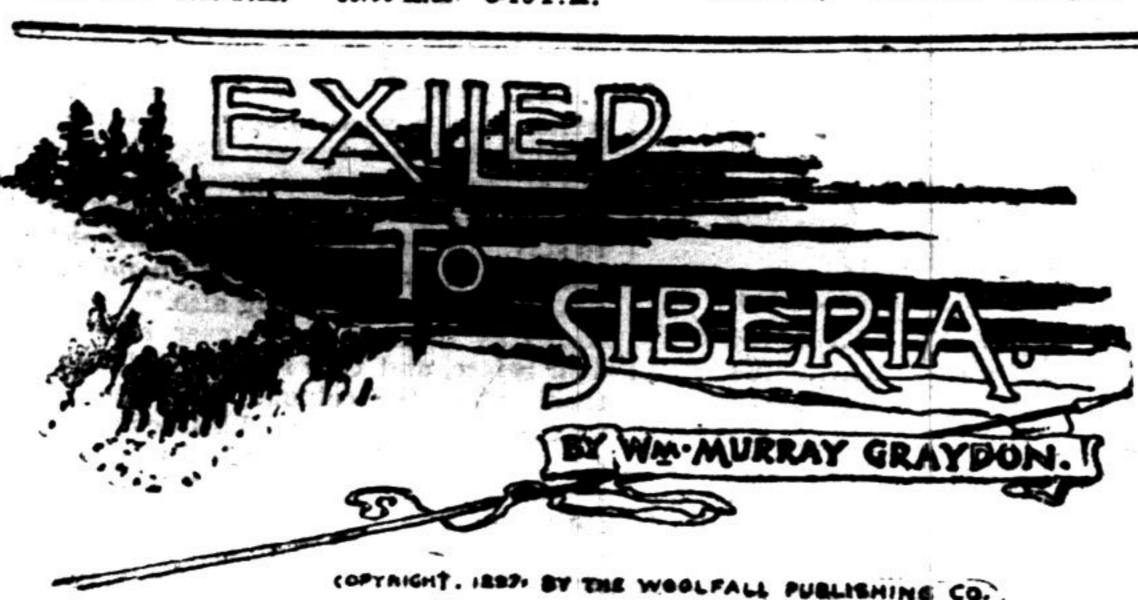
must remain secret.

see that everything was there, and,

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tion in the village. To give the alarm a dozen big rocks, into which no cool Cossacks will at once start in pursuit, ened and refreshed at early dawn. the road, and chirruped to the but their horses are pretty well worn Platoff slipped away on a reconnoisout, while ours are fresh. The next sance, and returned in half an hour They tretted through the yard, and, station is fifty miles distant. keep in advance of our pursuers at truders were in the neighbourhood. the very eyes of a dozen Cossacks, least that far. When daylight comes, "I think we can risk a little fire I will let you out, and you can seek this morning." he said, and gathered dashed off down the frozen, deserted will not be discovered until I reach branches. He lit

"Ah, my friend, escape with us," and the warm beverage was a grate-I consider my cure most won- post-a small wooden structure by the implored Platoff. "Together we will ful addition to the breakfast. reach the coast and sail, on some On that day they first journeyed two friendly vessel to a better country than or three miles to the westward, draw-Munyon's Rheumatic are selion falls to reeve in one to three hours and cures in a few Poussin, as he rulled up his horses this. Don't trust rourself to the mer- ing still closer to the borders of Monsome terrible punishment—"

"I do not fear," interrupted Pous
"I do not fear," interrupted Pous
"I have been distanced by the same wild and barren country presented by the same wild and barren country p in obedience to the stern command to cies of these tyrants. They will inflict golia, and then headed slightly to the tainly could not follow him on ho which I think will save me. I have caution, keeping his revolver ready for not time to explain now. What I have immediate use, and bidding Maurice into the forest until the forest until the forest until the and shoulders. sin. "I can make an explanation vailed, and Platoff marched with great even. saved my life. I hope I have saved fear of meeting the Cossacks, for dan- enemy were out of sight. Then, risyours. Remember, your identity is un-|ger from this source was slight, but ing to his feet, he dashed off across that the authorities will not discover hood frequented by large and ferocious A short run brought him to rising apparently—and the Cossack toppled on their part. for some time who my strange passen- tigers, and a casual encounter with ground, and he pressed on up the slope over backward with a cry of agony. In spite of Platoff's continued entreaties, Poussin remained firm.

Holding the horses with a skilled hand, he urged them on unsparingly his Excellency's party?" asked the "Why, no," said Poussin, thrown off ground at a speed which made the creeping upward. The atmosphere Let that be a consolation to you." flanks damp and steaming. Platoff's courage rose to meet this Platoff and Poussin were on the front back half a dozen feet, its face open, Excellency's party," he answered, in a were grave and Bilent, scanning the and rain by a thick screen of young glittering eyes. His long, spotted tail "Don't attempt to use your rifle or vostock." firm voice, "my companion and I. We landscape intently, straining their ears fir trees.

are travelling incognito for reasons that to catch the slightest sound.

whole company at least. coming at full rreed." "Be calm," said Poussin. "They are fully two miles distant. The time has said Platoff, "and in the harbour come to rart. He touched up the horses, and they the plain and vanished behind the genravine. A bubbling mountain stream At noon they halted beside a spring poured down from the hills and emp- of ice water. They ate a hearty meal,

tied into the Ussum, some yards dis- and then, slightly fatigued by the brisk "Yes," said Platoff: "He will know | tart "There is no time to lose," said short grass for a brief siesta. Poussin never turned his head. He 'take a rug wpiece, strike back into the heart of the hills and wade up the bed was trembling like a leaf. Ten seconds of the stream until the road is out of With one quick, marvellous leap he | help you to escape! brought down the lash with stinging | Do you need anything else

taken place the sledge was dashing like | that would have dared to do what you have done-One at a time they clasped the bray merchant's hand fervently, and with

"Good-bye, good-bye!" they calle whip on his restless horses, he swe up the ravine and vanished from sigh over the pine-crowned ridge. The halt had been of less than minutes' duration. The Cossacks were still two miles in the rear, and the and get ahead of his victim. chances of escape were good. The fugitives had climbed out of the sledge on some loose stones that bordered the stream.

the water's edge, and, stepping fear- of the trees. behind to show that the sledge had ground, and through one such spot-an been relieved of its load at that point. For fully a mile they remained in lessly. The weather was slightly milder, forest was very still. He drew back but the snow was still covered with into a clump of bushes and sat down

a firm crust, and their feet made no on a fallen log. impression on it as they turned aside The minutes passed on without inof precipices and dark chasms. "We are very near the Chinese bor-

country is unimhabited." halted among a heap of loose stones with the rugs that Poussin had given their backs all that day. Not dar- the bushes with a shudder. them, and which they had carried on ing to light a fire, they ate their supsleep, talked for an hour or more over resplendent in his green unform. Platoff was much distressed about the other he led his horse.

will never overlook such a thing as

HALTON INTELLIGENCER.

watched, though, and that is when we will encounter the most difficulty At present we have little to fear. You must remember that our identity may not even be suspected yet, although the discovery must be made soone or later. Don't worry over the situa ation, but keep up your courage. And with this admonition Platoff wrapped himself tighter in his rug and went calmiy to sleep. Maurice and Phil did not remain long awake. The spot they had chosen was a sheltered nook between

Of course the only weary men cun, waking strength-I can with the welcome news that no in-He smothered the fire with snow,

You do the same. This was not from any crawled off into the forest until the and shoulders. one of these monarchs was not at all faster than ever, and soon reached a Once huge footprints were seen in first glance brought despair to his the snow, and the boys felt their hair heart. Overhead were steep and bar-

On a closer examination it was seen air, and here and there a stunted pine beginning to rise on end.

the base of a high cliff and running lay supine on the ground. Thanks to Poussin's generosity, it a deep growl.

tant hill a single black streak mov- hard day and night; the snow faded now in the Golden Horn, and the flags of all nations will float in the breeze. On the morning of the fifth day the march was resumed. The sun was shining from a cloudless sky, and birds were singing sweetly in the forest. The fugitives pressed forward with elastic step, snuffing the crisp, cool at-

morning walk, dropped lazily on the

CHAPTER XXIV. BESIEGED BY A TIGER. ing soundly. The sun was far to the nose.

open glade, thirty yards distant.

whether to awake his companions or "Better let them sleep,' 'he thought. I won't be gone long." The deer by this time had crosse quarter of a mile, keeping close to the stalactites and stretching his great answered, evasively. base of the hill, and then crept cautiously down into the hollow, peering Platoff led the way carefully down ahead through the leafless branches shallow channel, thus leaving no trace snow still lay here and there on the

Still he saw no trace of the deer. He his mind to return to his companions

the hills were gaunt and rocky, full the frightened deer go past him like a or so and sat on his haunches, licking bushes and came gladly forward. Something had scared the animal the scenery is so wild and lonely. The possibility that a tiger was brute would leave him in peace. But countenance as Maurice explained his lurking in the vicinity made Maurice's suddenly, with a hoarse growl, the ti- absence and related his adventure the foliage and crept in little rivulet blood run cold, but on second thought ger bounded forward again, and with with the tiger and the meeting with the along the ground. he was inclined to believe that his its powerful forepaws began to dig fu- Russian.

to leave his hiding place and start up the valley when a sight met his eyes per cold, and then, not being able to yards distant, came a burly Cossack In one hand he held a rifle, and with "I feer that he will be punished se- dier, also on foot and leading he said. "The Government steed by the bridle.

ivostock."

"Either that," replied Platoff, "or he is a man of wealth and can bribe the officials to overlook his indiscretion. Money is a powerful agent in this and his companions, so that rething and a state of the subject was avoided.

"You are sure, then, that only these damit the brute's head and shoulders. Still, although in the very jaws of him and his companions, so that rething a still although in the very jaws of the the very this part of Siberia, 6,000 miles from treat up the valley was cut off. The leath, as it were, he hesitated to fire. They were searching for me, and did footmarks showed the direction he had Then he remembered that, with one not know of your presence."



ren rocks, rising many feet in the

the last thaw, perhaps a month before, To ascend this place was impossi- of the valley and disappeared. and were frozen solidly in the crust. ble, for the rocky ledges jutted out In three whose days they met neither the turned and ran at full speed, fear in astonishment at what had hap-day. A scarcity of food now threattigers nor other pern, but marched on stearthing vainly for some nook to hide pened. Several minutes passed, and ened again. The provisions supplied the was thinking of creening out and ened again. The provisions supplied steadily to the south, steeping at hight state of the rugged precipice he was thinking of creeping out and by Poussin were about gone, and a crannies among the rocks. The in or a break in the rugged precipice he was thinking of creeping out and by Poussin were about gone, and organies among the focas. The that would allow him to ascend. He making a dash for the forest when the evening of the fourth day the last a thin rain was falling. The long de- tore through thorn bushes and bruised two or three fragments of stone, rat- remaining scraps were devoured. his feet on sharp stones, but these mis- tled down to the ground not a dozen "In two days, or three at the most, "It's useless to travel," said Platoff, haps were unheeded, for he imagined yards away. "It's useless to travel, said taken, said that the Cossacks were on A moment later a man dropped nimin this slush. We could not make constantly that the Cossacks were on bly from an averbanging rook tail tain Daroman. "We must get along with pale crimson—a rosy mist be- here until the weather changes. Vladi- neath which the morning with a which the morning and in his haste among sack uniform with a wide in his hard neath which the morning sun was vostock is less than 100 miles distant. loose bowlders, and in his haste among sack uniform, with a rifle in his hand. wise to make use of them." these he tripped and came heavily to Knowing that this stranger must be "We have money also," said Platon

All of course, and protected from wind sleeplly and surveyed the intruder with at the man's head. twitched, and from his throat issued I'll put a bullet through you." he Then before it grew dark he set som

ficsty air. His arm rointed straight a dreary four days that they spent in looked at him, and in this position they that confronted him. Cossacks to the spet, and he would be bourheed. I dared not fire." The tiger solved the difficulty by vinced Maurice that he meant slowly rising, and that broke the spell. Wheeling around, Maurice darted at lestored it to his belt. he top of his speed back along the A hoarse growl warned him that this," exclaimed the captain. Such a place met his sight instant-

for him to crawl in, and without stop- meeting with his old enemy. effort he managed to drag his whole; accomplished when the pursuing tiger pounced angrily upon the spot, and thrust his great jaws into the hole. rice, seizing a loose fragment of stone. ter, both of his companions were sleep- dealt the brute a violent blow on the

west, and the air was chilly and pierc- He drew back instantly, screaming with rage, and Maurice took advantage He threw ou the rug and sat up. A of this interval to squeeze still deep-With sudden excitement he extended His situation was decidedly uncom- hood for several Meanwhile the tiger, squatted outside leave the locality at once.

paw, catching the lad's arm and rip- glad to accompany you. ping open the heavy sleeve from the quite enough of

victim, jamming his head against the Maurice drew himself as far back as the great paws would seize him and He made no further attempt to strike

') in his hand, fearing it would only incite him to greater efforts. All this time the loaded pistoi was from the stream and ascended the terruption, and he had about made up He little thought how soon the after-The country was wild and rugged, when a sudden crash echoed through For five minutes or more the tiger A low, clear whistle was distinctly nicre so than it had been at any time. the forest, and he sprang to his feet thrust his claws repeatedly into the heard, and as Maurice whistiged in re-The forest was gloomy and dim, and in wild excitement, just in time to see crevice. Then he drew off a yard ply Phil and Platoff broke from the

his bloody nose and whining angrily. They regarded Captain Daroman Hope sprang up anon in Maurice's with evident aversion, and Platoff liscavity grew larger every second. that if anything was to be done it tions to influence him.

with the brute's bloodshot eyes and Daroman's face flushed. With some difficulty be drew the re- me as it does to you."

men, and he was in danger of dis- single spring, the tiger could reach "They passed here not half an hour him, and in sudden terror he pointed ago," said Platoff. "That is why we He had presence of mind enough to the revolver full at the savage eyes. hid in the bushes. The one you shot

trigger when an inspiration flashed have no doubt, and his companion into his mind that changed the whole also mounted, was leading the other course of events. "The pepper!" he exclaimed aloud things worse. We must be many miles "I'll try it." And, lowering the wea- from here before morning." pon, he thrust his hand into his coat | Daroman assented to this, and urg-It so happened that among the pro- Platoff's suggestion to strike sti visions provided by the starosta had deeper into the country toward Monbeen a small bottle of red pepper. for flery dishes, made frequent use of man devoured with ravenous greed.

Platoff, with the Russian fondness They ate a hearty meal, which Darothis on nearly everything he ate, and and just as twilight dimmed the forthat very morning, having forgotten est the journey was begun. t when they left their camping place. It was uncertain travelling in the Maurice had picked it up and put it dark, for hills and ravines had to be in his own pocket. Now he suddenly crossed, but Platoff led the way with remembered it. He gave a sigh of re- unerring sagacity, and when morning lief when his fingers closed on the bot- dawned they were many miles from tle, and, drawing it out, he pulled the the valley where Maurice had met cork with his teeth. tions, and blew the dirt off his whisk- and not until darkness came agair ers. Now was the critical moment. would Platoff permit a halt. Reaching out his arm, Maurice dash- they stopped in a thick forest, and ed half the contents of the bottle into after a substantial meal prepared the brute's very eyes. The fect exceeded his highest an- toff or one of the boys staying con ticipations. Sneezing and snarling in one breath, the tiger sprang away by the pungent dust Maurice held the bottle in readiness

I were behind a rifle cracked sharply- and the boys realized an the more from some spot up among the rocks how great was the cause for gratitude

A STRANGE MEETING. The rifle shot scared the tiger. Roaring with pain, he dashed up the edge kind friends who had aided them i For a moment all was silent, and Maurice in his hiding place forgot his

aware of his presence, Maurice hastily lingling the belt of roubles, Still had chosen the previous night was emi- He rose painfully to his feet—rose to crawled out of his hole and stood up- might as well be so much dirt for all had chosen the previous man was emile find himself face to face with a mon-right. As he did so the stranger turn-the good it can do us." tor. May I ask why you are leaving 'nostrils white with foam, their glossy It was a shallow cavern hollowed from lay suping on the ground that ed. revealing the haggard features of 'It will come of use, though, later The disturbed brute listed his head | Maurice levelled the revolver straight will be a strong temptation to some

> to catch the slightest sound.
>
> Thanks to roussin's generosity, it lit was Maurice who sounded the was needless to worry about food. They larm. His sharp cry echoed on the had plenty and to spare. Still it was looked at him, and in this position they that confronted him. ticsty air. His arm pointed straight a dreary tour days that they spent in remained for a full minute. Maurice Then, advancing a step, he said:— surprise. The despised shares contours to the northward and, turning quick- that rocky nook, with nothing to do alld his hand contiours toward his time, advancing a step, he said:— tained one a rabit, the other a bird. to the northward, and, turning quick- that rocky nook, with nothing to do slid his hand cautiously toward his "Put up your weapon. I mean you fire was kindled, and the game was ly, all saw on the rolling crest of a dis- but eat, sleep, and talk. It rained belt and the revolver was already in his grasp when he suddenly remember- in misfortune. And so it was you the afforded strength for another day's away, the ice mericu, and the grass ed that even should be succeed in tiger was after? I would have driven journey, and late in the afternoon the shooting the tiger, which was improb- the brute off long ago, but knowing stopped on the banks of a narrow able, the shot would at once draw the that the Cossacks were in the heigh- stream. Something in the Russian's face con- structed a rude triangular dam across "Quick! Let us get away from from the lining of his coat, while Mauthe tiger was coming in pursuit, and neav be other soldiers in the neigh- yards above, waded slowly down to n desperation he cast his eyes about bourhood. There is no time to lose ward the dam, beating the water on

a deep crack in the very edge of of the cliff, and Maurice fellowed ent for supper that night and breakment later the sledge swell over a mosphere and pathing their races in ground. It was possibly wide enough fate that had brought about this had given them some salt, and Maurice and Poussin drew up the pant- the warm sunlight that penetrated the ground. It was possibly wide enough fate that had brought about this had given them some salt, and Maurice tight squeeze, but with a prodigious thought that they were probably even

"No," replied Maurice, and he brief what became of those two Cossacks rustling sound not far away attracted er into the crack. The floor was of shot the foremost fellow in the head. "No," exclaimed Platoff. "We have his attention, and, looking across the soft, sticky clay. The roof, which He fell back, and his comrade carried reared in the air, tore madly from the everything. Heaven grant that no forest, he saw a deer—a big buck with pressed down on his head and body, him off down the hill. They did not branching horns-strolling past an was covered with stalactites, and from look for such a warm reception. They

a trembling hand for his revolver, and fortable. He could scarcely move his ered my tracks in the snow, and hoprose to his feet. He was hungry for legs, and he had the restricted use of ed to capture me. They are only stragon the ground, was working himself you are trying to reach the seaelbow down. The sharp claws tore the deayour to reach some other country

"Walt until we see Platoff," Maurice The Russian might be sincered enough, but his past conduct was They turned down into the valley Maurice leading the way. Daroman

In a very short time the tiger would limbs excited the boys' bity, but Pla- panions off in single file. that caused him to crouch deeper it be able to enter. Maurice realized toff allowed no sentimental consideraand with wet clothes and empty stom achs the fugitives felt miserable

olling tengue, even the mines of Kara "You forget," he replied, "that esermed preferable to such a death. | cape from Siberia means as much to

His finger was already pressing the was lying across the saddle, dead, hofse. This offence only males ed an immediate start.

golia was discussed and approved with such a startling adventure. All that day they pressed forward,

without fire they slept alternately, Pla-In the morning they were off again, and thus for three days they travelled steadily forward, meeting neither man nor beast, and stopping for rest at night. It is true that tigers and wolves were often heard in the forest

The captain, no doubt, expected a like return of confidence, but if so he was disappointed, for Platoff was very reticent and guarded about what he said and, moreover, cautioned the boys against giving any information that might react in the future against the we will reach Vladivostock." said Cap-

ship captain in the harbour of Vladi-

With some loose stones Platoff con no a shallow part of the channel, leaving He lowered his weapon and a narrow aperture in the centre. this place he held a rude net made "There rice and Phil, entering the stream some each side with sticks. In this way a dozen nice fish were procured, suffic fast the following morning. Poussi had fortunately held on to the bottl of red pepper; so, with the aid of these

They travelled that day with in creased caution and halted when the sun was low in a deep valley. march-less perhaps-would bring them to Vladivostock. They forgot for the moment what yet lay before themperils to appal the stoutest heart. den in the bushes, Platoff climbed the steep hill to the eastward, hopin



down to the town and almost to the edge of the bay." Hope sprang up anon in Maurice's with evident aversion, and Platoff lis- gan to fall that put a summary end breast, and he began to think that the tened with a passive, unchanging to all further rest. It dropped through tives travelled all that day at a rapid companions were awake and searching pace, covering at least twenty-five for him.

The loose chunks object and wishes, speaking with apmouth of the hole. The loose chunks object and wishes, speaking with apmouth of the hole. The loose chunks object and wishes, speaking with apmouth of the hole. The loose chunks object and sincerity. His and cheerless, and Platoff, with a few of dirt flew in every direction, and the parent frankness and sincerity. His and cheerless, and platoff, with a few of dirt flew in every direction, and the parent frankness and sincerity. now surrounded them, he observe

> ing a steep, wooded ridge, the sk To be Continued.

At noon, as they were asce