

Notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the services of the Town Sewerage have been discontinued with effect from the 1st inst. and that all parties are herewith expected to see that their closets are properly attended to and all night soil properly disposed of.

By Order of the BOARD OF HEALTH. HUGH MACKEY, Inspector. Feb. 12th, 1902.

Saw Mill to Rent.

LOT 23, CON. 3, NORMANBY near Orillia, known as Plym's Mill, with Shingle Mill in connection. Also about 25 acres of pasture land. For further particulars apply to CHAS. R. BLYTH, Jan. 13. 4-14. Marden P. O.

For Sale.

14 CHOICE AND VALUABLE building lots, in one of the most desirable parts of the town. Plans of the survey may be seen at Mr. Telford's office, or they may be examined by applying to him. Prices right. Terms to suit the purchaser. Excellent opportunity for cash buyer. For further particulars apply to MRS. THOMAS JACKSON, formerly Mrs. Milsbough, Clinton, Ont.

For Sale.

A HOUSE AND LOT ON QUEEN Street, the property of Mrs. J. I. Brown. The house contains 12 rooms, conveniently situated, and quite new. We make an excellent boarding house. For particulars apply to J. L. BROWNE, July 10th, 1901. Photographs.

Bull for Sale.

THORO'BRED DURHAM, DARK Red, rising three years old. Person desiring good stock have now a grand opportunity. For further particulars apply quick to DAVID LEITH, Varney P. O. Feb. 11th.

Money to Loan.

I AM AGENT FOR ONE OF THE best Land and Loan Companies in the world, prepared to loan money on first mortgages on farm security at low rates. Apply to R. MCKELENBROUGH, Sr., Dec. 10th, 1901. Marden P. O.

Building Lots For Sale.

ANY PERSON WISHING TO PURCHASE desirable building lots would do well to take a look at John A. Warren's plan of the Division of Park Lot number Four, north of Queen street, in the Town of Durham. The plan of the Division of Park Lot number Four can be seen at the office of J. P. Telford, Durham, or at the office of the undersigned. For further particulars apply to ARCHIBALD DAVIDSON, Clerk Division Court, Jan. 29th. 4-14-10. DURHAM, ONT.

For

Machine Oil, Harness Oil, Axle Grease and Hoof Ointment, go to S. P. SAUNDERS, Harnessmaker, Text Door to Chronicle Office.

DURHAM SCHOOL.

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THE COURIER OF THE CZAR By Jules Verne

CHAPTER I. "SIRE, a fresh dispatch." "Whence?" "From Tomsk." "Is the wire cut beyond that city?" "Yes, sire, since yesterday." "Telegraph hourly to Tomsk, general, and let me be kept informed of all that occurs." "Sire, it shall be done," answered General Kisseff. "These wires were exchanged about two hours after midnight, at the moment when the fete given at the New palace was at the height of its splendor. An hour later General Kisseff, who had just re-entered, quickly approached his majesty. "Well," asked the latter abruptly, as he had done the former time. "Telegrams reach Tomsk no longer, sire." "A courier this moment!" And, leaving the hall, his majesty entered a large antechamber adjoining. "The czar had not so suddenly left the ballroom of the New palace when the fete he was giving to the civil and military authorities and principal people of Moscow was at the height of its brilliancy without ample cause, for he had just received information that serious events were taking place beyond the frontiers of the Ural. It had become evident that a formidable rebellion threatened to wrest the Siberian provinces from the Russian crown. Asiatic Russia, or Siberia, covers a superficial area of 17,902,238 square miles and contains nearly 20,000,000 of inhabitants. Extending from the Ural mountains, which separate it from Russia in Europe, to the shores of the Pacific ocean, it is bounded on the south by Turkistan and the Chinese empire, on the north by the Arctic ocean, from the sea of Kara to Beijing strait. It is divided into several governments or provinces, those of Tomsk, Yeniseisk, Irkutsk, Omsk and Yakutsk; contains two districts, Okhotsk and Kamchatka, and possesses two countries, now under the Muscovite dominion—that of the Kirghiz and that of the Tshoukchies. Two governor generals represent the supreme authority of the czar over this vast country. One resided at Irkutsk, the capital of western Siberia. The river Tchouma, a tributary of the Yeniseisk, separates the two Siberias. No soil yet furrows these wide plains, some of which are in reality extremely fertile. No iron ways lead from these precious mines which make the Siberian soil far richer below than above its surface. The traveler journeys in summer in a kibick or toska; in winter, in a sledge. An electric telegraph, with a single wire more than 8,000 versts in length, alone affords communication between the western and eastern frontiers of Siberia. On issuing from the Ural it passes through Ekaterenburg, Kasiyov, Tommon, Ishim, Omsk, Elansk, Kalyan, Tomsk, Krasnoarsk, Nijni Udinsk, Irkutsk, Verkhne-Nertseckin, Strelzh, Alkazine, Blagovestenski, Rade, Orloimekaya, Alexandrevskoe and Nikolavest, and 6 rubles and 19 copecks are paid for every word sent from one end to the other. From Irkutsk there is a branch to Kiatica, on the Mongolian frontier, and from thence, for 25 copecks a word, the post conveys the dispatches to Peking in a fortnight. It was this wire, extending from Ekaterenburg to Nikolavest, which had been cut, first beyond Tomsk and then between Tomsk and Kalyan. This was the reason why the czar, to the communication made to him for the second time by General Kisseff, had only answered by the words, "A courier this moment." The czar had remained motionless at the window for a few moments when the door was again opened. The chief of police appeared on the threshold. "Enter, general," said the czar briefly, "and tell me all you know of Ivan Ogareff." "He is an extremely dangerous man, sire," replied the chief of police. "He ranked as colonel, did he not?" "Yes, sire." "Was he an intelligent officer?" "Very intelligent, but a man whose spirit it was impossible to subdue and possessing an ambition which stopped at nothing. He soon became involved in secret intrigues, and it was then that he was degraded from his rank by his highness the grand duke and exiled to Siberia." "How long ago was that?" "Two years since. Pardoned after six months of exile by your majesty's favor, he returned to Russia." "And since that time has he not revisited Siberia?" "Yes, sire, but he voluntarily returned there," replied the chief of police, adding and slightly lowering his voice, "There was a time, sire, when he returned from Siberia." "Well, while I live Siberia is and shall be a country whence men can return."

...to the eastern regions? No one could say. The only agent which fears neither cold nor heat, which can neither be scorched by the rigors of winter nor the heat of summer and which flies with the rapidity of lightning—the electric current—was prevented from traversing the steps, and it was no longer possible to warn the grand duke, shut up in Irkutsk, of the danger threatening him from the treason of Ivan Ogareff. A courier only could supply the place of the interrupted electric current. It would take this man some time to traverse the 5,200 versts between Moscow and Irkutsk. To pass the ranks of the rebels and invaders he must display almost superhuman courage and intelligence. But with a clear head and a firm heart much can be done. "Shall I be able to find this lead and heart?" thought the czar. CHAPTER II. THE door of the imperial cabinet was again opened, and General Kisseff was announced. "The courier?" inquired the czar eagerly. "He is here, sire," replied General Kisseff. "Have you found a fitting man?" "I will answer for him to your majesty." "Has he been in the service of the palace?" "Yes, sire." "You know him?" "Personally, and at various times he has fulfilled difficult missions with success." "Abroad?" "In Siberia itself." "Where does he come from?" "From Omsk. He is a Siberian." "Has he coolness, intelligence, courage?" "Yes, sire; he has all the qualities necessary to succeed even where others might possibly fail." "What is his age?" "Thirty." "Is he strong and vigorous?" "Sire, he can bear cold, hunger, thirst, fatigue, to the very last extremities." "He must have a frame of iron." "Sire, he has." "And a heart?" "A heart of gold." "His name?" "Michael Strogoff." "Is he ready to set out?" "He awaits your majesty's orders in the guardroom." "Let him come in," said the czar. In a few minutes Michael Strogoff, the courier, entered the imperial library. The czar fixed a penetrating look upon him without uttering a word, while Michael stood perfectly motionless. Michael Strogoff was a tall, vigorous, broad shouldered, deep chested man. His powerful head possessed the fine features of the Caucasian race. His well knit frame seemed built for the performance of feats of strength. It would have been a difficult task to move such a man against his will, for when his feet were once planted on the ground it was as if they had taken root. As he doffed his Muscovite cap locks of thick curly hair fell over his broad, massive forehead. When his ordinarily pale face became at all flushed, it arose solely from a more rapid action of the heart, under the influence of a quicker circulation. His eyes of a deep blue looked with a clear, frank, firm gaze. The slightly contracted eyebrows indicated lofty heroism—"the hero's cool courage," according to the definition of the physiologist. He possessed a fine nose, with large nostrils, and a well shaped mouth, with the slightly projecting lips which denote a generous and noble heart. Michael Strogoff had the temperament of a man of action, who does not bite his nails or scratch his head in doubt and indecision. Sparing of gestures as of words, he always stood motionless like a soldier before his superior, but when he moved his step showed a firmness, a freedom of movement, which proved the confidence and vivacity of his mind. Michael Strogoff wore a handsome military uniform, something resembling that of a light cavalry officer in the field-boots, spurs, half tightly fitting trousers, brown pelisse, trimmed with fur and ornamented with yellow braid. On his breast glittered a cross and medals. Michael Strogoff belonged to the special corps of the czar's couriers, ranking as an officer among those picked men. His most desirable characteristic—particularly in his walk, his face, in the whole man, and which the czar perceived at a glance—was that he was a "fulfiller of orders." He therefore possessed one of the most serviceable qualities in Russia—one which the celebrated novelist Turgeneff says "will lead to the highest positions in the Muscovite empire." In short, if any one could accomplish this journey from Moscow to Irkutsk across the rebellious country, surmounting obstacles and brave perils of all sorts, Michael Strogoff was the man. A circumstance especially favorable to the success of his plans was that he was thoroughly acquainted with the country which he was about to traverse and understood its different dialects, not only from having traveled there before, but because he was of Siberian origin. When he was fourteen, Michael Strogoff had killed his first bear quite alone. That was nothing. But after stripping it he dragged the gigantic animal's skin to his father's house, many versts distant, thus exhibiting remarkable strength in a boy so young. Gifted with marvelous acuteness, when every object was hidden in mist

or even in higher latitudes, where the polar night is prolonged for many days, he could find his way when others would have had no idea whither to direct their steps. He had learned to read almost imperceptible signs, the forms of icebergs, the appearance of the small branches of trees, mists rising far away on the horizon, vague sounds in the air, distant reports, the flight of birds through the foggy atmosphere—a thousand circumstances which are so many words to those who can decipher them. Moreover, tempered by snow like a Damascus blade in the waters of Syria, he had a frame of iron, as General Kisseff had said, and what was no less true, a heart of gold. The only sentiment of love felt by Michael Strogoff was that which he entertained for his mother, the aged Marfa, who could never be induced to leave the house of the Strogoffs at Omsk, on the banks of the Istish, where the old huntsman and she had lived so long together. When her son left her, he went away with a full heart, but promising to come and see her whenever he could possibly do so, and this promise he had always religiously kept. When Michael was twenty, it was decided that he should enter the personal service of the emperor of Russia, in the corps of the couriers of the czar. The hardy, intelligent, zealous, well conducted young Siberian first distinguished himself especially in a journey to the Caucasus, through the midst of a difficult country, ravaged by some restless successors of Schamyl; then, later, in an important mission to Petropolevsk, in Kamchatka, the extreme limit of Asiatic Russia. During these long journeys he displayed such marvelous coolness, prudence and courage as to gain him the approbation and protection of his chief, who rapidly advanced him in his profession. The furloughs which were his due after these distant missions, although he might be separated from her by thousands of versts and winter had rendered the roads almost impassable, he had never failed to devote to his old mother. Having been much employed in the south of the empire, he had not seen old Marfa for three years—three ages—the first time in his life he had been so long absent from her. Now, however, in a few days he would obtain his furlough, and he had accordingly already made preparations for departure for Omsk when the events which have been related occurred. Michael Strogoff was therefore introduced into the czar's presence in complete ignorance of what the emperor expected from him. The czar, apparently satisfied with his scrutiny, went to his bureau and, motioning to the chief of police to seat himself, dictated in a low voice a letter of not more than a few lines. The letter, which the czar reread attentively and then signed it, preceding his name with these words, "Cyt po semom," which, signifying "so be it," constitutes the decisive formula of the Russian emperors. The letter was placed in an envelope, which was sealed with the imperial arms. The czar, rising, told Michael Strogoff to draw near. Michael advanced a few steps and then stood motionless, ready to answer. The czar again looked him full in the face, and their eyes met. Then in an abrupt tone: "Thy name?" "Michael Strogoff, sire." "Thy rank?" "Captain in the corps of couriers of the czar." "Thou dost know Siberia?" "I am a Siberian." "A native of—?" "Omsk, sire." "Hast thou relations there?" "Yes, sire." "What relations?" "My old mother." The czar suspended his questions for a moment, then, pointing to the letter which he held in his hand, he said: "Here is a letter which I charge thee, Michael Strogoff, to deliver into the hands of the grand duke and to no other but him." "I will deliver it, sire." "The grand duke is at Irkutsk?" "I will go to Irkutsk." "Thou wilt have to traverse a rebellious country, invaded by Tartars, whose interest it will be to intercept this letter." "I will traverse it." "Above all, beware of the traitor Ivan Ogareff, who will perhaps meet thee on the way." "I will beware of him." "Wilt thou pass through Omsk?" "Sire, that is my route." "If thou dost see thy mother, there will be the risk of being recognized. Thou must not see her!" Michael Strogoff hesitated a moment. "I will not see her," said he. "Swear to me that nothing will make thee acknowledge who thou art nor whether thou art going?" "I swear it." "Michael Strogoff," continued the czar, giving the letter to the young courier, "take this letter. On it depends the safety of all Siberia and perhaps the life of my brother, the grand duke." "This letter shall be delivered to his highness the grand duke." "Thou wilt pass whatever happens?" "I shall pass, or they shall kill me." "I want thee to live." "I shall live, and I shall pass," answered Michael Strogoff. The czar appeared satisfied with Strogoff's calm and simple answer. "Go, then, Michael Strogoff," said he, "go for God, for Russia, for my brother and for myself." The courier, having saluted his sovereign, immediately left the imperial cabinet and in a few minutes the New

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