## THE COURIER OF THE CZAR

By Jules Verne

The gypsy, who had accompanied him to the camp of the Angara, urged! him to put this project into execution.

And, indeed, it was necessary to act without delay. The Russian troops of the government of Irkutsk were march. ing to the relief of Irkutsk. They were concentrating on the higher waters of the Lens and marching up the variey. They would surely arrive before six says. It was necessary, then, that Irkutsk should be delivered up by treachery before six days.

Ivan Ogareff did not hesitate any lon-

One evening, the 2d of October, a council of war was being held in the large room of the governor general's palace. It was there the grand duke resided

This palace overlooked for a great distance the course of the river. From its front windows one could perceive the Tartar camp, and had the Tartars possessed artillery of a longer range they could have rendered it uninhabitable.--

The grand duke, General Voranzoff and the governor of the town, the head merchant, with whom had been joined a number of superior officers, had just passed divers resolutions.

"Gentlemen," said the grand duke, "you know exactly our situation. I have a firm hope that we shall be able to hold out until the arrival of troops from lakoutsk. We shall then know well how to drive away these barbarous hordes, and it will not be my fault if they don't pay dearly for this invasion of Russian territory."

"Your highness knows that we can rely on the whole population of Irkutsk," replied General Voranzoff.

"Yes," said the grand duke, "and I render homage to its patriotism. Thank God, it has not as yet suffered from the horrors of an epidemic or a famine, and I have reason to think it will escape them. But at the ramparts I could not help admiring their courage. I trust the chief of the merchants hears my words, and I beg him to report them as

"I thank your highness in the name of the town," answered the chief of the which he lives." merchants. "May I dare to ask you when you expect at latest the arrival

of the army of relief?" "In six days at most," answered the grand duke. "A sharp and courageous into the town this morning, and he has duced into his presence. informed me that 50,000 Russians are two days ago on the banks of the Lena, thousand good troops, taking the Tartars on the flank, would soon relieve

us. "I would add," said the chief of the merchants, "that the day on which your highness shall order a sortle we shall be ready to execute your orders." "Yery well, sir," answered the grand duke. "Let us wait until the leading columns appear on the heights, and we will crush the invaders."

Then, turning to General Voranzoff. "We will visit tomorrow," said he, "the works on the right bank. The Angara will soon become fcebound, and perhaps the Tartars will be able to cross

Will your highness permit me to of the merchants. "Make it, sir."

"I have seen the temperature fail many a time to 30 and 40 below zero. and the river has been filled with floating pleces of ice without being entirely frozen. This is owing no doubt to the rapidity of the current. If, then, the Tartars have no other means of crossing the river. I can assure your highness they cannot possibly cross in that manner." The governor general confirmed this assertion.

"It is a very fortunate circumstance," answered the grand duke. "Nevertheless let us be prepared for every emer-

жепсу." Then, turning to the head of the po-

lice, he asked him: "Have you nothing to say to me?" I have to place before your highness" said the head of the police, "a petition which has been addressed to

you." "By whom?" By the exiles of Siberia, who, as your highness knows, are to the num-

ber of 500 in this city." The political exiles, scattered all over the province, had indeed been concentrated at Irkutsk from the commencement of the invasion. They had obeyed the order to raily at the town and to abandon the villages where they ex- the letter of pardon which I am drawerciaed different professions. - Some ing upon him," said he, smiling. "We

were doctors, others professors, either need heroes to defend the capital of at the Japanese school or at the school Siberia, and I have just now made avigation. From the beginning the grand duke, like the car, trusting to beer patriotism had armed them, and e had found in them brave defenders. What do the exiles ask for" said be grand duke

The sak your highness' permisa surveyed the need of the police To lease ap, cal corps and to less the

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"I can assure your highness," said the governor general. "that we have no better soldiers."

"But they must bave a leader," said the grand duke. "Who shall he be?" "Would your highness like to have

one," said the Lead of the police, "who has distinguished himself on many occasions?"

"Is he a Russian?" "Yes, a Russian of the Baltic provinces."

"What is his name?" "Wassill Feeder."

That exile was the father of Nadia. Wassill Prodor, as is known, exercised at Irlutck the profession of a doctor. He was an educated and charitable man and at the same time a man of the greatest courage and patriotism. When he was not occupied with the sick, he was engaged in organizing tesistance. It was he who had united his companions in eatle an common action. The exiles, up to that time scattered among the population, had borne themselves in battie in such a manner as to draw the attention of the grand duke. In several sorties they had paid with their blood their debt to boly Russiaholy indeed and adored by her children. Wassili Feodor had conducted himself herolcally. On several occasions his that it was not unknown to him.

zoff, "Wassill Feeder is a man of valor drama of the lav. soon. great."

"How long has he been at Irkutsk?"

asked the grand duke. "Two years."

"And his conduct?"

submits to the special laws under Moscow?"

mediately."

The orders of the grand duke were

advancing by forced marches under the or more, tall, with a sad and severe state?" asked the grand duke. snow will prevent their arrival. Fifty and suffered all his life. His traits resoldiers." minded one remarkably of those of his | "Have you, then, been a prisoner of daughter, Nadla Feodor.

> the death of his wife and at the same days." who had obtained from the government permission to rejoin him at Irkutsk.

ceive how this unhappy father must make an observation?" said the chief have been devoured with anxiety, since grand duke did not allow it to be seen, news of his daughter.

Wassili Feeder in the presence of the grand duke howed and waited to be interrogated.

"Wassili Feodor," said to him the grand duke, "your companions have asked to form a picked corps. Do you ed: know that in that corps they must

fight to the last man?" "They know it," answered Wassili Feeder.

"They wish you for leader."

"I, your highness?" "Do you consent to put yourself at their head?"

"Yes, if the good of Russia requires "Captain Feeder," said the grand duke, "you are no louger an exile."

"I thank your highness. But am I to command those who still are exiles?" "They are so no longer!" It was the pardon of all his compan-

ions in extle, now his companions in arms, which the brother of the czar granted to him!

Wassili Feodor pressed with emotion the hand which the grand duke held out to him, and he left the room. The latter turned then toward the of

ficers. "The czar will not refuse to accept

some," This pardon of the exiles of Irkutsk was indeed an act of wise justice and

Night had now come on. Across the windows of the palace shone the fires of the Tartar camp and far beyond the Appara. The river was full of floating blocks of Ice, some of which were stonped by the first plies of the ancient wooden bridges. Those which the current held in the channel floated down and it with great rapidity. Thus it was eviat as the chief of the merchants had

Thus the defenders of Irkutsk need not reft; "It was a battle." fear the danger of being assailed on that side.

Ten o'clock had just struck. The grand duke was about to dismiss his officers and retire to his apartments into collision with a force of a hundred when a kind of uproar was heard outside the palace.

Almost immediately the door of the room opened, an aid-de-camp appeared and advanced toward the grand duke. "Your"highness," said he, "a courier from the czar!"

CHAPTER XVIII.

flected for an instant on the improba-

MULTANEOUS movement brought all the members of the council toward the half open door. A courier from the ezar arrived at Irkutsk! If the officers had re-

bility of that fact, they would have certainly considered it impossible. The grand duke had quickly moved

toward his aid-de-camp.

"That courier!" said be. A man entered. He had the air of one worn out by fatigue. He wore the costume of a Siberian peasant, much worn, even torn, and on which one could see bullet holes. A Russian bon net covered his head. A sear, badly healed crossed his face. The man had evidently followed a long and trying route. His shoes and stockings, in a bad state, even proved that he had made part of his journey on foot.

"His highness the grand duke?" said be on entering.

The grand duke went up to him. "Are you a courier from the czar?"

be asked him. "Yes, your highness,"

"You come from"-"Moscow."

"You left Moscow"-

"The 15th of July" "You are called"

"Michael Strogoff." It was Ivan Ogareff He had taken name had been mentioned as the bray the name and position of the man est of the brave, but he had asked nel-whom he believed to be powerless. ther for graces nor favors, and when Neither the grand duke nor any other the exiles formed a special corps he person in Irkutsk knew hom. He had had no idea they would choose him as not even needed to disguise his featheir leader. When the head of the tures. As he had the means of proving police had pronounced that name be his pretended identity, no one could fore the grand duke, the latter replied doubt him. He came, then, sustained by a will of iron, to busten by treason "Indeed," answered General Voran and assassination the conclusion of the

and courage. His inducace over his. After the answer of Ivan Ogareff the companions has always been very grand duke made a sign, and all his officers retired.

The fictitions Michael Strogoff and he

remained alone in the room. The grand duke looked at Ivan Ogareff for some seconds and with the "His conduct," answered the head greatest attention. Then he asked him: of the police. "Is that of a man who "You were on the 15th of July at

"Yes, your highness, and on the night "General," answered the grand duke, from the 14th to the 15th I saw his "have the goodness to present him im- majesty the czar at the New palace."

"You have a letter from the czar?" "Hore it is " executed, and a half hour had not pass- | And Ivan Ogareff handed to the

emissary has been able to penetrate ed before Wassili Feeder was intro grand duke the imperial letter, reduced to dimensions almost microscopic. He was a man some forty years old "Was that letter given to you in that

orders of General Kissely. They were countenance. One felt that all his life! "No, your highness, but I was comwas summed up in this one word, pelled to tear open the envelope in orat Kirensk, and now neither cold nor struggle, and that he had struggled der to better conceal it from the Tartar

the Tartars?" More than any other thing the Tartar | "Yes, your highness, during a few invasion had cut him in his dearest af days," answered Ivan Ogareff. "It is fection and ruined the last hope of on that account that, having set out that father, exiled to a distance of from Moscow on the 15th of July, 1 more than 8,000 versts from his native only arrived at Irkutsk on the 2d of place. A letter had informed him of October after a journey of sixty-nine

time of the departure of his daughter, The grand duke took the letter. He unfolded it and recognized the signature of the czar, preceded by the sacra-Nadia had to leave Riga on the 10th mental formula, written with his own of July. The invasion was on the 15th. hand. Hence there was no possible If at that time Nadia had crossed the doubt concerning the authenticity of frontier, what had become of her in the that letter nor indeed concerning the midst of the invaders? One can con | identity of the courier. If his fierce look at first inspired mistrust, the from that time he had received no and soon the mistrust disappeared altogether.

The grand duke remained some moments without speaking. He was reading slowly the letter in order to thoroughly gather the sense of it.

Taking up again the speech, he ask-

"Michael Strogoff, do you know the contents of this letter?"

"Yes, your highness. I might have been compelled to destroy it to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Tartars, and if that should happen I wished to bring its contents to your highness."

"Do you know that this letter enjoins us to die at Irkutsk rather than surrender the city?"

"I know it." "Do you also know that it points out the movements of the troops who have combined to check the invasion?" "Yes, your highness. But those move

ments have not succeeded." "What do you mean?" "I wish to tell you that Ichim, Omsk, Tomsk, not to speak of other important

towns of the two Siberias, have been one after another occupied by the soldiers of Feofar-Khan." "But has there been a battle? Have our Cossacks ever met the Tartars?"

"Several times, your highness." "And they were repulsed?" "They were not in sufficient strength." "Where have the encounters taken

place of which you speak?" "At Kalyvan, at Tomsk," Up to this time Ivan Ogareff had only told the truth, but with the object of fighting the defenders of Irkutsk by exaggerating the advantages obtained by the troops of the emir, he added:

"And a third time before Krasnoi "And that last engagement?" asked the grand duke, whose firmly set lips scarcely allowed the words to pass.

"It was more than an engagement,

ly freeze along the whole of its surface. | your highness," answered ivan uga

"A battle?" "Twenty thousand Russians, coming from the provinces of the frontier and from the government of Tobolsk, came and fifty thousand Tartars, and in spite of their courage they have been annihilated."

"You lie!" cried the grand duke, who endeavored, but in vain, to master his

"I tell the truth, your highness," coolly replied Ivan Ogareff. "I was present at that battle of Krasnolarsk, and it is there where I was made prisoner!" The grand duke became calm, and by a sign he gave Ivan Ogareff to understand that he did not doubt his verac-

"On what day did this battle o Krasuolarsk take place?" ne asked.

"On the 2d of September." "And now all the Tartar forces are concentrated around Irkutsk?" "All."

"And you would number them at"-"Four hundred thousand men."

A new exaggeration of Ivan Ogareff in reckoning the numbers of the Tartar army and tending always to the same end.

"And I must not expect any succor from the provinces of the west?" asked the grand dake.

"None, your bighness-at least before

the end of winter" "Very well, Listen to this, Micha-Strogoff: Should no relief come to me, neither from the west nor the east, and were there 600,000 Tartars, I would not give up Irkutsk!"

The wicked eye of Ivan Ogareff lightly blinked. The traitor seemed to say that the brother of the czar was reckoning without treason.

(To be continued.)

A REQUIEM.

(By Mary E. Mannix.)

For the last time before the hallowed altar. Where, till they could no more, her eager feet Had turned with faithful love that could not falter In such fmailiar paths, in ways so

sweet. Scarcely more quiet now than in the

hours When days unnumbered, she wont to pray. Silent and pale she lay amid the flow-

Herself a flower more beautiful than they.

She loved them all, sweet bud and tiny blossom: And weeping friends had laid them

in their bloom her bosom. Brightening the lonely journey the tomb.

No hopeless sobs, no wailings of affliction. Swept through the measure of the organ's swell, But softly, like a happy benediction.

The solemn "Requiescat" rose and

And who that loved her, as the words were spoken. 'Where shall we find a purer life than this?"

Retracing her short span of years unbroken. But thought within within his soul, "How true it is!"

Oh! where indeed? Her childhood's days were given To Him who called her for His chosen bride

Followed the footsteps of the Crucified.

And her sad pilgrimage from earth to

arms uplifted Was born unto the mountain's topmost height: From the bruised flesh the weight was

never shifted.

of ours;

The bearer halted not for storm nor night.

Her eyes have cast the film of earth away, Folded to sleep amid the silent flowers, Herself a flower more beautiful

than they.

A GENEROUS WILL. Worthy of emulation was the will eft by the late Mary Corrigan, of Philadelphia, who made the following numerous and handsome bequests: House of the Good Shepherd, \$15,000; Little Bisters of the Poor, \$12,000; St. James' Catholic Church, \$10,000; St. Catherine's Academy, in Austin, \$5,000; Alexian Brothers' Hospital, \$5,000; St. Joseph's Home for the Friendless, \$5,-000: St. Vincent's Infant Asylum, \$5,-000; Working Boy's Home, \$5,000; Chicago Industrial Home for Girls, \$5.-000; St. Mary's Training School for Boys, \$5,000; St. Monica's (colored Catholic) Church, \$5,000 : Ephephota School for Deaf and Dumb, \$5,000; St. Elizabeth's Hospital, \$5,000; St. Josep'hs Hospital, \$5,000; St. Anthony's Hospital, \$5,000; St. Vincent de Paul's Society (St. James' conference) \$4,000; Vinitation and Aid Society, \$4,000; Monastery of the Poor Clares, \$3,000; De La Salle Institute, \$1,000; St. Leo's Church, \$1,000; St. Elizabeth's Corpus Christi, \$1,000; Church of the Epiphany, \$1,000. The will disposed of an estate valued at \$240,000, of which \$150,000 was set aside for the support of the decedent's two sisters during their lifetime.

MILLS' SELECT DANCING ACADEMY. In Cox building, first floor. Beginners' class Friday; social class, Thursday; childrens' class Saturday, at 2:30 o'clock. Hall and music can be secured for private clubs or select parties for \$13.00. For particulars, call at office of Cox Building.

MRS. ROOSEVELT SPENDS BUT THREE HUNDRED ON DRESS.

American Walking Skirt Not Popular in Paris-English Women Say French Shoes are at Fault-New Ideas in Sleeves.

for her clothes not unnaturally have chinchilla) as a complete suit; or a caused an immense amount of excite- long coat, as cover, converts the cosment among the feminine portion of tume into a dress. The hat is white the community, who realize that the smooth felt with a swirl of black satprice asked for gowns is far shead of in de chine and a huge black bird. anything ever asked before and that Chinchilla, ever charming (for dark the number of gowns required for a women) also comes in the new stole woman to be fashionably gowned is shape, the must of "bag" cut. There far larger and the ordinary seamstress' are three tails at either end, and young

work demands a higher price. In days gone by it was thought to over the other. be a mistake for women of gentle birth and large fortune to be in the least which big folk and little may wear conspicuously dressed in public places with equal becomingness, unless they or on the street. If they wore gor- be yellow haired. It may be concelvgeous gowns they must needs hide able that the light-haired woman who them under a wrap or mantle, and or would wear chichilla, like the woman course would never think of going who does not know what style of hairabout so attired unless in their own dressing becomes her, is hopeless. private carriages.



The spectacle, with which we are all familiar, of women in very light, most elaborately trimmed and conspicuously fashioned garments, trimmed with costly furs and lace and wearing jewels fit for a princess, hanging on to the strap of a cable car does not strike us as so remarkable as it did at first. We have become accustomed to it and accept it with the same complacency that we witness a woman wearing a one hundred and fifty dollar pushing a perambulator because she cannot afford to pay a purse.

mad in the demand she has placed upon her followers, and it has been very gravely stated that one reason why skirt without a train is a necessity of matrimony has become more or less every wardrobe. The cloth for this unfashionable is the dress question. serviceable costume is nearly certain The amount of money necessary for dress is a very serious item in the income of the young persons of to-day. of them are cut to flare at the hem. Young women who are not in the least wealthy consider it necessary to spend as much money on their clothes as their grandmothers did on their

entire living expenses. Indeed, the living expenses can ha managed more easily. It is possible to go without sweets, for instance; cut off dessert entirely and not be considered unfashionable, but not to be smartly gowned means to be decidedly out of style, and that is something that no one can very well endure.

There has been no law fixed, even by the dressmakers as to the limit for clothes money. It can run up into the thousands-and generally does-with the thoroughly gowned women of to-The cross by her frail, trembling day. A gown that costs \$700 is classed as a "smart little frock," and this without the accessories of jewels. And if the fullness is in the cut of the Therefore it can be seen that the woman who is entitled by birth to a place so much the better. Heavy stitchings in society will have about as hard an give body to the hem of the skirt. arithmetical problem to solve as ever

was devised by a school teacher. She rests at last, that fair, sweet saint dresses on \$300 a year is one that erally prefer ankle length, so that the meets with the approbation of conser- frock need not be held up not at all exvative people and the amused incred- cept when going up and down the ulity of persons who know Mrs. Roose- stairs of the elevated. No reputable velt and who are well aware that, skirt can compass that disadvantage. while she never goes in for any extravagance of dress and is always quiet and simple in her tastes, she wears tight from shoulder to wrist? Once

exceedingly handsome gowns.

her biographer?

services of the maid are not men- fichu drapery of plum colored taffeta, tioned. And just here let it be said trimmed with strips of black panne that the greatest economy in the velvet. And in a hat of plum colored world is a good maid and seamstress taffets, velvet and plum colored feathcombined, one who understands thor- ers tucked under the brim, the charmoughly the care of clothes and makes ing design shows really, that there are a point of always keeping everything only things in it that you consider .. in proper trim.

dued than billiard cloth, nevertheless right thing by any means. a lively green. The skirt and bodice are trimmed with stripes and bars of

verely cut steel buttons are employed on the waist for simulated fastenings and to end the tabs. On the skirt only the latter use is made of them. Nothing could be more taking than the way (for a slight figure) the stripes of cloth are put ontoghe waist and skirt, to give the effect of a dress

in one piece. . Under this irreproachable coat is worn a blouse of finest white linen. the full lower sleeves of which peep out through the flowing sleeves of the Recently published accounts of Mrs. coatee. The costume is so made that Roosevelt spending only \$300 a year it may be worn with furs (preferably

women cross one portion of the boa

Chinchilla is among the few furs

Latest news from Paris admits that the attempt to popularize the American walking skirt there has not been so successful as for various reasons. many had hoped, "The Parisienne will be graceful if she dies for it. The short skirt is crude," is one explanation. Another is that the Parisienne almost always rides, and walks rarely; hence the dress has no purpose for her

Above are shown some new models of fancy shoes for house wear or evening wear. Some of them are of leather, cut out in pieces of various colors; others are of various historical styles. The buckles represented with them are quite a new feature. They are infinitely varied in design, and are made of gold or silver, enriched with precious stones. Nearly all of them are worn very high up the foot. On the left is a model of a boot to be worn when out shooting or in an automobile. It is made either of yellow leather or of drab deerskin.

It is an Englishwoman who comes forward with the assertion that the shoes of the Frenchwoman are. at fault, and that the woman of Paris knows it. that her footwear is unfitted for use with a dress which shows it. American boots and shoes, the Englishwoman continues, are the shapeliest in the world. The Frenchwoman can find none which she considers sightly except those with high heels. And certainly they are not suited for use with a dress of "sensible length. The Englishwoman bids the American to keep to her conclusions on the subject, however, for her idea is right.

And how are American women meeting the matter of new walking skirts for the winter? There is a general Fashion has apparently gone stark confession of the need of them, even by carriage folk. For there are times when even they must walk, and a to be Oxford gray, black or brown, dark, double-faced. The most modish



skirt rather than in a flounce set on, Now the length? Even American women are not agreed. Those whose The statement that Mrs. Roosevelt affairs take them out at all hours gen-

Did I say that there are no sleeves in the greatest while an old-style, As Mrs. Roosevelt has an income of plain tailor-made sleeve appears. But her own-not a large one, but an in- they are seen so seldom that they are come—it may be questioned if she has noticeable. In general the severest of not supplemented the three hundred cloth gowns are formed to curve out at dollars allowed her by-shall we say, the wrist, half down over the hand. And more than likely there is a trim-The woman who can dress on three ming at the top of the sleeve of cloth hundred dollars a year-and, be it un- applications, of braiding, or of stitchderstood, a woman who goes about in ery. Bishop sleeves, flowing, and society, entertains and is to be seen bell sleeves are on the new fur garat theatres and public entertainments ments. I am not sure that one's heart as well as private dances-will have does not most go out to a simply stunto do considerable of her own sewing ning sleeve on a taffeta frock in ashes or be possessed of the services of a of roses color. The sleeve is merely very remarkable maid to carry out her an inverted leg of mutton affair, but intentions of being well gowned on such cachet as comes from the cut! I am willing to admit that much which Generally in these calculations the helps the picture scheme is in the

absolutely necessary. Handsomely illustrating the ten- The postoffice authorities only can dency of the new tailormade dress to estimate the carelessness of women wander from its original purpose (se- in sealing and addressing letters. To vere neatness) is a costume of green permit one's correspondents to pay frieze cloth in a tone rather more sub- postage for one's letters is not the

News of mutual friends should be black smooth cloth, every length piped given with great care as to reliability, with white satin. Very small and so Friendship is often shattered by mail