ICE BOUND.

By W. CLARK RUSSELL,

Author of "The Wreck of the Grosvenor," "Jack's Courtship," "My Watch Below," "The Lady Maud" Etc.

(CONTINUED.)

CHAPTER VII.

I AM STARTLED BY A DISCOVERY.

In this uneasy posture, despite the intense cold, I continued to sleep soundly during the greater part of the night. I was awakened by a horrid dream of some giant shape stalking down the slope of ice so seize and devour me, and sat up trembling with horror that was not a little increased by my inability to recollect myself, and by my therefore conceiving the canvas that covered me to be the groping of the ogre's hand over my face.

I pushed the sail away and stood up, but had instantly to sit again, my legs being terribly cramped. A drink of spirits helped me; my blood presently flowed with briskness.

The moon was in the west; she hung large, red and distorted, and shed no light save her reflection, that waved in the sea under her like several lengths of undulating, red hot wire.

I had no mind to lie down again. The cold indeed was cruelly sharp, and the smoke sped from my mouth at every breath, as though I held a tobacco pipe betwixt my teeth. I got upon the ice and stepped about it quickly, darting searching glances into the gloom to left and right of the setting moon; but all lay bare, bleak and black.

It seemed as if the night had only just descended, so tardy was the dawn. Outside the slanting wall of ice that made my haven, the swell swept past in a gurgling, bubbling, drowning sound, dismal and ghastly, as though in truth some such ogre as the monster I had dreamed of lay suffocating there. I welcomed the cold coloring of the east as if it had been a ship, and watched the stars dying and the frozen shore darkening to the dim and sifting dawn behind it, against which the outline of the cliffs ran in a broken streak of ink. The rising of the sun gave me fresh life.

I made up my mind to climb as high as I could, taking the oar with me to serve as a pole, that I might view the ice and the ocean round about, and form a judgment of the weather by the aspect of the sky, of which only the western part was visible from my low strand. But first I must break my fast. I remember bitterly lamenting the lack of means to make a fire, that I might obtain a warm meal and a hot drink, and dry my gloves, coat and breeches, to which the damp of the salt clung tenaciously. Had this ice been land, though the most desolate, gloomy, repulsive spot in the world, I had surely found something that would burn.

I sat in the boat to eat my slender repast, and when it was ended I pulled the oar out of the crevice, and found it would make me a good pole to probe my way with and support myself by up the slope. The boat was now held by the mast, which I shook and found very firm. I put an empty beer bottle in my pocket, meaning to see if I could fill it, if the snow up above was sweet enough to be well tasted, and then with a final look at the boat I started.

The slope was extremely craggy. Blocks of ice lay about, some on top of the others, and I had sometimes to warily walk fifty or sixty paces round these blocks to come at a part of the slope that was smooth.

I had come to a stand to fetch a breath, and was moving on afresh, when, having taken not half a dozen steps, I spied the figure of a man. He was in a sitting posture, his back against a rock that had concealed him. His head was bowed, and his knees drawn up to a level with his chin, and his naked hands were clasped upon his legs. His attitude was that of a person lost in thought—very easy and calm.

I stopped as if I had been shot through the heart. Had it been a bear or a sea lion, or any creature which my mind could instantly have associated with this white and stirless desolation, I might have been startled indeed; but no such amazement could have possessed me as I now felt. It never entered into my head to doubt that he was alive, so natural was his attitude, as of one lost in a mood of tender melancholy.

I stood staring at him, myself motionless, for some minutes, too greatly astonished and thunderstruck to note more than that he was a man. Then I looked about me to see if he had companions or for some signs of a habitation, but the ice was everywhere naked. I fixed my eyes on him again. His hair was above a foot long, black as ink, and the blacker may be for the contrast of the snow. His beard and mustache, which were also of this raven hue, fell to his girdle. He wore a great yellow flapping hat, such as was in fashion among the Spaniards and buccaneers of the South sea; but over his ears, for the warmth of the protection, were squares of flannel tied under his beard by a very fine red silk handkerchief; and this, with his hair and pale cheeks and black shaggy eyebrows, gave him a terrible and ghastly appearance. From his shoulders hung a rich thick cloak, lined with red, and the legs to the height of the knees were incased in large boots.

I continued surveying him with my heart beating fast. Every instant I expected to see him turn his head and start to behold me.

I coughed loudly, holding my pole in readiness for whatever might befall, but he did not stir; I then hollooed, and was answered by the echoes of my own voice among the rocks. His stillness persuaded me he was in one of those deep slumbers which fall upon a man in frozen places; for I could not persuade myself he was dead, so living was his posture.

This will not do, thought I; so I went close to him and peered into his face.

I went close to him and peered into his face.

His eyes were fixed; they resembled glass painted as eyes, the colors faded. He had a broad belt round his waist, and the hilt of a kind of cutlass peeped from under his cloak; otherwise he was unarmed. I thought he breathed, and seemed to see a movement in his breast, and I took him by the shoulder, but in the hurry of my feelings I exerted more strength than I was sensible of. I pushed him with the violence of sudden trepidation; my hand slipped off his shoulder, and he fell on his side, exactly as a statue would, preserving his posture as though, like a statue, he had been chiseled out of marble or stone.

I started back frightened by his fall, in which my fears found a sort of life; but it was soon clear to me his rigidity was that of a man frozen to death. His very hair and beard stood stiff, as before, as though they were some exquisite counterfeit in ebony. Perfectly satisfied that he was dead, I stepped round to the other side of him and set him up as I had found him. He was as heavy as if he had been alive, and when I put his back to the rock his posture was exactly as it had been—that of one deeply meditating.

Who had this man been in life? How had he fallen into this pass? How long had he been dead there, seated as I saw him?

These were speculations not to be resolved by conjecture. On looking at the rock against which he leaned, and observing its curvature, it seemed to me that it had formed part of a cave, or of some large deep hole of ice; and this, I was sure, must have been the case—for it is certain that, had this body remained long unsheltered, it must have been hidden by the snow.

I concluded then that the unhappy man had been cast away upon this ice while it was under bleaker heights than these parallels, and that he had crawled into a hollow and perished in that melancholic sitting posture.

Thinking I might find something on his person to acquaint me with his story, or that would furnish me with some idea of the date of his being cast away, I pulled his cloak aside and searched his pockets. His legs were thickly cased in two or three pairs of breeches, the outer pair being of a dark green cloth. He also wore a handsome red waistcoat, laced, and a stout coat of a kind of frieze. In his coat pocket I found a silver tobacco box, a small glass flask fitted with a silver band and half full of an amber colored liquor, hard frost; and in his waistcoat pocket a gold watch, shaped like an apple, the back curiously chased and inlaid with jewels of several kinds, forming a small letter M. The hands pointed to twenty minutes after three. A key of a strange shape and a number of seals, trinkets, and the like were attached to the watch.

These things, together with a knife, a key, a thick plain silver ring, and some Spanish pieces in gold and silver were what I found on this man. There was nothing to tell me who he was, nor how long he had been on the island.

The searching him was the most disagreeable job I ever undertook in my life. His iron-like rigidity made him seem to resist me, and the swaying of his back against the rock to the motions of my hand was so full of life that twice I quitted him, frightened by it. On touching his naked hand by accident, I discovered that the flesh of it moved upon the bones as you pull a glove off and on. I had had enough of him, and walked away feeling sick.

I pushed onward, stepping warily and probing cautiously at every step, and carnestly peering about me, for after such a sight as that dead man I was never to know what new wonder I might stumble upon. About a quarter of a mile on my left—that is, on my left while I kept my face to the slope—there was the appearance of a ravine not discernible from where the boat lay. When I was within twenty feet of the summit of the cliff, the acclivity continuing gentle to the very brow, but much broken, as I have said, I noticed this hollow, and more particularly a small collection of ice forms, not nearly so large as the other groups of this kind, but most dainty and lovely, nevertheless. They showed as the heads of trees might to my *ascent*, and when I had got a little higher I observed that they were formed upon the hither side of the hollow, as though the convulsion which had wrought that chasm had tossed up those exquisite caprices of ice. However I was too eager to view the prospect from the top of the cliff to suffer my admiration to detain me; in a few minutes I had gained the brow, and, clambering on to a mass of rock, I sent my gaze around.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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TRAVELERS GUIDE.

READING & COLUMBIA RAILROAD AND BRANCHES, AND LEBANON AND LANCASTER JOINT LINE R. R.

ON AND AFTER SUNDAY, NOV. 13, 1887, TRAINS LEAVE READING.

For Columbia and Lancaster at 7:20 a m, 2 m and 6:10 p m.
For Quarryville at 7:20, 11:50 a m, and 6:10 p m.
For Chickies at 7:20, 11:50 a m, and 6:10 p m.

TRAINS LEAVE COLUMBIA.

For Reading at 7:30 a m, 12:20 and 3:40 p m.
For Lebanon at 12:20 and 3:40 p m.

TRAINS LEAVE QUARRYVILLE.

For Lancaster at 6:40 a m, and 2:30 and 6:20 p m.
For Reading at 6:40 a m and 2:30 p m.
For Lebanon at 2:30 and 6:20 p m.

LEAVE KING STREET (Lancaster.)

For Reading at 7:30 a m, 12:35 and 3:40 p m.
For Lebanon at 7:30 a. m, 12:35 and 7:15 p m.
For Quarryville at 9:31 a m, 3:05 and 6:30 p m.

LEAVE PRINCE STREET (Lancaster.)

For Reading at 7:40 a m, 12:45 and 3:50 p m.
For Lebanon at 7:07 a m, 12:45 and 7:05 p m.
For Quarryville at 9:30 a m, 1:40 and 6:30 p m

TRAINS LEAVE LEBANON

For Lancaster at 7:12 a m, 12:30 and 7:00 p m.
For Quarryville at 7:12 a m and 12:30 p m.

SUNDAY TRAINS.

TRAINS LEAVE READING

For Lancaster at 7:30 a m and 4:00 p m.
For Quarryville at 4:00 p m.

TRAINS LEAVE QUARRYVILLE

For Lancaster, Lebanon and Reading at 7:10 a m.

TRAINS LEAVE KING ST. (Lancaster.)

For Reading and Lebanon at 8:05 a m and 5:00 p m.
For Quarryville at 5:00 p m.

TRAINS LEAVE PRINCE ST. (Lancaster.)

For Reading and Lebanon at 8:13 a m and 4:04 p m.
For Quarryville at 5:45 p m.

TRAINS LEAVE LEBANON

For Lancaster at 7:57 a m and 5:45 p m.
For Quarryville at 5:45 p m.

For connection at Columbia, Marietta Junction, Lancaster Junction, Manheim, Reading and Lebanon, see time tables at all stations.

A. M. WILSON, Superintendent.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD. SCHEDULE.—In effect from June 12, 1887.

Trains leave Lancaster and leave and arrive at Philadelphia as follows:

WESTWARD.	Leave Philadelphia.	Leave Lancaster.
Pacific Express	11:50 p. m.	1:20 a. m.
Steam Express	4:00 a. m.	6:20 a. m.
Way Passenger	8:20 a. m.	9:35 a. m.
Mail train via Mt. Joy	7:00 a. m.	9:35 a. m.
No. 3 Mail Train	via Columbia	9:35 a. m.
Niagara Express	7:40 a. m.	9:00 a. m.
Hanover Accom.	via Columbia	9:00 a. m.
Fast Line	11:50 a. m.	1:40 p. m.
Frederick Accom.	via Columbia	3:10 p. m.
Lancaster Accom.	via Mt. Joy	3:30 p. m.
Harrisburg Accom.	3:15 p. m.	6:20 p. m.
Columbia Accom.	4:40 p. m.	7:40 p. m.
Harrisburg Express	5:50 p. m.	7:50 p. m.
Western Express	9:50 p. m.	11:05 a. m.
EASTWARD.	Leave Lancaster.	Arrive at Phila.
Phila. Express	2:20 a. m.	4:45 a. m.
Fast Line	8:05 a. m.	9:20 a. m.
Harrisburg Express	8:10 a. m.	10:20 a. m.
Lancaster Accom.	8:35 a. m.	via Mt Joy
Columbia Accom.	9:00 a. m.	11:05 a. m.
Seashore Express	12:55 p. m.	3:15 p. m.
Philadelphia Accom.	2:05 p. m.	5:00 p. m.
Sunday Mail	3:00 p. m.	9:45 p. m.
Day Express	4:45 p. m.	9:00 p. m.
Harrisburg Accom.	8:45 p. m.	9:45 p. m.

The Lancaster Accommodation leaves Harrisburg at 8:10 p. m. and arrives at Lancaster at 9:35 p. m.

The Marietta Accommodation leaves Columbia at 8:00 a. m. and reaches Marietta at 8:25. Also leaves Columbia at 11:45 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., reaching Marietta at 12:05 and 5:25. Leaves Marietta at 8:30 p. m. and arrives at Columbia at 8:50; also, leaves at 8:35 and arrives at 8:55.

The York Accommodation leaves Harrisburg at 7:10 and arrives at Lancaster at 8:20, connecting with Harrisburg Express at 8:10 a. m.

The Frederick Accommodation, west, connects at Lancaster with Fast Line, east, leaves at 7:10 p. m., will run through to Frederick.

The Frederick Accommodation, east, leaves Columbia at 12:20 and reaches Lancaster at 12:55 p. m.

Hanover Accommodation, East, leaves Columbia at 6:10 p. m. Arrives at Lancaster at 6:35 p. m., connecting with Day Express.

Hanover Accommodation, West, connecting at Lancaster with Niagara Express at 8:00 a. m., will run through to Hanover, daily, except Sunday.

Fast Line, west, on Sunday, when signaled, will stop at Downingtown, Coatesville, Parkesburg, Mt. Joy, Elizabethtown and Middletown.

The only trains which run daily. On Sundays the Mail train west runs by way of Columbia.

J. E. WOOD, General Passenger Agent.
CHAS. E. PUGH, General Manager.

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