

THE EVENING NEWS.

A TALL TARN.
A LITTLE REMARKABLE DISCOVERY
BY RUSSIAN CONVICTS IN
SIBERIA — MAMMOTHS, WOOLLY
HORSES AND SEA MONSTERS.

The New York World publishes what purports to be a letter from Moscow, June 1st, giving an account of the adventure of a Russian named Voriton Batchenatchekoff, who, sentenced to hard labor for life in the mines of Siberia, after four years in confinement, and in the course of his subsequent wanderings, made some wonderful discoveries of specimens of the woolly mammoth and the sea-monster he has received a pardon from his government.

Having reached the summit of the Altai range of mountains, a range of valley fifty miles wide, 150 long, and with a blue quiet lake in the center. To descend into this valley would be a difficult task, but Charleton looked at the bleak snowy region behind him, and then down into the pleasant valley before him, green, placid, quiet, cheerful, and here and there no longer a sign of man or animal was to be seen on the meadows by the lake, what sort he could not detect at that distance. He descended to the pass, put new strength into his bow, and with a goal afresh, sighted his horse, and began to go down the mountain towards the valley.

As he descended, it was quite evident that the valley was below the level of the steps on the other side of the range. Indeed, if his observations are all to be relied upon, the lowest part of this long, landlocked valley must be above the level of the ocean, if he supposes it is not several hundred feet below, like the valley of the Dead Sea. Charleton had a hard time of it, having to pass through a forest of firs, larches, pines, spruces and ash, through which progress was difficult, and at times almost impossible. Several species of deer, some of which he knew and some he did not, were seen, and before, manual labor in great numbers, feeding upon a crisp green herbage with an aromatic odor. Foxes and lynxes were frequently seen, with a fox being the most prominent among them. There were no wolves, but the Alpine foxes, black here as jet, and with beautiful markings, were hunted in great numbers, with the result killing that of the jackal. These animals were so tame and fearless, yet so little inclined to molest him, that he was at once to the conclusion that they had been domesticated by man, and consequently that the valley was not inhabited.

The next day's journey brought Charleton into the heart of the forest, and to a wood of primordial decisions trees, much larger than any he supposed himself to be capable of felling. This wood was without a soul, without such undergrowth, and was tured with succulent herbs and grasses, except where the rocks, which were of a limestone formation, cropped boldly out in enormous masses. Among these rocks were many caves, and from some of these beautiful rivulets trickled out and ran down towards the bottom of the valley. Charleton at nightfall selected one of these caves for his sleeping place, and lay at the entrance—which was no sooner done than a bear howling out and escaped among the rocks, and the noise of his retreat惊异 to keep up his fire and also to explore the caves before sleeping. He made himself torches and went into the place, finding nothing, however, save a few dried roots, the bones and teeth of some great animal. The next day Charleton proceeded on his journey, leaving the region of the forest and coming out upon a broad terrace covered with the green grass. This terrace, which sloped gradually towards the centre of the valley, was about eight miles in width, and was bounded by the foot of the mountains, all around as far as Charleton could see. He found it was a place of great beauty, and of cable very uncomfortable. The terrace, which strike Charleton as affording the finest natural pasture he had ever seen, was bordered on its surface by any trees, and perfectly covered with a dense, incisive, and tall sward of grass that stood up black and brown. The plain was full of animals, like domestic herds in pasture. At the top of the terrace Charleton came to a steep step that descended fully 1500 feet at a sharp angle, but not so steep as to be bare of the prairie grasses. At the foot of this slope he found the prairie, and the lake in the middle of it. He immediately went down, and just at nightfall, forcing his way through a fringe of willows, he saw the lake, a sheet of dark blue, transparent water, scarcely ruffled by the faint breath of an evening breeze. Thoroughly tired out, Charleton built himself a fire, and, making himself a couch of willow branches, drew his seal coat over him, and lay down with his feet to the fire, but not to sleep.

Charleton had never forgotten that first night of horrors by the haunted lake. He was beset with monsters. Dark, shadowy forms came over the water, splashing toward him, and seemed to speak words of dire warning. The spring of great beasts that穿过了 the willow stalks like pipe-stems on their way to the water's edge, and the roar of the animals, braying hoarsely and low as they seemed to gaze at the fire with snarls of wonder, made him afraid enough of being overtaken. When he awoke in the morning, alone around him, and it seemed the signal for the cries of a thousand devils, he sprang up, and were mad, plunging through bushes of frightened beasts around him that made the ground tremble; a peculiar long shrill, quivering shriek sounded over the lake, and was answered by a hand-sounding bellow near at hand. Soon there were more of these deep, full-toned imprecise bellows, and Charleton, ringing a burning brand in his hand, and of course saw the dark shadow of some huge, unknown, towering monster move slowly away. Immediately he kindled a broad circle of fire about his sleeping-place, sat in this same circle, and waited, the night long, until morning approaching, and the sound ceasing, he fell at last asleep.

When Charleton awoke it was broad day, and the weather fairer than the darkness that had disturbed him over night, except the paths they had worn going down to the water. In these paths he saw the deep-planted spur of snow and timber, and the tracks of the wild animals he had so often heard. His first care was to seek some place to pass the next night, where he would be free from the alarm that had haunted him over night. He crossed the meadow, and followed the edge of the slope, around in a direction in which he saw some rocks. Along this he found the wide and lofty entrance to a cavern, and some preparations for the rocky recess, which was formed as if by man, and within he heard a slow, measured movement, as of an animal gently rustling, and then, before breathing with great calm impatience, and expirations like the sighs of a smith's bellows. One turn,

another, he made a heavy starting sound, and in the cave, standing full before him, alive, chewing the cud, and with a slow, groan-like sound, was a bear. "I am a bear," said Charleton, "what I have been told, that Siberia was an old habitat of these animals, and that some of the best schools of the Arctic Ocean are used, among the herds, as remnants of animals, or as the remains of animals, in such individuals of which may still exist under favorable circumstances. Without intending it I have solved that doubt."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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