

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ
ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
«ГОРНО-АЛТАЙСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»

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**СПЕЦКУРС НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ
«СИБИРЬ В ПИСЬМАХ АНГЛИЧАНКИ
ЛЮСИ АТКИНСОН»**

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Учебное пособие по спецкурсу на английском языке знакомит студентов с этнографическим материалом, изложенном в письмах английской путешественницы Люси Аткинсон, изданном под названием «Вспоминания о Тартарских степях и их обитателях» (Recollections of Tartar Steppes and Their Inhabitants) в 1863 году в Лондоне. Собранные в оригинальном издании письма написаны Л. Аткинсон в популярном для Великобритании 19 века жанре травелога. Тексты уроков пособия представляют собой отдельные части писем автора. Они адаптированы составителями пособия, снабжены заданиями для проверки понимания материала и упражнениями, стимулирующими проведение лингвострановедческого анализа и совершенствующими речь на иностранном языке.

Пособие кратко знакомит студентов с событиями шестилетнего путешествия Л. Аткинсон со своей семьей по территории Сибири и Киргизским степям в хронологическом порядке, учит описывать исторические события и этнографию своего родного края на иностранном языке. Пособие направлено на исследование студентами образа Сибири и Горного Алтая в составе пространства Российской Империи в 19 веке, совершает экскурс научных проблем, поднимающихся в современных российских и западных исследованиях, учитывает уникальный материал, оставленный супругом Л. Аткинсон – художником и путешественником Томасом Уитламом Аткинсоном.

Пособие предназначено для студентов, обучающихся по направлению 46.03.01 История, профиль «Краеведение», 44.03.01 Педагогическое образование, профиль «История», 44.03.05 Педагогическое образование, профиль «Русский язык, английский язык».

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**“Siberia in Letters
of an English Lady Lucy Atkinson”**

Special English Course on History and Literature of Gorny Altai

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LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Read the shortened and adapted abstract from the preface to “Recollections of Tartar Steppes and Their Inhabitants” (1863) by Mrs. Lucy Atkinson.

“The reader may want to know why the following Letters were written, and how it came to pass that an Englishwoman should find her way into countries so remote and so uninviting to those attached to the luxuries of life, as Siberia and Tartary.

I was born in a large family, and it became my duty, at an early period of life, to seek support on my own. I came to St. Petersburg, where for eight years I remained in the family of General Mouravioff, superintending the education of his only daughter. In 1846 I met with Mr. Atkinson. After the lapse of a year, I was married to him, with the consent of General Mouravioff’s family. Then I accompanied Mr. Atkinson during his arduous¹ journeys, which lasted for six years.

The scientific and artistic results of those travels are in the two volumes, which he published during his lifetime. He almost doesn’t mention in them the adventures we had during those journeys, and, especially, there is no mention of the strange incidents, which befell² myself, often left alone with an infant in arms, among a semi-savage³ people, to whom I was a perfect stranger. My friends have so often asked me to tell them what happened to me in countries where an English lady had never been seen before, and to describe the manners which characterise female society among the wild Kirghis, that I have

¹ arduous – трудный, напряженный

² to befall – приключаться

³ semi-savage – полудикий

collected some of the letters written to friends. These letters, with slight omissions and alterations, I now venture to present to the public.”

TASKS

A. Answer these questions:

1) What is the main purpose of the preface in Mrs. Atkinson's book?

2) What words does Lucy Atkinson choose to describe herself?

B. Study some of “Russian and Tartar terms” and their explanations, which the writer gives to English readers in the beginning of the book. Comment on them.

Ac	– white
Altin	– golden
Aoul	– a nomad village
Balaghan	– a booth, made by placing branches of trees in a slanting direction and covering them with birch bark
Baranta	– a robbery, on a large scale, of aoul, women, children, cattle, &c.
Baranae	– madam, a gentlewoman
Blini	– a pancake
Bogha	– God
Bouran	– a storm of snow or wind
Domavoi	– a house spirit
Fabric	– manufactory
Goosem	– in file
Ispravnick	– a bailiff of a district; he is usually placed over the peasantry

Kool	– a lake
Maral	– a deer
Moollah	– a Tartar priest
Nalifka	– a liquor made from wild fruit
Nechevo	– nothing
Peracloednoï	– to travel post, and change the carriage at each station
Pood	– thirty-six lbs.
Shube	– a fur cloak
Somervar	– a tea-urn
Sucarees	– rusks
Tolmash	– an interpreter
Tau	– a mountain
Voilock	– felt cloth made from camels' hair
Yasak	– a tribute of furs
Yemschick	– a post-boy, a driver
Yourt	– a nomad tent

What are your guesses about the author?

- 1) What languages does she speak?
- 2) What vehicles did the travelers go by?
- 3) Did they meet friendly people in the Tartar Steppes?

C. Study the table of dates and answer these questions:

- 1) How long did the Atkinsons travel in Siberia?
- 2) How long did they stay at the Altai?
- 3) What are the places, where the travelers had the longest visits?

1848

February 13	Left Petersburg
February 22	Moscow
March 21	Left Ekaterinburg
April 4	Arrived in Tomsk
June 3	Left Tomsk
June 7	Arrived in Barnaoul
July 9	Left Barnaoul for Altin-kool
September 2	Left the Altai via Zmeinogorsk for Kirghis steppe

1849

September 3	Returned to Zmeinogorsk from Kirghis steppe
October	Left Zmeinogorsk for Barnaoul

1850

June 16	Left Barnaoul for the Yenissey River
August 30	Arrived in Irkoutsk

1851

May 23	Left Irkoutsk for the mountains in the north
September 6	Returned to Irkoutsk

1852

May	Left Irkoutsk
July	Arrived in Barnaoul

1853

February	Left Barnaoul for Ekaterinburg
June 11	Left Ekaterinburg for the Oural Mountains
August	Returned to Ekaterinburg
December 24	Arrived in Petersburg

D. Do a survey to learn about the biography of Lucy and Thomas Atkinsons. Be ready to make a presentation of your survey in class.

LESSON 2

THE JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF SNOW

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 1 (*EKATERINBURG, MARCH 7, 1848*), describing Lucy Atkinson's recollection of leaving Moscow for Siberia.

My dear friend,

As I am now going to plunge⁴ into the wilds of Siberia, I shall fulfill my promise, and give you a faithful story of what happened to me in this land of ice and snow.

Moscow is so well-known to us, that I shall not weary you by recalling scenes, which we have so often visited together. I must give you an idea of the preparations for this long journey to Siberia.

As the middle of February is past, everything has to be hastened, that we may be on the road before the winter begins to finish. There is a great drawback to our progress: everybody is enjoying the Maslinitz, even Mr. Atkinson's man Nicholai cannot be found, and the yemschicks have drunk so much vodka, that there seems little chance of their driving.

On the morning of the 20th we were alarmed by a rapid thaw⁵, which soon flooded the streets of Moscow. However, all the things necessary for our journey were collected, and Mr. Atkinson decided we should start on the morning at all risks.

Next day immediately after breakfast Mr. Atkinson, Nicholai, and some others, began packing our baggage into the sledge⁶. When starting on a long journey, this is a matter of no small importance. Package after package was put in its place,

⁴ to plunge – погружаться

⁵ thaw – оттепель

⁶ sledge – сани

and then the whole was covered with two large bearskins. Our vehicle had a most comfortable and inviting appearance, in which we were going to take a journey of nearly 5,000 miles.

At length⁷ the horses arrived, and at half-past three o'clock we were seated in our sledge, the word was given, and the yemshick drove off. The horses were soon in a gallop, dashing up the snow and slush. At five o'clock the sentinel⁸ stopped us at the gate of Moscow, an officer demanded our passports. The bar was ordered to be raised. As we passed through, I seemed to be bidding farewell⁹ to the world. I thought of the many exiles¹⁰, who had crossed this barrier.

Amongst the prisoners who marched through this portal on their way to Siberia, some did the deepest crimes, others are convicted¹¹ of minor offences¹², and hundreds had the only crime, when they resisted the cruel treatment of their masters.

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What was the atmosphere of the travelers' preparations for the journey?
- 2) Was Mrs. Atkinson afraid of the trip?
- 3) What weather would be the best for travelling from Moscow to Barnaul in spring by a sledge?
- 4) What did Mrs. Atkinson think of, when the sentinels checked their passports and let them go?

⁷ at length – через продолжительное время; наконец-то

⁸ sentinel – караульный, часовой

⁹ to bid farewell – прощаться

¹⁰ exile – ссыльный

¹¹ to convict – выносить приговор

¹² offence – правонарушение

B. Read the following passage and comment on the feelings of Mrs. Atkinson.

“On the following day the weather was bitterly cold, and the wind was cutting, so that on arriving at Kasan I found my face and lips in a fearful state. I am told that throwing a piece of white muslin¹³ over the head will save the skin from injuring. The Russians exercise an effectual but excessively dirty mode of protecting it, which is, never to wash the face, from the hour of starting on a journey, until their arrival in some town where they will stay. The state of my face gave me much annoyance, and was very painful.”

C. Read the “Serviceable Sentences for Common Use”, which are offered for British travelers in Norway in the 6th edition of a “Handbook for Travelers”, published in London in 1878.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Good morning! | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| How do you do! | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Which is the way? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| You must speak slowly. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Did you ever travel this way before? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there any good inns upon the road? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Driver faster / slower. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Horse – immediately. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Where is the postboy? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Put grease on the wheels. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Put me over the river. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can I sleep here tonight? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can I see my bed? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Some roast chicken / veal cutlets. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fetch me some wine, bread and cheese. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

¹³ muslin – муслин, кисея

Let me have a cup of coffee.

Light a fire in the stove.

I shall walk.

Clean my boots.

Give me the bill.

Here is your money.

Say, which of these phrases could have been of use and which of them couldn't have been of use for the Atkinsons in Ekaterinburg.

D. Read the article by Tatyana P. Shastina from the Supplementary Reading. Generalize the main ideas of her work in English to make a short oral report.

LESSON 3

DESTINY OF PEOPLE IN SIBERIA. RUSSIAN CHARACTER

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 2 (TOMSK, APRIL 25TH, 1848), describing Lucy Atkinson's recollection of visiting Ekaterinburg.

As we shall be obliged to pass some weeks in Tomsk, I shall have plenty of time for writing. I must give you an account of our route hither¹⁴, which was really a fearful one; but first I will return to Ekaterinburg.

I was told by our kind hostess that it was considered a duty on the part of every visitor to make the acquaintance of the principal persons in the town; besides which, several were friends of my husband's. So, with visiting and receiving visitors, our time passed away very quickly.

My friend in Ekaterinburg impressed the necessity of caution on us, because we had discharged Nicholai, on account of neglect of duty, and gross misconduct¹⁵ in many ways. The fellow was not to be trusted, and Mr. Atkinson had always treated him with great leniency¹⁶. I had been rather amused at some of his doings in Moscow. Whilst there, he received a sum of money in advance, to enable him to fit himself out with everything necessary for a journey of two years. At almost the last hour he asked for more, which astonished Mr. Atkinson, as he had received in advance a whole year's salary. On arriving in Ekaterinburg we found out that he had brought in our sledge a large quantity of goods on speculation, and was occupied in giving them away.

¹⁴ hither – сюда

¹⁵ misconduct – неправильное поведение

¹⁶ leniency – снисходительность

We visited the Granilnoï Fabric, where the stones found in the Oural are all cut and polished (I received specimens of many). I here saw men working at a jasper¹⁷ table, on which several had been engaged nine years; it was nearly finished, and was for the Empress. A wreath of forget-me-nots, in mosaic, surrounded it. It was certainly beautiful, but still did not appear worth the time and labour that had been used upon it.

On our road to Tomsk we passed the monastery of St. Dolomete. It is a magnificent building, most picturesquely grouped together, and in good preservation; it reminded me greatly of the Kremlin at Moscow.

On the 25th we reached Jaloutroffsky, and drove to the house of one of the exiles, for whom we had a gun. On entering the house, a gentleman in the prime of life came forward to meet us. He appeared not a little surprised at seeing strangers, Jaloutroffsky being off the great post road. We stated that our stay would be short. He seated me on a sofa, ran himself to fetch pillows to prop against my back, placed a stool for my feet. Indeed, had I been an invalid, and one of the family, I could not have been more cared for, or the welcome more cordial. One of his comrades was immediately sent for. This woman came with her two children. I was the bearer of many a message, as well as little gifts for all.

When left alone with our new friends, the conversation naturally turned upon those whom they had not seen for some three-and-twenty years; various and numerous were the questions they put to us. Mr. Atkinson brought from the sledge a folio of sketches he had with him of Siberian scenery. One gentleman said he could not vouch for the accuracy or even likeness to the places represented, never having visited those spots; but what he could say was, that the skies were beautifully true to nature; they were truly Siberian. How often, he said, have I

¹⁷ jasper – яшма

wished I could draw them, as in Petersburg they have no conception of what a fine sky is.

There are several of the political exiles of 1825 living at Jaloutroffsky. They form quite a little colony, dwelling in perfect harmony. The freedom they enjoy is greater than any they could have in Russia; for instance, full liberty of speech; they fear nothing. But what they have not, is liberty to go where they please; they are restricted¹⁸ in distance, as also in the use of fire-arms. However, the authorities in the town are lenient to them, permitting those who are fond of hunting to do it wherever and whenever they please.

On leaving the town in the evening, we bid Jaloutroffsky and the others farewell. We made a promise that on our return we would pass a day or two with them.

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What did the travelers do in Ekaterinburg?
- 2) Why did Mr. Atkinson refuse to use Nicholai's services as a driver anymore?
- 3) What does Mrs. Atkinson say about jasper workers?
- 4) What facts of welcoming and friendliness of the local people do you see in the text?

B. Say what part in the text you liked most of all. Explain your reasons.

C. Fill in the gaps with the proper words in the quiz, based on the text of the Lesson.

¹⁸ to restrict – ограничивать

Quiz

- 1) The jasper table had ornaments of
daisies forget-me-nots birds
- 2) Mr. Atkinson ... his sketches in color.
made didn't make
- 3) Mr. Atkinson was ... to misdoings of his workers.
strict lenient
- 4) Mrs. Atkinson tries to make her writing
academic entertaining
- 5) Mrs. Atkinson ... with the exiles.
sympathizes doesn't sympathize

LESSON 4

THE WEALTHY LIFE OF SIBERIANS

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 2 (TOMSK, APRIL 25TH, 1848), describing Lucy Atkinson's recollection of the travel from Ekaterinburg to Tomsk and their stay there.

We now had good roads, and travelled on fast. I here adopted a new method of procuring horses quickly: as we approached the stations, I used to blow a horn. In case of our getting separated in the mountains, so that I might be able to let the *party* know where I was. I used to blow this horn as we drove up at each station. When out rushed all the people to know who it was, it was capital fun, and gave great importance to our arrival. Indeed, they were so amused that we obtained horses, without the slightest difficulty or delay.

At eight o'clock we left for Tomsk, Mr. Atkinson being in great dread of the rivers breaking up before our arrival. At Kaiansk my husband hoped to find his dog, which had followed a pack of wolves some distance when he passed this way on his road to Moscow to fetch me. I had a kind of wish that we might not find her, as I had been told she slept in the sledge, and I had made up my mind that no dog should sleep in a sledge with me.

On arriving at the village, Mr. Atkinson whistled, the poor brute *recognised* his voice immediately. As I looked at her I thought I never saw anything more beautiful. She was a steppe dog, her coat was jet black¹⁹, ears long and pendent²⁰, her tail long and bushy. Indeed, it was a princely animal. She

¹⁹ jet black – черный как уголь

²⁰ pendent – свисающий

leapt into the sledge. I do not know which was happiest, dog or master. The dog never once annoyed me by entering the sledge. When tired with running, she used to occupy Nicholai's place beside the driver.

For some stations before reaching Tomsk we had no snow at all. How we managed to drag on is a mystery. At length, we got on to the Tom. We had to cross the river and ascend the bank. The water was so deep on the ice that we feared everything in the sledge would be spoiled. However, we passed in safety, and about four o'clock of April 4th we arrived here, right glad to do so, as you can form no conception of what the roads are on the breaking up of the winter. They remind one of the waves of the sea.

We are for the moment comfortably established in the house of the governor, but he and his family are at Barnaoul. There are no inns here as in other places, though there is one house where persons can go and dine; a strange couple it is kept by.

Since our arrival here, there has been a number of balls and parties: we were just in time for the Easter festivities; it was the last week of the fast when we got into Tomsk. First, I went and made the acquaintance of all the notables of the town, they are principally gold seekers. Mr. Astersghoff is one of the wealthiest, and possesses rich mines in the Yenissey, which we shall visit. He showed us some fine specimens of gold, weighing 25 lb. and 30 lb. each. These miners have magnificent mansions, and live in great state. We visited the vice-governor, a most amiable and gentlemanly man; he will not be able to hold his office much longer, having married the daughter of a gold-seeker. A government officer is not allowed to work mines of his own, and as he now possesses them he must give up his post.

There are also two Englishmen here: one is practising as a doctor, and many agreeable hours we have passed in the society of him and his wife; but the other is an exile, banished for forgery²¹, which, from all accounts that we can gather, he never committed, but bore the blame for another, never supposing it would lead him into exile.

The balls and dinner parties to which we went were, with one exception, conducted in much the same way as those we attended in Petersburg and Moscow. Amongst the guests there was no mistaking the wives of the wealthy miners. They were dressed with good taste – you will say, where is the Russian who does not dress well? – and wore a perfect blaze²² of diamonds.

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What did Mrs. Atkinson use the horn for?
- 2) What feelings did Mrs. Atkinson have about her husband's dog?
- 3) What does the author compare the Tom with? Why?
- 4) What memories of Tomsk does the author tell about in her letter?
- 5) What part in the text is the most interesting to you?

B. In which of these meanings are these two words used in the letter? In the text they are letterspaced and italicized.

²¹ forgery – мошенничество, фальсификация

²² perfect blaze – яркое сияние

party *n*

1 an organized group of people who have similar ideas about the way in which a country should be governed

2 a group of people who are going somewhere together, or who are all involved in the same activity

recognize *v*

1 to know who the person is, or what the thing is that you are seeing, hearing etc. because you have seen, heard etc. them before

2 to accept that something is true or important

3 to give praise or approval to someone

C. Remember the English phrases for these expressions in the text: стая волков; запрыгнула в сани; должен оставить свой пост; понес вину за другого.

D. Does Mrs. Atkinson complain, when she writes these lines?

“One night, we were much tired from the continued shaking and bumping on the bad roads.”

“During our sleep the sledge was not closed on account of a feeling of suffocation.”

E. Would you agree to go on a journey like this, if you were Mr. or Mrs. Atkinson?

LESSON 5

THE FESTIVE LIFE

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 3 (*BARNAOUL, JUNE 19TH, 1848*), describing Lucy Atkinson's recollection of Barnaoul.

It is long since I took up my pen to address you. The fact is, I have been ill. I am glad to say my indisposition²³ – which was a severe cold – has been frightened away by physic and leeches, or perhaps by the sight of the veiled Tatar lady, who came to apply the latter; none but Tatars keep leeches here.

I am not sorry we have quitted Tomsk: it is decidedly not a pretty town, though there are some very kind, good people, who tried to make our stay as agreeable as possible.

We left Tomsk on June 3rd, and a splendid morning it was for our journey. I daresay you will be astonished that we still found snow in many parts. Our progress was slow on account of the many streams we had to cross. At times, we had as many as six horses to drag us through the various pools of water. On reaching the Ob, along the high banks of which we travelled, what a splendid view we had! The water had overflowed the valley in parts, more than twenty versts broad.

We had now to descend the bank in order to cross the Ob. We found the water deep in many parts. At length we reached the river, it was near ten a.m. We found it impossible to cross, the wind was so very high, indeed it was a perfect hurricane. We had hoped to reach Barnaoul by dinner-time, but the hope was a vain one.

Hour after hour passed, and we sat anxiously watching, trusting that with the setting of the sun the hurricane would

²³ indisposition – недомогание

calm, but the sun went down, and the storm if anything was greater.

The next day at daybreak we aroused the men, and urged²⁴ them to take us over, although the wind was still blowing furiously. Hungry though I was, I would not consent to take breakfast, preferring to reach Barnaoul, which was not far distant. A piece of bread satisfied my hunger.

We drove to Mr. Stroleman's – he is one of the officers of the Zavod – to know where we should find quarters. Both he and Madame Stroleman wished us to remain with them. We accepted this kind invitation, and were soon making a good breakfast after our long fast²⁵. The family appeared pleased at the return of my husband. The following morning I was presented by him to all his friends, who received me with great kindness.

All the officers dine with the Nachalnik, or Director of the Mines, on Sundays, and during our stay we did the same. After dinner they return home to take their siesta, without which I do not believe a Russian could exist. In the evening, between seven and eight, they return with their ladies. The younger usually pass the evening in dancing, the elder ones play at cards. At eleven, supper is placed upon the table, and then they leave, reaching their homes by midnight.

During the summer months, scarcely a day passes without a picnic being organised by one or other. The servants are sent beforehand²⁶ with all the necessary apparatus for tea. These picnics are generally for the amusement of the children, who are joined in their games by old and young. Then we have charming walks in the woods, to find mushrooms or gather the wild fruit and flowers. Then there are other days when the gentlemen have shooting picnics.

²⁴ to urge – побуждать, подгонять

²⁵ fast – пост, лечебное голодание

²⁶ beforehand – заранее, заблаговременно

We went to a ball in honour of Madame Annosoff's name's-day. General Annosoff is governor of Tomsk. Dancing was kept up till a late hour, and during the evening we had fireworks, which were really very beautiful. We all dined at the General's. Here the dinner-hour is two o'clock.

The ladies have persuaded me to stay in Barnaul during a few weeks, while Mr. Atkinson goes to Altin Kool, or the Golden Lake. They say it is ridiculous, the idea of my going, as the gentlemen get thoroughly knocked up who have ventured so far. However, I am determined to try, and it will be rather odd if I do not succeed. One lady says I may be able to ride one or two days; so they expect me to return alone.

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What difficulties did the Atkinsons have during their journey on the way from Tomsk to Barnaul?
- 2) How did the people in Barnaul spend their balls?
- 3) What were the summer picnics organized for?
- 4) Why did the women try to persuade Lucy Atkinson not to go on the journey to Altin Kool together with Mr. Atkinson?

B. Read the following passage and do the true / false quiz.

I must try to explain to you how the ladies of Barnaul pass their time. Part of the morning is devoted in helping the governess in the education of the children. Then they occupy themselves in running the household. Indeed, they rather pride themselves on it. Each lady has her store, *not closet*²⁷ but *room*, and a large one it is.

²⁷ closet – кладовая, отсек, коморка

The domestic arrangements of a house, as you well know, are a weak point with me. I never lose an opportunity of seeing all I can in this way. So into all the store rooms I went. They contained almost every article in dry goods that you can name. There are groceries of every kind and description, with bins fixed round the room, there are tubs of flour, boxes upon boxes of candles. In short, a well-stored magazine; and the neatness and cleanliness are everywhere in the house.

Necessity obliges each family to lay in a store of dry goods enough for a whole year.

Quiz

1) A woman, who looks after and teaches her employer's children is a **governor**.

True False

2) The women kept groceries in small closets.

True False

3) Doing good household is Mrs. Atkinson's strong point.

True False

4) Bins, tubs and boxes are kinds of containers used for storing groceries.

True False

LESSON 6

SHUBE, VOILOCK AND BEARSKINS

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 4 (KOPAL, OCTOBER 17TH, 1848), describing Lucy Atkinson's recollection of the travel to Altin Kool.

When Mr. Atkinson returned from Mrassa, I had immediately to prepare for my departure on a journey of several months, which was to begin in two days' time. I had to separate what would be necessary for us in the Steppe, from the clothing we should leave behind. Then there were dry provisions to think of, as in the place we were going to there was nothing at all to be obtained, excepting sheep.

At last we took our departure from Barnaoul, July 9th, in a pavoska for Bisk, a town in the government of Tomsk. The day was hot. On arriving at the Ob, we found the water had fallen considerably. Still it was high and difficult to cross and the transit occupied us nearly five hours.

The road was now new to us, after crossing the Ob, and uninteresting; we could just see a dim outline²⁸ of the Altai mountains, but very distant.

At the last stage but one before reaching Bisk, we had a sad stoppage. It was about eleven at night when we discovered that we had lost Mr. Atkinson's shube, or a fur cloak. It was the only warm covering we had, and, besides, it was expensive. The Cossack took one of the horses to go in search of it, whilst we sat waiting his return. Hour after hour passed, we began to be very uneasy, as the night was dark, and the roads bad. Four o'clock in the morning still found us waiting. At length, we went onto the next station, and sent someone in search of him.

²⁸ outline – очертание

One hour later the Cossack walked in. He found the shube lying on the side of the road within two versts of the spot, where he left us.

In Bisk we drove to the Ispravonik's, who received us most politely, and gave orders to have all prepared for our onward journey. For instance, an interpreter was necessary, also another Cossack. Supper was served to us before the company sat down, and at eleven we took leave for the military station of Sandyp.

We ran along some hills overlooking the valley of the Bia; here the scenery was very pretty, particularly as we saw it at the dawn of day. As far as the eye could reach nothing was visible but dark pine forests, with some fine mountain scenery in the distance.

It was six o'clock a.m., when we reached the far post of Sandyp, situated about a verst from the Bia. Almost immediately after our arrival we had a fearful thunderstorm; and for our comfort we were told we should meet with them daily in the mountains.

From Sandyp our journey was to be done on horseback. At five o'clock, the horses were ready for our departure. All the women had turned out to see me off.

We now mounted²⁹ our horses. I must tell you that I took from Moscow with me a beautiful side-saddle³⁰. One day in Barnaoul I was occupied examining it, when Colonel Sokolovsky entered. He demanded what I was going to do with it. My reply was, 'To ride: I cannot do so without one, and the Kalmuks have no such things.' 'No!' said he, sarcastically, 'and they will be enchanted³¹ to see yours; but what will please

²⁹ to mount – забираться

³⁰ side-saddle – дамское седло

³¹ to enchant – очаровывать

them most will be the sight of an English lady sprawling³² on the steppes, or with a broken leg in the mountains. But, seriously speaking, you cannot go with such a saddle: first, the horses are not accustomed³³ to them; and secondly, in the mountains it is quite out of the question.' He then offered me one of his own. Thankful am I that I did so, otherwise I should not be here to tell you my story. At times, we have had ledges of rock to ride round, where, had I had a side-saddle, my legs would have been crushed to pieces or torn off.

We had about 400 versts to travel, over mountains, through forests, and across rivers. That night, for the first time in my life, I had to sleep *à la belle étoile*, with my feet not ten paces from the Bia. First a voilock was spread on the ground, over that two bears' skins, so that no damp³⁴ could pass through. I lay down, of course without undressing.

The following morning I was up at dawn, and dabbling³⁵ in the river; at six we started and rode on till dinner-time. We then took two hours' rest, and dined off most exquisite fish, caught fresh from the stream.

How delighted I felt that night to stretch my weary cramped limbs! On horseback, I did not feel in the least tired; but, when I was assisted off, I could not stand for several minutes for the first two or three days. On the fourth, as I appeared to be daily growing worse, I determined to conquer this weakness. So, setting my feet firmly on the ground, and refusing the aid of anyone, I walked; I thought I should fall. After this, I never again but once experienced the feeling of weakness.

³² to sprawl – валяться, распластаться

³³ to be accustomed to smth – привыкать к чему-либо

³⁴ damp – влага

³⁵ to dabble – плескаться

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What difficulties did the Atkinsons have during their journey on the way from Tomsk to Barnaoul?
- 2) What are the first impressions of the writer about the Altai?
- 3) What help did the company of the travelers get in Sandyp?
- 4) Was Lucy Atkinson a good horse rider?

B. Finish the sentences, matching the lines. Remember the context, in which they were used.

1. First came felt clothing ...
 2. Mrs. Atkinson's side-saddle ...
 3. In the Altai mountains an interpreter ...
 4. After a few days of riding on a horse ...
-
- a ... was of no use during the travelling.
 - b ... was important for travelers.
 - c ... her body ached all over.
 - d ... then the bearskins.

C. Look at the picture sketched by Thomas Atkinson. What can you say about his style?



Kalmuk Priest



A Mangoon in His Fur Coat



Bearcoot and Deer

LESSON 7

HEART-TROUBLES AND MATCH MAKING

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 4 (KOPAL, OCTOBER 17TH, 1848), describing Lucy Atkinson's memories of meeting Kalmuk women on their way to Altin Kool.

In morning after travelling near fifty versts, we arrived at a Kalmuk village. Here the young girls brought me plenty of fruit, and when I went to bathe (which I do three times a day, when I rise in the morning, when we stop for dinner, and when we bivouac for the night), I had a whole crowd of them, all anxious to do something for me and to handle every article of my clothing.

In these quiet Kalmuk villages, far from the strife³⁶ of the busy world in which we exist, happen the same scenes, only in a ruder manner, as we witness³⁷ daily around us: jealousy, love, and suicide are not unknown to these uncultivated daughters of nature. I must tell you of a singular love-scene, and which was nigh³⁸ having a very tragic ending.

We had just finished dinner, when we saw a young and pretty girl running past us to the Bia, which, at this point, runs boiling and foaming over large stones. There was a look of wild anguish³⁹ on her face. We saw a man on horseback galloping after her and a number of others following. When the girl reached the stream, she leaped into the flood, and was carried down the river.

³⁶ strife – раздор, несогласие

³⁷ to witness – быть свидетелем, наблюдать

³⁸ nigh – *old-fashioned* nearly

³⁹ anguish – боль, страдание

A great rush was made to save her: some men put off in a small boat, but missed her. Several jumped on horseback and galloped along the banks as hard as they could. Some distance beyond her, one of them sprang into the stream and succeeded in catching hold of her, and brought her ashore. The matter was then explained.

An attachment⁴⁰ had sprung up between this young girl and a youth of her own village, but he being poor had not dared to ask her in marriage of her brother, under whose guardianship she was. Thus the young couple had determined to wait for better days. Meanwhile, a rich old man become enamoured⁴¹ of her charms, but she rejected him. Then the man addressed to the brother, who gave his consent to their union.

On discovering this the girl fled from the village and sequestered herself in the one where we found her. On the morning of our arrival, her brother having discovered her whereabouts⁴², had come to take her away, and by force marry her to the rich man. To avoid this she preferred death by plunging into the stream. After a time she began to show symptoms of recovery. We had to leave this place. Later we did not stop at this village, as we descended the river on a raft, thus we were never able to learn the fate of the young damsel⁴³.

On the following day we had another curious scene where we halted to dine. We found a group of men standing around an old woman, and, a short distance from them, a group of girls stood next to a very pretty young girl about sixteen years old. As soon as our party came closer and they observed me, they offering me nuts and bilberries⁴⁴. The old woman was

⁴⁰ attachment – привязанность

⁴¹ to enamour – очаровывать

⁴² whereabouts – местонахождение

⁴³ damsel – молодая незамужняя девушка

⁴⁴ bilberry – черника

the girl's mother, and the six men were lovers and candidates for her hand.

My husband was now called upon to decide the case. Here the old woman and the lovers surrounded him, the talmash standing by his side to interpret. Each one explained his cause with much earnestness⁴⁵.

One of the lovers described the impression her beauty had made upon him, another spoke of his rank, a third talked of his skill in the chase, a fourth of his strength in case she needed defence from man or animal, a fifth of the care he would take of her in sickness as in health; but the most eloquent⁴⁶ of all was an old man. He made a long speech of his possessions, of the land he cultivated, of his herds of cattle, of his position as the chief of the village, and finally of the great love he bore to the girl. When all had finished speaking, the speeches were translated to Mr. Atkinson, who ordered the young girl forward, and asked her, with the help of the interpreter, which of the suitors she preferred. She declared that she should not agree to take any one of them. Mr. Atkinson then suggested that it would be better for her to remain with her mother till some one proposed for her more to her own liking. The lovers retired satisfied, since no one had obtained more favour than the other. The young girl thanked Mr. Atkinson by a smile, but the mother looked disappointed.

⁴⁵ earnestness – пыл, искренность

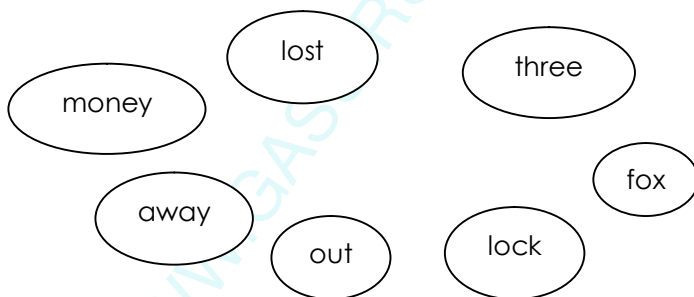
⁴⁶ eloquent – красноречивый

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) How does Lucy Atkinson describe the world of the Kalmuks?
- 2) Why did the girl leap into the river?
- 3) How did the candidates for the hand of another girl differ?
- 4) What was the role that Mr. Atkinson was given in the second event?

B. Read this part from Mrs. Atkinson's letter revealing more details about the life in Barnaoul. Fill in the gaps with the given words.



Colonel Kavanka told me that In Barnaoul some short time since there was not a 1) _____ on any of his doors, he had never 2) _____ the least thing from his place, people went in and 3) _____ whenever they pleased; but now it is different, the thieves are hardy enough to enter dwellings, and walk 3) _____ with the shubes. One lady in Barnaoul lost 4) _____ whilst we were there, and they

are rather costly. In Petersburg we are satisfied to have our cloaks lined with 5) _____ skins and the collar sable, but the Siberian ladies have them lined with sables; picture to your mind the cost of a cloak, sables inside and silk velvet out. It is evident there is no lack of 6) _____ in Siberia.

Words:

lined with – подбитый (мехом)

cloak – верхняя одежда, пальто

collar – воротник

LESSON 8

11 DAYS IN THE FAIRY LAND

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 4 (KOPAL, OCTOBER 17TH, 1848), describing Lucy Atkinson's eleven-day tour around Alfin Kool.

The rain was pouring in torrents, the thunder growling and the lightning flashing; you must know that the top of the tent was covered with *grass* only, as in this place there was no birch bark to be had, with which they are usually covered. I awoke Mr. Atkinson, who wanted to get up, but, as I then said, of what use would it have been? We had not a dry corner to go to, and, if he had put on his clothes, he would have been soaked through again in less than half an hour; so I persuaded him to lie still and try to sleep, which I can tell you was rather a hard matter, with the rain pattering down on our faces; however, I turned on my side, drew the clothes over my head, and managed to doze off.

When we awoke, the sun had not yet risen, but we could see it was going to be a fine day. I then got out of bed, but it was more like turning out of a vapour bath. I shall not easily forget that night.

About a verst from our night's encampment we found the rocks so high and abrupt, that we could not ascend. There was a narrow ledge⁴⁷ on which the horses could go, but up to the saddle-flaps in water. The greatest care is required to pass along; once off the ledge and you are instantly in deep water, and carried away amongst the rocks to certain death. All passed safely except myself, my horse got into deeper water than was agreeable. An old Kalmuk woman who had joined our party,

⁴⁷ ledge – уступ, выступ, карниз

seeing me in this position, was fearfully alarmed and screamed out lustily⁴⁸. It was not the depth she feared, but my being carried out into the rapid, where I should quickly have been dashed to pieces. However, I sat quite still, until the Cossack managed to seize the bridle, and drawing my horse round, landed me in safety. It was truly a most dangerous place; my boots, which, by the way, reached above my knees, were filled with water.

We continued our way slowly, as we had a mountain to ascend, in some parts so steep that our horses often slipped back. Still we reached the summit without accident, when, oh! what a splendid view was spread out before us! Immediately under our feet ran the river Bïa, which we could see winding its course among the mountains for a long distance, like a thread of silver. Looking to the west, the mountains rose far above the snow line, their summits beautifully defined against a deep blue sky. The nearest mountains were clothed in magnificent foliage⁴⁹ of a fine warm green, shading off into the distance with purple and blue, whilst the foreground on which we stood was covered with the feather fern⁵⁰, large shrubs and long grass, equalling⁵¹ in luxuriance plants grown under a tropical sun.

We reached Altin Kool or the Golden Lake in the evening, just as the sun was setting. It was one of the most lovely scenes that could well be imagined; a bright sun shed its light over lake and mountain; the water was calm and shining like molten gold, in which the rocks, trees, and mountains were reflected as in a mirror, redoubling the beauty of the scene. We sat on our horses looking at this picture for a long time, enrap-

⁴⁸ lustily – энергично

⁴⁹ foliage – листва

⁵⁰ feather fern – спирея, таволга

⁵¹ to equal – полностью соответствовать чему-либо

tered⁵² by its beauty. It repaid us well for all our toils, and, when contrasted with the rugged scenes we had passed over, this was like enchantment; and still more so as I looked around, for mountains rose up on every side, with apparently no outlet: it was as if we had been dropped down from the clouds into fairy land.

In the evening we crossed the lake in a boat to a Kalmuk village. Several of the houses were built of wood, and covered with birch bark: we entered some of them; they had only the cooking utensils, with a box or two to hold the treasures of the inmates⁵³, who were, apparently, very poor. The fire was made in the centre of the room, with an aperture⁵⁴ in the roof to let the smoke escape. They gave me a large bunch of wild onions, such as we afterwards found in abundance on the shores of the lake. These onions are consumed in large quantities by the Cossacks.

As we returned *home* in our boat, in the middle of the lake Mr. Atkinson, who had taken his flute with him, began playing to the great delight of our new friends. The power he thus gained over these simple-hearted people by his music was extraordinary. We travelled round the lake in small boats, it was a tour of eleven days, and in all that time he never lost his influence. Like Orpheus, he enchanted all who heard him.

We had left our first encampment at an early hour, and began our voyage. Our party consisted, besides ourselves, of our Cossack, the talmash, and another Cossack, who had been sent forward to see that men and canoes were ready. Our Kalmuk boatmen, eleven in number, were thorough wild-looking fellows, half naked.

⁵² enraptured – зачарованный

⁵³ inmate – обитатель, жилец

⁵⁴ aperture – отверстие, проём

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) How did Mrs. Atkinson protect herself from the rain?
- 2) Who helped Mrs. Atkinson to safely cross the river?
- 3) Do we learn more about Mrs. Atkinson's character from this part of the letter?

B. Find the English phrases for these Russian words:

береста; ночной привал; соскальзывать; высокие травы; смог схватиться за узду; вязанка дикого лука; добродушные люди.

C. Translate the descriptions. Match them with the places.

the Bia

Altin Kool

the Altai Mountains

so steep

magnificent foliage

like a thread of silver

dropped down from the clouds into fairy land

a mirror, redoubling the beauty of the scene

rose far above the snow line

shining like molten gold

rocks so high and abrupt

D. Study the meanings of the words *voyage, tour, journey, trip* and *excursion* in English dictionaries. Specify their differences. Which of these terms suit the visiting of Altin Kool by the Atkinsons better?

LESSON 9

THE ASSESSMENT OF THE KALMUK MEN

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 4 (KOPAL, OCTOBER 17TH, 1848), dedicated to the description of some interesting details of the travelers' journey across the Altai and the native people they met.

We were not well supplied with provisions on our voyage round the lake; there were only about two villages, and those on the opposite side to where we were. Even in these villages there was not much to be had, the people were so very poor. We had therefore to depend entirely on the produce of the gun, and, game not being abundant, we were obliged to take what we could get, which was very often a species of crow, extremely disagreeable, hunger alone enabling us to eat them.

On stopping one evening, the Kalmuks said there was a village on the opposite side of the lake. We sent a Cossack and men for one of their goats, the only animals they reared. I had an opportunity of judging of the distance across, Mr. Atkinson having told me it was from twelve to fifteen versts to the opposite side – a fact I could scarcely credit. The distances, on account of the purity of the atmosphere, are so very deceptive, and I have more than once had occasion to remark the accuracy of Mr. Atkinson's judgment in these matters. Rarely has a Cossack the slightest idea of anything of the kind, for when the question is put to one of them as to what weather we shall have, the answer invariably is, 'Bogh yevo znai!' (God knows). If you put the same question to any of the tribes met with in these regions, they usually cast their eyes around them before replying, and their answers were generally right.

I must not forget to tell you that I one day shot a squirrel. I have learned to shoot pretty well, an exercise I was to practise

in case of an attack. I have the small rifle Mr. Tate gave me, also a shot-gun, presented to me by Mr. Astershoff whilst in Tomsk, and in my saddle I have a pair of pistols; so you see I am well armed. I saw the squirrel in the tree, and having my rifle in my hand, I shot at him. One of the Kalmuks was greatly pleased, patted me on the back, and ran down the bank to bring it. I had never shot at anything before but the target. The poor fellow came and begged of me that I would let him have it for his supper, which request was granted, on condition that the skin should be mine. These people seem not to care what they eat. Whenever Mr. Atkinson shot a lynx, they always ate it.

Whilst at the head of the lake, we had a visit from some ferocious-looking fellows, although they were only Kalmuks. It was night when they arrived; there were about twenty, and, when seated around the blazing fires, – with their arms slipped out of their fur coats, which were hanging loosely around them, leaving the upper part of their greasy muscular and brawny bodies perfectly naked, and nearly black from exposure to the air and sun, and with pigtails, like those of the Chinese, – their aspect⁵⁵ was most fierce; and still more so, when they all began quarreling about a few ribbons and pieces of silk I had given to our men. They had tied strips of red around their necks; but I satisfied all parties, as I thought, by giving some to the new comers. It did appear very ridiculous to see these great strong men taking delight in things which would only have given pleasure to a child at home. And yet I do not know whether we ought to look upon their doing this with contempt. How many men in a civilised country take pride in adorning⁵⁶ their persons with the view of looking fine, and these simple creatures were doing the same, only in a ruder manner! Still the quarreling continued, and then it turned out that the fellows were drunk.

⁵⁵ aspect – внешность, наружность

⁵⁶ to adorn – украшать себя чем-либо; надевать что-либо красивое

These poor men are hardly dealt with, having to pay tribute to two emperors, the Chinese as well as the Russian. They are extremely good-natured. Whenever they saw me attempting to climb the rocks in search of flowers or fruit, they would ascend most difficult places to procure them for me. Once when in the boat I saw some china-asters⁵⁷ growing out of a cleft of the rock, where I supposed it was impossible to reach them; but one of the canoes paddled to the side and a man clambered up, hanging on to branches growing out of the rocks – it was frightful to see him clinging to such slender twigs.

Mr. Atkinson was occupied one day sketching a magnificent waterfall in a recess⁵⁸ of the Kara-Korum mountain; beautiful and hot as the day was, here we found ice and snow; indeed, we found snow in many of the ravines as we climbed this side of the lake. Under all this mass of rocks, snow, and ice, the water passes into the lake, and amongst this accumulation, perhaps of ages, were growing, here and there, bushes of red currants. All the men as well as myself began gathering the delicious berries.

On our return voyage we crossed to the north side, where it was nearly bare of wood and vegetation: here we found several caverns⁵⁹. One was pointed out to us where some of these poor fellows had lain down to rest for the night, and where a large mass of rock had fallen and buried them. Not returning to their homes, their comrades sought them, visiting each resting-place they were accustomed to stop at, when, on arriving at this one, there was no longer any doubt as to the fate of their companions.

We spent a happy time on this our voyage round the lake; in years to come, if we are spared, how many a pleasant hour

⁵⁷ china-asters – садовая астра

⁵⁸ recess – ущелье

⁵⁹ cavern – грот, пещера

we shall pass in recalling to mind these times! Even now, as I glance at the sketches, each one has a tale to tell of joy, or dangers escaped.

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) How are the houses at the villages near the lake described?
- 2) Why might the English readers find the story about shooting the squirrel interesting?
- 3) What do we learn about the Kalmuk men's outfit, hairstyles and character?
- 4) What difficulties of the travelling does Mrs. Atkinson tell about?

B. Find the English phrases for these Russian words:

разновидность вороны; на обратной стороне озера; племя; ружье; подстрелила белку; стреляла по мишени; рысь; мускулистые тела; платить дань; делать набросок водопада; кусты красной смородины.

C. Finish the sentences, matching the lines. Remember the context, in which they were used.

1. In my saddle I have ...
2. Sometimes we had a species ...
3. Hunger enabled us to eat ...
4. These poor men have to pay ...

- a ... tribute to two emperors.
- b ... disagreeable food.
- c ... a pair of pistols.
- d ... of crow for
the meal.

D. Describe the sketch of the Altin Kool, made by Mr. Thomas Atkinson on their voyage at the lake (see the cover of this book). Give a title to your written work.

LESSON 10

THE AMAZON REACHES BIELOUKA

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 4 (KOPAL, OCTOBER 17TH, 1848), in which the English travelers continue their way to the highest mountains of the Altai.

As we returned to the spot whence⁶⁰ we had started our voyage round the lake, it was with a feeling of regret. At this spot we found some most delicious fish, about the size of a her-ring, only more exquisite in flavor. Indeed, I nowhere tasted anything to compare with them. We salted a barrel of them, and sent them by one of the Cossacks, who was returning to Barnaoul, to Colonel Sokolovsky.

We now bade adieu to the lake, and at forty versts from it we had a raft made, on which we descended the Bïa to Sandyp.

My friend, the old woman of Sandyp, on hearing we were later going to Kopal, came to me, and kneeling down, bowed her forehead to the ground, saying, ‘Matooshka moi’ (mother of mine), ‘pardon me, I have a great boon⁶¹ to ask of you.’ I raised her, but she was down again in a minute. At length, with the tears trickling fast, she told me she had a son in Kopal, related to me the miserable condition they were in, with not a house to shelter them, and little besides their bread to eat; whilst at Sandyp they had no want⁶². She concluded by begging of me to carry him a gastenitz. I naturally consented, but, oh horror! she gave me sufficient to load a camel; at last we got it reduced to a parcel, containing I do not know what, besides a tub of honey and some wax. The old lady made me smile by

⁶⁰ whence – откуда

⁶¹ boon – милость, благо

⁶² to have no want – иметь все; не нуждаться ни в чем

saying I must not let any of the Cossacks know it was not mine, otherwise there would be none left by the time we reached Kopal.

We have had many Cossacks in our service, but never found them otherwise than willing, trustworthy men. Without asking, they would not have taken a pin belonging to us. They might have been trusted with untold gold, but not so with regard to those who were not under their care and protection.

The soldiers are quite a different race of men. We never had but two, and both of them thieves; they could not be trusted with anything, and besides which, their appearance is against them; they are a low class of individuals, whereas the Cossack is a gentleman, and most of them educated men.

We had much trouble with the old lady's honey, from its oozing out of the tub. Here the honey is perfectly pure and transparent, and can be poured out like oil. The scent of it is exquisite, and it tasted of almost every flower we met with in the Altai. There was not a cottage we stopped at where a plate of it was not brought to us. Bees are kept by every cottager, and in some places in the Altai we found wild bees; the Cossacks often used to get their honey. The honey at last reached Kopal. When we asked for the man, three came all of the same name. It was delivered with the parcel, &c., to one who was from Sandyp. About a couple of hours afterwards a Cossack, quite breathless from running, appeared, saying he was the person to whom the articles belonged. I was glad afterwards to hear that he got everything but his honey that, unfortunately, was nearly all finished by the Philistines⁶³ who had taken possession of it.

From Sandyp we had started to the Katoonia; again I made near 1,000 versts on horseback. This journey occupied three weeks, on account of the sketching. Parts of the road

⁶³ philistines – люди, совершившие подлог; лжецы; самозванцы

were really frightful! I have ridden over mountains far above the line of vegetation. One we crossed near the river Koksa is well impressed on my mind. We left our camp before six in the morning, and at one halted for dinner, and about half-past two again started forward.

The way was beautiful but exceedingly rugged. We travelled over a number of plateaus, for crest after crest was reached, and on arriving at each I always expected it was the last, but still the same difficulties lay before us, another plateau and another crest, but when we did arrive at the highest point, what a scene lay before us! There stood the Bielouka in all his majesty, the sun was just shedding his last rays on this giant of the Altai. He appeared to stand out so proudly, looking like a ruby encircled by diamonds, into which his colour was slightly reflected. I was lost in admiration at the beauty of the scene, even the men drew up their horses and gazed at the spectacle, exclaiming 'slavonie' (glorious).

This day we had to pass round a point where but one horse at a time could go. To our right, the rocks rose up perpendicularly, while to our left was an abyss, down which few would like to gaze. One false step of the horse would have hurled both him and his rider into the awful depth below. One of the Kalmuks wished to blind my eyes, and lead my horse, but I would not consent to it, nor even allow anyone to touch my horse. I had learned from experience that where there is danger, it was ever better to trust to the sagacity⁶⁴ of the animals, who have a full knowledge of the difficulties they meet.

After some weary hours, we arrived safely at the bottom of the pass, and proceeded on level ground, but it was eleven o'clock ere we reached the village of Kokshinska.

I had been so many hours on my horse, and had passed over such difficult roads, that when we stopped, I was actually

⁶⁴ sagacity – сообразительность

obliged to be led, for I could not stand, my limbs were so benumbed⁶⁵. After lying on the bench in the cottage for a few seconds, I recovered. There was no possibility of giving way to fatigue on this journey; I had all kinds of duties to do. The next day, after bathing, I was all right again. Without bathing, I do not believe I should have accomplished the journey half as well.

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What fish did Lucy Atkinson like especially? How did they prepare it?
- 2) What parcel did Mrs. Atkinson have to take to Kopal? Did she have any trouble with it?
- 3) Does the writer describe the status and manners of Cossacks and soldiers differently?
- 4) What view did the travelers admire on their way most of all? What comparisons does the author make when she describes it?

B. Find examples of exaggeration (hyperbola) in the text.

C. Do the short true / false quiz on Lesson 10.

Quiz

- 1) The travelers salted a barrel of herring and sent it to Barnaoul as a present to Mr. Sokolovsky.

⁶⁵ benumbed – онемевший, окостеневший

True false

2) Cossacks, who were in service of the Atkinsons, proved to be trustworthy men.

True false

3) Mrs. Atkinson described the Altai honey so that the English readers understand how it is different from the honey in their country.

True false

4) The time spent by Mr. Atkinson for sketching didn't make the traveling last longer.

True false

5) Mrs. Atkinson says that horses and humans are both equally capable to pass along difficult roads.

True false

6) Bathing in a river helped the English woman to restore her strength.

True false

LESSON 11

BIDING ADIEU TO THE ALTAI

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 4 (*KOPAL, OCTOBER 17TH, 1848*), from which you will learn about visiting people in Kokshinska and returning back to Altai Vostok by a raft.

As I was sitting breakfasting the following morning, I observed one of the peasant girls running as hard as she could; breathlessly she came into the room to gaze at the wild animals, who, by arriving the evening before, had raised such a commotion in their peaceful valley. I spoke to her, but, receiving no answer, went on with my breakfast. After standing there upwards of half-an-hour, I wished to get rid of her, as she had nothing to say, so gave her some beads for a necklace. I had a goodly supply of these articles with me; but it was no use, for she would not. After having critically examined me, she at length spoke, saying, 'They tell me you came down that mountain last night,' pointing in the direction whence we had come; 'is it true?' I answered 'Yes!' After again looking at me some time, she said, 'Ne oojalee pravda' (it surely is not true).

Here I had no lack of willing attendants; they had never had a visit from one of their own countrywomen, but an Englishwoman was an object they had no conception of. Then the questions that were put to me would fill volumes; amongst the rest, the never-ending theme, had I ever seen the emperor? Yes, many times, but never spoken to him. Then the grand duchesses, what were they like? It was glorious news to tell them that the Grand Duchess Olga was married. I had to give a description of how they dressed, and what ornaments they wore, and how the hair was decorated; and said one of my new friends, now she is married, she wears a platoek (a handker-

chief) on her head. I had some difficulty in keeping my countenance⁶⁶, but I thoroughly shocked them by saying the daughter of an emperor never wore a handkerchief on her head, either before or after marriage. The Imperial family is looked upon as something divine by these simple-minded but kind-hearted people.

It was our intention to have gone to the Bielouka; men, horses, and provisions had been prepared at Ouemonia for that purpose, but after few days in the mountains, my husband turned his horse's head, but with a determination to return at some future period.

On our descent to the Katoonia we found various kinds of delicious fruit. The raspberries were so large that one could not be placed in the mouth at once. We had black and red currants in abundance – there are two kinds of the latter. I was never able to distinguish them in appearance.

We were much annoyed by the mosquitoes, as likewise a small fly, very bright and green in the sun; it was exceedingly venomous, for one settling on Mr. Atkinson's hand it bit him severely, and his hand was painful for many days after.

We descended the river in a boat. It was rather a dangerous experiment over the falls. A Russian guided the little canoe, which he managed with great dexterity. When once started we proceeded with terrific rapidity, and on landing he looked at us with pride to think he had carried us so safely.

We returned to Altai Volost by another route from that by which we came. It was there we had left our pavoska. We now crossed the pretty, quiet Yabagan steppe; we stopped at a Kalmuk aoul, where a sacrifice had been offered up. The feast was nearly ready, when Mr. Atkinson put an end to their mirth⁶⁷ by sketching the priest. Before leaving the old man

⁶⁶ to keeping one's countenance – сдерживаться, не подавать виду

⁶⁷ mirth – веселье

took up his tambourine, and beating loudly on it offered up a prayer, as he said, for a safe journey back to our native land, but I declared that it was a thanksgiving that we were leaving. The poor fellow had a perfect horror at being sketched, thinking that Mr. Atkinson would afterwards have power over him.

We started in the morning, hoping to have a fine day, but the rain, which had indulged⁶⁸ us in a bath for the last two or three days, began pouring in torrents.

We had with us on this journey to the Katoonia an old Talmash. On arriving at the old man's solitary dwelling in the Abbaye steppe, it was arranged that we should spend the night there, but recollecting the horrors I had met with at Kokshinska, I felt a little chary⁶⁹ about the matter. Notwithstanding the pouring rain, I would much rather have encamped outside.

I had not got my hat off before Alexae appeared in the room bringing me a large soup-plate of preserves and a wooden spoon, when, placing it before me, said, 'There's for thee, now thou mayst eat,' but I was too busy getting my wet things off, I had not a dry thread on me. The most extraordinary thing is, that, with all the wetting I get, I never take cold.

The following morning, August 26th, we reached Altai Volost, and then started in the pavoska for Zmeinogorsk, where we stayed four days at the house of Colonel Gerngrose, the director of the silver smelting works. He was a former acquaintance of my husband's, and for the first time since my departure from Barnaoul I slept in a bed. Oh! what a luxury it seemed to be, and how I enjoyed it.

⁶⁸ to indulge – баловать

⁶⁹ chary – предусмотрительный, осторожный

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What questions did the local women ask from Mrs. Atkinson?
- 2) Did Thomas Atkinson make a sketch of the Bielouka?
- 3) Why didn't the Kalmuk shaman want Mr. Atkinson to make a picture of him?
- 4) Which of the names of places, mentioned in the text, are still used by the local people of the region?

B. Find the English phrases for these Russian words:

бусины для нашейного украшения; нескончаемая тема; стучал по бубну; малина; отличать по внешнему виду; жертвоприношение; управлял с большой ловкостью.

C. Match the sentences with the places.

Mr. Atkinson Alexae the Kalmuk shaman

*He wanted to come back to get closer to
Bielouka.*

He didn't want to be sketched.

He served on Lucy Atkinson.

*He sketched the sacrifice in the Kalmuk
aoul.*

He helped Mrs. Atkinson while her husband was busy.

He beat the tambourine loudly to wish the company a safe trip.

D. Say what you see in this picture made by Mr. Atkinson.



Kalmuk Sacrifice

LESSON 12

THE FIRST STEP ONTO THE KIRGHIS STEPPE

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 4 (KOPAL, OCTOBER 17TH, 1848), which tells about Lucy Atkinson's first impression of the Kirghis, their clothes and manners.

On Thursday, September 2nd, all being ready, we again bade adieu to kind friends, and started for Semipolatinsk. There the police-master took us to see the different Tartar merchants, they showed us many beautiful things from China. We visited a Tartar school for girls. There were about twenty of them sitting under a covered balcony, reading in a sing-song tone of voice. What struck me particularly was that great pain was bestowed⁷⁰ on the children's nails. They are very long, and died pink.

We now crossed the Irtisch, *en route* for the great Kirghis Steppe, but before doing so the custom-house officers examined our carriage, and then went to see us across.

We had a difficult journey to Aiagooz. The rain made the roads impassable. At times, it required eight horses to drag us out of bogs we got into. Aiagooz is a fortress, but now without guns. We slept this night soundly, and the following morning were up to make preparations for crossing the steppe. The Kirghis who were to accompany us were waiting outside, with the horses and camels, to carry us and our packages across the steppes. What wild-looking fellows they appeared, but with a great deal of good nature in the countenance. Their Asiatic costume is exceedingly picturesque and beautiful, the shawls tied round their waists are by no means to be disliked. The gait⁷¹ of these men is very singular, the bodies appearing too heavy for

⁷⁰ to bestow – достаивать

⁷¹ gait – походка, поступь

the legs. This is occasioned⁷² by the number of kalats each individual wears. They sometimes having as many as four or five on at a time. The boots are much too short for the foot, the heel is seen protruding part of the way up the leg of the boot. Altogether they have an ungainly⁷³, rolling walk.

All was bustle and confusion, for the Cossacks, who were to accompany us to Kopal, entered to help to do packing. Some of the ladies of the place also came and advised that we should discuss the journey over a cup of tea, feeling sure they would be able to show the impossibility of my continuing it. They were convinced I should die ere I reached the place. I laughed at their fears. You know I am not easily intimidated when once I have made up my mind. I started on this journey, with the intention of accompanying my husband wherever he went.

To Aiagooz we had travelled in the pavoska. Now we had to take to the saddle again till we reached Kopal, where we now are. This journey was very different to the others I had taken on horseback, being nearly all steppe.

Whilst the men were loading the camels, I was forced to go and take leave of my new acquaintance, even though I had passed but one night in the place. It would be considered an act of the greatest unpoliteness to quit it without calling to take leave of each individual who had shown me the slightest civility.

The first house I entered I found two ladies. The hostess immediately rose to receive me, but the other lady took immediate flight, to prepare for my reception. At her house tea and coffee were both on the table, the latter a great luxury. It is both expensive, and difficult of being procured.

Each one had prepared something for my comfort across the inhospitable steppes. One had a bag of succarees with salt

⁷² to occasion – служить поводом, обуславливать

⁷³ ungainly – неуклюжий

sprinkled on the top. Another had sundry⁷⁴ little meat pies, and the sessedatal, in whose house we were staying, presented me with an enormous water melon: this was a rare gift, it being brought a long distance, none are obtainable nearer than Semipolatinsk. I am no amateur of these melons. Nevertheless, I took it, as I believed it would be a great boon to Mr. Atkinson, he being but an indifferent water-drinker, whereas I can quench my thirst with water from a river or stream of any kind.

Bidding adieu to all, we started on our road across the plain. In four hours, we came upon a Kirghis aoul. Two Tartar women, mother and daughter, came out of one of the principal yourts to look at us. The younger one was a very pretty girl, with large black eyes. She excited both my interest and curiosity. Her dress was of striped silk of various colours, in form like a dressing-gown, and tied round the waist with a magnificent shawl. She had on black velvet trousers and boots, her hair was braided into a multitude of plaits, each one of which was ornamented with coins of various kinds, silver and copper, some even of gold: thus the young lady carried her fortune about with her. Unwillingly I was forced to take my leave of the damsel, as the aoul where we should pass the night was yet distant.

On arriving at our destination, what a scene burst upon my view! Herds of cattle were seen in every direction, men and boys on horseback engaged driving them towards the aoul, and a still stranger sight, women busy milking the sheep.

The chief came forward to welcome us, and introduce us to the dwelling which had been prepared for our reception. The leader of our party had ridden on in advance, so all was ready on our arrival. The yourt had been placed on clean grass by the side of a stream, and inside the ground was covered with Bok-

⁷⁴ sundry – различный, всякий

harian carpets. Here I was to pass the night: it was perfectly luxurious.

I began this letter in October, and it is now the 14th November. The first two weeks I never could get time to write. Each time I took my pen in hand I was interrupted. But you are already asking what excuse I can make for the two last weeks. You must understand that I was in expectation of a little stranger, whom I thought might arrive about the end of December or the beginning of January. Expecting to return to civilisation, I had not prepared anything for him. On the 4th November he made his appearance. The doctor here said he would not live more than seven days, but, thank Heaven, he is still alive and well. He is to be called Alatau, as he was born at the foot of this mountain range, and his second name is Tamchiboulac, this being a dropping-spring, close to which he was called into existence. The doctor says the premature birth was caused by excessive exercise on horseback.

TASKS

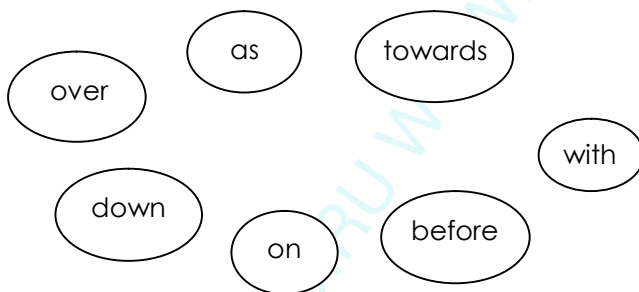
A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What surprised Lucy Atkinson in the outfit and appearance of the Tartar and Kirghis people?
- 2) What transport did the travelers use?
- 3) How did the women at Aiagooz show their care for Mrs. Atkinson?
- 4) What did Mrs. Atkinson like most of all at the place of their destination?
- 5) What new details does she tell about her character in this part of the letter?
- 6) What unexpected news does Mrs. Atkinson tell by the end of her letter?

B. Find the English phrases for these Russian words:
крепость; носили 4-5 халатов одновременно; знак большого неуважения; нагружать верблюдов; пироги с мясом; огромный арбуз; уехал заранее; волосы, заплетенные в множество кос; доить овец; преждевременное рождение.

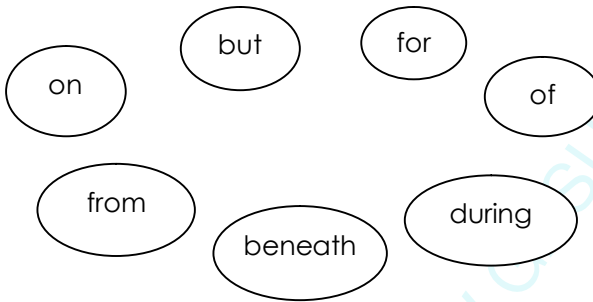
C. Read part from Mrs. Atkinson's letter giving idea how the Kazakhs people cooked meat.

1.



Tea being ready, we sat 1) _____ to try of the refreshing beverage. Amongst the Kirghis it is not accompanied by bread and butter as 2) _____ us, but by dried fruits, served up 3) _____ magnificent china plates. Whilst partaking of this meal, I perceived a poor little lamb being dragged 4) _____ our yourt. 5) _____ taking the life of the animal it was brought to us to know whether we considered its appearance quite satisfactory. The moment the animal is slaughtered, it is immediately dressed for the pot, in the same manner 6) _____ the Kalmuks do it. I perceived the cauldron was already placed 7) _____ the fire, to receive the almost living animal.

2.



Not desiring to be present 1) _____ the culinary operations, which, 2) _____ experience, I knew were not of the most dainty description, we proceeded, meanwhile, to take a walk along the banks of the stream, 3) _____ more than a verst, till we came to a mound, composed entirely 4) _____ small stones, none larger than a walnut. Probably beneath this mound reposed the remains of some mighty chief. We stood examining the spot for some time, speculating 5) _____ the kind of death he might have died, and who the occupant might be who rested there. We made enquiries respecting the mound we had just visited, and learned that it was an ancient tomb, 6) _____ what people rested 7) _____ they had no idea.

LESSON 13

THE STRANGER IN THE FAMILY

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 5 (KOPAL, November 21st, 1848), which describes a new dwelling of the Atkinsons and a birth of their son.

I told you in my last letter of our arrival here, but I had not time to give you a full description of everything. I said, at night we used to sleep in what the Kirghis call a yourt. It is like a round tent formed of a framework of willow, and covered over with a kind of felt cloth, called voilock. It is made of wool and camel's hair. The door, or rather what serves as a door, is so contrived⁷⁵ as to roll up or down at will. The top of the yourt rises in the centre, which may also be opened, when necessary, either to let the air in, or give an issue to the smoke. The fire is made in the centre on the ground, and all around it is covered with voilock, and over this carpets are spread.

Thus in fine weather a yourt is no despicable accommodation, but Heaven protect you when a bouran arises. Here in Kopal I have been awoke out of my sleep by the wind, and have expected every instant the tent would be dashed to pieces. The hospital, which stands directly opposite our present abode⁷⁶, when a bouran has arisen, has been completely hidden from view. These winds carry everything before them, bricks or anything that comes in their way: the safest plan, when one arises, is to throw yourself flat on the ground.

Perhaps it will interest you to know that we live a house now. We have one *chair*, the only one in Kopal, *one* stool. But

⁷⁵ to contrive – ухищряться, изобретать

⁷⁶ abode – жилище

we are rich in tables, as we have *two*. Our bedstead⁷⁷ is composed of a few planks placed on two blocks of wood, with voilock, and then furs instead of a mattress. Think not we are worse off than others. No! our house is as well, if not better, furnished than the governor's, as he has nothing but the voilock to sleep on. Every time I now hear the wind blow I thank God with all my heart I am not in a yourt. My two small rooms appear to me equal to any palace.

I must now tell you of our reception here. Baron Wrangle, the governor, was much surprised at seeing a lady enter, and perhaps also at my appearance, for, to say truth, I was not very presentable. We found the Baron sitting cross-legged on a stool, with a long Turkish pipe in his mouth, a small Tartar cap on his head, and a dressing-gown, *à la Kirghis*. Mr. Loigonoff, the engineering officer, and the topographer, were dressed in exactly the same way. They all gave us a most cordial welcome: we sat chatting till a late hour.

Now I will give you an idea of our culinary resources. First, such a thing as a vegetable is not to be seen, either fresh or preserved, of any kind whatever. No butter, no eggs, nothing but meat and rice, not even milk, and as for bread, it is the coarsest and blackest I ever saw. Black bread I manage to eat, and have eaten a great deal; this, however, is the worst I have ever met with. Even Mr. Atkinson has some difficulty in swallowing it, and he can do more than I can in this way, especially when it is an act of courtesy. We once entered a Tartar dwelling. Tea was given, but it was brick tea. I sipped, and sipped, and sipped, at the atrocious compound⁷⁸, till a moment came when the Tartar's back was turned, and I poured the tea on to the ground, but Mr. Atkinson kept drinking glass after glass, just as if he enjoyed it.

⁷⁷ bedstead – рама кровати

⁷⁸ atrocious compound – ужасная композиция

If we spend the winter here, and I suppose we shall, you will have some idea of the *comforts* we enjoy. It is very different from Ekaterinburg or Barnaoul. There not only had we the necessaries of life, we had some luxuries also.

At the end of September and the beginning of October, we took long rides round Kopal, and in the evenings we all assembled in the *drawing-room*, where our amusements varied. At times we had a serious conversation, at others a merry one, for the Baron has a fund of entertaining anecdotes.

Then we have musical soirées, vocal and instrumental. Mr. Loigonoff, Captain Abakamoff, and myself, are the audience, and the performers the Baron and my husband. The latter plays the flute, and the former the guitar. The evening usually concludes with the English and the Russian anthem.

It was in the latter days of October that we entered our house, and I was sewing lambs' skins together for a warm jacket for me to cross the steppe. It had been our intention to return to civilisation, when our plans were put an end to by the unexpected arrival of the little stranger, on the 4th November. It was fortunate my husband was at home: he had been absent two days on a shooting expedition. The birth of my little fellow was a grand event in Kopal. Several children had been born within the last month, but not one survived; mine was the only one which lived.

I do not know what I should have done had it not been for Madame Tetchinsky. During the night the bouran was so terrific that not a sound scarcely could be heard within doors. I never closed my eyes during that night. I was thankful to the Creator for all His mercies to me. The child was enveloped in furs and placed on a leathern trunk against the stove to keep him warm. I lay on my bed, hearing the poor infant moaning. I screamed to the woman to give the poor little thing to me, but not a sound did she hear. At last, after about two hours I managed to awaken her. She took up the poor babe, and pok-

ing⁷⁹ it at me like a bundle of straw, down she was again immediately. The instant the child touched me, it ceased its moaning. They had placed in its mouth a piece of muslin, containing black bread and sugar dipped in water, and, indeed, this was all he had till the third day, when he received his natural food.

You will ask who and what was this woman who lay in my room. She had been condemned to receive a hundred lashes for destroying her infant ere it saw the light, and probably at this moment she would not have been alive had not a Cossack come forward and offered to marry her before she had undergone the sentence, and he received fifteen lashes instead of her – such is the law. They are living very happily together.

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What does Mrs. Atkinson say about a Kirghis yourt? Does it make a good dwelling to her mind?
- 2) What does she compare with a palace? Why is it like a palace for her?
- 3) Who worked as a governor at Kopal?
- 4) How did the people spend their evenings?
- 5) What conditions was the baby born in?

B. Find the English phrases for these Russian words:

ивовый каркас; сидеть по-турецки; знак уважения; завернутый в мех; сшивать шкуры ягнят; вернуться в цивилизацию; положить напротив печи.

⁷⁹ to poke – сунуть

C. Arrange the numbers from the text in the table.

Name	Traveled				Total, Versts
	in a carriage	

Since I left you in February last, I have travelled in a carriage 6,267 versts, on horseback 2,040, in boats and on a raft 760. This is the distance we have gone in the direct road; but I have done much more, having been on several excursions on horseback; for instance, the very evening after our arrival here, we went on a trip of 17 versts.

This year my husband has travelled 10,705 versts in a carriage, 2,290 on horseback, and 1,490 in boats, exclusive of divers excursions for sketching of 40 or 50 versts distance; so, you see, the ground we have gone over is immense.

D. Read the description of Tamchiboulac Waterfall written by Lucy Atkinson and study its picture by Thomas Atkinson. Fill in the gaps with the words. Tell what fact you've learned from this passage.

- about seven feet
- at the top
- on several of his excursions
- like brilliants
- takes his name

I accompanied my husband from Kopal ... for the purpose of sketching the beautiful scenery, all of which

I shall leave him to describe, except the spring whence our son The Tamchiboulac, which in Kirghis means a dropping well, breaks out of a gravel bed ... below the surface. The rocks form a semicircle, and over the whole surface the water is seen dropping ..., to collect in a rocky basin at the bottom, from which it runs in a considerable stream over fallen rocks to the Kopal. ... large plants are growing, some hanging over in very picturesque masses: it is an enchanting spot.



Tchim-Boulac, Alatau Mountains

LESSON 14

THE NOVELTIES

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 6 (KOPAL, May 3rd, 1849), which describes everyday routine in Kopal.

We have been much amused, on reading your letter, at the proposition you make, of our sending to an adjoining town for a *bed*. Koolja, the nearest, is a Chinese town. What they possess there in the shape of beds I do not know. Spirit I know they have, for Yarolae has been often for it, but to a Russian town, we should have to send 1,000 versts there, and the same distance back. Therefore, we had a hearty laugh over your letter. My hope is, that I shall never be worse off than I am at present. A hard couch and hard fare I am accustomed to. Many a good lesson have I learned on this journey, and one is, how little is required to nourish our bodies.

One of the things I enjoy more than anything else is rice, which I invariably refused on our arrival, on account of its dirty appearance, but now, after scraping off the outside, I really enjoy it, as you would also, were you deprived of every kind of vegetable.

One day the Baron, seeing me busy removing the dirt from the rice, asked if I had been in the kitchen. To my reply in the negative, he said he thought perhaps I had seen what he had that morning. On going to speak with the cook (a soldier), he observed the rice on the table, well washed, and looking beautifully white, and beside it a horrible-looking cloth. He demanded of George what that was. ‘A clout,’ he replied; ‘but what clout?’ said the Baron. ‘To boil the rice in.’ But he questioned further about the clout, and at last drew from him that it

was a 'foot-binder,' literally, the rag which the peasantry⁸⁰ as well as soldiers wrap round the feet instead of stockings!

After this *éclaircissement* we had cleaner rice, for George, under dread of the birch, had to bring each morning the pudding-cloth, to undergo a critical examination. Scarcely a day passes without the poor fellow receiving some two dozen strokes of the birch; dirty though he is, I always feel sorry for poor George.

Right glad am I to tell you that winter is passed, and spring with all its charms is here. All Nature looks smiling and lovely. In February I was gathering wild flowers on the steppe, and in the sheltered nooks⁸¹ of the mountains. During winter we were complete prisoners; now, again, we walk or ride daily.

It was mournful, in the miserable cold weather, to witness so many poor creatures being carried to their last home. The hospital is directly opposite our windows, so that we see all that is going on. The fine weather is a relief to everybody; it also brings visitors from the Kirghis. Amongst the most frequent is old Sultan Souk. Many an hour does he pass in our rooms, and one of the great attractions is a small travelling looking-glass. He goes into my bed-room, where it hangs against the wall, and stands for an hour or more, making all kinds of grimaces, and laughing loudly. It is probably the first time he ever saw his own face. He sadly wished to persuade me to present it to him. He coaxed me out of a pair of scissors, and took them to his armourer, who made others from them – the first that were ever manufactured in the steppe. They were given to the Baron, who promised them to me, but, learning that we thought them a curiosity, he retracted, I presume, for I never received them. Another attraction for the old gentleman was the child. Indeed, Kirghis came from far and near to see

⁸⁰ peasantry – крестьяне, чернь

⁸¹ nook – удаленное, глухое место

him; one Sultan sent a follower of his a distance of 200 versts for some smoked mutton for the child to *eat* when he was *six weeks* old.

Then there is an examination of all the little articles we have lying about. One Sultan was so much struck by a pair of gloves belonging to Mr. Atkinson, that he ran out of the room, with them on, to show to his followers. On his return, I, knowing my husband would not like to wear them after they had been on his hands, signed to him that he might keep them. He retired, but shortly returned with Yarolae, who translated, that if I wished to present anything to him, a towel would be more acceptable. To satisfy him I gave him one, and took the gloves back, intending to present them to someone else. On my leaving the room for a moment, and coming back, I found the Sultan and gloves had both vanished.

On Sunday, February 6th, for the first time in my existence, I felt the shock of an earthquake, than which nothing is more singular. I was up and dressing at the time, when I heard a noise as if heavy artillery was approaching. For a second, such was my idea, but it quickly vanished when I felt the rocking to and fro of the little building in which we were.

On Easter eve a Cossack came to me, begging I would lend him my watch, that they might know to a moment when twelve o'clock struck. I did so willingly, but regretted when I learned the following day that they had made a little shed, no church yet being constructed, in which divine service had been performed, as I should have liked to have been present. The man returned me my watch quite safely. It afforded us pleasure to be of the slightest service to these men, they were always so good-natured and willing.

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What part of the letter from their friends made the Atkinsons laugh?
- 2) Why did they punish George, the cook?
- 3) Why was Mrs. Atkinson especially happy, when the spring came?
- 4) What objects were new to the Kirghis according to Mrs. Atkinson's letter?
- 5) How does the author describe the earthquake?

B. Choose which words should be use instead of the ones in bold type in these sentences. You might need to make some changes in the sentences.

Party, badly, could, smiled, came, regularity, eye inflammation.

For the smoke in yourts the Kirghis suffer **fearfully** from **ophthalmia**.

We varied the **monotony** of our lives by short excursions into the mountains.

Easter with all its festivities **arrived**, and each of the officers gave a **ball**.

I was **amused** at a new-comer asking me if I **knew** how to dance the 'rococo'.

C. Think and say what Lucy Atkinson understands by the term "civilisation".

D. Describe the pictures made by Mr. Atkinson.
Comment on his style.



Sultan Souk and Family



River Terric-Bou, Kara-Tou, and Kirghis Steppes

LESSON 15

A TRUE BRITON

Read the abridged passage from Chapter 6 (BARNAOUL, December, 1849) that tells about Mrs. Atkinson as a mother.

Since last writing to you, many hard days have I had. There were mountains to ascend and descend, rivers to swim, hunger and thirst, heat and cold to suffer, and still I have survived all. I am not yet, as you imagined, dead. The idea of your writing to Colonel Sokoloffsky, to know whether we had gone to the land of spirits, amused me. No! we are still cumberers of this earth⁸², and I trust we shall be so till you and I meet once more.

There are times when the events of a single day are sufficient to fill a volume. Still, I will do my best to make you acquainted with all that has taken place during the past six months, whilst we are here in Barnaoul, as we shall not leave till the spring. We have still far to wander; we shall visit Irkoutsk and the regions round about.

Many and various were the questions my friends here had to ask about Alatau. They are all amused at his name. None of our friends expected to see him. Whilst in Kopal, they sent me a tiny counterpane⁸³ and a jacket. It appears they had arranged to make him a little trousseau, knowing I could get nothing where I was.

All are interested in knowing how I managed to clothe him. When asked what he was to be wrapped in, I, after a moment's thought, asked them to take his father's shirt. My

⁸² to be still cumberers of this earth – еще быть в живых

⁸³ counterpane – стеганое покрывало

friends here laugh, and say I could not have done a *wiser* thing, as it is one of their superstitions, that if a child is enveloped in its father's shirt it is sure to be *lucky*. I having done so accidentally, he will be most fortunate, and rise to great riches! I fabricated two small caps out of a piece of muslin the first day I sat up – one for night, and one for day. The following day I began two night dresses, which are day dresses also, out of a dressing-gown of mine; and an old shirt of his father's I turned into little shirts. This completed his wardrobe.

At half-past four he was bathed, at five he was in bed, when I turned to and did the duties of a laundress, as mine could not take the things twice in the day to wash. Between six and seven in the morning he had another bath and clean clothing, and, that taken off, underwent the same process, and was made ready for night. In Kopal they considered me very silly for washing so often, saying once in two days was quite often enough to change: but the maxims⁸⁴ of a mother are not easily forgotten; and mine had so instilled⁸⁵ into my mind the necessity of cleanliness in my youth, that I determined to follow her principles. Believe me, I am well repaid for my trouble, by the health of my child.

I do not believe I have told you about their wishing to swaddle the child. When first my boy was born they wished to swaddle him, but I told them it was not customary in England. A few days afterwards, my friend seemed so much to urge the necessity of the swaddling system, that, to give her satisfaction, I agreed to it, only that I had no knowledge of anything of the kind. So she began with stroking down the arms and legs, then she began binding him, but he very shortly showed her that he was a true Briton, and was not going to stand swaddling, for he fought bravely, so much so that the bandaging was given up.

⁸⁴ maxim – принцип, правило

⁸⁵ to instill – внушать, прививать

Looking innocently into my face, she exclaimed, ‘How very odd! I could not have believed it, had I not seen it; what a difference there is between English and Russian children!’

The Baron one day complimented me on the good qualities of Alatau, He said, ‘When first I heard there was a child, I actually swore, such a hatred have I to screaming children; but I have never yet heard his voice,’ and the Baron made him a very handsome present of Chinese silk, of an exquisite blue. If such a reward is merited by silence, I am afraid I should never get it.

Did you ever hear of such a thing as a *baby-pie*? If you have lived amongst cannibals, perhaps you have, but the Siberians are not cannibals, still they make *baby-pies*. I saw this singular custom first when Alatau was about two months old. He was very restless one day when my visitor called, but she proposed he should be *baked*. ‘Baked!’ I shrieked. ‘Yes!’ I learned it was quite a common custom to do so, but if I did not like to have him placed in an oven, I could cover him with a crust and put him on the hot stove, when hairs would come out on the back: these plucked out⁸⁶, the child would be perfectly easy.

I mentioned the circumstance to a friend in this town, who tells me it is quite true that Siberian peasants bake their children. There is a particular disease they have which can only be removed by baking. A crust is made of rye flour, when the child is placed within it, in the same way as a fowl in a pasty, leaving a small aperture for the child to breathe through. Then it is placed in the oven with its door closed, but only for a few seconds, and it is said that it proves a sure remedy.

⁸⁶ to pluck out – выщипывать

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) Where did Mrs. Atkinson get clothes and shoes for their son?
- 2) Which 'maxims of a mother' does she discuss?
- 3) Why was Alatau called a true Briton?
- 4) What joke does Lucy Atkinson say about herself?
- 5) What custom does she describe as 'making baby-pies'? What is it done for?

B. Find the English phrases for these Russian words:

одно из их суеверий; пеленать ребенка; непривычный для Англии; вполне обычная традиция; гардероб; выполнять обязанности прачки; излечивать болезнь; птица в тесте; помещать в печь.

C. Ask a few questions to your partners in the group to find out their opinions on the facts from this passage.

When we started early I always let Alatau rest till the men were ready to take down the tent, when I aroused the little sleeper, to bathe, dress, and feed him. His toilette was soon completed, as it consisted of nothing more than one loose dress which I had made from some Bokharian material. This he wore with a belt round his waist. He never had shoes or stockings on his feet till our return to Barnaoul, and even now I have much difficulty in getting him to wear them. I very often find them on my table. He takes them off, and runs about without them; but this is quite common amongst Russian children, and is considered very healthy. They even trot about the gardens, and

over the grass, without either; and not only children, but grown-up persons do the same, and delightful, I can tell you, it is, especially on the sand.

One day we began to imagine we were back again in civilised society. We were journeying on when we met a Kirghis, who said he had had some difficulty in finding us, and that he had a letter for me. On reading it I found it contained an invitation to dinner, and was thus expressed: 'If Mr. and Madame would be so good as to dine with me to-day in the first hour, I will beg of them to bring a *pair of silver spoons* and a *pair of forks*, and *nothing* more will be wanting.'

LESSON 16

A FATEFUL BATH

Read the abridged passage from Chapters 12 and 13 (*IRKOUTSK, May and September, 1851*) about the Atkinsons' son getting sick in Irkoutsk.

I am glad to have your letter before leaving Irkoutsk, which we do this month. You reproach me for not having mentioned Christmas. There was really nothing to speak about, except to remark the contrast between a right merry English one, and such as we find here. I have become quite a proficient in Russian dances, as well as my husband, who says if we should ever deign⁸⁷ to exhibit our acquirements in this way, we shall decidedly produce a most striking effect.

I forgot in my former letters to mention a little incident with my landlady. There is a great luxury attached to every house in Siberia, that is, a bath. The first week of our arrival I asked whether we could have it heated, and I then arranged with my husband that he should go first, the great heat of them being to me insupportable. When all was prepared, Madame Sinitzin herself gave me all the particulars⁸⁸ about the management of it. I then asked whether her coachman could go with Mr. Atkinson (this being customary in other parts of the country). She looked aghast when I asked her, and asked if I was not going with him. 'I!' I repeated, 'go with him to the bath?' The very idea set me off into a fit of laughing, which highly offended the good creature. Quite huffed⁸⁹, she told me that when her husband was living, she allowed no one to per-

⁸⁷ to deign – соблаговолить

⁸⁸ particulars – детали, разъяснения

⁸⁹ huffed – обиженный, оскорбленный

form the office of washing him but herself, and that it was what every good wife ought to do, and what every good Siberian did. I told her it was a thing unheard of with us, that indeed I believed my husband would faint at the bare mention of it. But she still held to her former opinion, that I was the proper person to wash him.

The Angara opened on the 21st of March, and lovely it is to see the beautiful stream again free from ice. But, unfortunately, as the sun gains power, it is almost unbearable to live where we do. Every window and door is to be closed. During the winter months, all the refuse⁹⁰ of the town was carted and shot down on the banks of this river, by order of the authorities, as the current is continually washing away and undermining them, and they expected by this means to stop further damage. There is great mortality in the town, principally among children.

This makes me uneasy, as our little fellow has been taken suddenly unwell. He is asleep, otherwise I should not be able to continue my letter to you, as he has not been out of my arms a moment this day. I am forced to walk about continually with him, which is now difficult for me, as he grows heavy, and will not allow his nurse to approach him. Our friends recommend us to take the advice of a doctor about Alatau, but I will not hear of such a thing. I ask if they have cured one child, if they can show me they have done good, then I will consult one, not otherwise.

Alatau became very ill indeed, daily growing worse. We were urged by all friends to put off our journey, but instead of doing so we hastened our departure, leaving Irkoutsk on the 23rd of May. Many friends called to take leave of us; and one lady proposed, although she has a number of children of her own, that we should leave Alatau with her. She said our life

⁹⁰ refuse – отбросы

was so unsettled, and unfit for a child, and that one more in a family was nothing. I thanked her, but said that I should not stir without him, but said that I appreciated her kind offer all the same.

On arriving at Koultook, a village on the Baikal, the child was worse. Mr. Atkinson said that, if he were not better after visiting hot mineral springs where we were going, we should return to Irkoutsk. The little man grew worse, and I was all anxiety till I had plunged⁹¹ him into the bath, there being one into which the spring runs within the building. Then preparing his bed I laid him down, when he was quickly asleep. Seeing him sleeping so comfortably, I started with my husband for a stroll, leaving the Cossack on guard.

The spring gushes out of a rock in a picturesque valley, with high rocks on each side, and the river Ikouogoon running through it. The spring is on the left side, where the archbishop has built a house for pilgrims and visitors to stay. Opposite a mass of rock, over-shadowed and surrounded by trees, stands a small but pretty church, the effect of which was beautiful; so calm and quiet; and shut out from the noise of the busy world, with no other sound save the murmuring⁹² of the water.

As we stood looking at it the priest joined us and entered into conversation. He then took us a short walk up the valley to point out the scenes which he admired. Our new friend would have gone farther, but I declined, saying I dared not go on because of having a sick child. He told me to be very careful, and avoid bathing him in the spring, 'for,' said he, 'if you do, you will kill him to a certainty. Many,' he continued, 'come here thinking to cure themselves by these waters; but all die who bathe in them; and I always warn them, but they will not be persuaded: we had a man died here about a month.' You may

⁹¹ to plunge – погружать

⁹² to murmur – шептать

suppose that every word went like a dagger to my heart, for I had been similarly advised in Irkoutsk, but would listen.

The priest entered our room, where he sat chatting a long time. I never watched for the departure of a guest with such anxiety as I watched for his. At length he took his leave, when I had showers of tears. I had not courage to tell him that I had already bathed the child.

Like a child, I wept myself to sleep, and was awakened by a little voice calling out 'I am hungry'. I can tell you I started to my feet pretty quickly, for Alatau had not tasted food since leaving Irkoutsk.

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What incident does Lucy Atkinson mention about the bath?
- 2) What was the reason of the high mortality among children in Irkoutsk?
- 3) Did Mrs. Atkinson consult a doctor on account of her sick child?
- 4) How did Mr. Atkinson want to cure Alatau?
- 5) Why did Lucy Atkinson cry so much?

B. Do the short true / false quiz on Lesson 16.

Quiz

- 1) Mrs. Atkinson had become skilful in Russian dances.

True false

2) Madame Sinitzin insisted upon the Atkinsons go to the bath with Alatau.

True false

3) Mrs. Atkinson loved it, when the Angara got free from the ice.

True false

4) The high rate of the infant mortality in Irkoutsk was caused by the local authorities.

True false

5) Alatau had been cured by a doctor.

True false

6) Many people believed that the hot mineral springs could do no good for the health of sick people.

True false

C. Read the extract from an introduction to “Pursuit of Knowledge under Difficulties” by G.L. Craik (1847, London). Express your own opinion on the problem of differences of the perception of the success that either a man or a woman may have. Suggest how the facts of Lucy Atkinson’s biography influenced the increase of her self-esteem.

“Whatever has been done by the one sex in the acquisition of knowledge in the face of extraordinary difficulties may, generally speaking, be done by the other. If they have been literary shepherds or shoemakers, there may be literary shopwomen and milkmaids. If a blind man has cultivated a talent for poetry, it is nothing wonderful that a blind woman should do the same. The examples that are wanted for women are of a different kind. Every instant of the pursuit of knowledge by a woman in any circumstances is an instance of the pursuit of knowledge under difficulties. Her sex alone raises a host of difficulties to obstruct her in such an enterprise. Every woman who has greatly distinguished herself by the cultivation of her intellectual faculties is an example and a marvel.”

LESSON 17

BIDDING ADIEU TO BARNAOUL

Read the abridged passage from Chapters 16 (*BARNAOUL, SEPTEMBER, 1852*) **and 17** (*BARNAOUL, JANUARY, 1853*), **in which the English author expresses her sadness on account of having to leave Siberia.**

We are now living in the house of a friend, overlooking the Ob, which at this season is but little larger than the Neva, although we have crossed it when it was twelve versts broad, that is, when the snow was melting in the mountains in June. You cannot conceive what a hearty welcome we met with from all our old friends, but the joy of meeting was to me mingled⁹³ with a little sadness, for I now feel that when I bid farewell this time, it will be forever. Now each step we take is a farewell to places and persons whom we have not only learned to respect, but to love. To me it is the great drawback from staying long in one place.

I have been induced⁹⁴, through the very urgent entreaties⁹⁵ of our friends, to allow my husband to go alone this summer to ascend the Bielouka. I consented the more readily, as I had visited the region before. Besides, Colonel Sokolovsky had intended joining him in this excursion. Later I wept to think that I had, against my own inclination, yielded to the advice not to go with my husband. As he now describes it to me, I would have given years of my existence to have witnessed the storm that they had there. I often wish I had the wings of a bird, or the wand of a fairy.

⁹³ to mingle – смешивать

⁹⁴ to induce – убеждать, воздействовать

⁹⁵ entreaty – мольба, горячая просьба

The time is fast drawing nigh for our departure. Our friends would not hear of our starting till after Christmas. We have had no end of balls, concerts, and theatrical; more gaiety than usual this year, in honour of the new Natchalnick, Colonel Stroleman having succeeded Colonel Sokolovsky, who has been promoted to the rank of General. There is always a grand ball given by the Natchalnick on new year's eve to the whole town. It is really a pretty and joyous sight, a brilliant assemblage full of mirth, congratulating each other as the bells toll forth the new year. At the moment, which is watched for with the greatest care, the champagne is poured out, and there is a general kissing all round. The new year is a grand festival in Russia – a constant round of visiting. The ladies sit at home on the first day, and receive the visits of the gentlemen, and after that the ladies visit each other.

The last ball I was at I was a little troubled how to arrange for a head-dress: I had never bought one; what on earth should I have done with flowers whilst travelling? Here we cultivated some flowers in our rooms, and I had used them; what was to be done? I would willingly have gone without, but that could not be. A sudden idea crossed my husband's mind, so I sent to Miss Annossoff for some ivy leaves, when he made me a beautiful wreath interspersed⁹⁶ with red berries made from sealing-wax on the heads of pins, it really looked nice.

The ladies begged of me to give them the wreath, when they divided its leaves amongst them, and each one planted her sprig, as a remembrance of my last ball in Barnaoul.

Among the several officers in Kopal for whom we retained feelings of friendship, was the chief of the Cossacks, a most worthy man. During our sojourn⁹⁷ among them, many circumstances occurred which enabled us to form a just esti-

⁹⁶ to be interspersed – быть усеянным

⁹⁷ sojourn – временное пребывание

mate of this man's character: the care which he gave those under his charge, his sorrow when he saw his men cut down by sickness, and nothing provided to alleviate their sufferings. Here they had to winter, exposed to all the rigour of the climate. His own small resources were constantly drawn upon to supply a few comforts to the sick and dying: but, alas! these were small in comparison with their wants.

I am quite confident I wrote you the particulars of Alatau's birthday. I remember well giving a long description, knowing all these little matters interest you. On this, his fourth birthday, he had a grand ball. All our friends, old, young, and middle-aged, came, and right merrily was the evening spent. I was only going to have three musicians, thinking it quite enough for my little folks, but Colonel Kavanka sent me the whole band. Indeed, all are so kind to us wanderers.

Another amiable action. The house we are inhabiting, as I told you, belongs to a friend who is now located at Zmeinogorsk, so the rooms are not overstocked with furniture. On the occasion of this *grand* ball, finding we should be short of seats in the supper-room, I mentioned it to Mme. Stroleman, who sent to her country-house for a couple of dozen chairs. Then she sent me her head cook, also her principal waiting-man. I believe the great feature of the evening was my Christmas pudding. My fame is spreading; it was just as great a wonder to them as a fine block of Siberian ice would be to you.

It makes me sigh when I think I shall shortly quit Siberia, its blocks of ice, its snow-clad mountains, its lovely scenery, and all that is sublime in nature, to return to a town life, which has not the same charms for me. I could almost wish I were a Kirghis, wandering forth like them, under a serene sky, in search of mountain pastures. Happy people! free and unfettered⁹⁸ by any customs of so-called civilised life.

⁹⁸ to unfetter – освободить от оков

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

- 1) What feelings did Lucy Atkinson have at arriving back to Barnaoul?
- 2) Why did she regret about not going to Bielouka with Mr. Atkinson later?
- 3) How was the New Year celebrated in Barnaoul?
- 4) What was Alatau's birthday party like?
- 5) What is Lucy Atkinson's joke about her pudding?
- 6) What would Mrs. Atkinson miss after returning back to a city life?

B. Match the descriptions with whom they refer to.

the Kirghis Cossacks people of Barnaoul

happy people

loving balls, concerts, and theatricals

most worthy people

free from the customs of civilized world

Lucy Atkinson's most amiable friends

C. Remember the moments from Lucy Atkinson's letters, which:

- sound most funny;
- are best to describe the writer's character;
- tell that the lands which she visited are wild;
- show that she will miss the years of her travels in Siberia and the Kirghis Steppes;
- are most useful to you in your future profession.

LESSON 18

BACK TO THE BUSY WORLD

Read the abridged passage from final parts of Lucy Atkinson's book, i.e. Chapters 18 (*EKATERINBURG, MAY, 1853*) and 19 (*EKATERINBURG, SEPTEMBER, 1853*), in which she makes some conclusions about the meaning of their adventures across Siberia in their lives.

I dare say you think our progress homeward is very slow. On Saturday next we shall start on our last excursion in the Oural mountains. This will be short, and soon ended, after which I hope to reduce the distance between us. I have not told you anything of our journey here. Several of our Barnaoul friends conducted us to the first station. Then in champagne they wished us a happy and prosperous journey, when we took leave of our kind friends, probably forever.

I often wonder what Alatau's feelings will be when he grows up, what place he will recognise as his home. Most probably, when he becomes a man, Kopal will no longer be a fortress, but his birthplace he will be sure to recognise, from the celebrated spring Tamchiboulac.

The road we travelled from the zavods was not the great post-road to Ekaterinburg, we were going across the country. When such is the case we always meet with prettier cottages, more tastefully decorated, and oftentimes nestled by the side of a wood.

It is needless to tell you we were welcomed with great heartiness on our return to Ekaterinburg by our old friends. We arrived just in time for the carnival. This festival is spent in much the same way in all Russian towns. There is the usual amount of balls, and the ladies are dressed with exquisite taste.

Here they have a custom not found in Petersburg. In each house you enter during this week, and at whatever time of the day it may be, you try a blini, a kind of pancake, only much lighter, served with butter and caviar, the latter of which no one appears to understand that I cannot eat it, especially after living in Russia such a number of years. After the blini, of which there are a great variety, comes coffee or tea.

Of course the grandest and most effective ball during Easter was at General Glinka's. At supper he adopts the Siberian fashion of not sitting with the guests, but walking round the tables, and seeing that all are well attended⁹⁹ to.

The day before leaving Iloutroffsky a young naval officer arrived. He was on his way to join his vessel at Okhotsk, with his wife, an English woman. She was nervous, and dreaded the journey before her. Indeed they both appeared in a fright, and she believed she should die. I shall not be surprised to hear she is dead, as she had excited herself so much, that she was in a fever, and had to consult the doctor. I tried my utmost to encourage her.

The following day they left, when many comparisons were made in favour of my husband. Our friends had observed, and remembered, with what care and attention I had been placed in the sledge, and covered up years before, whereas she, poor woman, had to get in herself, without help. Although Russians themselves, they all agreed they were far behind Englishmen in the care of their wives. Though we had not so many luxuries in our sledge as this couple had, still there was a snugness¹⁰⁰ and comfort which neither of them seemed to understand, but which our friends did perfectly. I could not but pity them both; a long journey before them, and so little companionship.

⁹⁹ to attend – прислуживать, уделять внимание

¹⁰⁰ snugness – уют

The number of magpies met with throughout Siberia is surprising. At times they appear the only things with life in them. Not only in the steppes and forests, but also in the towns, they collect in multitudes, and if by chance they can see linen hanging anywhere, they peck it into threads, as I found to my cost in Barnaoul, where my linen was completely destroyed before I became aware of their mischievous propensities¹⁰¹.

I should have preferred making this little excursion into these mountains when we first started, and before we had made our way into Siberia, when probably I might have been able to give you a more interesting description than I can possibly do now; for, after the sublime¹⁰² scenes we have passed through, everything here seemed tame.

The pleasure is greatly enhanced, and the blood flows with greater rapidity through the veins, when we have to think where we shall get a dinner, and are constantly on the alert looking for one, or when we are uncertain about the direction in which we shall find water. If we chance to be on the steppe, and a little rising ground is seen, how exhilarating¹⁰³ is the gallop to it! Then follows the question to the one who has ascended, ‘Do you see any smoke?’ or ‘Is water visible?’ And when, perhaps, I am a little weary¹⁰⁴ from the heat and the long day’s ride, a caziolo or some other animal is seen bounding¹⁰⁵ over the plain, the cry of the hunters is heard, and away they gallop, tearing along like madmen. My horse, hearing these sounds, determines to have a race also, and away he flies with me on his back; all the tugging in the world will not stop him; and I, the lightest of the party, am soon far in advance. I now

¹⁰¹ propensity – пристрастие, склонность

¹⁰² sublime – величественный, грандиозный

¹⁰³ exhilarating – бодрый, жизнерадостный

¹⁰⁴ weary – изнуренный

¹⁰⁵ to bound – скакать, нестись

look back on all those scenes, and repeat what we have often and often said, that willingly would we face ten times more toil¹⁰⁶ and difficulty rather than go down to the base of the mountain without having seen them.

Our last journey is accomplished, and we only wait for good winter roads to start for Petersburg, where we hope to join our friends at Christmas.

TASKS

A. Answer the questions:

1) What differences does Lucy Atkinson point at between English and Russian husbands?

2) What does the author mean by the word “tame”? What contrast does it help to express?

3) What does Mrs. Atkinson feel about their journey being closer to the end?

4) What part in the text from the final letter is most emotional?

B. Find the English phrases for these Russian words:

приближение к дому; признавать своим домом; сосредоточенный у опушки леса; подавать блины с маслом и икрой; по-сибирски; отставать от англичан; вид окультуренной земли.

¹⁰⁶ toil – мытарство, изнуряющий труд

C. Express your opinions on the following points:

- Lucy Atkinson's wish to make travels to Siberia popular among other Europeans / European women;
- her ideas of bringing articles from the civilized words to the wild lands of Siberia and the Kirghis Steppes;
- the devotion to her husband and the promotion of his artistic talent.

D. Express your impressions of the Atkinsons' adventures in a short written work. Give it a title.

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

Read the research paper by Tatyana P. Shastina, dedicated to the place of the Russian Altai in literature of the Russian Empire.

ГОРНЫЙ АЛТАЙ: ЛИТЕРАТУРНОЕ ВХОЖДЕНИЕ ТЕРРИТОРИИ В СОСТАВ ИМПЕРСКИХ ПРОСТРАНСТВ*

Горный Алтай – принятое в науке название российской части горной системы Алтай. Тюркологи этимологию топонима связывают с понятиями «высокий», «могущественный», «золото», «обетованная земля» [Казагачева, 2002, с. 282-291]. В литературе XIX-XX вв. это пространство называется по-разному: Алтайские горы – Русский Алтай – Горный Алтай – Горный. Мена наименований, на наш взгляд, отражает смену идеологических парадигм, в контексте которых совершается включение в состав имперских пространств и адаптация в этом качестве исконно нерусских земель, располагавшихся за казачьей линией на юге Западной Сибири. Таковые могут быть определены как кросс-пространство, где оставили свои следы, прокатываясь через него, древнейшие цивилизации (скифы, гунны); где стыковались великие империи; пространство, с которым этническая память тюрков связывает мысль о прародине. Первые контакты территории с тобольскими и томскими воеводами относятся к XVII веку [Модоров, 1996, с. 30-52]; процесс вхождения Горного Алтая в состав Российской Империи начинается в середине XVIII века и

* The text follows the research paper *Gorny Altai: Literary Introduction of the Territory into the Empire's spaces* in "Philology and Man" (2013), № 1, pages 41-53. The work was published in Russian.

растягивается во времени более чем на сто лет [Самаев, 1991, с. 104-177].

Природная и этнографическая экзотика этой территории обуславливает главенство жанра путешествия в литературном освоении (и присвоении) этой ориентальной территории с момента вхождения Горного Алтая в состав имперских пространств и до сего дня. Из травелога и путевого очерка в поэзию переходит представление о *дикой* экзотике места (*куриозной местности*), для обозначения которого используются названные нами топонимы. Приведем их в порядке появления в текстах (безотносительно к административно-территориальному именованию):

- *Алтайские горы* – период первичного изучения горной страны, нанесение на карту империи (XVIII – первая пол. XIX вв.); идея колониального использования мифических богатств новоприобретенной территории;

- *Русский Алтай* – определение истинных запасов природных ископаемых и перспектив их разработки, изучение этнографии инородческого населения в свете идей областничества (шестидесятые годы XIX в. – начало XX в.); этнос vs регион;

- *Горный Алтай* – период нивелирования этнокультуры коренных народов, идея их ускоренного развития (20-е гг. - 80-е гг. XX в.) в рамках национальной автономии; безжалостная эксплуатация природных богатств региона;

- *Горный* – усеченное именование локуса в литературе новейшего периода; создание рекреационного бренда как попытка затормозить процесс утраты национальной и региональной идентичности, эксплуатация образа последнего нетронутого уголка природы.

Рассмотрение рецепции и репрезентации Горного Алтая в исторической перспективе намечается рядом новейших гуманитарных исследований, посвященных вопро-

сам российской провинциальной культуры и регионально-го самосознания¹. В них значительное внимание уделяется *локальным текстам*, в методологическом основании исследования которых «лежит представление о том, что «образ места (города)», или «локальный (городской) текст», существует — и соответственно может быть описан — в качестве меняющейся во времени системы ментальных, речевых, фольклорных, публицистических, иконографических и проч. стереотипов, воспроизводимых в контексте местной культурной традиции в устной, книжной и других формах» [Алексеевский, 2008, с. 419-420]. Культурная функция локальных текстов, по определению В. Г. Щукина, «заключается в создании и распространении некоего семантического и идеологического компакта – простого для понимания и усвоения комплекса понятий и эмоций, призванных ассоциироваться с данным местом» [Щукин, 2011, с. 239.]. Цель нашего исследования состоит в изучении начального этапа формирования в литературе комплекса представлений, позиционирующих Горный Алтай как часть имперских пространств – русские горы, русское высокогорье.

Локус Горный Алтай встраивается в сибирский текст по принципу матрешки – через алтайский, что обусловлено ходом «стихийной колонизации» (Н.М. Ядринцев) – продвижением сначала каменщиков, затем русских крестьян-

¹ В нашем исследовании использованы следующие издания: Русская провинция: миф – текст – реальность. М.; СПб., 2000; Литературный процесс на Урале в контексте историко-литературных взаимодействий: конец XIV-XVIII вв. Екатеринбург, 2006; Сибирский текст в русской культуре: Сб. статей. Вып. 2. Томск, 2007; Имиджи Сибири. Новосибирск, 2009; Сибирский текст в национальном сюжетном пространстве. Красноярск, 2010; Краеведение как феномен провинциальной культуры: Материалы Всеросс. научно-практической конф. Омск, 2011.

переселенцев в глубь горной страны, к водоразделам Оби и Иртыша, их столкновением с чужой и чуждой культурой местных (инородческих) племен, у которых было почерпнуто представление о мощном мифогенном потенциале высокогорья. Специфические смыслы такового совпадают в трактовке охранной функции, которой обладают горы – естественная граница Сибири, с рожденным в христианской среде топосом Беловодья.

Еще Н. М. Карамзин, анализируя первые сведения о Сибири, проиллюстрировал эту функцию библейским примером: «Сие неизмеримое пространство Северной Азии, огражденное Каменным Поясом, Ледовитым морем, Океаном восточным, цепию гор Алтайских и Саянских, – отечество малолюдных племен Монгольских, Татарских, Чудских (Финских), Американских – укрывалось от любопытства древних Космографов. Там, на *главной высоте земного шара*, было, как угадывал великий Линней, первобытное убежище Ноева семейства после губительного, всемирного наводнения; там воображение Геродотовых современников искало *грифов, стерегущих золото...*» [Карамзин, 1989, стб. 219]. Горный Алтай предельно концентрирует в себе все то, что историк относит к Сибири в целом: безопасность «для обитания» [Карамзин, 1989, примеч. к тому 1, стб. 12], малолюдность, этнографическую пестроту, мифологическую насыщенность (ориентальная специфика которой во многом определяется тем, что здесь находится, по определению географов, «крыша» Центрально-Азиатского континента – гора Белуха, равноудаленная от трех океанов; она притягивает к себе ученых и путешественников и является источником вдохновения для поэтов, художников и музыкантов).

Географические образы¹ лежат в основе художественной репрезентации Горного Алтая как части империи. Репрезентация начинается, на наш взгляд, со стихотворения «Киев» (1839) А. С. Хомякова². Из уст паломника под стенами Киево-Печерской Лавры прозвучит в нем фраза:

Дик и страшен верх Алтая,
Вечен блеск его снегов:

Там страна моя родная!» [Хомяков, 1868, с. 66], в которой будут объединены географические реалии с эмоциональной оценкой³. В этом стихотворении «верх Алтая» – наиболее развернутый географический образ-вертикаль – является исключением в ряду названных по этому горизонтальных ограничителей российских пространств (Дон, Енисей, Ладога, Нева, Кама, «теплый берег Эвксина» и берега северных морей)⁴.

¹ Географические образы – «совокупность ярких, характерных, сосредоточенных знаков, символов, ключевых представлений, описывающих какие-либо реальные пространства» [Замятин, 2004, с. 15].

² Несколько раньше, в 1832 г., вышел сборник стихов «Сибирь. Думы» Егора Петровича Ковалевского, им образ Алтая создается на основе романтической эстетики как место временного пребывания лирического героя: «Пред мной – Алтай, за мной – Алтай, то взгроможденный, // Поник на облака, то в прахе раздробленный. // На глыбах рухнувших висит дремучий бор, // И тощий плющ, как змей, ползет из трещин гор. // Зияет пасть пещер, зияют бездн стремнины, // И глухо все!..» [Ковалевский, 2010, с.117]. См. подробнее о художественных особенностях сборника [Левашова, 2011, с. 117-120].

³ Это соотносится с философией А.С. Хомякова, утверждавшего, что «русский дух», сформированный православием», собрал «русскую землю в бесконечном её объеме (т.е. российское государство, в отличие от западных, не искусственно создано было путем завоевания, а «выросло» на соборных началах) – см. подробнее [Шапошников, 2004].

⁴ Хомяков был вправе вложить подобную фразу в уста жителя Алтайских гор - к моменту создания стихотворения в Горном Алтае уже была развернута миссионерская деятельность.

Характеристическое определение «дикий», относящееся у упомянутого нами Е.П. Ковалевского ко всей Сибири (дума I «Праху Н»), Хомяков локализует в пределах Горного Алтая, хотя вряд ли можно допустить, что за время, разделяющее выход двух стихотворных книг, Сибирь в целом стала менее «дикой»¹, чем Горный Алтай как её окраинная часть²). В стихотворении «Киев» слово «дикий» употреблено в его первом значении, через год у Хомякова в стихотворении «Россия» вновь возникнет упоминание об Алтае (что будет уже свидетельствовать о формировании устойчивого художественного представления):

И нестерпим был огонь булата

В руках Алтайских дикарей [Хомяков, 1868, с. 73].

Речь в нем идет о монголо-татарском нашествии, и образ восходит к представлению о трансграничности Алтая и к немногочисленным сведениями об его истории и географии, которые были опубликованы к моменту написания текста. Заметим, что повышение интереса к подобным сведениям было связано с завершением оконтуривания имперского пространства, в частности, закрепления границ Российского государства на юге

¹ «ДИКИЙ, в природном виде состоящий, не обработанный человеком, неводеланный, природный; необразованный; //неручной; необузданный; свирепый; суровый; застенчивый, чуждающийся людей; //странный, необычный» [Даль, 1978, с. 436].

² Русский Алтай как горная система был всё еще практически не изучен, путешественники проходили в основном от Бухтармы к Кольвани и далее до Телецкого озера по самой её границе, с небольшой долей точности нанося на географические карты территорию, оказавшуюся в три раза больше Швейцарии (а Швейцария уже в XVIII веке «становится местом литературного паломничества» [Лотман, 1984, с. 627]). На основе географического сходства горных пейзажей за Алтаем закрепляется устойчивое сравнение «Альпы» (более поздний вариант – Сибирская Швейцария).

Западной Сибири¹. И всё же практически до середины XIX в. «огромность Алтая, распространяющегося внутри Сибири, очень сбивчиво была понимаема» [Словцов, 1886, с. 183-184].

Источником исторической информации во время выхода сборников Ковалевского и Хомякова могла быть уже названная «История...» Карамзина (в которой как этнос упоминаются *Турки Алтайские*). Сведения об Алтайских горах содержались и в «Лексиконе российском историческом, географическом, политическом и гражданском» одного из первых исследователей Сибири В.Н. Татищева (составлен в 1754 г., опубликован в 1793 [Дейч, 1962, с. 71], где ученый излагал существовавшую на тот момент и долго после точку зрения о непрерывности горной цепи, отделяющей Азию от Европы. «Алтай, горы, от Урала проходящие меж калмыцкого владения и Сибири, от запада на восток, около Иртыша. Оные звание калмыцкое <...>. Татары зовут Алтау, значит Шесть гор, и сие имя иногда пространно и сущее от вершины Яика до вершины Оби. Иногда разумеют токмо, что во владении калмыком по обе стороны Иртыша, а на востоке к вершине Оби, далее же Саян...» [Татищев, 1979, с.161]. Татищев довольно точно указывает расположение Бикатунского острога, называет реки Бию, Катунь, Лебедь и «озеро Телеут» в Кузнецком уезде, т.к. по его заданию в 1735 г. геодезист В. Шишков был послан в Томск и Красноярск для «описания тамош-

¹ Катализатором такого можно считать указ Елизаветы Петровны от 2 мая 1756 г. о принятии в российское подданство 14 зайсанов с их народом; но процесс шел до 1864 г., когда по Чугучакскому договору была проведена демаркационная линия на российско-китайской границе, с тех пор многочисленные племена на огромной территории от верховьев Катунь до Телецкого озера избрали для самоназвания топоним «Алтай» [Краткая энциклопедия, 2010, с. 32] и стали именоваться алтайцами.

них мест и положения на ландкарту, а паче уведать, описать... которой в бытность свою тамо весьма ревностно описывал и *куриозным местностям* (курсив мой – Т.Ш.) учинил чертежи» (Промемория от тайного советника Татищева в Императорскую Академию наук от 21 октября 1735 г. [Татищев, 1990, с. 265]). Из обитателей Алтайских гор Татищев называет лишь калмыков¹.

В конце XVIII – начале XIX вв. *калмыками* (*белыми калмыками*) называли и алтайцев. В 1806 г. путешествие к алтайским калмыками совершил Г.И. Спасский - будущий издатель санкт-петербургского журнала «Сибирский Вестник», которому в русской литературе путешествий принадлежит роль первооткрывателя российских гор и создания горной топики. Его собственная серия описаний высокогорья (Алтайских гор) в журнальных публикациях², на наш взгляд, может рассматриваться как базовый фонд для создания образа пространства Горного Алтая в русской литературе, т.к., по Д.Н. Замятину, «...всевозможные порождения оригинальных локальных или региональных мифов во многом базируются именно на географическом воображении» [Замятин, 2010, с. 16].

¹ «Империяльный этнографизм» [Пумпянский, 1983, с. 35] войдет в литературу позднее и станет приметой державинской школы; а «литературные» калмыки превратятся в знак «чужого», становящегося «своим» (см. у А.С. Пушкина в «Памятнике» или в романе И.И. Лажечникова «Ледяной дом», открывающемся главой «Смотр» - смотр всех народов, «обитающих в России»: «Вот и калмык раззевает свои кротовые глазки, чтобы взглянуть на чудеса русские; с ним все житье-бытье его – колчан со стрелами и божки его, которых он из своих рук может казнить и награждать» [Лажечников, 1970, с.54]).

² «Сибирский Вестник» [СВ]: 1818, часть 1, 1819, часть 8 – «Путешествие на Тигирекские белки или горы вечным снегом покрытые» (1813 г.); 1818, часть 3, 4 – «Путешествия по южным Алтайским горам» (1809); 1823, часть 3, 4 – «Путешествие к Алтайским калмыкам» (1806).

Алтайские горы привлекали Спасского возможностью стать первопроходцем: «Места сии <...> не были посещаемы ни Гмелином, ни Палласом, ни другими известными Путешественниками» [СВ, 1823, ч. 3, с. 1]. Там путешественник оказывается один на один с нетронутой природой. Но всё же в пути у переправы через Чарыш Спасский встречается с первым профессиональным художником, снимавшим виды Горного Алтая – с В.П. Петровым. Работы Петрова - «прелестные, ужасные виды», «соперники видов Швейцарских» - служат прекрасной иллюстрацией к алтайским путешествиям Г. Спасского (четыре его гравюры опубликованы в приложении к первому тому «Сибирского Вестника» за 1818 г. без ссылки на автора» [Степанская, 2002, с. 24]).

Структура обращений Спасского к Алтайскому высокогорью, его аксиологическая система свидетельствуют, что уже к концу первой четверти XIX в. специальной и популярной литературе сформировалось представление о том, что Алтайские горы – это весьма экзотическая составляющая имперских пространств, рай для художников и нетронутое поле исследований для ученых, где «юная Натура во всей целостности своей и совершенстве» [СВ, 1818, ч. 1, с. 40] – что и соответствует девизу журнала «Сибирский Вестник»: «Norse patream postea viator eris» (Познай Отечество, потом сделаешься путешественником).

Подобным же девизом мог вполне руководствоваться и художник Егор Егорович Мейер, сопровождавший экспедицию П. Чихачева, к тому времени уже исследователя с мировым именем, в Восточный Алтай. Его краткое описание алтайских путевых впечатлений, опубликованное в 1843 г. в «Отечественных записках», было отмечено в обо-

зрения «Русская литература в 1843 г.» В.Г. Белинского¹: «В смеси «Отечественных записок», между переводными, много было и оригинальных, более или менее замечательных статей, каковы «Поездка в Китай» Дэ-мини (две статьи); «Два письма из Пекина» В. Горского; «Замечания и анекдоты о южно-американском льве» А. Бутакова, «Сцены из жизни бурят» А. Мордвинова; «Поездка на Алтай» Мейера» [Белинский, 1905, стлб. 226]. Контекст приведенной цитаты позволяет русскому читателю рассматривать Алтай в ряду таких экзотических пространств, как Китай и Южная Америка².

Мейер начинает с вопроса: «Что мог представить себе о горах, об Алтае тот, кто не видал ничего кроме болот петербургских и маленьких горок около него? Я прочел путешествие Бунге³ и узнал, что Алтай – Швейцария⁴,

¹ Критик констатировал: «литература наша находится теперь в состоянии кризиса» [Белинский, 1905, стлб. 167] и поставил вопрос о формах выражения русскости в литературе (т.е. фактически, наметил пути выхода из кризисного состояния): «...русский быт, исторический и частный, состоит не в одних только русских именах действующих лиц, но в особенностях русской жизни, развившейся под неотразимым влиянием местности и истории, - так же, как патриотизм состоит не в пышных возгласах и общих местах, но в горячем чувстве любви к родине, которое умеет высказаться без восклицаний и обнаруживается не в одном восторге от хорошего, но в болезненной враждебности к дурному, неизбежно бывающему во всякой земле» [Белинский, 1905, стлб. 168].

² Пользу толстых журналов Белинский видел в том, что они «поглощают в себя все лучшее и замечательнейшее, появляющееся в литературе <...> благодаря этому обстоятельству, всякое литературное хорошее произведение прочитывается не десятками, не сотнями, а целыми тысячами читателей» [Белинский, 1905, стлб. 227].

³ А.А. Бунге совершил путешествие в Горный Алтай в 1826 г. См. [Бунге, 1993].

⁴ Собственные аналогии художника ограничиваются знакомством с видами Финляндии и лифляндской Швейцарии, в частности, с одним их популярных с XVIII века, после поездки туда в 1772 г. императрицы Екатерины II, туристических маршрутов петербуржцев на водопад Иматра в юго-восточной Финляндии, на реке Вуокса.

нет, более, гораздо более! Я думал увидеть весь Алтай, со всеми его горами, постепенно идущими все выше и выше, и наконец, теряющимися в своде голубого неба – а увидел чуть заметные, блестящие иззубренные ленточки, означающие далекие снежные горы, которые тянулись по всему горизонту» [Мейер, 1843, с.18].

С нетерпением ожидая встречи с высокогорьем, молодой художник, опьяненный весной, никак не мог смириться с тем, что горы приближаются очень медленно. И вот – горы: «Первую ночь в горах мы провели в деревне Черге. Рано утром поскакал оттуда, чтоб искать места, снять чудесный вид, который был перед нами. Взобравшись на гору, находящуюся на севере от деревни, я увидел перед собою истинно швейцарский вид. Горы, по которым ходили утренние облака, чудесная долина, в которой между богатых нив, полей и густых лесков, извивалась быстрая Черга, на берегу которой стоит чуть видная деревня. Вся картина освещалась восходящим солнцем. Это последние русские дома, которые увидим мы, думал я. И никогда сердце мое не билось так сильно по всем русском, как в эту минуту, когда я думал, что покидаю надолго, может быть, навсегда родину и все то, что могло напоминать мне её. Грустно простился я с чудной деревенькою Чергою, может быть единственною по всей России по своему местоположению» [Мейер, 1843, с.18]. Эмоциональный акцент на русскость описанного пейзажа, скорее всего, был сделан при подготовке дорожных записок к публикации - за ним следует описание миссионерской деревни Мыюта (в тексте Мыэта), населенной крещеными алтайцами; находясь в Черге, Мейер не мог и предположить, что его ждет впереди: «Ужас, удивление, отвращение, наконец,

жалость овладели мной, когда я посмотрел на этих людей, которые по всей справедливости имеют право утверждать, что первый монгол произошел от обезьяны. Уродливее, грязнее ничего не может быть, думал я, и не верил, когда мне говорили, что это уже обрусевшие, которые живут очень чисто и хорошо в сравнении с своею прежней жизнью» [Мейер, 1843, с. 18]. Горный Алтай потряс Мейера контрастом между природной роскошью и убожеством коренных жителей – дикарей с позиций европейца.

Вот вид, открывшийся с Семинского перевала, откуда начинаются те самые «швейцарские» горы, которые всё ждал путешественник: «Я увидел пред собой уступы гор, окружающих озеро Теньгу, а над ними голубые, зубчатые стены урскульского хребта. Он, будто усыпанный бриллиантами, блистал всеми цветами радуги и так резко, но вместе так легко, так нежно отделялся на светлом, утреннем небе, которое вместе с ним отражалось в зеркале озера. На первом плане тянулся редкий лес, перед которым разбросанный караван наш казался состоящим из лилипутов...» [Мейер, 1843, с. 19]. Первая встреча с аборигенами отбила этнографическое любопытство, и художник сосредоточился на визуальных образах «дикой дали», «красивых форм», на собственных ощущениях опасности и восторга перед величественной мощью гор, вызывающих «страх и улыбку радости», «наполняющих душу какою-то грустью, в которой чувствуешь свое ничтожество...», голова и душа его отныне были заняты тем, как передать виденное.

Мейер упоминает о переправах через буйные реки, о головокружительных спусках и подъемах, на которых только умные алтайские лошади способны спасти всадника, о камнепадах, но все это меркнет перед картиной собственно высокогорья: «С трудом переводя дух, взобрался я на вершину – и задрожал от восторга!... передо мною це-

лый мир в горах!... вдали, подобно океану, оледеневшему от бурь, блистали вечные льды, меж которых, теряясь в светлом голубоватом тоне неба, зубчатым великаном поднималась Катунья-Сайлан (Катунские столбы). В ущельях змеями вились туманы... но где слова, где краски, чтобы передать эту картину?! Напрасно ломаешь голову, напрасно ищешь в красках тоны!... Я посмотрел на все, потом на самого себя – что же я? Невидная точка в этом огромном лабиринте!... Я схватил альбом; но рука моя дрожала: мне казалось, я вижу живого Бога, со всею его силою, красотою; и мне стыдно стало, что я, бедный смертный, мечтаю передать Его образ!... [Мейер, 1843, с. 20].

Неоднократно мысль о величии Творца и бессилии перед ним воображения смертного художника возникала у Мейера при виде «дико-величественных» картин: «Нет, воображение человека не может представить себе что-нибудь подобное! Сердце замирает, когда слышишь то страшный гул реки, повторяемый множеством эхо, то тихий, жалобный стон водопада. Это музыка природы! Кто передаст её?!... Где Бетховен. Моцарт? Кто передаст чудную гармонию этих скал, этих красок? Сальватор Роза¹! Зачем ты не был Русский! Может статься, тебе бы удалось передать его, а у меня... у меня кисть выпадает из рук!.. [Мейер, 1843, с. 21].

Оказавшись во время путешествия на китайской территории, Мейер рисует картины природы в мрачных красках – там не своя земля - там всё чужое. Но по мере приближения к русскому форпосту на Абакане образный строй описания возвращается к патетике описания Горного Алтая, правда, к традиционному набору деталей здесь до-

¹ Роза Сальватор (1615-1673) – итальянский живописец, известный своими романтическими пейзажами.

бавляется традиционный для сибирского текста медведь, вернее, целое «стадо медведей».

За время поездки горы стали Мейеру своими, художник проникся их духом, и потому при прощании с высокогорьем «сердце сжималось точно так же, как по выезде из Петербурга, разница в том только, что тут я прощался с людьми, которых люблю, а там с горами, с чудными горами Алтая!» [Мейер, 1843, с.23].

Мы обратились к запискам Мейера, чтобы акцентировать, что именно благодаря его зарисовкам Европа нагляднее представила специфику этой неведомой и дикой (т. е. незаселенной) горной страны. Громады скал, вершины, увенчанные ледниками, путешественники, пробирающиеся по отвесным бомам, горные озера, зажатые в скалистых берегах долины рек предстали на иллюстрациях Мейера к алтайской части описания путешествия Чихачева в парижском издании 1845 г. Своеобразной репрезентацией образа Горного Алтая стала статья французского ученого Катрфажа, опубликованная в «Отечественных записках». В редакционном пояснении она названа «довольно верным взглядом Европейца на нашу Сибирь, неведомую для иностранцев и – нечего греха таить – для многих и из русских читателей». «Статья Катрфажа, опирающаяся на фактах, представляемых книгою очевидца – г. Чихачева, и написанная языком доступным для всякого образованного читателя, может много содействовать распространению в образованном мире верных сведений об этой отдаленной части России» [Катрфаж, 1845, с. 4].

В описательной манере Чихачева Катрфаж отмечает научную достоверность и великолепный стиль: «... не переставая быть серьезным, он представляется артистом (т.е. художником – Т.Ш.), оценивает все, что проезжаемые им страны представляют ему поэтического, то игривого, то

угрюмого; знакомит нас с нравами, посвящает в предания встречаемых им народов: слог его везде чист и одушевлен. <...> Впрочем, г. Чихачев не упустил из вида ничего, могущего возвысить цену его сочинения. Дорожные записки, веденные с необыкновенным тщанием, знакомят нас с малейшими подробностями его пути» [[Катрфаж, 1845, с.3-4]. Французскому исследователю важно было показать отличие Алтая, о котором он сформировал представление на основе труда Чихачева, от других горных систем.

Позднее английский художник Т. У. Аткинсон предпочел, так сказать, личное знакомство с Горным Алтаем и был восхищен его первозданностью и суровостью, сражен Белухой: «Самый очаровательный вид на окрестность, открывшийся глазам нашего художника, служил наградой за претерпленные им бедствия и ужасы. На юго-востоке величавая Белуха возвышала свою двурогую вершину, ярко ослепительной белизны от покрывавшего её снега, несколько других горных цепей окружали её, как дети своего седовласого деда, представляя в свидетельство своего высокого происхождения множество белых пятен. А возле расстилось целое озеро горных вершин и кряжей, разделенных между собою зияющими ущельями и черными долинами, изрытыми яростно пенящимися потоками. В некоторых из них скрывались запасы благородных металлов» [Путешествия по Сибири, 1865, с. 271]. Англичанина более всего поразили природные богатства горной страны, по его замечанию, могущие составить благосостояние целого государства, а тут лежащие без употребления.

Проведенный нами обзор литературных публикации до 1864 г. (года окончательного закрепления пограничной линии в горах Алтая, рассматриваемого современными историками как точка отсчета национальной и региональной идентичности) позволяет утверждать, что в число освоен-

ных литературой имперских пространств Горный Алтай входит через тревелог, откуда образ «дикого и грозного» Алтая уже как собственно художественный попадает в поэзию и закрепляется в ней как воображаемое пространство, где «...юная Натура во всей целостности своей и совершенстве». Указанная нами верхняя граница рассматриваемого периода совпадает с начальным этапом сибирского областничества, идеологи которого в формуле «Горный Алтай – это романтическое дикое русские пространство, населенное экзотическими народами» стали разрабатывать социальный компонент, сосредоточив внимание на проблемах инородцев. Таким образом, 1864 г. можно считать концом эпохи превалирования географических образов Горного Алтая в русской литературе и началом эпохи образов этнографических (в ракурсе «этнос vs. регион»).

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ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS FOR RUSSIAN PHRASES AND WORDS

The keys for exercises on looking for English equivalents in the texts. The phrases and words are put in an alphabetical order.

an act of courtesy
an act of the greatest unpoliteness
to be far behind Englishmen
beads for a necklace
bore the blame for another
to beat on a tambourine
birch bark
a bunch of wild onions
bushes of red currants
to distinguish in appearance
to do the duties of a laundress
an enormous water melon
enveloped in furs
a fortress
a fowl in a pasty
a framework of willow
had ridden on in advance
hair braided into a multitude of plaits
leapt into the sledge
to load camels
long grass
a lynx
managed to seize the bridle
meat pies
to milk sheep
muscular and brawny bodies
must give up his post

nestled by the side of a wood
the never-ending theme
night's encampment
not customary in England
on the opposite side of the lake
one of their superstitions
a pack of wolves
to pay tribute
to place against the stove
to place in the oven
the premature birth
progress homeward
quite a common custom
raspberries
to recognise as your home
to remove a disease
to return to civilisation
a rifle
a sacrifice
to serve blini with butter and caviar
to sew lambs' skins together
shot a squirrel
shot at the target
the Siberian fashion
simple-hearted people
to sit cross-legged
to sketch a magnificent waterfall
to slip back
a species of crow
to swaddle a child
tame scenes
a tribe
a wardrobe
to wear four or five kalats at a time
with great dexterity

TOPICS FOR REPORTS AT THE END OF THE TERM

Prepare a written report and do its presentation for 4-5 minutes on one of these topics.

1) Lucy Atkinson and her book “Recollections of Tartar Steppes and their Inhabitants” as a source of historical and ethnographical knowledge.

2) Thomas W. Atkinson’s sketches of Siberia and the Kirghis Steppes.

3) Specifics of description of food and meal ceremonies of indigenous nations in the book by Lucy Atkinson.

4) “Civilization” and “civilized” in the context of the European exploration of a 19th century Siberia.

5) Indigenous people of Russia in paintings of European artists and explorers of the 19th century.

6) Siberia in pictures of British artists of the 19th century.

7) Natural and ethnographic exotics of Siberia in the 19th century.

8) Exploration of Siberia by European researchers.

9) The clash of cultures in the book of recollections of Lucy Atkinson.

10) Adventurism of the projects of Lucy Atkinson and Lidia Poltoratskaya to visit the Altai.

11) The image of Belukha in works of foreign travelers, artists and researchers.

12) A woman’s view in Lucy Atkinson’s “Recollections of Tartar Steppes and their Inhabitants”.

13) The development of tourism in Siberia in the 19th century.

14) The background and the career of Lucy and Thomas Atkinson.

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ЛЮСИ АТКИНСОН»**

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Томаса Аткинсона*

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