crossed into Siberia this p.m. 232 versts east of Ekaterinburg. I am picking up wonderfully in strength and spirits, probably as the results of better food and the release of tension.

August 18th. Weather cold for past two days. Arrived at Ishim this morning about ten hours late. Last evening our train was allowed to pass the ex-Czar's special -- a long train bristling with guard troops. He goes only as far as Tiumen where he must disembark on a steamer on the Irtish river for Tobolsk.

Arrived Omsk at 2.30 p.m.; warm weather again.

August 20th. Arrived at Krasnoiarsk this morning. An amusing sequel to the ex-Czar episode occurred here. We found the station crowded and a moment after the train stopped a delegation of three men entered our car. A wild-eyed and excited man approached me and said in fairly good English, "You have Nicholas, the ex-Czar, with you; we have come for him". I was rather taken aback and stammered, "What do you mean?" He replied that they had been informed Nicholas was with the "American Mission" which was taking him out of the country, a move which they intended to prevent. I, of course, denied any intention of the kind and they hurriedly proceeded to search the car. After this interesting formality was over with the spokesman returned, with a disappointed expression of countenance, and demanded our passports. My triple credentials seemed to satisfy and impress him. As he was leaving us, I said I could perhaps throw some light upon the matter by telling him that we had passed a special train, shortly after crossing the Ural Mountains, which we were informed was carrying the ex-Czar to Tobolsk. To confirm this I handed him a copy of a Russian paper which