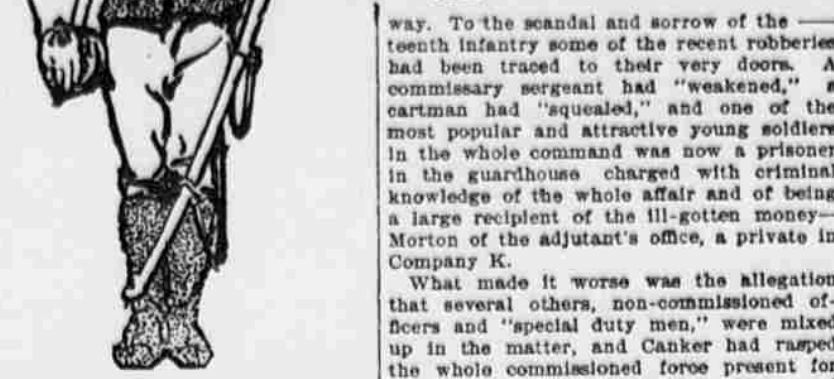


LIFE FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES.

BY Gen. Chas. King.

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Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.
The regimental camp on Freshly Heights, overlooking the San Francisco harbor, is stirred up by rumors of moving orders to Manila and by the arrival from New York of lady visitors at headquarters. The visitors are in search of a runaway boy who believed to have entered the army, and Lieutenant Gray, the most popular young officer in the regiment, is the supposed culprit. Miss Amy Lawrence, in company with her fellow-officers, attends a review on the drill grounds and is disturbed by the sight of a young prisoner who breaks away from his guard near them and by a collision among the carriages.

Not ten minutes later occurred the collision between the back and the heels that resulted in the demolition of one and the moralization of the rider of the victor. While the latter was led away by the obedient Mr. Ellis, test the sight of him should bring on another nervous attack, Mrs. Garrison was suffering herself to be comforted. Her nerves were gone, but she would not lose her head. Lola, Freddie, dimes and daisies were up on the heights that day in such vehicles as the post afforded. None appeared in anything so stylish and elegant as the carriage of the Irish party. She was a more comparative stranger there and it would vastly enhance her social prestige, she argued, to be seen in such "swell" surroundings. With a little tact and management she might even attract matters so that, willily Billy, her friends would drive her home instead of taking Colonel Armstrong to camp. That would be a stroke worth playing. She owed Stanley Armstrong a bitter grudge and had nursed it long. She had known him ten years and had known him ten months, said the men, "before he knew her at all," said the women. She was four years his senior if the chaplain could be believed, and five months his junior if she could. Whatever might have been the discrepancy in their ages at the time of the ceremony no one would suspect the truth who saw them now. It was he who looked aged and careworn and harassed and she who preserved her youthful bloom and vitality.

And now, as she reclined as though still too weak and shaky to leave the carriage and return to saddle her quick wits were planning the scheme that should result in her retaining and his losing the coveted seat. There was little time to lose. Most of the crowd had scattered and she well knew that he was only waiting for her to leave before he would return. Almost at the instant her opportunity came. A covered wagon retraced suddenly alongside and kind and sympathetic voices hailed her. "Do let us drive you home, Mrs. Garrison; you must have been terribly shaken." She recognized at once the wife and daughter of a prominent officer of the post.

"Oh, how kind you are," she cried. "I was hoping some one would come. Indeed, I did get a little wrenched." And then, as she moved, with a sudden gasp of pain, she clasped Miss Lawrence's extended hand.

"Indeed, you must not stir, Mrs. Garrison," said the young lady. "We will drive you home at once." Miss Prime and her father were adding their pleas. She looked up, smiling faintly.

"I fear I must trouble you," she faltered. "Oh, how stupid of me! But about Stanley Armstrong—haven't even thanked him. Ah, well, he knows. We're beset—such good friends for years—dear old fellow!"

CHAPTER V.

There had been a morning of jubilee in the camp of the Fifth Separate brigade, and a row in the tents of the regulars. Up to within a fortnight such a state of affairs would have been considered abnormal, for the papers would have indicated that the former were on the verge of dissolution through plague, pestilence and famine due to the neglect of officials vaguely referred to as "the military authorities," or "the staff," while, up to the coming of Canker to command, sweet accord had reigned in the regular brigade and the volunteers looked on with envy. But now a great martial magnet had praised the stalwart citizen soldierly whom he had passed in review last evening in the day, and set them to shouting by the announcements that, as reward for their hard work and assiduous drill, they should have their hearts' desire and be shipped across the seas to far Manila. It had all been settled beforehand at headquarters. The "chief" had known for four days that that particular command would be selected for the next expedition, but it tickled "the boys" to have it put that way, and the home papers would make so much of it. "We're going to swing and triumph and rejoicing all along the eastern verge of a rocky, roughly paved cross street and rank biliously across the

campaign hat down over his eyes to shut out the glare of the western sun. "But I've got a new wrinkle." "Some bid for Friday?" That's your tour, isn't it?" And Brooke began counting on his fingers. "Wait till I look at my notebook. Friday? Why, that's the night of the Burton's card party—thought you didn't know them."

"I don't," said Gray, glad enough to escape the other question. "And you hate card parties, you know you do. It's a go, is it? I'll see Gordon at once." And off he went, leaving Brooke to wonder why he should be so bent on the arrangement.

By Gordon proved an unexpected foe to the plan. "Glad to see you, Billy," said he, sententiously. "Canker watches those details like a hawk. He hasn't forgotten you only came off two days ago, and if I were to mount you tonight he'd mount me—with both feet."

"Think there's any use in asking him to be done—his was a college man, too, and though not a 'Delt,' but rather of a rival set, he would understand and possibly help. Guard mount was held toward dusk and that was four hours away, at least. The prisoner's note and one were urgent. An idea occurred to Billy: What if he could get Gordon to let him 'go on' this evening? It wasn't his tour. He had 'marched off' only two days before, as he well remembered, for Canker had 'roughed' him up and down about that ill-timed error in copying the list of prisoners from the report of the previous day. Moreover, he had counted on going to town right after 'retreat,' dining at the Palace, an extravagance not to be thought of at other times, so as to be on hand when the Primes and Amy Lawrence came down to dinner. He had planned it all—even to the amount of surplus he was to exhibit when he should die

complaint. "What's this you'd best leave alone?" he suddenly demanded. "There are a dozen things you'd best leave alone, and a dozen you would do best to cultivate and study. When I was—however, I never was a lieutenant except in war time, when they amounted to something. I got my professional knowledge in front of the enemy—not at any damned cavalry school. You're here to do some new indulgence. I suppose. Want to stay in town over night and fritter away your money and the time the government pays for. No, sir; you can't have my consent. You'll be back in camp at 12 o'clock, and stop and report your return to the officer of the guard, so that I may know the hour you come in. Who's the officer of the guard tonight, Mr. Gordon?"

"Mr. Brooke, sir."

"Mr. Brooke? Why, I thought I told you he was to take these prisoners in town to-morrow? He has to testify before that court in the case of Sergeant Kelly and it saves my sending another officer and having two of our lieutenants away from drill and hanging around the Bohemian club. Detail somebody else!"

"All right, sir," answered Gordon, imperturbably. "Make any odds, sir, who is detailed?"

Canker had turned to his desk and was looking over the papers with nervous hand. Gray impulsively stepped forward, his eye kindling with hope. It was on the tip of his tongue to launch into a proffer of his own services for the detail, but Gordon hastily warned him back with a sweep of the hand and a portentous scowl.

"No. One's as bad as the other. Next thing I know some of 'em will be letting prisoners escape right under my nose, making us the laughing stock of these damned militia volunteers." (Canker entered serv-

ice in '61 as a private in a city company that was militia to the tip of its pike-tailed coat, but he had forgotten it.) "I want these young fellows to understand distinctly, by George, that the first prisoner that gets away from this post takes somebody's commission with him. D'you hear that, Mr. Gray?" And Canker turned and glared at the bright blue eyes as though he would like to blast their clear fire with the breath of disapprobation. "Has that young fellow, Morton, been put in iron yet?" he suddenly asked, whirling on Gordon again.

"Think not, sir. Supplies Limited. Officer-of-the-day reported half an hour ago every set was in. Sent over to division quartermaster and he answered that we had a dozen more to be entitled to now. Wanted to know if I meant to iron the whole regiment—"

"The hell he did!" raged Canker. "I'll settle that in short order. My horse there, orderly! I'll be back by 4, Mr. Gordon. Fix that detail to suit yourself." And so saying the irascible colonel flung himself out of the tent and into his saddle.

"You young idiot," said Gordon, whirling on Billy the moment the coast was clear. "You came within an ace of ruining the whole thing. Never ask Canker for anything unless it's what you wish to be rid of. Tell Brooke you're for guard, and he's to go to town instead."

"Hopping mad," as he himself afterward expressed it, Colonel Canker had ridden over to "have it out" with the quartermaster who had ventured to comment on his methods, but the sight of the commanding general, standing alone at the entrance to his private tent, his pale face grayer than ever and a world of trouble in his eyes, compelled Canker to stop short. Two or three orderlies were on the run. Two aides-de-camp, Mr. Garrison and a comrade, were searching

through desks and boxes, their faces grave and concerned. The regimental commander was off his horse in a second. "Anything amiss, general?" he asked, with sardonic smile.

The general turned slowly toward him. "Can our men sell letters?" he said, "as well as food and forage? Do people buy such things? A most important package has been stolen from my tent."

"CHAPTER VI.
The great thoroughfare of that wonderful city, seated on more than her seven hills, and ruling the western world, was thronged from curb to curb. Day with bunting and streamers, the tall buildings of the rival newspapers and the long facades of hotels and business blocks were gay with the life and color and enthusiasm that crowded every window. Street traffic was blocked.

Cable cars clanged vainly and the police strove valiantly. It was a day given up to one duty and one purpose, that of giving Godspeed to the soldiers ordered for service in the distant Philippines, and, though they hailed from almost every section of the Union except the Pacific slope, as though they were their own children, with all the hope and faith and pride and patriotism, with all the blessings and comforts with which she had loaded the foremost ships that sailed, yet happily without the tears that flowed when her own gallant regiment was among the first to lead the way, San Francisco turned out en masse to cheer the men from far beyond the Sierras and the Rockies, and to see them proudly through the Golden Gate. Early in the day the guns of a famous light battery had been trundled, decked like some rose-covered chariot at the summer festival of flowers, through the winding lanes of eager forms and faces, the cannoners almost

dragged from the ranks by the clasping hands of men and women who seemed powerless to let go. With their little brown shoulders, like a regiment of regular cavalry, dismounted, had gone trudging down to the docks, cheered to the gateway of the pier by thousands of citizens who seemed to envy the very recruits who, only half uniformed and drilled, brought up the rear of the column. And within the massive wooden portals, the guards and sentries holding back the importunate crowd, the soldiers flung aside their heavy packs and were marshalled before an array of tempting tables and tureens, comforted and rejoiced under the ministrations of that marvelous successor of the sanitary commission of the great civil war of the '60s—the noble order of the Red Cross. There at those tables in the dust and din of the bustling pier, in the jam and turmoil at the ferry houses, in the fog and chill of the railway camp, in the fever-haunted wards of crowded field hospitals, from dawn till dark, from dark till dawn, toiled week after week devoted women in every grade of life, the wife of the millionaire, the daughter of the day laborer, the gently born, the delicately reared, the social pets and darlings, the humble seamstress, no one too high to stoop to aid the departing soldier, none too poor or low to detain him cheer and sympathy. The sea was still young then. Sleds had not lowered its riddled standard and sued for peace. Two great fleets had been swept from the seas, the guns of Santiago were silenced and the stronghold of the Orient was sulking in the shadow of the flag, but there was still a soldier who had to be done, and so long as the nation sent its fighting men through its broad and beautiful gates San Francisco and the Red Cross stood by with eager, lavish hands to heap upon the warrior sons of the great "stage" that led to the main deck of the transport, a group of blithe young matrons and pretty girls had been busily serving fruit, coffee, and bouillon and sustenance to the troops, man after man, for over two hours. There was lively chat and merry words going on at the moment between two of these states, even as upon their had their eyes on that particular table ever since the coming of the command, and were now making the most of their opportunities before the trumpets should sound the assembly and the word be passed to move the heavy baggage of the day laborer, the score of the battery had been lowered and accurately checked; the forecastle head was thronged with the red-trimmed uniforms of the artillerymen, who had already been employed in other states, even as upon their had their eyes on that particular table ever since the coming of the command, and were now making the most of their opportunities before the trumpets should sound the assembly and the word be passed to move the heavy baggage of the day laborer, the score of the battery had been lowered and accurately checked; the forecastle head was thronged with the red-trimmed uniforms of the artillerymen, who had already been employed in other states, even as upon their had their eyes on that particular table ever since the coming of the command, and were now making the most of their opportunities before the trumpets should sound the assembly and the word be passed to move the heavy baggage of the day laborer, the score of the battery had been lowered and accurately checked; 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