

### SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of "what might have happened," opens in Washington with the United States and Japan on the verge of war. Guy Hillier, secretary of the British embassy, and Miss Norma Roberts, chief aide of Inventor Roberts, are introduced as lovers. At the most inopportune moment Japan declares war. Japan takes the Philippines. The entire country is in a state of turmoil because of the government's indifference: Guy Hillier starts for England with secret message and is compelled to leave Norma Roberts, who with military officers also leaves Washington on mys-terious expedition for an isolated point on the Florida coast, Hawaii is captured by Japs. All ports are closed, Jap fleet is fast approaching western coast of Amer-ica. Siego, Japanese spy, discovers secret preparations for war. He follows auto-carrying presidential cabinet. He unearths source of great mystery and flees, murmuring: "The gods save Nippon." Fleeing to Pacific coast, Siego is sho down just as journey to get awful news to Japan seems successful. Japan announces intention to attack scaports. Tokio learns of missing Japanese and whole world becomes convinced that United States has some powerful war agency. England decides to send a fleet to American waters as a Canadian pro-tection against what the British suppose is a terrible submarine flotilla. Hillier is also sent to Canada to attempt to force his way through American lines with a message to the president in order that protection for the fleet may be assured. Japan appeals to Britain for aid. British fleet departs, amid misgivings of English mysteriously disappears, a sailor picked up on a raft being the only evi-dence of the loss. Powers begin to fear for their safety.

### CHAPTER IX. Barred by Bayonets.

Rested by his sea voyage, and glow ing with a determination to win his way acress the border, but with no definite idea as to what method he should pursue, Guy Hillier landed in Montreal. His first effort was to gain what details he could as to the nature of the embargo which had been placed on travelers between the two countries, after which he lost no time in personally studying the habits of the border camps. Long residence in America had lessened the broadness! of his A's, and with a little practice his R's were almost those of the aver-

age New Yorker. The meager information he succeeded in gathering was not altogether trustworthy, as he was soon to learn. He had been told that certain Americans, in Canada at the time the line of blue was drawn, were permitted to pass, and thus regain their homes, and on this he based his first sally. There was no trouble whatever in gaining the encampments nor in interviewing the officers in command of that section of the defense. A smart-appearing sentry passed him over to the guardianship of a soldier off duty, who conducted him to one of the regulation tents which dotted the

On the orderly's presenting his card, a voice from within hailed; "Come in!" and he entered the little house of canvas to find three officers engaged in some game of cards which he did not understand.

hillside back of the line.

"What can I do for you?" the commander inquired, rising from his camp stool and still holding the visitor's card in his hand.

"I am anxious to cross the line," Hil-

lier replied. The officer laughed and shook his head. "I'm serry, sir, but we have had as high as 100 applications of this nature in one day, and my orders forbid my acceding to any such re-

quest." "But you pass Americans, do you not?"

Again the officer smiled tolerantly, replying with good nature: "Not under conditions like these. We have no choice in the matter. If you are an American, I thoroughly appreciate your anxiety to go home; but I cannot help you."

It began to look less easy. "Is there no way at all?" asked Hillier.

"My dear sir," the officer answered, "the prophet Moses leading his band across the Red sea had an easier trip than you could make through our lines."

For a moment the courier lost patience, and then as a last resort he decided to make a clean breast of his road till night fell, when he paid the get him to lend you a few dry duds. errand. "Colonel," he said, "I am not an American; I am the secretary of the British embassy in Washingtonor was up to the time of this war. I come as a special messenger from my country, bearing important dis- ing. patches, which I am to deliver only into the hands of his excellency, the president of the United States. The have a grave bearing on this conflict, exceptionally short, and who formed heap sight better off and run no risk and it possibly may prevent blood-

The colonel turned to one side and threw down the playing cards which he had been holding before making any reply. His companions looked highly interested; but their faces gave no hope.

important messages, many of whom have come direct from other foreign powers. The first of these I took from them and sent forward by special couriers of my own. In each case I time when it should be most needed. was given a reprimand. Come here." thereon was one which read:

"General Order No. 27,007: Order At the very instant when the edge "Watch that streak of light for a

officers, bulletined and read to all men, permits of no modification whatever. it read: 'No man shall pass through the lines, either in or out, and under no circumstances shall any communication be passed, either in or out, save on the written permit duly sealed and signed by the president of the United States."

"Is that emphatic enough?" he asked, turning to Hillier, who reluctantly admitted that it allowed of no misinterpretation.

"But," said the latter half jokingly, 'suppose I make a run for it?" "In that case, Mr. Hillier," the officer answered gravely, "my men would unhesitatingly drill you full of holes, and I should be sorry to see a man whom I take to be a gentleman make such an attempt. This may look like play; but underneath gloved hands along this border are the claws of war. Don't, please, make me unsheath them!

The secretary, baffled, declined the proffer of a drink, and was promptly vented their employment at an earlier escorted back across the Canadian hour. Fairly gritting his teeth in lines; but on the way he made new anger, he swam to the point where the plans. He was only rebuffed by his soldier stood, and crawled out upon first failure, and with doggedness he the beach, scating himself until he set his jaws and swore that by some could fully recover from his effort means or other he would go to Wash- and regain his breath. A tall, lean ington. Time was becoming more and man, whose color emblems showed more valuable, so much of it had been him to be from Missouri, stood above

moon he lowered himself quietly into | as it reveled its ray along the line he the water and began swimming to saw here and there field booths with ward the boundary line. In his days double lines of wire entering and at Oxford he had been an athlete of emerging from them. "One's telenote, and in all his later years had graph and telephone, and the other's maintained excellent physical condition, and was thoroughly at home in tographs. Yes," he concluded, "your the water. He swam with a low picture taken in five different posistroke, catching breath from the cor- tions has been in there since you first ner of his mouth as he turned his face tried to cross the line to-day, and sidewise, and exposing as little of anyway if you'd got past us fellows, himself to view as possible. The bun- you'd have been picked up before you dle of clothing lashed to his shoulders got very far into the interior." proved something of an impediment, but not sufficient to stay his progress. ever really got across this line?" The current caught him now and then, throwing him out of his course, and and there, mostly out west where the when he discovered this to be the case hills is rougher; but they all got gathhe was almost against a bank. There-ered in sooner or later. One of 'em after he lifted his head at intervals, who tried it was a Jap, and the boys in order that he might remain in the accidentally shot him. Another felcenter of the stream. He surmised low was an Englishman, who made it that he was nearing the line of sen- over from Canada into Detroit, so I've tries, and elevated his chin for an- heard." other glance, when a sudden blinding flash of light smote him in the eyes, causing him instinctively to duck his head. When he came up for air after preceded him. swimming for some distance under water, the light was still on him, and because he knew too much; so they a drawling voice hailed him from the decided he was a vag, and run him in

"Stranger, when you get tired of swimming you might come in. I guess predecessor's fate, but made no reply. you'd better, because there's four or five men up beyond me might take you for a duck, and they're all pot hunters."

His chance was lost. He wondered why he had not thought of search lights, and realized that nothing but the brilliance of the night had pre-



He Swam to the Point Where the Soldier Stood.

expended in his first inquiries and him, while farther back and at a stealth and disguise.

to be convinced that under ordinary circumstances it would be impossible his wet clothing; but the guard inaccomplishment of my mission may to pass the sentries, whose beats were sisted in homely phrase that he'd be a almost a continuous line as far as he of catching his death of cold if he had been able to observe. His inquiries had elicited the information him some clothes for a little while, that somewhere in the vicinity a small | and to this he finally assented. This river flowed between the two coun- infinite politeness and good humor, tries, and he purposed using this tribu- coating inflexibility, was a little trytary of the St. Lawrence as a means ing. to gain the other country. His plan "Mr. Hillier, there have been at was rendered more tenable because least 20 men before me with similar the moon, being in the full, favored him. The night itself seemed most bank of clouds was slowly coming for- suppose you're being expected from ward, premising to lend obscurity at a here clear through to Vancouver.

Cautiously he proceeded along the ing to go to Washington." he said, and preceded Hillier out into river bank, gaining a position in as Hillier turned toward him in amaze-

the open, where a bulletin board was close proximity to the moving sentries ment. What perfection of espionage nailed against a tree. In the very as he dared, then slipped off his cloth- was this? "For Heaven's sake, man!" center of a collection of orders pasted ing, secured it into a bundle, and he asked his captor in surprise, "how even till his head nearly touches the awaited the moment of darkness. | do you do it?"

overtures. He would now be driven to higher point the buzzing of the calciums and the long restless ray of He returned to the city, bought a light showed the location of this shabby suit of clothes from a second-searcher of the night. Beneath it he hand dealer, checked his luggage in could dimly discern the tower-like the hotel, put the precious dispatches structure on which it was mounted. for a good many years to come for

in a pocket within his shirt, and called "You'd better get your clothes on," for an automobile. The machine car- suggested the sentry; "or, if you want ried him rapidly down a well-rolled to, I'll call one of the other boys and chauffeur, and as an additional pre- Sorry we couldn't have used the lights caution for the sake of secrecy walked a little sooner and saved you the ahead till satisfied that he had put trouble of swimming up this far and many miles between himself and any- gettin' all wet; but the boss is a little one who might have observed his com- shy on carbons now, so he thought he'd make the moon work for an hour He had seen enough during the day or two this evening."

Hillier, discomfited, started to don would just let one of the boys loan

"You seem to keep a pretty good watch along this border," he growled. "Yes, fair to middlin'," the sentry said, with a chuckle. "We've been propitious, as from the west a dark expecting you all day long. In fact, I You're the Englishman that's hanker

endured. The Scotsman scowled, swore, then picked up a stone from the gutter and hurled it through the window, smashing the clock. At the police station he declared he wanted to makers and was locked up as a lunatic.

Gilt-edged security is often guilt-

ONE KIDNEY GONE

But Cured After Doctors Said There Was No Hope.

Sylvanus O. Verrill, Milford, Me., says: "Five years ago a bad injury paralyzed me and affected my kilneys. My back hurt me terribly, and the urine was badly disordered. Doctors said my right kidney was practically dead. They

Hillier sat stupefied. "Has anybody

"Yes, three or four of them, here

"What happened to him?" Hillier

asked, suspecting that this was the

first bearer of the message who had

till the war is over.'

"They didn't want to turn him loose.

Hillier knew now what had been his

His informant after a pause con-

tinued: "There's been only one ac-

cident besides that which happened to

the Jap, and that was a poor devil that

undertook to go over in one of these

newfangled airships. He certainly

got his tire punctured all right, and

came down mighty sudden." The sol

dier stopped for a moment and heaved

a long sigh, and then concluded in a

softer voice: "I was awfully sorry

for that feilow. He wa'n't no spy nor

nothing like that, but just a young

newspaper chap doing the best he

knew how to get the goods. He was

done for when the boys picked him up

The colonel felt about as sorry as any-

body else, and got special permission

from the Canadian government to send

a squad back with him as a guard of

By this time Hillier had donned the

dry garments that had been provided

and stood awaiting the further instruc

tions of his captor. "Well, what am I

to do?" he inquired, seeing that the

"Oh, you can go back across the

line, or if you want to one of the boys

will find a place for you to bunk till

morning. You see, you're kind of a

distinguished guest. We all had or-

ders to treat you nicely, and the colo-

nel will have a machine here to take

you back wherever you want to go to-

Baffled by vigilance and overcome

by courtesy the secretary, after bid

ding his captor good-by, retired for the

light to a camp cot in the quarters of

officer said. "Not quite as pleasant

quarters as the secretary of the Brit-

many conveniences; but you're wel

come to my razor if you'll wait a min-

Hillier sat up, rubbing his eyes.

Nealty stretched out on a camp stool

before him were his shabby clothes

improved by washing, not only dry but

pressed. He stared at them in sur-

prise, while the officer laughingly con-

them; but I don't think you made a

friend of my orderly, as he swears he

has worked on them all night long.

Thanking the officer for his hospi-

tality. Hillier slowly garbed himself

and stepped through the tent fly. Be-

low him and stretching away as far as

the eye could discern were gray-

brown embankments, one line within

the other, and excavated with military

hind him, observing his curious in-

busy, and besides the government

didn't want to take any chances. Those

pits stretch across this continent

people to tell just where the border is

located. Like 'em?" he concluded,

"No, I can't say that I do," Hillier

responded with equal good nature;

"Oh, they're the goods sure enough."

his informant continued; "but that

isn't all. See that little mound over

there?" and he pointed a bare brown

arm over his guest's shoulder. Hil-

lier nodded assent and looked inquir-

ingly at his companion. "Behind that

there's a brace of Gatling guns. Got

them too every little ways. Never

had to fire 'em yet, and hope we never

will. But you never can tell. Same

work's been done along the Mexican

border line; but it's easier to guard.

This war certainly has educated a

lot of fellows; so that when it's over

there'll be plenty of men can show

callouses that were never decorated

with 'em before. This country's bot-

tled up now as tight as if the Lord

Almighty had set a can over it," and

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Polite Chineze Children.

is taught "manners," how to come

into a room, to bow very low to par-

ents or those older than himself-

floor-and to "chin-chin." This is

their polite greeting, which takes the

While very young the little Chinese

he laughed at his own joke.

"but they look business like."

"Intrenchments," came a voice be-

tinued:

the strength of it."

man stood motionless.

said I could never walk again. I read of Doan's Kidney Pills and began using them. One box made me stronger and freer from pain. I kept on using them and in three months was able to get out on crutches, and the kidneys were acting better. I improved rapidly, discarded the crutches and to

the wonder of my friends was soon completely cured." Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box.

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of a musical family? The Other-Musical! Bless you, sir, why even our dog's got a brass band

round its neck!

Criminality of Waste. If I wanted to train a child to be thrifty I should teach him to abhor waste. I do not mean waste of money; that cures itself, because very soon there is no money to waste-but waste of material, waste of something that is useful but that you cannot represent in money value to the waster. There is waste of water, waste of gas and things of that kind. If you would wish your children to be thrifty I would beg to impress upon them the criminality of waste.-Lord Rosebery, in an Edinburgh Address.

A Black Eve for Home. It is a coming fashion to hire a hall to entertain your friends, to give dinner parties in a hotel, to be married in a church, to be taken to a hospital when you are sick and to an undertaker's as soon as you die, and left there until the funeral. The tendency is to conduct all public occasions away from home. The home is getting a black eye.-Atchison (Kan.)

a lieutenant of infantry. It was long be fore he succumbed to a sleep of utter Deafness Cannot Be Cured exhaustion. He was awakened by a by local applications, as they cannot reach the dis-eased portion of the ear. There is only one way to rure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling scund or im-perfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed. Deafbugle call in the morning, and found his host shaving himself before a small mirror suspended from the tent perfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed. Dear-ness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condi-tion, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mineous surfaces.

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cents a box. Samples sent free by John I. spection. "We have to keep the boys Even a wise man occasionally has time for the silly chatter of a pretty

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For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, curse wind coilc. Zc a bottle.

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if you let that cold run on. Neglected colds cause incurable diseases. Don't risk your health. Keep a bottle of

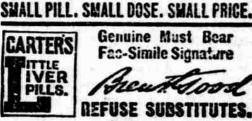
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PUTNAM FADELESS DYES

## No. 16,004, which was delivered to all of the cloud began creeping across the minute," the sentry answered, and form of our hand-shaking. New Zealand's Wonderland

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Costly Loss of Temper. An amusing incident is reported

magnificent savages, who, although maker in the Boulevard Magenta. they have been cannibals within the Finally came a day when the differmemory of man, are now a highly in- ence was too great to any longer be give a lesson to the Paris watch-