

THE VANISHING FLEETS

ILLUSTRATED BY A. WEIL

SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of "what might have happened" opens in Washington with the United States and Japan near war. Guy Hillier, secretary of the British embassy, and Norma Roberts, chief aide of inventor Roberts, are introduced as lovers. Japan declares war and takes the Philippines. Guy Hillier starts for England. Norma Roberts leaves Washington for the North coast. Hawaii is captured by the Japs. All ports are closed. Tokyo learns of missing Japanese fleet and a Canadian is convinced that United States has powerful war agency. England decides to send a fleet to American waters and a Canadian protection against what the British suppose is a terrible submarine. Hillier is sent with a message. Fleet mysteriously disappears. The Kaiser is missing. King Edward of England is confronted by Admiral Bevington of the United States. The Dreadnaught, biggest of England's warships, is discovered at an indefensible point in the Thames. The story now goes back to a time many months before the war breaks out, and inventor Roberts visits the president and cabinet, selling of and exhibiting a metal production. This overcomes friction which electrified and is to be applied to vessels to increase speed to over 50 miles an hour. A city for the manufacture of the mysterious discovery is built on the coast of Florida. Dr. Roberts' first attempt to electrify plates proves a failure. In a second effort Norma is knocked unconscious, but the mystery of true levitation is solved, making the most important discovery. Roberts evolves a great flying machine, rendering warships useless.

need no armor! Increased speed of the waters is of no value to us. We have created a machine that flies, not a thing of gas, of planes, or a kite. We cannot explain here as well as if you were to go with us and see it, and what use we have made of your money."

The secretary of the navy looked disappointed. His mind was too intensely practical to jump to happy conclusions. "Can a flying machine whip a battleship?" he asked, and would have continued; but the admiral brought his fist down on the desk with a mighty bang.

"This one alone might do it! The others we'll have ready before they are called upon can whip the world." He stood as if abashed by his own enthusiasm and lack of etiquette, looked at the president and the secretary apologetically, and then in a less tempestuous voice went on: "All we ask is that you come with us—no one may see you, of course—and then you'll have no cause for complaint."

His request was reasonable; but they were curious. After brief discussion and arrangement they decided to go in motor cars, which many of those present knew how to drive, and within half an hour the entire party was whirling away through the side streets of the city, out into the residence sections, through long avenues of trees, past suburban homes, and finally to their destination.

The night was lighted only by the stars, which failed to disclose that strange monster of marvelous metal and unprecedented power which loomed up dimly before them in the

while far below was an unanticipated picture. They had left the earth with that first preliminary jar, and now saw on its surface, picked out by the lights, the streets of the national capital. They were already a mile above it and rapidly gaining higher altitudes, the horizon where other lights shone in the far distance expanding saucer-like while they gazed. The sea, with here and there a slow-moving ship, came before their vision, and a little dotting of fire exposed a railway train crawling along on its journey. It was as if the earth had fallen away into space and they alone were in a position of security and solidity.

"We shall require four hours of your time at least," the admiral called, and with starts of surprise they looked to where he stood outlined against the light of the hoods, finding it hard to realize that they were not addressed by a being of another world. The officer leaned over to the secretary of the navy and added: "I am going to give you our preliminary report, which will save writing it."

Sessions made no reply, but turned to his interrupted scrutiny of the panorama on which the others were intent once more.

They were being lifted higher and higher, and in this recession of the earth, its lights, which only a few moments before had been far apart, now appeared as spangles on a vast field of black. Above them through a transparency in the roof the stars in the clarity of the rarefied atmosphere gleamed brighter, throwing outward into the pall long scintillating arrows of fire. The strange creation of an abnormal old man and his daughter, the Magic Carpet of fable realized, swept upward into the dome of the sky, veering outward over the silent reaches of the ocean, and then, like a great auk in homing flight, swung off in a wide tangent toward the southwestern void, carrying them at a speed which they could not reckon. Below was nothing more to claim their attention; so silent and spellbound, they turned to discover what they might within this shell of mystery.

Forward, where the hood was glowing dimly, they saw the inventor standing calmly attentive to his task and scanning the faces of indicators be-

trilled with machinery, was hurtling with them through the night. The noise within was not sufficient to prevent easy conversation; but they sat as men stricken dumb, being carried away into captivity by some dread magician of more singular power than was ever portrayed in Persian tales.

"Stand clear of the shutters, gentlemen!" the scientist called, turning his face in their direction, and they leaned forward just as Norma pressed a button. A sharp clashing noise smote their ears, and when next they looked at the ports they were shut off by metallic slides. Again the girl touched a button, and instantly the interior of the radioplane was flooded with silvery light. It was a disappointment, for sight gave no elucidation of the secret.

A low roof of unpainted metal arched above them. In one end were ordinary electrical dynamos, a motor, and a polished electrical apparatus which they could not understand, and beyond this, outside the hoods, there was nothing whatever; only the signs of hurried work, rough, unpainted, and unpaneled. Rude benches, evidently placed for this occasion only, comprised all the trappings and furnishings of this monster that was the vanguard of modern transportation, and in whose keeping rested the nation's strength. They had expected intricacies of construction; but before them was simplicity. They had pictured strange manifestations of electrical science; but only a compact mass of brass rods and gleaming tubes was visible. The admiral read their unworded curiosity.

"I can't explain it quite," he said. "Dr. Roberts will tell you all about it pretty soon, when he can get away from piloting the ship. Look out for the shutters again. Norma is going to open them and shut off the lights. We are at our journey's end."

A flash, a flash, and again they were in darkness, and with one accord they turned to the reopened ports.

Beneath them now glittered the arc lights of the plant on the lonely island which they had peopled. The great blast furnace was spouting toward them showers of glowing sparks and sheets of writhing flame, and before it, dwarfed by height into squatly gnomes, were those who incessantly fed it. The windows of the machine shop were limed in squares of white, and out to one side, throwing its searchlight to and fro, there steamed a gunboat, while afar on the other boundary of the key its sister ship kept equally vigilant patrol. Industry was spread before them—industry be-tokening that night and day were being devoted to the country's need; telling through the hum of wheels and the roaring of the blast that the eagle from his lone aerie was sharpening his talons for the impending struggle, and preparing for a resolute flight into the red sun of war.

Dumfounded and unable to comprehend that in so short a time they had been transported a distance which by all known methods would have taken a couple of days to traverse, they stared at the scene opening to their view, and while this bewildering continued the radioplane began a rapid descent in wide, sweeping circles, faintly picked out an open spot immediately in front of the plant, and gently came to rest.

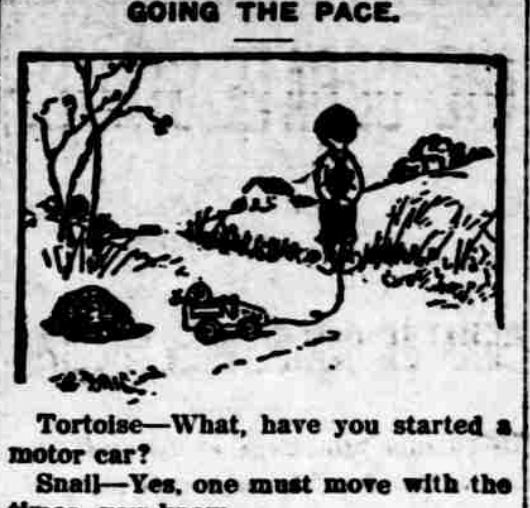
CHAPTER XVII.

To Meet the Enemy.

A great ribbon of light from the watchful Columbia perforated the night, and as they emerged from the flying monster they discovered in this flaming pathway of white a line of shells similar to that which had conveyed them to the island. From the one nearest came the steady resounding beat of hammers and the voices of men who were equipping it within, preparatory to transforming the dead, inactive mass of metal into a thing of ebullient life and incredible activity.

"Completing them at the rate of two a day now, gentlemen," informed Brockton, as he led the party toward the machine shop, which was the nearest building. And this they were to learn was the story of the camp: Accomplishment, accomplishment—everything sacrificed to accomplishment! There was no recess from industry when they entered the shed-like building, and go where they would they saw nothing but men working like mad, who merely looked up from their occupations, saluted, and then resumed their tasks as though the president of the United States and his most eminent advisers were not of sufficient importance to excuse delay. Here was a little army of men, expert in their several lines, comprehending the necessity for haste, and imbued with only one idea: That their efforts were for their country. Soldiers were they who in other times would have shut their jaws and grimly stormed through shot and shell; but were now doing no less valiant acts when with every turn of a wheel or every blow of a hammer they threw mind, muscle and heart into the uprearing of the nation's defense.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



GOING THE PACE.

Tortoise—What, have you started a motor car?

Snail—Yes, one must move with the times, you know.

Sheer white goods, in fact, any fine wash attractions when new, owe much of their attractiveness to the way they are laundered, this being done in a manner to enhance their textile beauty. Home laundering would be equally satisfactory if proper attention was given to starching, the first essential being good Starch, which has sufficient strength to stiffen, without thickening the goods. Try Defiance Starch and you will be pleasantly surprised at the improved appearance of your work.

Not Our Discovery.

The Greek, Eratosthenes, 250 B. C., taught the doctrine of the roundness of the earth, and the ideas of the sphere, its poles, axis, the equator, arctic and antarctic circles, equinoctial points and the solstices were quite generally entertained by the wise men of that time. There were plenty of men in Rome, therefore, who were prepared to talk about the earth as a sphere and to make globes illustrating their ideas.

\$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dread disease that even now has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietor has so much faith in his curative powers that he offers One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

Address F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Cleaning the Stage.

"We hope," said the spokesman of the committee, "to enlist your support in favor of a clean stage."

"You have it," responded the theatrical manager, heartily. "Why, almost every one of my plays opens with a girl darning everything in sight."

The City of a Thousand Tongues.

"Why do you devote so much time to the study of the languages? Are you going to study abroad?"

"No, I want to be equipped to carry on an intelligent conversation with any one I may happen to meet in New York."—Washington Star.

That an article may be good as well as cheap, and give entire satisfaction, is proven by the extraordinary sale of Defiance Starch, each package containing one-third more Starch than can be had of any other brand for the same money.

Unlikely.

Whale—What are you going to tell your wife when you get home?

Jonah—I don't know; I don't suppose she would believe me if I should tell her that I had been to a fish dinner.—The Bohemian.

Asthmatic, Read This.

If you are afflicted with Asthma write me at once and learn of something for which you will be grateful the rest of your life. J. G. McBride, Stella, Neb.

The habit of viewing things cheerfully, and of thinking about life hopefully, may be made to grow up in us like any other habit.—Smiles.

Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c. Many smokers prefer them to 10c cigars. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

It doesn't take much to satisfy most people who are self-satisfied.

CHAPTER XVII.—Continued.

There were the heart of the American government beat was nothing but anxiety and suspense. Each succeeding day's events had made it more certain that Japan would force the issue to war, and, like an athlete, was stripping and training for the fight. The men who had taken upon themselves the tremendous responsibility of intrusting the nation's defense to a single discovery, and they must account some day for which they must account, and grimly realized that they were irrevocably bound to the success or failure on the key. It was too late now to attempt other projects, and glory or defeat hung suspended on the issue.

No reports had been received, and no news had come from that determined little army that had sallied away to the south. Hence it was with something of a shock that the first word received was to the effect that the dry dock could not be utilized. It seemed like the first dread handwriting emblazoned on the wall, foretelling failure, disaster, disgrace and war, and the president as he read it quoted with inexpressible sadness: "Mene, Mene, Tekel—" and his half-opened lips framed the rest.

Then followed the requisition for supplies, and once again before any detailed report had been received came another demand. The island in the solitude seemed an insatiable monster, devouring national funds and giving back nothing in return. More days went by, bringing nothing save distressing stories from the orient, where a clash had taken place at Chemulpo between Japanese sailors and American marines. This was of such serious nature that apologies were tendered the Japanese embassy, and then from the entire country burst a storm of protest and reiterated criticisms of the administration, which was contemptuously accused of showing the white feather. From the western coast came appeal on appeal, the whole Pacific seaboard calling attention to its unprotected state and the imminence of its danger.

Distressed and irate at the dearth of information, the secretary of the navy was on the point of sending a message to Brockton demanding news, when he received from Miami the terse message that in two nights more the admiral would report in person. That he bore nothing but a tale of disappointment was surmised from the closing words of the admiral, who requested that all those who had been party to the project should assemble secretly as before at the White House after midnight.

Haggard and worn, they came together, read the brief dispatch and waited. The president, his melancholy face set and grave, looked at them from cavernous eyes; but could offer no consolation. There was nothing to do but wait—sit and wait—for that messenger of ill omen who was to sound the knell of hope and tell what letters had been combined to spell the word "failure." In hushed voices they discussed the situation, and tried to evolve some project for its alleviation.

And then without preliminary announcement the door swung open under the hand of the president's private secretary, and there stood framed in it the huge form of the admiral, his hand at salute, his eyes shining in triumph, and back of him stood Norma, her father and Jenkins. Brockton advanced to the president's desk, and faced him and the secretary of the navy.

"I have come to deliver my report in person, and with me are those who have given this nation the greatest engine of war that science has ever known."

The room was electrified; but the president sprang to his feet and threw up a restraining hand commanding silence.

"Well," he queried, inviting further words; but Brockton's place had been taken by the shriveled figure of a diminutive old man, who put a trembling hand out to his friend and in a voice of affection, hushed but exultant, exclaimed:

"Paul, Paul, we've made good!"

The other's hand came out to meet his, and the only sound heard was the president's fervent, "Thank God! Thank God!"

The gates of repression and emotion were down. These men had been tried to the breaking point, and now, when in one moment their skies had cleared, they gave way. They hugged each other, repeatedly shook hands, and in the eyes of some there were unrestrained tears. They crowded round the little group from the key and astonished each other to silence.

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field. It stood there on the stubble, dark and inert, massive and without grace, like some gigantic turtle of a prehistoric age. Sentries halted them as they approached even as in time of strife, and compelled them to expose their identity. They went aboard while the admiral stood at the door waiting for the guard to come within, the last one explaining a slight delay by saying he thought for a moment that he had heard a noise as of some one creeping over the field, but had found nothing.

"Sorry we can't illuminate," the inventor explained; "but we shall a little later after you have seen how it works."

Jenkins threw a lever, and the heavy doors over the port came to with a dull metallic clang and were clasped.

Within a little hooded space forward a dim light exposed great banks of levers, switches and dials, and by its faint rays they found seats improvised for the occasion. Roberts threw out a hand, and the hum of great dynamos told that machinery had been set in motion. Back of them, in another apartment so closely screened that no streak of light might expose their presence to the outside world, they saw Jenkins and a junior engineer watching the play of the wheels. Norma took her place beside her father. They felt vibrant shocks as the great arship throbbed and quivered, and then, save for the song of the machinery, all was serenely quiet and motionless. There was no sensation whatever, and they began vaguely to wonder when the flight was to take place, if that was the intention of their hosts. The voice of the admiral, pent with elation, called:

"Mr. President and gentlemen, if you will all lean over back of you and look down you may see something."

They obeyed with a promptness that suggested some nerve strain, and saw that they had been seated over broad glass plates of great thickness,

for him, some of which they conceived must tell of altitudes, direction or forces under subjection. In the glare immediately before him, bringing out his face in Rembrandtesque relief, he seemed a patriarch whose superior knowledge had elevated him above the common paths of men and placed him on such an exalted plane of intelligence that he was beyond a standard of comparison.

The consciousness that they were far above the traveled paths of all time lost its terrifying sense of strangeness and uncertainty, and they learned to trust this structure of metal whose great enlivened masses, en-

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"The late Dr. William M. Stonehill," said a college settlement worker of New York, "was called the bishop of the Bowery. It was a title of affection. The Bowery loved this good man."

"He sometimes used to laugh over the naivete of his Bowery audiences. He used to say that in their frequent audible comments on his sermons they reminded him of the famous duke of Cambridge—the old duke, you know."

"From his great pew the duke rumbled out all sorts of remarks and criticisms every Sunday morning. It would be, said Dr. Stonehill, like this: 'Preacher—'Let us pray.' 'Duke—'By all means.' 'Preacher prays for rain.

"Duke—'No good in that as long as the wind is in the east.' 'Preacher (reading) — 'Zacchaeus stood forth and said, 'Behold, Lord, one-half of my lands I gave to the poor.' 'Duke—'Too much, too much. Don't mind subscribing, but can't stand that.' 'Preacher quotes a certain commandment. 'Duke—'Quite right, quite right, but very difficult sometimes.' 'Preacher quotes another commandment, which need not be indicated. 'Duke—'No, no! It was my brother Ernest did that.'"

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"Duke," said the heiress, eagerly, "did you see father?"

"Yes."

"Well?"

"We talked about the weather."

"What? Lose your nerve again? Why don't you brace up and talk like a man—a subject of a king on whose domain the sun never sets!"

"Can't," moaned the duke. "All the time I was in your father's office he kept grinning at a big painting."

"What painting?"

"The battle of Bunker Hill!"—Lippincott's.

It Jarred Him.

Howell—How did you come to break your engagement with that girl?

Powell—I had reason to think that she hadn't enough practical knowledge to make her a good helpmeet.

Howell—What gave you that idea?

Powell—I told her one day that the hens weren't laying, and she said she supposed that would affect the price of egg coal.

The extraordinary popularity of fine white goods this summer makes the choice of Starch a matter of great importance. Defiance Starch, being free from all injurious chemicals, is the only one which is safe to use on fine fabrics. Its great strength as a stiffener makes half the usual quantity of Starch necessary, with the result of perfect finish, equal to that when the goods were new.

They Deserve It.

She (horror-stricken)—That's my new spring hat in the chair there! What are you doing, John?

He (meekly)—I am sitting on the style, Mary.

Red, Weak, Watery Eyes Relieved by Murine Eye Remedy. Compounded by Experienced Physicians. Conforms to Pure Food and Drug Laws. Murine Doesn't Smart; Soothes Eye Pain. Try Murine in Your Eyes. At Druggists.

When you wear out a suit of clothes you can generally get another, but it's different when you wear out your welcome.

There's Danger Ahead

if you've been neglecting a cold. Don't experiment with your health. Get a remedy that you know will cure—that remedy is

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It's safe. In the severest cases of coughs, colds, bronchitis, croup, inflammation of chest and lungs it is the most effective remedy known. It does its work quickly, removes the cause of the disease.

Sold everywhere in these countries, bottles, \$1.00, 50c, 25c.

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Cedar Shingles

—unequaled for wear and appearance. Require no dressing every year as do prepared roofings. Last much longer and look better. The best WASHINGTON RED CEDAR SHINGLES bear this mark, remember the name.

When you wear out a suit of clothes you can generally get another, but it's different when you wear out your welcome.

WHAT JOY THEY BRING TO EVERY HOME

as with joyous hearts and smiling faces they romp and play—when in health—and how conducive to health the games in which they indulge, the outdoor life they enjoy, the cleanly, regular habits they should be taught to form and the wholesome diet of which they should partake. How tenderly their health should be preserved, not by constant medication, but by careful avoidance of every medicine of an injurious or objectionable nature, and if at any time a remedial agent is required, to assist nature, only those of known excellence should be used; remedies which are pure and wholesome and truly beneficial in effect, like the pleasant laxative remedy, Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna, manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna has come into general favor in many millions of well informed families, whose estimate of its quality and excellence is based upon personal knowledge and use.

Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna has also met with the approval of physicians generally, because they know it is wholesome, simple and gentle in its action. We inform all reputable physicians as to the medicinal principles of Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna, obtained by an original method, from certain plants known to them to act most beneficially, and presented in an agreeable syrup in which the wholesome Californian blue figs are used to promote the pleasant taste; therefore it is not a secret remedy, and hence we are free to refer to all well informed physicians, who do not approve of patent medicines and never favor indiscriminate self-medication.

Please to remember and teach your children also that the genuine Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna always has the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—plainly printed on the front of every package and that it is for sale in bottles of one size only. If any dealer offers any other than the regular Fifty cent size, or having printed thereon the name of any other company, do not accept it. If you fail to get the genuine you will not get its beneficial effects. Every family should always have a bottle on hand, as it is equally beneficial for the parents and the children, whenever a laxative remedy is required.

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Wm. D. Galt

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900 DROPS

ALCOHOL—3 PER CENT

Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of INFANTS AND CHILDREN

Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral NOT NARCOTIC

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Perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and LOSS OF SLEEP.

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THE CENTRAL COMPANY, NEW YORK.

40¢ BOTTLES, 35¢ BOTTLES

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