

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. The government is much criticised because of its lack of preparation for strife. At the most inopportune moment Japan declares war. Japan takes the Philippines without loss of a man. 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 mysterious expedition for an isolated point on the Florida coast.

CHAPTER II.-Continued.

"I don't know what it's all about, boys," he said, relenting. "I wish I did; but I have no more knowledge of it than you have. I don't even know why Miss Roberts is aboard; but this much I am certain of: That the men in Washington know what they are doing, and all the rest of the world can just keep on criticising and guessing. As far as we are concerned, we are officers who have sworn to and will obey orders, even if they tell us to go to the outer edge of the flat earth.'

Darkness came on them before their next stop was made, and they slowed down as they passed through the yards of a large city, felt their puffing locomotive being uncoupled, and heard the slow resonant snorts of a fresh one being driven into place. They were tired of the day's traveling, and sat in listless silence, looking through the open windows at the half deserted platforms. Newsboys were running here and there offering the latest editions, and they called them to the side of the coach and bought newspapers from them. The silence in the car was broken by the admiral, who had been the first purchaser.

"Well, I'll be blanked!" he said, angrily crumpling his paper into a ball which he threw on the floor at his feet, before he began striding up and down the aisle. What he had read beneath flaring headlines was this:

"Washington, May 28.-The Japanese have taken the Hawaiian islands, together with the gunboats Marietta and Corbett, and are now landing troops from a large transport. The incredible and disgraceful feature of the affair is that not a gun was fired by either side, our officers contenting themselves by running up the white flag when the enemy approached. The cable operator sending the message said that he did so under the surveillance of two Japanese officers, who at the conclusion of the message would disconnect the cable, thus putting the islands out of communication.'

CHAPTER III. When the Flag Came Down.

The government was compelled to take action toward pacifying its own subjects immediately after the news of the Hawaiian surrender, public indignation having risen to the point where the people threatened to take matters into their own hands. Without a dissenting voice the journals of the country came forth with scathing editorials, occasionally asking the president whether it was the intention of the administration to run up a white fing as soon as a fast approaching enemy neared the shores, and thus surrender the whole United States. Therefore an appeal for patience was issued in the following terms:

"The president and his cabinet, acting for and empowered by congress in special session, most urgently ask the people of the United States to withhold judgment on the conduct of the war for at least a week longer; when it will be fully demonstrated that the government is following a well-defined policy, which will not only avert bloodshed, but will impose no disgrace upon our country. The exigencies of the situation are such that to make public our plans would be to defeat our own ends. We therefore ask the earnest support and co-operation of the people of the United States by such means as lie within their power, which at this time can be shown best by a cessation of massmeetings and criticisms tending only to embarrass the government in the discharge of its duty and the bringing to a successful termination the conflict which is now on."

Contrary to the usual form of proclamation, this one was signed not only by the president, but by all members of his cabinet, who, therefore, jointly assumed the responsibility. At first there was an inclination to deride the message, and then when more sober thought prevailed a spirit of fairness dictated that the administration should have its chance.

Foreign advices indicated that no attack might be expected against the shores of the United States proper for even a greater length of time than ten days; hence the respite of seven | ible on the horizon, and when within most an instant the silence in the

The Flag Under Which He Had Fought So Valiantly. days seemed a reasonable limit within | range of the glasses it was discovered which the government might demon- that in the offing floated two cruisers strate its theories.

what had taken place in the Philipof a London paper, who had been on the scene, and which read as follows:

"The surrender of the Philippine islands by the United States to Japan constitutes what is probably the most remarkable chapter in the history of wars. Not only was there no battle fought nor any attempt made at defense, but what is worse, or would seem so to any man with red blood in his veins, is the humiliation imposed upon the Americans by their home government. To an impartial observer it would appear that nothing but madness could dictate such a policy. The facts of the case are as follows:

"Although trouble had been expected with Japan by every reasoning inhabitant of the islands for many months, the government at Washington apparently made no attempt whatever to strengthen its position, and, on the contrary, seemed rather endeavoring to weaken it. As the whole world knows, there have been immense and costly fortifications under progress of construction in the islands for the last ten years. More than 30 days ago, by official order, work on these defenses was summarily stopped, the workmen discharged and the engineers ordered home. This was the first act of treachery toward the Philippines.

"Immediately following this incomprehensible action all war vessels in waters surrounding the fslands and on the Pacific station were ordered to ports in Europe, where they rendez- part of Japan we were not to make voused in what can never be anything but neutral territory. And there they are at this moment, thousands of miles from the scene of conflict, incapable of either offense or defense. Had the government deliberately chosen to put itself out of touch with the whole war, it could have selected no more effective method. Your correspondent has had the honor of an intimate friendship not only with the civil officials of the islands, but with the men of the army and navy as well, and is therefore in a position to give trustworthy and detailed information of what at this time seems little less

than an infamy. "It had been known for some days that orders of a most remarkable nature had been received by the governor of the islands and the commanding general. What these were, however, remained a secret until that memorable day of May.

"At ten o'clock on the morning of May 27 a cloud of smoke became vis- er, settled into their seats, and in al

of the first class and one battle ship, It was possible that the public tem- flying the Japanese flag and cleared per would have remained passive for for action. The officer in command the full period, but for a somewhat of the fort at once communicated this unfortunate and graphic description of fact to the governor, and a consultation was called, to which all officials pines, cabled by the correspondent of both branches of government were summoned. Inasmuch as the gravity of the situation required the absolute concurrence of all concerned, the consultation was not confined to men of missioned officer from the army and every official of standing in the civil government. The men, wondering at this strange call, and aware that something unexpected had happened, responded to the summons and re paired to the governor's office, where they seated themselves silently, and them. He, a man grown gray in the speak.

within my province to criticise the acts of the department which I represent nor to find fault with its desires, and yet I have before me at this moment the most humiliating instructions which in more than forty years of life in a responsible capacity I have ever received.

dreading to tell his auditors of his country's shame, and then with trem bling hand opened a drawer of his desk and took out a file of official documents, which he held before him as he continued:

stopped on the fortifications of this harbor I received additional orders to the effect that in case of any overt act or warlike demonstration upon the any defense unless it involved the saving of our lives, and to surrender the islands in toto to our enemy.'

"It has been your correspondent's privilege to witness many scenes where the tempers of men were tried as by fire; but never yet has he been compelled to view the deliberate mortification of at least two score of valiant men in such a peremptory and and unheard of manner. They sat as if stupefied by an overwhelming catastrophe, looking at one another as if incredulous and coubting their own hearing, and then addenly broke into angry exclamations of surprise and indignation. By a most remarkable display of authority hey were brought into subjection agai , the commanding general, a man at a most retiring age, rising before them and holding up a warning hand. 'Gentlemen,' he said, quietly rebuking them, 'our first duty is that of obedience.'

"The officers, looking at one anoth-

going as if to a funeral, enter their fortress gates and silently gather floated a hitherto unsullied banner. A grim old man grown gray in war and scarred with the marks of many bat them a pull and brought fluttering to the ground the flag under which he his staff took from the hands of an orderly a cloth of white, the emblem the world over of defeat with or with high rank, but included every comout honor, fastened it into the idle waited for that executive to address diplomatic service of his nation, paced up and down the room as if loath to

"'Gentlemen,' he began, 'it is not

"He stood for a few moments, as if

"'At the time when work was

struments of offense and defense, built to withstand the onslaught of the combined navies and armies of the world, stood the sullen, shamefaced officers of the vanquished garrison, the gilt of their full dress uniforms untarnished by powder or smoke, and shining garishly in a midday sun. There, drawn up in line, were men who would have fought to death and gone exultantly out into another world rather than face the disgrace which had been heaped upon them by an unworthy clique of superiors in office. "The Japanese admiral advanced to the sacrificed but not defeated general and extended his hand, offering the commonplace courtesies of the day. There was no need of an inter preter, the head of the victorious force

> at the United States Naval academy in which he had been educated. (TO BE CONTINUED.)

> speaking the English he had learned

LOVE'S SACRIFICE.

"Wat's de matter, Reginald, bave youse aworn off smokin'?"

"Yes. You see, I'm engaged now, and my fiancee objects to a disagreeable breath."

ECZEMA ALL OVER HIM.

No Night's Rest for a Year and Limit of His Endurance Seemed Near -Owes Recovery to Cuticura.

ernor, still holding his papers before

"Fearing trickery on the part of z

prospective enemy, I doubted the au-

thenticity of my instructions. I used

a secret code which has never gone

beyond the hands of the most confi-

dential men in my department, and to

firmation. To you of the army I will

say that before this verification was

received, your general, and here he

turned to his white-haired confrere,

'had been the recipient of a command

from the secretary of war of the

United States couched in almost the

"At the conclusion of his speech,

this fine old man sank back into his

chair with bowed head as if the dis-

grace of his country was his own

There was a more or less dignified dis-

cussion participated in by the older

officers present; but interrupted now

and then by some of the younger men,

who favored totally ignoring the or-

ders and defending the islands to the

death. The cooler heads among them

prevailed, and at last it was recog-

save absolute and unqualified surren-

"Before the meeting could be official

ly dispersed the sullen boom of a gun

came heavily from the sea, reverberat-

ing through the room. The men

sprang to their feet and rushed to-

ward the exit, knowing that war was

upon them, but that their hands were

tied as hopelessly as though bound

"There, within range of their own

heavier guns, floated a formidable fleet

from Japan. Even while their con-

ference was in progress, cruiser after

cruiser and floating forts of steel had

crept up over the horizon. The Japanese gunners were testing their

range; but no damage had been done.

saw a procession of crestfallen men,

round the great flagstaff, from which

tles walked to the halvards, gave

had fought so valiantly. A colonel of

"The general, a warrior no longer.

but a heart-broken old man, turned

away from his colleagues, walked

across the parade, and the door of his

quarters closed upon him. Several

other members of his staff did like-

wise, and still others stood silent on

the ramparts, watching the outcome

of this event. The ships ceased firing

and, as if perplexed by this unwar

ranted outcome, seemed to be com-

municating with each other, dexter

ously wigwagging signal after signal

A torpedo boat destroyer slowly sepa

rated itself from the flotilla and came

suspiciously nosing its way toward the

land, winding in and out as if fearing

floating mines or sunken engines of

"As it neared the shore, it was seen

that on its black deck stood the ad

miral of the fleet, together with his

staff. They were met at the landing

by a deputation of officers, both civil

and military, who escorted them to

the fort. No one can depict the ex-

pressions, half surprise and half in-

quiry, which overspread the coun-

tenances of this insignificant invading

force. A party of less than ten men

without arms was actually accom-

"At the entrance to this city of

masonry and steel, equipped with

silent monsters of warfare, embodying

all the latest and most formidable in-

plishing the most remarkable con

quest in all history.

destruction.

loops and pulled it aloft.

with manacles of steel.

my surprise received absolute con-

him, slowly continued:

same terms."

"My son Clyde was almost completely covered with eczema, Physicians treated him for nearly a year without helping him any. His head, face, and neck were covered with large scabs which he would rub until they fell off. Then blood and matter would run out and that would be worse. Friends coming to see him said that if he got well he would be disfigured for life. When it seemed as if he could possibly stand it no longer, I used some Cuticura Soap, Cuticura Ointment, and Cuticura Resolvent. That was the first night for nearly a year that he slept. In the morning there was a great change for the better. In about six weeks he was perfectly well. Our leading physician recommends Cutleura for eczema, Mrs. Algy Cockburn, Shiloh, O., June 11, 1907."

Must Have Meant Him. "I wish I knew," said Cholly Saphead, "if I have any show of winning Miss Roxie Swellman."

"Well," answered Miss Peppery, "from a remark of hers I think you're her choice."

"Aw, really? What did she say?" "She said nobody was good enough to be her husband."

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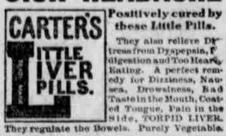
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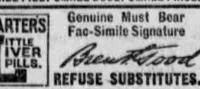
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