

TAKEN FROM THE ENEMY.

BY HENRY NEWBOLT.

CHAPTER XII.—(Continued).

But when the 2d and 3d of May had come and gone and still not a speck was visible upon the vast expanse of ocean around them, he took a more serious view of the matter, and thought it his duty to speak about it.

"Johnstone," he said, when the others had retired for the night, "have you taken your bearings today? Do you know where we are?"

"Yes, sir; within an easy day's sail of the island."

"Then we shall have been twelve days coming a thousand miles. How's that?"

The other was silent.

"I told you," Dick continued, "that I should hold you answerable; now I give you warning that I'm not satisfied so far."

"I'll warrant you'll be satisfied enough by this time tomorrow," grumbled Johnstone, in a low voice.

Estcourt turned away, pretending not to hear this remark, which, however, in the sense in which he took it, struck him as being a just enough retort.

That night the wind rose again, and the sky next morning was once more completely overcast; about noon wet squalls began to strike the ship.

When the rain ceased for a time, toward sunset, Johnstone came down to the saloon to tell them that the island was in sight.

Dick and Camilla went up together on deck.

"There," he cried, as he stepped from the main hatch, "she's on the larboard bow. I knew the fellow had gone wide of his course."

And in fact the island, which should have lain before them to the right, was visible just upon the leeward side of the line of the bowsprit.

Camilla scarcely heard his exclamation. She was standing motionless, with one hand on the capstan to support herself, gazing aloft at a small flock of birds that were wheeling swiftly round and round the topmasts.

Dick turned to speak to her, and started to see the look of bewilderment upon her face. He followed her glance upward, and was even more amazed.

"St. Helena!" he murmured. "Great heaven! what can this mean?" And he ran downstairs to find Johnstone, shouting for him by his name.

The voice of M. de Montaut answered him from the captain's cabin; the door was ajar, and he stepped hastily in.

On one side stood Johnstone and the colonel, on the other side lay the captain's berth; it was empty.

"Where is Worsley?" he cried, in fresh astonishment.

Johnstone laughed; the colonel held up his hand to rebuke him.

"What does all this mean?" Dick exclaimed. "We are at St. Helena!"

"My dear Estcourt," said the colonel, "I have long owed you an explanation; if you will come into the saloon I shall be happy to give it to you."

CHAPTER XIII.

DICK entered the saloon with an ominous foreboding that a struggle was at hand. M. de Montaut followed close behind him, and after entering locked the door and put the key in his pocket. Dick took no heed of this action. It could not have been aimed at him, for in strength of body he was easily the other's superior.

They sat down at the table opposite to one another. The colonel looked fixedly into his companion's face. It was essential that he should realize exactly the mood with which he had to deal. Dick frowned him with an uncompromising frown.

"Well," he said, "your explanation, sir!"

The colonel took his gravest air of courtesy.

"Some time ago," he began, "my sister-in-law and I found ourselves in need of a loyal friend. Chance threw you in our way. I esteemed, and she enthusiastically believed in, you. After careful consideration I invited you to help us."

"And you had your answer," replied Dick, shortly.

"For the moment, yes; and a great disappointment it was. But fortune has now given us another opportunity and we hope to be more successful this time in persuading you."

"Never!" said Dick. "Is that all?" And he rose from his seat as if to close the conversation.

A noise was heard at the door; Camilla was trying the handle.

"Is M. de Montaut there?" she cried. "I must speak to him at once."

"Certainly," replied the colonel, from within. "In five minutes' time, if you will excuse us for so long; we have matters of importance to discuss."

She turned away toward her own cabin, and he began again, inviting Dick with a polite gesture to resume his seat at the table.

"For many perhaps have overlooked the fact," he said, "but the situation is entirely changed since your letter of refusal was written. We were in safety there in London; here, at St. Helena, we are in peril of our lives; our train is fired, we must abide by the result; if you fail us now we are ruined."

Dick made an impatient gesture, but he sat on, and his face changed. The colonel pressed his point.

"I trust," he said, "I trust I may be of some service to you. I have es-

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

NATURE ministers to the farmer, and the most beautiful of the sciences are hand-maidens. Botany gives him the history of the plants he cultivates. Chemistry has taken an inventory of the soils and analyzed the plants that draw what is needful to be provided to sustain the growth of the plant. Geology, too, has a natural connection with agriculture, and invests the formation of rock and soil with a new interest. It shows how chemical changes have prepared a heritage for man, and how by the slow evolution of time the barren rocks have become assimilated and suited for his purpose.

There is a somewhat general impression that the farmer does not require as high an order of education as do other classes of workers. This is a great mistake. Farming is a high intellectual pursuit, and those devoted to it have need of a wider scope of knowledge than any other class of men. There are enough in its operations to engage the abilities of the most comprehensive minds; and it has failed to be the leading occupation in all respects, only because the intellectual force of mankind has not sufficiently sought it as a field for its efforts. Now, however, when it is seen that it is connected with the most interesting subjects of human research, that the noblest of the sciences illustrate its processes, that it gives scope for enlightened intellects and disciplined minds and demands scientific skill, we shall see agriculture inspired with mental power until it takes the position of the most respected, as it is the most important, of human pursuits. We need to purge the minds of our youths of the prejudice that ranks agriculture as something less honorable than other callings or professions. Let them be brought to feel the inherent dignity of their occupation, and realize that by the vigor of constitution it promotes, and the personal independence it secures, farming is the most desirable of pursuits.—Joshua Legg.

Moisture and Frosts.—In a recent lecture Willis L. Moore, the new chief of the government weather bureau, spoke of the importance of studying the soil as well as the air in forecasting frosts. The introduction of this feature added greatly to the efficiency of the predictions of the Wisconsin bureau when he was in charge of that. This state is noted for its cranberry beds, to which great damage is caused by early frosts. Often there were destructive frosts when the town temperature did not go below 42 degrees. The frost depends, of course, upon the lowering of the temperature of the soil. If it is dry and porous it gives out its heat readily; if it is wet it has much of water stability of temperature. A half inch of rain evenly distributed is enough to counteract many early frosts.—Ex.

Fifteen-Cent Corn.—Corn at 15 cents a bushel is splendid property and the man who husbands the same and stays with it long enough is sure to come out with a handsome profit on the right side of his ledger account," is the verdict of Chicago markets. And H. H. Fitch in San Jose says the words are fitly spoken. There has never been a time within the recollection of the oldest settler when corn bought and properly cribbed at 15 cents a bushel would not pay a good profit on the investment within a year and a half, usually within a year. There ought to be cribbed in San Jose this fall and winter fifty thousand bushels, yes a hundred and fifty thousand. Here is a fine chance to make money—better than buying cattle. Buy 15-cent corn and according to all past experience, you will prosper and make money.—Ex.

Keeping Beets in Winter.—Beets are very tender and easily injured by freezing. They are therefore most commonly put in the cellar, as that can be watched more closely than pits and there is less danger of frost entering before the owner is aware. Yet as a matter of fact beets are better kept in pits than in cellars. If put in the cellar at all some earth should be thrown over them to keep them from wilting. Care should also be taken not to have the cellar too warm or the roots will sprout and thus injure their quality. Mangel wurtzels are better keepers than beets. They ripen later and will not sprout so early when put in a cellar. In feeding the beets should be given out first and the mangels reserved until later in the season.—Ex.

Pasturing Winter Wheat.—The subject of pasturing winter wheat has received some attention at the Kansas Experiment Station. The conclusion is arrived at that pasturing is always an injury to the wheat. The extent of the injury will vary with the character and condition of the soil. A comparison of plots pastured with those not pastured amounted to one and one-half bushels per acre. The theory that pasturing wheat fields infested by the Hessian fly is a benefit is thoroughly exploded. The pupa of the fly is entirely out of reach of the cattle, being lodged between the sheaths at the base of the young stems below the surface of the ground. Pasturing such fields can only weaken the plants and leave them at the mercy of the fly.—Ex.

BICYCLE ETIQUETTE.

What is Regarded as Good Form by Experts on the Wheel.

An authority on bicycle etiquette lays down the following rules: "In mounting, the gentleman who is accompanying a lady holds her wheel; she stands on the left side of the machine and puts her right foot across the frame on the right pedal, which at the time must be up; pushing the right pedal causes the machine to start and then, with the left foot in place, the rider starts ahead—slowly at first, in order to give her cavalier time to mount his wheel, which he will do in the briefest time possible. When the end of the ride is reached the man quickly dismounts and is at his companion's side to assist her, she, in the meantime, assisting herself as much as possible. This is done—that is, dismounting—in the most approved style by riding slowly and when the left pedal is on the rise the weight of the body is thrown on it, the right foot is crossed over the frame of the machine and with an assisting hand the rider can easily step to the ground. In meeting a party of cyclists who are known to each other and desire to stop for a parley, it is considered the proper thing for the men of the party to dismount while in conversation with the ladies. As to the furnishings of the bicycle, to be really swapper it must be fitted out with a clock and a bell; luggage carrier and a cyclistometer, the latter being an absolute sine qua non to the woman who cares for records."

Fine and Ruffled Lawn. The use of fine and ruffled lawn has extended to the skirt and some new models are made to fall open in front over a petticoat of flounced lawn. A voluminous Louis XVI. beruffled fichu of the same lawn completes a gown that except for the large sleeves would be characteristic of the close-shouldered period. Certain it is that if looseness of bodice and befrillment of skirt prevail, there will be a change in sleeves. For fashion has, after all, her idea of proportion, and she never dictates the swelling of more than one feature of a gown at a time.

Maine Claims the World's Hot Record. The world's record is claimed by the Dingle hose company of Ellsworth, Maine, which the other day ran 213 yards to the engine house; then 233 yards with the hose reel, coupled the hose to the hydrant and nozzle to the hose, all in 1:01 1/4.

Durant a Plagiarist.

Theodore Durant, "the criminal of the century," is a plagiarist as well as a murderer. In literature plagiarism is a capital crime. Soon after Durant had been sentenced he said he had written a poem. The Examiner secured and published it as a literary freak. It now turns out that the "poem" was stolen almost bodily from "Ad Leones," previously published in a religious magazine. The "deadly parallel" clearly shows the fraud of the prisoner. He merely adapted the original poem to his uses by changing a word here and there.—San Francisco Examiner.

Fire! Fire! That Dreadful Cry. Is fraught with import doubly dire to the unhappy man who beholds his dwelling or his warehouse feeding the devouring element uninsured. Happily most people who insure—everybody but the nine-tenths of us neglect the preservation of this when it is in palpable jeopardy. Incipient indications of its complaint, fire, infection of the kidneys and bladder and malaria are all counteracted by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters.

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Storing Cabbage.—Dig a trench deep enough so that when a cabbage is placed in it with the head down the root of the cabbage will come only a little above the level of the soil, and as wide as desired. Cover the bottom of the trench with straw or hay to prevent the cabbage heads coming in contact with the ground, to which they would freeze if in contact. Place cabbage in trench head down, just as pulled. Do not trim the heads in any way. Pull it out of the ground with as little breaking and bruising of leaves as possible and put it in the trench at once. Store only sound, good heads, and put them in when dry—free from moisture of melted snow or frost and rain.—Cultivator.

Latitude and Climate.—Latitude does not regulate climate. Fruit growers are well aware of this fact, and have had it brought to their attention in divers manners and at divers times. It has frequently been forced upon them at a high price. Parts of New England are on a parallel with the Mediterranean, a sunny sea. Even on our own continent the isothermal lines are very crooked, frequently bending suddenly to the north and making a curve of several degrees.

Branding Cattle.—The habit of branding cattle is equal to a dockage of 15c to \$1 per head in the decreased price of the hides. The habit of burning into these valuable integuments letters of the alphabet, complicated monograms, rude imitations of objects in nature and art, maps and hieroglyphics is neither ornamental nor economical. They are, perhaps, picturesque, but nothing more.—Texas Farm and Ranch.

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