



ILLUSTRATED BY A. WEIL BY ROY NORTON

SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of "what might have happened," opens in Washington with the United States and Japan on the verge of war.

CHAPTER VII.—Continued.

One day, two days, and three, passed before Japan felt anxiety, or the world began its discussion as to the cause of the long delay.

Once more the world stood in expectancy, and vainly sought the solution for the latest enigma. Storms were eliminated; for no tempest could have wiped out such a magnificent body of ships so effectively as to leave none to bear the sad tidings to the nearest port.

It must have been total destruction, the world argued, because in case of capture great battle ships themselves would scarcely have been able to make the complete trip to a Pacific coast on the supply of coal they carried in their bunkers.

How terrific must have been that onslaught, coming up out of the waters of the sea, and how remorselessly executed! All losses of life in previous naval engagements sank into insignificance when compared with this sudden and swift obliteration of a fleet of warships, transports and colliers.

Japan was left a helpless little island in the sea, without ships to assault an enemy or to defend herself. Shorn of power and pride, she was plunged as deeply in mourning as only a few weeks before she had been exalted in glory.

There was hardly a prominent home in Japan which had not contributed some member of its family to that splendid navy which had sailed so proudly away when early June was spreading its flowers over the empire; now there were sobs of bereavement and woe.

Across the ancient lands of the Pharaohs and up through the provinces of kings there swept a unanimous desire for an explanation. It could come from only one source—this land of mystery which had cut itself off from all the world and stood silent, guarding its secret, and suddenly grown ominous in its possibilities and potentialities.

Japan, hopeless and driven to extremities, appealed to her ally, Great Britain, for news. She showed no cowardly spirit by asking for aid of arms, and sought the assistance of her closest friend only that she might gain information. And Great Britain after due consideration responded.

perfectly feasible so to use electricity through metal as to change its structure and at the same time lessen the resistance, or skin friction, through the water of a boat so constructed.

"Yes, we were. The subject arose through his describing certain experiments in which he and his daughter were then engaged. His contention was that a submarine could never be made totally effective unless it gained a speed so far beyond anything known that it could traverse great distances and maneuver with such rapidity that it would be practically immune from attack."

"This then must be the solution! and he read in the faces of his interrogators that they so accepted it. There was a chorus of questions which he could not answer. He admitted his lack of technical enlightenment, and also that he had no knowledge of what success had resulted from the experiments. Nothing of a valuable nature had been given to him at the time of that or any other conversation. But he had made it certain in the minds of his superiors that, though they might not know the secret of the submarines which had destroyed the Japanese fleet, they at least were aware what form of attack might be expected in case of war. In the nature of things it could afford no solace; but it might assist in obviating danger."

"We understand you are personally on very pleasant and friendly terms with the president of the United States?"

"Yes, I think so."

"Do you believe that if you were

"No one can 'try harder, sir," he hastened to assert, "and I believe that if anyone can enter I can."

"When can you go?"

"As soon as you are ready."

"Then let it be to-night. One of our fastest dispatch boats, probably the Norfolk, will take you, and will land you wherever you deem it best to make the attempt. I suppose, however, you will endeavor to go through by way of Canada?"

He answered that such would be his intention, shook hands with them all, received his messages and left the chambers, his blood tingling with the excitement of action and elated because the call of duty was leading him back into the land where Norma lived and might be found.

In the chamber he left behind a group of men, who looked at each other and said: "He is the fourth man to try it; and is not only the best, but our last hope."

CHAPTER VIII. The Lone Voyager.

A special train breaking records for speed swung shrieking into the archway of the Liverpool station, and Hillier, carrying nothing but light baggage, jumped out of his compartment and walked along the Queen's landing to the gangplank of the waiting Norfolk. Two men in sailor's uniform, who evidently had been posted for the purpose of keeping curious loungers away from the boat, halted him, and were joined almost on the instant by two officers in waiting. Hillier recognized one as a personal friend. They shook hands, boarded the ship, and almost before their feet were planted on the deck the landing stage was swung into the air and she proceeded to get under way.

It was plain to Hillier that no time was to be lost in this trans-Atlantic journey; for before the Norfolk had passed out of the river she was working under forced draught. He found himself the only passenger, and that instructions had been given placing the destination of the ship under his orders. That the government purposed to spare no expense or effort in assisting him to a successful conclusion of his mission was evident. He was tired of hearing of war, and felt a secret sense of satisfaction as day after day passed in respite from such news.

Out of the North sea, sluggishly rolling in the swells and floundering through the waves, gathered a fleet almost as powerful as that which had been mobilized by Japan. Other nearby stations sent in their quota of cruisers, torpedo-boat destroyers and swift-moving dispatch boats. Five of the world's greatest battle ships formed the heart of this apparently invincible gathering, which was to cross the ocean to a land of mystery, all ways facing the possibility of destruction by a terrible and unknown engine of warfare.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



They Shook Hands.

might suggest a way, the British ministry sent for Hillier.

He was ushered into the room where on several previous occasions he had answered questions, and found there the same men who had met him on the day of his arrival in London; but there was a different attitude this time, however, and the officials before him seemed anxious and ill at ease.

"Mr. Hillier," the lord of the admiralty began, "in all the time you were in Washington did any rumors or stories or information reach you regarding some new form of submarine boat projected, or being experimented with, by the United States government?"

At first, on impulse, he almost answered "No," but before his lips could formulate the monosyllable there suddenly returned to his memory several conversations he had had with Dr. Roberts on this subject, and also he recollected that in one of these talks Norma had participated. There was no reason so far as he could think why he should conceal this knowledge.

"Yes," he replied, "I do know something of the subject, but nothing tangible or of value. That which returns to me is a conversation I had a few months ago with a scientific inventor who is a friend of mine."

"And his name, pray?"

"Dr. William Roberts."

AS MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION

Mrs. Brady's Helpful Hint to Her Faithful "Micky."

The Bradys used to drive several miles to mass each Sunday in "the little trap" with "th' ould gray mare," Micky, "the boy," a being of many summers, whom custom and a conservative tradition had, in spite of his uncertain years, always treated as the possessor of perpetual adolescence.

Next him sat Mrs. Brady, decorous in black, while scattered about the straw in the body of the vehicle, was a large assortment of "the childer"—Bradys of all ages, sexes and sizes, bare-legged and otherwise—each exuberant and articulate.

It remained to this day a disputed point among the Bradys as to what memory of earlier and more frisky days induced "th' ould gray mare" to behave as she did on this particular Sunday.

Rounding a corner, she swerved into the ditch, and before Micky, the boy, could cope with the situation, a pile of Bradys, vertical and horizontal, had been dumped into the ditch, with the

little trap turned over and resting on top of the struggling heap.

Then, high above the babel of cries came Mrs. Brady's voice: "Pull me out, Micky, for the love o' hivin! The black legs is mine!"—Cleveland Leader.

To Put a Faucet in a Barrel. It is no easy task to place a barrel in position after the faucet has been inserted. The following simple expedient will make it easier: First stand the barrel on end. Bore the hole for the faucet in the usual way and then plug it with a cork. Shave the cork off close to the barrel. Having placed the barrel in position, put the end of the faucet squarely and firmly on the cork. Drive it into the barrel, forcing the cork ahead. A turn or so of the faucet makes it tight.—Rehoboth Sunday Herald.

Herrings Have Long Life. It has been ascertained that while some of the herrings caught in German waters are only three years old, others are up to 14 years old.

RHEUMATISM PRESCRIPTION

The increased use of "Toris" for rheumatism is causing considerable discussion among the medical fraternity. It is an almost infallible cure when mixed with certain other ingredients and taken properly.

At His Own Risk. Caller (on crutches and with a bandage over one eye)—I have come, sir, to make application for the amount due on my accident insurance policy.

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, Nebr.

Probably Not. Ella—Does Fred kiss you for your mother?

Strong drug cathartics simply aggravate the condition—the true remedy for constipation and liver trouble is found in Garfield Tea, the mild Herb Laxative.

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

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MAPLEINE. A favoring that is used the same as lemon or vanilla. By dissolving granulated sugar in water and adding Mapleine, a delicious syrup is made and a syrup better than maple. Mapleine is sold by grocers. Send stamps for sample and recipe book. Crescent Mfg. Co., Seattle.

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W. N. U. OMAHA, NO. 5, 1909.

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Ask for the Baker's Cocoa bearing this trademark. Don't be misled by imitations. The genuine sold everywhere. Illustration of a woman in a long dress holding a tray.

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