SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of "what might have happened," opens in Wash-ington with the United States and Japan on the verge of war. Guy Hillier, sec-retary of the British embassy, and Miss Norma Roberts, chief aide of Inventor Roberts, are introduced as lovers. government is much criticised because of its lack of preparation for strife. the most inopportune moment Japan declares war. Japan takes the Philip pines without loss of a man. The sutire country is in a state of turmoil be cause 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. Hawaii is captured by the Japs. Country, in turmoil, demands explanation of policy from government. All ports are closed, Hiller going to Eng-land on last boat. England learns that Jap fleet is fast approaching western coast of America. Hillier decides to return to America by any means. Siego, Japanese spy, discovers secret prepara-tions for war. He follows auto carrying presidential cabinet. He unearths source of great mystery and flees, murmuring: "the gods save Nippon." Fleeing to Pa-cific coast, Siego is shot down just as journey to get awful news to Japan seems successful. Japan announces intention to

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. Then, when the fleet was more than a week overdue it became almost a certainty that some disaster had overtaken it, although from no section of the sea had there been a typhoon reported or anything but excellent barometric conditions. Ten days passed in this same way, and on the last the report from Honolulu was identical with that which had been made on all those previous: "Nothing in sight, and noth-

ing arrived."

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 effectually as to leave none to bear the sad tidings to the nearest port. And then, as a full realization of what must have happened dawned upon the watching powers, a shudder of dread passed through them all. It was plain that America had some new and terrific naval strength, some unheard of monster of the deep, that gave it the mastery of the seas. The evolution of submarines had been rapid; but no one had knowledge of a craft that could steam such a distance as would have been necessary to intercept the Japanese before they reached Honolulu, engage them and either destroy them completely or capture and convey them to an American

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. Forced drafts required great expenditure of fuel, and never at any time had there been any other intention than of replenishing at Hawaii. It seemed impossible that a civilized nation should have chosen deliberately to exterminate its enemies by wholesale; and yet there was no other conclusion tenable.

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. It would be nearly impossible to spare lives in such a battle, and it seemed a certainty that the great steel monsters that had sailed away to easy conquest had become mere metal coffins for those who manned them, and were now resting somewhere on the floor of the heedless Pacific. If such was the case, it was time the United States ceased to exist as a nation, when peopled by inhuman monsters who calmly slew their adversaries when threatened.

Japan was left a helpless little is land in the sea, without ships to assail 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. She plaintively bewailed the barbarities of her enemy. and proudly pointed to her own high state of civilization, which made such warfare impossible. She asserted that had she possessed such monsters of destruction as were evidently owned by the United States, she would have scorned to use them without notifying the whole world of her power. It was a country of desolation.

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.

Aeross the ancient lands of the Pharachs and up through the provinces of kings there swept a unanimous desire for an explanation. It edge. could come from only one sourcethis land of mystery which had cut itself off from all the world and stood silent, guarding its secret, and suddenly grown ominous in its possibili-

ties 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 start and looked at his neighbor. The sexes and sizes, bare-legged and other- off close to the barrel. Having placed arms, and sought the assistance of her mention of the name seemed to have wise—each exuberant and articulate. | the barrel in position, put the end of closest friend only that she might gain affected them. The prime minister information. And Great Britain after repeated it as an exclamation. "That point among the Bradys as to what cork. Drive it into the barrel, forcdue consideration responded.

the soldiers on the border, asking for covery which might be utilized for an Rounding a corner, she swerved into Japanese fleet. It was duly accepted know of it?"

"The United States has no report whatever to impart on the subject most vitally concerning his majesty's closest ally beyond the fact that the fleet which came to invade the Pacific coast has been duly met, properly vanquished and rendered incapable of grets that such action became neces-

inclination to reply to any further

A slap in the face could have caused no greater consternation. The very terms of the reply showed insolence toward all the world, and demanded explanation. But who dared attempt it? What country was brave enough to take the risk of meeting those terrible submarines, which were capable in a night of destroying the most complete flotilla that ever had been mobilknew what form these monsters took, by a question. what dire warning they gave as they perhaps repelling them. That infor- States?" mation, at any cost, must be gained. In its reaching out for anything which

perfectly feasible so to use electricity pelled to make some kind of comon through metal as to change its struc- stration of strength off the American ture and at the same time lessen the coast-this for the reassurance of our resistance, or skin friction, through own people in Canada, if for no other the water of a boat so constructed." "Were you at the time discussing ubmarines?"

"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

the danger?"

Hillier sat thoughtfully for a mo-

fleet was sent toward Canada it might

be misinterpreted by the United States

as a warlike move against ber; there

might be accidents; and then our vca-

sels would disappear as completely

"You are right," the minister as-

sented, and his companions nodded in

approval. "Now, under those circum-

stances it is necessary for us to get

word through, without any chance of

miscarriage whatever, fully and clear-

ly explaining to the United States

that this demonstration is for the re-

assurance of Canada; that it has no

intention of interfering with American

affairs, and requesting that measures

be taken to prevent its being attacked

under misapprehension. If that mes-

sage did miscarry or was delayed in its

delivery to one sufficiently high in au-

"And you wish me to make an at-

"Yes, because we have tried through

other agencies and failed. This time

there must be no failure, because the

North Sea fleet is now being mobil-

ized to its full strength, including the

Dreadnought and her two sister ships,

and will sail within a week after your

departure. Do you think you can pass

Guy's heart gave a great bound of

satisfaction. Now he would have all

the aid his government could give to

penetrate the cordon and reach a

place where he stood the best chance

of finding Norma, or of learning where

she was and what had happened to

"No one can 'try harder, sir," he

hastened to assert, "and I believe that

"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, how-

ever, you will endeavor to go through

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 be-

cause the call of duty was leading

him back into the land where Norma

In the chamber he left behind a

CHAPTER VIII.

The Lone Voyager.

speed swung shrieking into the archway of the Liverpool station, and Hillier, carrying nothing but light bag-

gage, jumped out of his compartment

and walked along the Queen's land-

ing 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

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 work-

ing 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 pur-

posed to spare no expense or effort

in assisting him to a successful con-

clusion 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

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 in-

vincible gathering, which was to cross

the ocean to a land of mystery, al-

ways facing the possibility of de-

struction by a terrible and unknown

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

to get under way.

A special train breaking records for

the lines?"

her and her father.

by way of Canada?"

lived and might be found.

best, but our last hope."

if anyone can enter I can."

"As soon as you are ready."

"When can you go?"

thority, the results might be fatal."

tempt to deliver these advices?"

as did those of Japan."

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 further harm. The United States re- of technical enlightenment, and also that he had no knowledge of what sary, and, with all due respect to Great | success had resulted from the experi-Britain and such other powers as may ments. Nothing of a valuable nature be interested, wishes to express a dis- had been given to him at the time of that or any other conversation. But communications of this or a similar 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.

He listened to the discussion, and felt that he should be given leave to go, now that he had told all he knew; ized and sent away? If they only but he was again brought to the fore

"We understand you are personally advanced to the attack, there might on very pleasant and friendly terms be some means of offsetting them or with the president of the United

"Yes, I think so." "Do you believe that if you were

They Shook Hands.

might suggest a way, the British min- in Washington you could gain an istry sent for Hillier.

Guy, sleepless and worn from nights and days of anxiety, responded to the call, listlessly wondering what further information he could give as to the situation in America, or what if any duty could be expected of him when the others looked, reached over and picked ministry itself was unable to accomplish anything.

there the same men who had met him of your thorough familiarity with the on the day of his arrival in London; United States, your perfect knowlbut there was a different attitude this time, however, and the officials before your ability to talk personally to the him seemed anxious and ill at ease. president if he can be reached. We Plainly they were ready for any sug- are not at war with the United States, gestion he might offer, or any measure and do not believe that vessels sent that might seem possible.

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 denly 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 knowl-

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

"And his name, pray?" "Dr. William Roberts."

Every man in the room gave a is the man," he said, "who is supposed memory of earlier and more frisky ing the cork ahead. A turn or so of The premier of the dominion of to have gone insane, but who at one days induced "th' ould gray mare" to the faucet makes it tight.-Rehoboth Canada was asked in the interests of time, according to our secret reports, behave as she did on this particular Sunday Herald. humanity to pass a communication to was working on some electrical dis- Sunday.

and forwarded, and back came the "I know only this," he said, "that Bradys, vertical and horizontal, had man waters are only three years old,

audience with him through his friendship and deliver into his own hands a message from our government?" "Yes, if I was in Washington; but

it now seems inaccessible." The prime minister, to whom the

up a paper knife with which he idly tapped on the table where lay a map. He was ushered into the room "Mr. Hillier," he said, "we are about where on several previous occasions to send you on a very important jourhe had answered questions, and found ney. We have selected you because edge of the Canadian border line, and by us would be attacked unless war "Mr. Hillier," the lord of the ad- was declared. In the interests of the miralty began, "in all the time you national dignity, however, we are com-

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

engine of warfare.

formulate the monosyllable there sud- 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 thrap" with "th' ould gray mare." Micky, "the boy," a being of many Leader. summers, whom custom and a conservative tradition had, in spite of his uncertain years, always treated as the It is no easy task to place a barrel possessor of perpetual adolescence, in position after the faucet has been drove. Next him sat Mrs. Brady, inserted. The following simple expedidecorous in black, while scattered ent will make it easier: First stand about the straw in the body of the the barrel on end. Bore the hole for vehicle, was a large assortment of the faucet in the usual way and then "the childer"-Bradys of all ages, plug it with a cork. Shave the cork

particulars of the destruction of the improved submarine. What do you the ditch, and before Micky, the boy. It has been ascertained that while could cope with the situation, a pile of some of the herrings caught in Ger-Dr. Roberts told me he believed it been dumped into the ditch, with the others are up to 14 years old.

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

It remains to this day a disputed the faucet squarely and firmly on the

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Manager of Company-Young man, I have taken the rouble to investigate your case, and I find you are not entitled to anything. It could not be called an accident. You certainly knew the young lady's father was at home.—Stray Stories.

Asthmatics, 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? Stella-Weil, I don't think it's for

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group of men, who looked at each other and said: "He is the fourth man to try it; and is not only the

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