



ILLUSTRATED BY A. WEIL

SYNOPSIS.

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

months from to-night the American navy can be so equipped as to make it the most powerful in the world; and whether he realizes the importance of such haste."

Money and men! Money and men! They can't beat us! They can't beat us!" His hands came back to his sides.

CHAPTER XIV. The Birth of a City. Like criminals afraid of the light, and seeking the cover of darkness, a score of the most distinguished men of the United States, occupying its most responsible positions, and bearing the burden of government, came to the White House, which loomed massive and apparently untenanted.

CHAPTER XIII—Continued.

The others looked eagerly at them as the president held them, wondering what connection the two little strips of metal could possibly have with the defense of a nation against a multitude of battle ships.



The President Walked Up and Down the Room.

"What on earth is it, Dr. Roberts?" he asked, and then without waiting for an explanation continued: "I never saw a metal that looked or felt like it. What is it?"

as idle as a braggart's boasting. To maintain silence and then prove ability, is to make one's action doubly impressive."

enter the room, where those who preceded them were divided into groups round four officers of the navy, who were answering questions, quoting figures and volunteering details which were not written.

The room was alive with excited men now as the full force of his statement came in all its clearness. If that unknown metal had that property, and sufficient fighting ships could be armored with it in time to meet the demands made upon them, the seas would be whipped into subjection and legions of troops transported before they could be interfered with.

His long ungainly arms reached out, and he put his hands upon the smaller man's shoulders. Those within the room awoke to a realization of the magnitude of the power that was possible, and stood in awed silence, spectators of a tableau.

He, interpreting these glances, introduced her as his assistant, and concluded by saying: "I can't do anything without her. She knows more about my work than I do myself, and

as far as I know she's the only woman living who can keep her mouth shut." They smiled at his manner and cynicism, while the president tendered her a seat at his side and waited for the others to resume their chairs.

There was a look of acquiescence, and the secretary of the navy, who had been paying no heed whatever to the chief executive's remarks, rustled the reports in his hand as he turned another page to scan its contents.

"Extraordinary times demand extraordinary measures. We are without precedent, and are confronting an emergency of such immense import that those of us who were here last night believe it is a time when all rules, official routine and regular methods must give way in behalf of quick accomplishment.

Norma, who had not been informed of this part of the project, gave a start of protest, foreseeing that she, too, would have to share in this isolation and become an exile until the experiments were concluded.

The navy department will attend to purchasing supplies, including machinery and crude details necessary for the first work, while Dr. Roberts will place his orders for apparatus, and all will be consigned to the collier Penobscot, which will transport them to the chosen spot.

And his assistant, the inventor again interjected. (TO BE CONTINUED.)

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TRUTH AND QUALITY

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PILES

"I have suffered with piles for thirty-six years. One year ago last April I began taking Cascarets for constipation. In the course of a week I noticed the piles began to disappear and at the end of six weeks they did not trouble me at all.

Some Large French Families

Official Statistics Give Figures That Are Rather Surprising. Small families are the rule in France, but there are some striking exceptions. The following data were taken by Consul Chapman Coleman of Roubaix from the latest official statistics of the population of France.



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