

## SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of "what height have happened," opens in Washington with the United States and Japan hear war. Guy Hiller, secretary of the British embassy, and Miss Norma Roberts, chief aide of inventor Roberts, are introduced as lovers. Japan declares war and takes the Philippines. Guy Hillier starts for England. Norma Roberts leaves Washington for the Florida coast. Hawaii is captured by the Japs, All ports are closed. Tokyo learns of missing Japanese fleet and whole world becomes convinced that United States has powerful war agency. England decides to send a fleet to American waters as a Canadian protection against what the British supprotection against what the British sup-pose is a terrible submarine flotilla. Hilpose is a terrible submarine flotilia. Hiller is sent with a message, Fleet mysteriously disappears. The kaiser is missing. King Edward of England is confronted by Admiral Bevins of the United States. The Dreadnaught, biggest of England's warships, is discovered at an impassable point in the Thames. The story now goes back to a time many months now goes back to a time many months before the war breaks out, and Inventor before the war breaks out, and Inventor Roberts visits the president and cabinet, telling of and exhibiting a metal production. This overcomes friction when electrified and is to be applied to vessels. A city for the manufacture of the mysterious discovery is built. The mysterious discovery is built. The mystery of true levitation is solved. Roberts evolves a great flying machine. The cabinet plans a radioplane war against Japanese. The start for the scene of conflict with a large fleet of monster airships is made with Norma in command. The Japanese fleet, believing Nippon supreme, suddenly discerns the radioplane fleet. After maneuvering the airships descend, and by use of strong magnets lift the airships, one by one, from the sea. The trip to the west coast of the sea. The trip to the west coast of America is then commenced. Because of a partially disabled radioplane, one of the warships is dropped into the sea afier the men are transferred to another. The vessels are deposited in a mountain lake in the United States to awalt peace.

CHAPTER XIX.-Continued. "Men," he said, "I take no credit for the result, and I'm big enough so to report to Washington. This battle brought out three heroes. Brockton, Jenkins and above all this little girl. Norma Roberts." His "God bless her!" was lost in the tumult. They were men intoxicated with the wine of victory. They yelled themselves hoarse. They patted one another on the back, hurled their caps into the air, and finally formed escorts of honor to conduct the men and officers of the fleet to their cabins, asking over and over for details of the fight.

And even as those tired fighters went to rest, in a city across the continent newsboys were crying their his eyes as the sun was tinting the and had come to a sudden stop, leanknuckles he could not obliterate the floating vision before him. He convinced himself by a lusty hail: "Hello, out there! What are you doing? Get off that lake!" and back to him there voileyed a storm of objurgations in an unknown tongue. Not until he had called a fellow officer and rowed a boat round those fallen monarchs of the deep did he learn that they were captive to his country, and then, elated with the news, he hastened to impart it.

troops had been pouring into the port, and it had been the general belief that they were being mobilized preparatory to embarkation for the Philippines or Japan. On this morning, however, there was an exodus. Nearly all the troops had disappeared in the night. Likewise there were strange happenings in the telegraph offices. When men went to consign messages they were met with the intelligence that the wires were in charge of military operators, that nothing could be received for any point beyond the borders of the United States, and that all messages without exception would be censored before transmission. The newspapers fumed and roared, until they learned that all incoming news would pass uninterruptedly; but that for purposes known only to the government the story of the presence of the Japanese fleet would be closely guarded for the time being. For once the Post-Intelligence, the Times and Star united in attacking the adminis-

Polite officers forwarded appeals from the chamber of commerce to Washington: but the government anbecause if the secret was known the United States the lines would be augmented. All Sound

captured fleet and the method of its of the afternoon taking were unknown to the country at large. Seattle extended all consistent courtesies to the vanquished: but it afforded little balm.

And thus it was that for many days, imprisoned, powerless, and lost, with crippled tops, crushed stacks and under the white flag of surrender, the flower of Japanese prowess floated on while the gasping world shuddered in contemplation of its fate.

## CHAPTER XX.

What Befell the Emperor.



task was not yet done.

The unqualified victory over the citizens of a great city were asking the war a certainty; hence it was with ficers. one another how the night had worked patience that the administration its miracle. A lounging patrolman waited for the next move in the far in Ravenna park, which bordered on east, which must of necessity come Lake Washington, had sleepily rubbed China. There was no doubt that she everlasting snows of the Olympics, seemed an imminent action; but several days passed bringing through the ing against a tree and wondering if secret service no news save that her he was still asleep; but with his fleet, huge and well manned, was making preparations to sail. The president, knowing that for the accomplishment of his purpose oriental power must be broken, indulged in the fervent hove that the attack might

There was less trouble internally, as the people were beginning to have faith in the administration, though they were speculating as to what course of procedure was being followed. It was while affairs were in this condition that the sailing of the But this was not the only surprise British fleet was duly announced for Seattle. For some days preceding through secret channels of information. The coterie saw before it the necessity of either abandoning the hope of teaching China a drastic lesson and announcing its secret to the world or meeting the British squadrons and holding them hostage in the interest of peace. They chose the latter alternative, and thereby was caused the

> strangest chapter in the history of war. Like that other sally outward to the western seas, this one was timely. It was made when the British fleet might be met beyond the reach of wireless telegraph communication, and the peparture from the key was also under cover of darkness. Again there was a esemblance to the Japanese affair. in that the appearance of the radioplanes created surprise and consternation on the warships. Here, however, the similarity ended. The Anglo-Saxon mind knows no such thing as surrender when once it is stirred to the depths of its stubbornness. It can

battle on land and sea. sailed with apprehensions, being fully cognizant that it was invading a territory of mystery and danger, and the vigilance of its watch, therefore, was never relaxed. The consternation caused by the first sight of the aerial traffic stopped, and from the great fleet was immediately followed by a union depot no departing trains rum- hurried clearing of the decks for acbled. Within an hour it was known tion, although defeat in a battle that a corden of soldiers surrounded against such overpowering odds was a the city, and that all traffic or com- foregone conclusion. No gun was munication with the outside world fired, however, and all stood expecwas interdicted. Seattle had been iso- tantly awaiting a declaration of intent from the monsters of the air which Thus it was that the presence of the had come upon them in the full glare

With slow and stately majesty the radioplanes approached, each flying neath it the emblem of truce. The Dreadnought, answering sluggishiv at the houses of their new neighbors. to the swell and hurling great cascades of water from its bow, was in the heart of the formation, and in its ponderous might seemed fearless of anyan inland sea in sullen mourning, thing affoat. Toward it the foremost radioplane directed its course, dropping steadily down until full abreast ship watched with amazement its ner, although not remarkably varied, Like a lonely rock that has with splendid control. Not till then was was composed of such dishes as they stood the fury of a storm and the bat- there a visible display of life aboard could both enjoy.

time of justification approaching. His while directly behind him stood the hour of triumph was at hand, and his scientist, who had recovered, and was prayers were being answered; but the to witness the first full demonstration of the power he had evolved. On the bridge of the battle ship the British you are to return with the fleet." extras through the streets, and the Japanese fleet made the outcome of admiral stood, surrounded by staff of-

> American hailed. "Glad to see you. the other officers did likewise. The How do you like the looks of us?" Across Fields' face flitted a half "We are very well indeed, Admiral Bevins; but can't say we are particularly glad to see you, or sure that we like you until we know more.

Clever invention that. Must have been conceived by an Englishman." Behind the United States officer a tive resistance whatever." withered little figure became imbued with a sudden frenzy of passion that threatened to interject an unpleasant remark; but Bevins checked

isn't at war with yours. You understand that."

him with a laugh and grew serious

Fields looked relieved, and lost somewhat of his air of set defiance. At the head of his men he crossed to struction and cohesive qualities kept the end of the bridge where he might her from flying apart. The world bebe nearer the one addressing him. The low was reduced in appearance until nervous strain of the situation was be- its surface was obliterated in a dull ing rapidly diminished. "Frankly, I'm haze and the shadows of the sun were glad to be reassured," he replied. marked against its eastern outline. There are a lot of things we'd rather know

"And which I shall be glad to explain if you and a dozen of your im- the crests of the waves. Now she mediate subordinates will come aboard

The invitation was immediately accepted; but it was a trying interview the fighting masts, slowed down, and for the Britons. The machine on whirled in and out, about and above which they were received was the the British ships as easily as would a Roberts, which was the latest production of the plant on the key. It was larger than its predecessors, and wide-eyed amazement at this demon had been made the most pretentious. of the air, at first fearing that control It was elegantly appointed. Amid- had been lost and the lives of those ships it contained a drawing room on aboard were in jeopardy. Then at the which the most careful workmanship splendid exhibition of speed and hanhad been lavished. The guests gath- dling they were dumbfounded. The ered round a huge mahogany table, Roberts then rose in one quick lift whose polished top reflected the light until it was above the plane of altitude read only two answers to the riddle from the colored ports of the dome, of conflict-victory or death-as has and were served with refreshments bebeen attested by many a hard-fought fore Bevins recurred to the object of all this time no one had spoken a his visit. He drew from his packet word. Now they turned to the Amer-The armada of Great Britain had an official packet and laid it open be-

"Gentlemen," he began, "of course from the spell. you are interested in all that you have

The Roberts had ascended to an altitude above the others of the American fleet, and was resting in mid air. It was very still, the light hum of a small dynamo from behind the partitions being the only disturber of si-

States. What I shall read to you are

my orders. I have come out here to

meet you for the purpose, first of all,

that you may hear them."

lence. He opened the document and "You are instructed to intercept the

British fleet and assure its officers of the good will of the United States toward his majesty, King Edward VII., and all his subjects. You are to explain to them that the United States is compelled, in pursuance of its adopted policy formulated at the commencement of the war with Japan, to maintain the secret of its power until such time as it is deemed expedient to announce it to the world. You will then endeavor to induce the British fleet to surrender itself into your hands as guests of this country, assuring those in command that all damages accruing will be repaired by the United States. You are to use all due caution to avoid injury to life, property, or pride, and to transport the entire fleet to the waters of Chesapeake bay, after which for a brief period the officers and men of Great Britain will be entertained by the United States."

Bevins stopped and locked into the faces confronting him, which expressed a variety of emotions, running the gamut from stolidity to wonder. and from compliance to indignation. The British admiral's visage was a

frowning one. "Your country asks too much!" he said, almost explosively. "And really it volunteers no explanation of its acts or intentions." Some of his companions nodded their heads in approval. "We can't ac-

Bevins reopened the parchment. "I must then read you the concluding clause," he said, and began:

"It is strongly desired that there be no clash at arms: but in any event

There was brief silence in the room. which was broken by Fields, who "Good afternoon, admiral," the jumped to his feet. Bevins rose, and situation threatened unhappy conclusions: but Bevins held up a restraining hand and went on: "Here! Before you underestimate

the force of this last clause, let me give you a demonstration of what we can do and how difficult it would be for you to offer any defense or effec-

He turned to a speaking tube, gave a curt order and requested his visitors to look through the transparent ports, which were suddenly opened beneath their feet. The Roberts swept up into the air to such a prodigious "Admiral," he said, "my country height that the internal pressure against her shell became terrific. She was at such an altitude that no mortal being could have withstood the strain. and only her splendid anchorable con-

In great circles she descended, until the water again became visible, then the vessels upon it, and last of all swooped lower, and then at a speed of nearly 600 miles an hour whipped a straight line close above the tops of swallow in playful flight. On the decks of the vessels men stared in assumed by the other machines, poised for a moment, and came to a stop. In ican, unloosing their convulsive clutches from the seats and liberated

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



Matter That Puzzled Mrs. Lawton and I are such difficult guests," said Really Was Quite Simple.

When the Lawtons had lived in Wilthe flag of the United States and be low park about a month they were invited to a succession of little dinners Mr. Lawton was on a dyspeptic's diet, to wash for you Tuesday mornings?" and Mrs. Lawton was endeavoring to she said. "Well, I have her Mondays, reduce her, weight. "I suppose we and Mrs. Green has her Wednesdays, shall have to eat all sorts of things, and she irons for Mrs. Porter Thurswe don't wish, or else seem rude," said days and scrubs for Miss Homer Fri-Mrs. Lawton, mournfully, as they set days, so you see-" out for the first dinner.

and on a level with the great fighting To their growing surprise the bill but Mrs. Lawton no longer wondered: tops, while the officers of the battle of fare placed before them at each din- she "saw."-Youth's Companion.

tering of the seas to emerge again it. A port opened and into the black- "I don't see how you all hit on just eyes are shifting and you have dis-

one afternoon when the neighbors were taking tea with her.

The ladies looked at each other, and then one of them spoke.

"You know Mary Sloan, who comes

Her voice trailed off into silence,

Character Shown in Face. An amiable face is trustworthy. If into sunlight, the president felt his ness of its frame Bevins emerged, the right things, when Mr. Lawton covered insincerity—then beware.

## Don't Poison Baby.

FORTY YEARS AGO almost every mother thought her child must have PAREGORIC or laudanum to make it sleep. These drugs will produce sleep, and A FEW DROPS TOO MANY will produce the SLEEP FROM WHICH THERE IS NO WAKING. Many are the children who have been killed or whose health has been ruined for life by paregoric, laudanum and morphine, each of which is a narcotic product of opium. Druggists are prohibited from selling either of the narcotics named to children at all, or to anybody without labelling them "poison." The definition of "narcotic" is: "A medicine which relieves pain and produces sleep, but which in poisonous doses produces stupor, coma, convulsions and death." The taste and smell of medicines containing opium are disguised, and sold under the names of "Drops," "Cordials," "Soothing Syrups," etc. You should not permit any medicine to be given to your children without you or your physician know of what it is composed. CASTORIA DOES NOT CON-TAIN NARCOTICS, if it bears the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

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always found it to do all that is claimed for it." Dr. C. H. Clidden, of St. Paul, Minn., says: "My experience as a practitioner with your Castoria has beer highly satisfactory, and I consider it an excellent remedy for the young." Dr. H. D. Benner, of Philadelphia, Pa., says: "I have used your Cas-

toria as a purgative in the cases of children for years past with the most happy effect, and fully endorse it as a safe remedy." Dr. J. A. Boarman, of Kansas City, Mo., says: "Your Castoria is a splendid remedy for children, known the world over. I use it in my practice

and have no hesitancy in recommending it for the complaints of infants and children." Dr. J. J. Mackey, of Brooklyn, N. Y., says: "I consider your Castoria an excellent preparation for children, being composed of reliable medicines and pleasant to the taste. A good remedy for all disturbances of the



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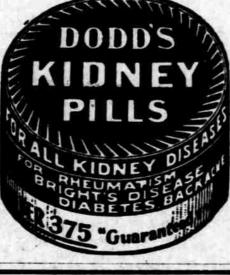
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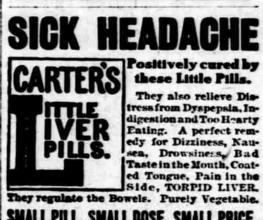
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