

The Fair Captives

OR THE SECRET CABINET

CHAPTER XII.

Reaching into the summer-house as she runs past it Griselida discovers to her amazement, that Vera is still in it. "What, have you never stirred?" cries she. "Bless me, have you stayed in this carvery place ever since? But," hopefully, "I suppose you did stir, you went into the house the garden, and came back again?"

she loves her. "But don't let things go too far, darling." She sighs heavily. "You are miserable about that wretched affair of the morning," cries Griselida. "Never mind it. If you will come to dinner I promise you to do all the talking, and as it has to be endured I do entreat you to keep up your spirits."

CHAPTER XIII.

"They told me I should find you here," he says, speaking to Vera. "I have come to say good-bye." "But surely you are not going so soon! not before dinner, not tonight!" cries Griselida, thunderstruck by this solution of their difficulty, and a little sorry too. Surely, they have been somewhat unkind to him. She has accepted her sister's crime as her own, and after all, what had he done? She speaks hurriedly of an honest regret, unimpaired by the disastrous consequences that may follow should he accept her words and stay. "I thought you said you were not going until—"

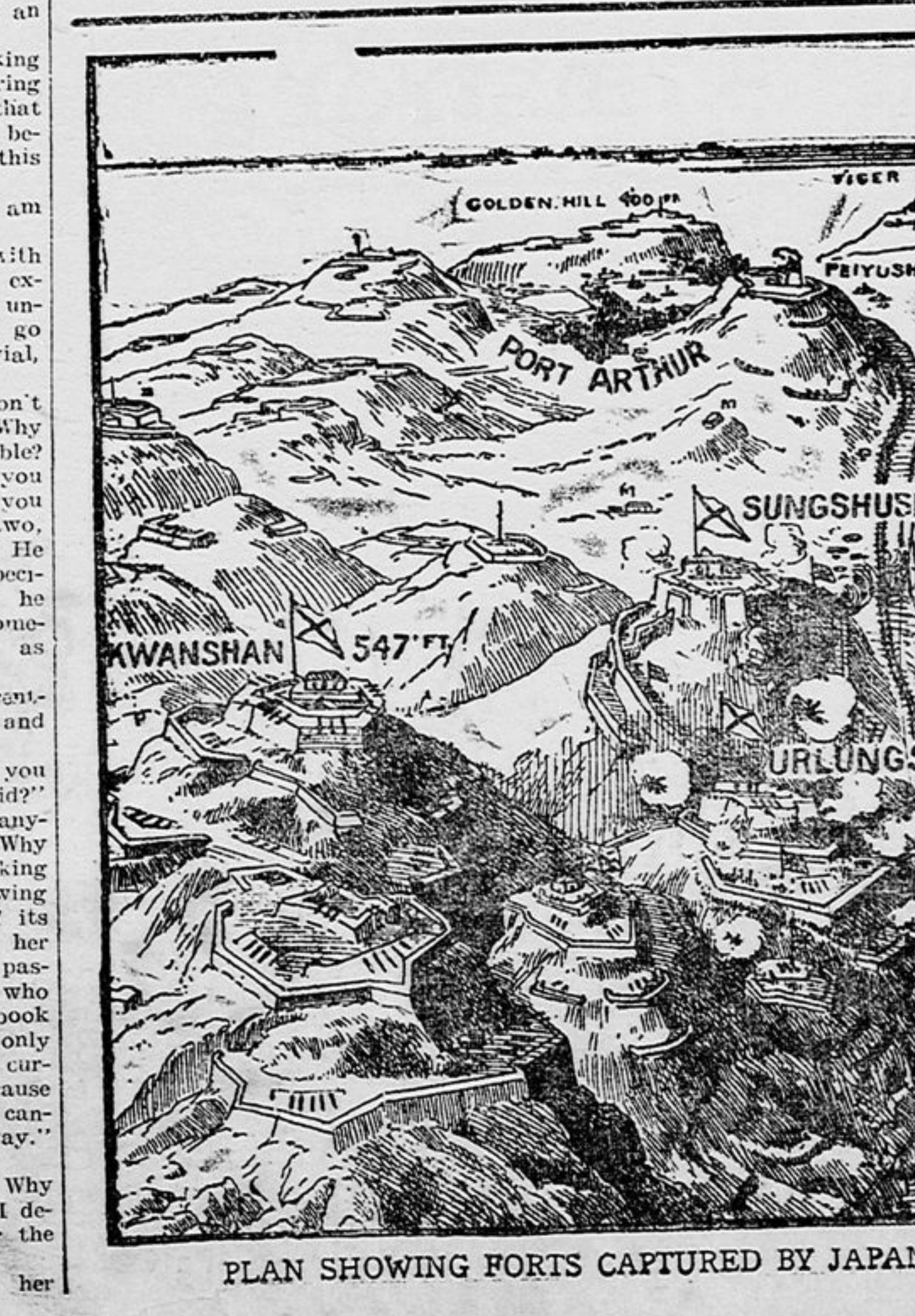
RUSSIAN FLEET DESTROYED

Warships Now at Bottom of Port Arthur Harbor.

A despatch sent from Port Arthur to Tokio on Thursday says that the bottom, and that her middle funnel is wrecked. The cruiser Pallada is beginning to list to port. The upper deck of the cruiser Bayan was set on fire and is still burning. The battleship Sevastopol is moored alongside a dock in the east harbor, where she is hidden from sight by the hills. The fire to-day was directed to the Pallada, Bayan and Sevastopol. The sinking of the battleship Potlava was due to the explosion of a magazine aboard of her. She was hit only a few times. It is considered that as 203-Metre Hill commands the communications between the city and the Russian forces besieging Port Arthur, in describing the havoc wrought by the fire of the Japanese guns, says that in addition to the warships already named as being sunk or damaged, the gunboats Giljak and Fusad-neck have also been sunk. The torpedo boats alone are intact. It is reported that the Russian counter-attacks on 203-Metre Hill ceased on Dec. 5, and that the attackers have withdrawn towards Yangkau. The Russians have also slackened their opposition to the Japanese sappings of the eastern trench. The defenders are dwindling in number, and are suffering from exhaustion.

When the port finally falls it will not be because of any failure within itself, but because the Russian army and fleet outside of it have failed to play their part in the combination for which the fortress was prepared. The campaign on the peninsula really began when the Japanese on June 27th captured Nanshan, and seized the great line of defenses which the Russians had constructed from sea onwards to the Japanese advance has been continuous.

A despatch from Tokio says:—In disabling the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, precluding the possibility of its being able to reinforce the Russian second Pacific squadron, the Japanese have accomplished the main object of desperate assaults against the fortress which they have been making for the past three months. There is now a strong probability that, while continuing the siege, they will absently, as if trying to work out in his own mind the answer to this question, had been suddenly: "Nevertheless, I do care," he says with a touch of vehemence. "It is the injustice of it to which I object. You had evidently determined beforehand to show me no grace. I defy you to deny it! Come, can you? Miss Dysart is silent. The very ingenuously of his accusation has defeated her power to reply, and had she not of prejudice? "Was that fair?" says he with some heat. "Strangers as we were to each other, as we are, and we are likely to remain, I ask you how it was I deserved that foregone conclusion?" (To be Continued.)



LEADING MARKETS.

The Ruling Prices in Live Stock and Breadstuffs. BREADSTUFFS. Toronto, Dec. 13.—Wheat—Ontario—Sellers are now asking \$1, with 99c bid, for red and white; spring is quoted 93c to 94c; goose, 87c. Manitoba, No. 1 northern, \$1.04; No. 2 northern, 99c; No. 3 northern, 93c. Georgian Bay ports, 6c more grinding in transit. Flour—90 per cent. patents, \$4.20 to \$4.35, buyers' sacks, east and west, 15c to 20c higher for choice. Manitoba, \$5.35 to \$5.70 for first patents, \$5.20 to \$5.40 for second patents, and \$5 to \$5.30 for bakers'. Millfeed—\$14.50 to \$15 for bran in bulk; \$17.50 to \$18 for shorts, east and west; Manitoba, \$21 for shorts, \$10 for bran, exports. Barley—Dull; 45c for No. 2, 43c for No. 3 extra, and 41c for No. 3 maiting outside, Toronto freights. Rye—75c to 76c for No. 2. Corn—New Canadian on cob, 45c; new American yellow easier and more plentiful, 53c to 54c; new American white, 53c to 54c; old American, No. 2 yellow, 66c; No. 3 at 65c, and No. 3 mixed at 63c, on track Toronto. Oats—33c for No. 1 white, east low freights; No. 2, 32c; low freights, and 32c north and west. Rolled Oats—\$1.10 for cars of bags and \$1.25 for bags on track Toronto. Eggs—25c more for broken lots here, and 40c for broken lots outside. Peas—67c to 68c for No. 2 west and east. Buckwheat—Easier; 54c to 55c, east and west.

COUNTRY PRODUCE. Butter—The market is fairly steady and prices unchanged. Creamery prints, 21c to 22c do tubs, 19c to 20c Dairy tubs, good to choice 15c to 16c do medium, 13c to 14c do inferior grades, 10c to 12c Dairy lb. rolls, good to choice, 16c to 17c do medium, 14c to 15c do inferior, 12c to 13c for lbs. for large and 10c to 11c for twins in job lots here. Eggs—22c to 23c for new laid, 20c to 21c for fresh and 20c for limed. Poultry—Turkeys, 13c to 14c for young and 10c to 11c for old. Ducks and geese, 8c to 9c. Chickens at 5c to 9c, and hens at 5c to 6c. Potatoes—Ontario stock, 65c to 70c on track and 75c to 80c on tracks, and 90c to 95c out of store. Dressed Hogs—Steady at \$6.25 to \$6.30 per cwt. for choice selected weights on track here. Baled Hay—No. 1 timothy is offered at \$7.50 on track. No. 2 and mixed clover are proportionately lower and not in demand at \$6.50 in car lots on track—Car lots on track are quoted unchanged at \$6 to \$6.50 per ton.

MONTREAL MARKETS. Montreal, Dec. 13.—Grain—Wheat is still out of line as far as export business is concerned. A few sales of car lots of No. 2 white were made at 40c to 40c, and No. 3 at 39c to 39c per bushel including freight. Flour—Manitoba spring wheat patents, \$5.80; strong bakers', \$5.50; winter wheat patents, \$5.70 to \$5.80; straight rollers, \$5.40 to \$5.50, and in bags, \$2.25 to \$2.65. Feed—Manitoba bran in bags, \$1.70 to \$1.75; shorts, \$2.10 per ton; Ontario bran in bulk, \$15.50 to \$16.50; shorts, \$19 to \$20; molasses, \$24 to \$28 per ton on quality. The trade in cornmeal is fair at \$1.35 to \$1.45 per bag. Hay—No. 1, \$9 to \$9.25; No. 2, \$8.25 to \$8.50; clover mixed, \$7 to \$7.25, and pure clover, \$6.25 to \$6.75 per ton in car lots. Beans—Choice primes, \$1.35 per bushel, \$1.35. Lord Curzon announced that he returned to India to strengthen India's land defences.

LIVE STOCK. Toronto, Dec. 13.—Cattle—In most descriptions the market showed an improvement. The tone of the market was more active than a few days ago. Among the arrivals of the choice animals, were at \$4.25 to \$4.65 per cwt. of the cattle sold at the old showed an improvement for fair good cows, and for butchers' and export bulls. The following were the quotations given for butchers' cattle: Select butchers', \$4.40 to \$4.65; best butchers', \$4.15 to \$4.40; good butchers', \$3.75 to \$4.10; fair to good, \$3.50 to \$3.70; cows, \$2.50 to \$3.12; common to rough, \$1.25 to \$2. The following was the range of prices prevailing in stockers and feeders—Feeders, short-keeps, 1,275 lbs., \$3.50 to \$4.00; 1,050 to 1,175 lbs., \$3.25 to \$3.60; feeders, 800 to 1,025 lbs., \$3 to \$3.35; stockers, 600 to 800 lbs., \$2.25 to \$2.75; stockers, 400 to 600 lbs., \$1.70 to \$2; bulls, 900 to 1,200 lbs., \$1.75 to \$3.

MINOR ENGAGEMENTS. A despatch from St. Petersburg says: Gen. Sakharoff, under Wednesday's date, reports that the Russian main guard at a village southwest of Laotchenguli Pass was driven out on Tuesday by the Japanese artillery after sustaining a few casualties. The Japanese subsequently retired. Gen. Kouroupatkin, in a telegram to the Emperor, mentions Japanese attacks on Sinchinpu and Soudgainin, both of which were repulsed, and an unimportant outpost affair on the right wing when the Russians routed and bayoneted Japanese guard. JAP TROOPS INSPIRED. The London Times' correspondent at Tokio says:—According to an official telegram, issued on Thursday afternoon, the Japanese troops at Port Arthur are greatly inspired by the signal successes of the last few days in capturing positions and inflicting damage on the Russian fleet. A LIGHT WEIGHT. The London Times' insurance correspondent says:—The progress of the Russian Baltic fleet may be slow, but it should be fast enough to enable the vessels to reach far eastern waters as soon as the coal steamers, which have not yet left this country, can get to Japan by the Cape route. War risks on steamers with coal for Japan are being underwritten at lower rates than a month or two ago. The indifference of underwriters to the Baltic fleet as a fighting or commerce-destroying force is very striking. A DOUBTFUL STORY. A despatch from St. Petersburg says: A story is current here that when Russia some time ago sought to purchase seven Argentine and Chilean warships, the two countries declined to sell the vessels direct to Russia, fearing the possibility of being subsequently held liable to pay Japan heavy damages. The question of selling to a third party as an intermediary was discussed, and the possibility of Turkey playing the role was suggested, but a guarantee against future liability was demanded, whereupon Russia abandoned the project. Great Britain, says the story, then offered to advance the money to Turkey to buy the ships, in return for certain concessions which would permit Great Britain to erect a second Gibraltar on the coast of Yem, opposite Perim Island, giving Great Britain control of the lower entrance to the Red Sea. Negotiations along these lines are said to be now progressing. It is added that Russia is much alarmed over the report that an emissary has been despatched to Constantinople to block the game. BRITAIN'S TRADE IMPROVED. Returns Show Increases in Exports and Imports. A London despatch says:—The November statement of the Board of Trade shows increases of \$9,736,500 in imports and \$55,377,500 in exports. The increase in imports includes cotton \$2,798,805, and certain manufactured articles, over \$2,500,000. The increase in exports was mainly in cotton fabrics, \$7,525,855. The imports from Canada were:— Cattle and lambs, 16,796 \$284,296 Sheep, 11,370 22,710 Wheat, 408,200 151,853 Wheat, meal, etc. 157,100 79,370 Peas, 30,950 12,581 Bacon, 80,750 182,890 Hams, 17,103 40,758 Butter, 21,023 57,617 Cheese, 22,832 55,728 Eggs, great hnds. 46,612 55,728 INDEPENDENT FORCES. A despatch from Tokio says: As to frequent appearance of Russian troops in the direction of Hsienchang, on the right of the Japanese position on the Sha, it is believed here that they are independent detachments despatched from Fushun, which is 30 miles east of Mukden. There are no Russians in any force south-east of Mukden. Late-ly 25,000 were sent from the district south-east of Mukden to join the fighting line on the Russian right. The Asahi reports that the Russians heavily bombarded the railway on the