

The Fair Captives

OR THE SECRET CABINET

CHAPTER XII.

Peeping into the summer-house as she runs past it Griselda discovers to her amazement, that Vera is still in it. "What, have you never stirred?" cries she. "Bless me, have you stayed in this curiously place ever since? But, hopefully, "I suppose you did stir into the house the gardens, 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 Griselda. "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, entrust 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 to you. But surely you are not going so soon? Not before dinner, not to-night!" cries Griselda, 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 she done? She speaks hurriedly with an honest regret, unmindful of the counter-attacks on 203-Metre Hill, which ended with its capture by the Japanese.

RUSSIAN FLEET DESTROYED

Warships Now at Bottom of Port Arthur Harbor.

BATTLESHIPS SUNK.

A despatch sent from Port Arthur to Tokio on Thursday says that the battleship Peresviet's keel is on 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 Sovastopol 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 Poltava was due to the explosion of a magazine aboard of her. She was hit only a few times. It is considered that a 203-Metre Hill commands the communications between the city and Liaotshian the Japanese will be able to prevent the Russians from making a final stand at the latter place.

NOGI'S SONS KILLED.

A despatch from Tokio says—in the fighting of Nov. 30th the second son of Gen. Nogi was killed on 203-Metre Hill. Gen. Nogi's eldest son was killed in the Battle of Nanshan and he is now childless. Imperial army headquarters has published a list of 26 officers killed and 58 wounded. No mention is made of where these casualties occurred, but it was presumably at Port Arthur.

BALTIC FLEET A BLUFF.

A despatch to the London Express from St. Petersburg says that definite instructions have been sent to Admiral Rojestvensky, commander of the Baltic fleet, not to proceed to the Far East. The Czar took the matter into his own hands and issued the order, despite the opposition of the grand dukes. The Baltic fleet will now probably dawdle at various ports until the possibilities of service are so remote that the public will have forgotten its original mission. The despatch adds that the reports concerning the despatch of a third squadron to the Far East are mere speculations.

AWFUL SCENES.

A despatch from headquarters of the Third Japanese Army before Port Arthur, via Fusan, says: The correspondent of the Associated Press has visited 203-Metre Hill, the scene of the awful six-days' fight, which ended with its capture by the Japanese. The advance works and the crest of the hill were torn away, the slopes of the hill were covered with debris and the trenches were smashed and filled with soil. In a single section of the trenches one hundred corpses long over two hundred Russian dead and wounded were seen. They had been horribly mangled with dynamite grenades.

POOR SHRAPNEL.

A despatch from Mukden says: The Russians continue to bombard the Japanese positions with both heavy and light artillery. The Japanese response is feeble. The Russians have experienced much difficulty with their shrapnel, which should have effectually checked the Japanese attacks during the Battle of Sha River, but failed in many cases. Some of the consignments of shrapnel sent to the front appear to have been almost worthless from poor construction of the shells.

TO ESCAPE SERVICE.

A despatch from London says: Eight hundred Russians, most of whom allege they fled from their homes in order to escape military service in Manchuria, left London on Thursday for Liverpool, on their way to America. These refugees are arriving at the rate of 150 daily.

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 detached from Fushan, which is 30 miles east of Mukden. There are no Russians in any force south-east of Mukden. Later 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

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'. Milled—\$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-ontario, Toronto freights. Rye—75c to 76c for No. 2. Corn—New Canadian on cob, 45c; new American yellow eastern, 44c; plantiff, 53c to 54c; new American mixed not so plentiful, 53c on track, Toronto. 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. Rotted Oats—\$4.10 for cars of bags and \$4.25 for barrels on track Toronto, 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, good 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 Cheese—Steady at 10c to 10 1/2 per lb. for large and 10 1/2 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 6c, and hens at 5c to 6c. Potatoes—Ontario stock, 65c to 70c on track and 75c to 80c out of store. Eastern 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 here. Baled Straw—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 40 1/2c, and No. 3 at 39c to 39 1/2c per bushel ex-store. Flour—Manitoba spring wheat patents, \$3.80; strong patents, \$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, \$17 to \$17.50; shorts, \$21 per ton; Ontario bran in bulk, \$15.50 to \$16.50; shorts, \$19 to \$20; moultrie, \$24 to \$28 per ton as to quality. Meal—The trade in cornmeal is fair at \$1.35 to \$1.45 per bag; No. 2, \$1.30 to \$1.35; No. 1, \$1.30 to \$1.35; No. 2, \$1.25 to \$1.30; clover mixed, \$7 to \$7.25, and pure clover, \$6.25 to \$6.75 per ton in car lots. Beans—Choice primes, \$1.40 to \$1.45 per bushel, \$1.35 to \$1.37 in car lots. Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, \$16.50 to \$17.50; light short cut, \$16.50 to \$17; American fat backs, \$20; compound lard, 9c to 7c Canadian lard, 6c to 7c; kailo rendered, 8c to 9c according to quality; hams, 12c to 13c; bacon, 12c to 13c; fresh killed abattoir hogs \$7 to \$7.25; heavy fat hogs, \$4.50; mixed lots, \$4.50 to \$5; select, \$5.25 to \$5.40 per car. Cheese—Ontario fall white, 10c to 14c; colored, 10c to 10 1/2c; Quebec, 9c to 10c. Butter—Finest grades, 20c to 20 1/2c; ordinary finest, 19c to 20c; medium grades, 18c to 19c, and western dairy, 15c to 16c. Eggs—Select new laid, 23c to 24c, and straight gathered candled, 20c to 21c; No. 2, 15c to 16c. LIVE STOCK MARKET. Toronto, Dec. 13.—Trade was brisk in most descriptions of butcher's cattle at the Western Market to-day. The tone of the trade in butchers' showed an improvement, and buying was more active than a week or so ago. Among the arrivals were a few of the choicer animals, which sold at \$4.25 to \$4.65 per cwt. The bulk of the cattle sold at the old prices through the list. The market also showed an improvement for fair to 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', loads of, \$3.70 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, 1,200 to 1,275 lbs., \$3.50 to \$4; feeders, 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., \$1.40 to \$2; bulls, 900 to 1,200 lbs., \$1.75 to \$3.

WILL SOON FALL.

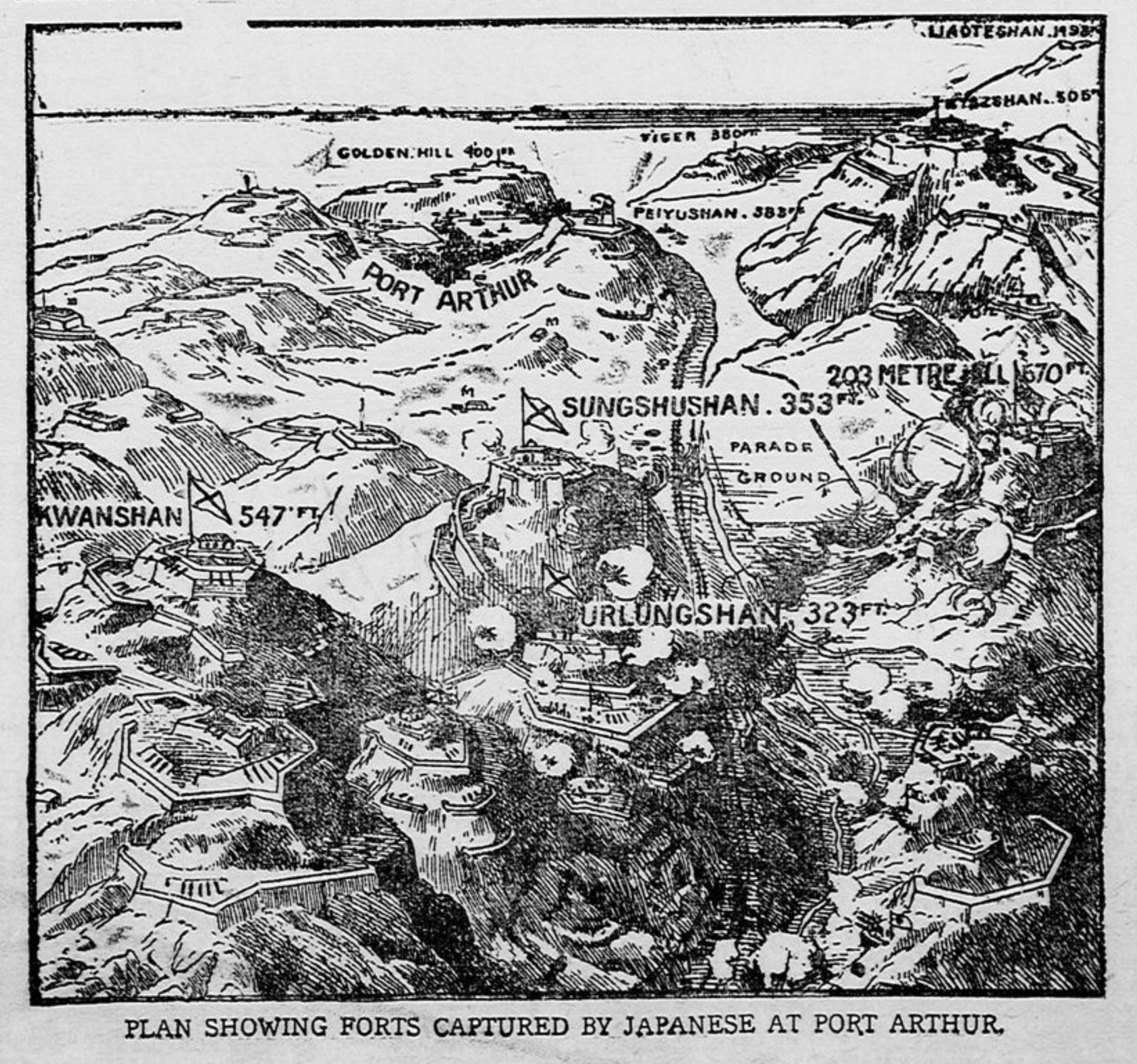
A despatch from Cheloo says: According to Japanese officers from the front, Dec. 29, will see Port Arthur in their possession completely and Russian resistance on the Kwang-Tung peninsula will have ended, they believe, forever. When the port finally falls it will not be because of any failure within 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 to sea across the peninsula. Thence onwards the Japanese advance has been continuous.

WILL STARVE THEM OUT.

A despatch from Tokio says:—In disabling the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, precluding the possibility of its being able to reinforce the Russian sea and Pacific squadrons, the Japanese have accomplished the main object of desperate assaults against the fortress which they have been making the past three months. There is now a strong probability that, while continuing the siege, they will

absolutely, as if trying to work out in his own mind the answer to this question, and then suddenly:

"Nevertheless, I do care," he says with a touch of vehemence. "It is the justice 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 impetuosity of his accusation had deadened her power to reply, and besides, is there not truth in it? Had she not prejudged? "Was that fair?" says he with some heat. "Strangers as we were to each other, as we are, we are likely to remain. I ask you how it was I deserved that forgone conclusion?" (To be Continued.)



PLAN SHOWING FORTS CAPTURED BY JAPANESE AT PORT ARTHUR.