

The Fair Captives

OR THE SECRET CABINET

CHAPTER XIII.—(Continued.)

"It surely isn't worth an argument," says she with a little frown, shrugging her shoulders. "I tell you again I am sorry if I have inconvenienced or annoyed you. I confess, too, that if you could assure me you were leaving for some better reason than—than this, I should feel happier."

many a time, to and from Greycourt, and by degrees a little of the constraint that characterized his early visits has worn away. He has even so far advanced as to be almost on friendly terms with Griselda.

"What's that?" says Griselda, starting and dropping her fork (they are at their early dinner). "Did you hear it? A knock! A thundering knock!"

"Seaton's knock!" says Vera faintly. "What can have brought him at this hour? London must be reduced to ashes," hazards Griselda, her tone now as genial as usual.

"If I could," supplements he gently. He turns and leaves the room. "Now see, see what you have brought upon me," cries Vera, facing Griselda, with vehement agitation.

"What's that?" says Griselda, starting and dropping her fork (they are at their early dinner). "Did you hear it? A knock! A thundering knock!"

"Seaton's knock!" says Vera faintly. "What can have brought him at this hour? London must be reduced to ashes," hazards Griselda, her tone now as genial as usual.

WORK AHEAD AT PORT ARTHUR

The Forts to Be Taken Are Enormously Strong.

A despatch from Headquarters of the Third Japanese Army, via Fusan, says: The Japanese are working their advance on the shores of Pigeon Bay on comparatively level ground against the Hai-Yan-Kow, Idachin, and Anizusan forts. The approach to the fortifications are easy, but the forts are enormously strong, and the near approach is all the more difficult, as the sapping of trenches will have to be done through frozen ground.

LEADING MARKETS.

The Ruling Prices in Live Stock and Breadstuffs.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—Wheat—Ontario—Very dull, 98c bid for red and white; spring, 93c; goose, 80c to 87c. Manitoba, No. 1 northern, steady at \$1.03.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—Trade at the Western Cattle Market to-day was not so good, and trade was slower in the week. The quality of the cattle was not so good, and trade was quieter on this account.

FLOUR FOR PORT ARTHUR.

A despatch to the London Daily Telegraph from Chfoo says that the steamer "Hull" has run the blockade at Port Arthur carrying American cargoes.

HALIFAX LOSES DOCKYARD

Closed Down by Order of the British Admiralty. A Halifax despatch says—Orders were received from the British Admiralty on Thursday by cable directing that the naval dockyard here be closed down at once.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter—The demand continues active for choice grades. Quotations are unchanged. Creamery, prints, 22c to 23c.

RED FLAG IN RUSSIA.

An Armed Rising May Take Place at Any Time. A London despatch says:—The newspapers here print further mailed reports of the disaffection in Russia.

REFORMS THEIR REWARD.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says: It is significant that the soldiers at the front are keenly interested in the proposed reforms in Russia.

TROOPS IN MUKDEN.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—The general staff apparently is entirely satisfied with the military situation in Manchuria, being convinced that the Japanese are not strong enough to attempt to turn Mukden now, and will not be even if Port Arthur falls.

JAPS GNAWED WIRES.

A despatch from London says: An engineer named Kawamura Sakuji, who is now at the military hospital at Jentsuji, has supplied the following account of one of his experiences with the investing army at Port Arthur.

OYAMA'S PROCLAMATION.

A despatch from Tokyo states that a despatch has been received from Marshal Oyama announcing that he has issued a proclamation from the fortress annexing South Manchuria to Japan.