

The Fair Captives

OR THE SECRET CABINET

CHAPTER LVIII.

"Yes, I know. It was because it was so bad that I felt I should come. I couldn't bear the thought of your spending such a day alone, with no company but the pitter-patter of that detestable rain upon the window panes. Arnt you surprised to see me in this part of the world so soon again?"

Please say I said so. I hope I have made it intelligible, but you have been talking so hard— It wouldn't be me if I wasn't talking, and then you wouldn't care for me, says Griselda saucily. She is now clad in her furs again, and like a pretty, soft, round bear, she hugs her sister, steps into the carriage, and with many adieux and waves of the hand through the window, is driven away.

CHAPTER LX. There is a considerable group of people gathered in the beach and she can see by the still vivid flashes of lightning that all heads and all hands are pointed in one direction. In the shrouds, and clinging to the rigging, Vera, with a terrible sense of helplessness, can see that five human creatures are clinging, with a natural but very faint hope of saving the lives that seem so surely doomed to destruction—only five out of all the souls that set sail a month ago. It seems horrible! She feels choking, suffocated. Can nothing be done? Almost, in her agony of pity for those poor, helpless beings, she seems to see the intolerable fear that has driven her hither, a fear undefined—vague but sure. And now a shout from the beach! A dark object being dragged forward, a wailing cheer, perhaps meant to reach those miserable souls hovering on the brink, and so give courage to their falling hearts: it is the life-boat, and now— A tall figure has suddenly become prominent; he seems to tower above all those around him. He is evidently addressing them with passionate words, and now he springs into the boat, and with renewed eloquence seems to compel those present to follow him. These five miserable wretches clinging for dear life to the ropes out there are forgotten, the whole creation sinks away from her—only this man exists.

CHAPTER LXI. There is a stir on the beach once more, a ringing cheer; a rush to the life-boat, and a piercing scream from some woman. A brilliant flash from above shows one young thing hanging wildly round a sailor's neck as though defying him to cast her from him. Some of them, as though given over to despair, and helpless of earthly help, fall on their knees, and uplift their eyes to heaven. Vera tries to pray, but no thoughts will come; her lips are dry, from dumb. Yet her whole attitude, her entire mind is surely one earnest, most fervent petition. There must be justice somewhere! She staggers to her feet, and stares blindly into the semi-darkness. The mists have cleared away from the moon, and she can see as well as those other eager watchers that the five black spots that were upon the rigging are no longer there. They have been successful then, so far. They have taken those five half-dead creatures into the blessed life-boat. Surely, if the rescuers could go through such a sea in safety, they can return. A faint sense of hope is struggling for prominence in her breast, when a scream from some woman strikes like a knell upon her heart. "It is gone! Oh, merciful Heaven, gone!" Vera, crushed, faint, starts from her hiding-place, and runs into the open space before her, as though eager in some mad way to rush towards the speakers. And then a blessed relief comes to her, so sharp, so unexpected, that she almost gives way beneath it. The life-boat indeed, is gone! But the lifeboat still lives. To complete her hope, a wild cry rises from the sailors on the land, a cry mingled with eloquent sobs, and cheers, and vehement outcalls. They were sure to succeed, the life-boat touches ground. A hundred eager hands are stretched out to prevent the returning wave from carrying it backwards, some of the men, more adventurous than the rest, rush into the surging tide up to their waists, and seize the boat and drag it forcibly into safety. Dysart, springing to hand, helps out the rescued men, now exhausted by fear and exposure—one of them, indeed, has fainted—but there are kindly arms open to receive them, and kindly voices to bid them welcome—and they praise the God of sea and land for their delivery from death this night. Dysart, indeed, is threatened with an attack; wild, almost hysterical, is the greeting he receives. Worn-out, fagged to death, he turns away from them, only stopping to give a last direction or two about the half-drowned men. "Take them up to the inn," he calls aloud to an old sailor hovering on the edge of the crowd, "and tell Mrs. Griffin to prepare beds for them; and tell her, too, that I shall be responsible for any expense to which she may be put. And all you fellows who so bravely fought through that sea with me tonight, I shall have for to-night, go with these poor creatures to the inn, and tell the landlady to give you something to bring back the warmth to your limbs." With a hurried wave of the hand he turns abruptly away from the cheering crowd, and the dancing torches, and makes his way through the heavy darkness towards the small pathway that will lead to the road above. Stumbling, uncertain, and feeling altogether exhausted, he nevertheless finds it, and puts out his hand to grope for the rock that he knows stands at the right side of it, where the breach commences. The dismal moon has at last taken its final departure, and clouds big with rain and black as ink cover the heavens. Once more a storm is about to burst over the frightened earth. Already great angry drops are falling, striking his face, and trickling down his neck, and he has either miscalculated the exact position of the rock, or— Good Heavens, what is this? He starts violently, and then his sinners fasten with almost convulsive energy over the small cold hand that has been thrust into his. A little sharp cry breaks through the darkness, and then the cold hand is hurriedly withdrawn, and two arms are thrown

LEADING MARKETS VLADIVOSTOCK BLOCKADED

Inactivity of the Russian Cruisers Explained.

LINEVITCH MUST RETREAT. The Tokio correspondent of the London Telegraph says the Russian officers captured in Saghalien are depressed. They declare they were left to take care of themselves. Their requests for reinforcements were ignored, and they were practically helpless. Vladivostok is now blockaded by a strong squadron. This explains the inactivity of the Russian cruisers and the torpedo boats which are inside the harbor. They have been unable to interfere with the Japanese occupation of Saghalien or to scout in Possiet and Uragoni Bays. Powerful Japanese squadrons are watching the whole coast of Saghalien and also the coasts of Siberia and Corea. Information from officers who have returned from Manchuria shows that when the Japanese plan is in full swing Gen. Linevitch must prematurely retreat or be absolutely lost. When the Japanese landed at Port Castries last Monday they found that the village of Alexandrovsk, Siberia, which is merely a collection of wooden huts, was burning. As the invaders approached the place four guns opened fire on them, but they were soon silenced. JAPS ARE BUSY. A despatch from Tokio says: It is announced at army headquarters that the Japanese from Saghalien Island on the morning of July 24, without meeting heavy resistances from the Russians, commenced landing in the neighborhood of Alkova, eight miles north of Alexandrovsk and that Alexandrovsk was seized Tuesday. Vice-Admiral Katakawa, in reporting the successful landing of the Japanese forces in the vicinity of Alexandrovsk from Saghalien Island, says the piers at Alexandrovsk, Niyoumi and Mukake were found intact, but the enemy had set fire to Mukake and Alkova was still burning. The town of Alexandrovsk was not burned. The Admiral's report, which was received at 7.30 p.m. on July 24, says the Japanese flag was hoisted over the Government buildings at Alexandrovsk without any loss on the part of the Japanese force. The following official announcement was made this afternoon: "The detachment detailed to protect the landing on the Siberian coast of Japanese troops from the Island of Saghalien dislodged the enemy from the vicinity of Alkova on July 24. The enemy's strength consisted of one battalion of infantry, besides several hundred volunteers, with eight field pieces. "Another detachment landed at Mugati and captured 40,000 tons of coal and light railway materials. Alexandrovsk was taken and resisted the same evening, after some resistance. At dawn on July 25 the enemy holding a position east of Alexandrovsk was attacked and our troops pressed him towards Novomikhaelovka, which place we completely occupied the same day. Two hundred prisoners were taken, and also gun-carriages, ammunition, and provisions." Alexandrovsk is the capital of Saghalien. It will probably now become the base of operations for the capture of Nikolaievsk, at the mouth of the Amur River. The landing of a Japanese force at Port Castries a few days ago is supposed to have been made to secure the mainland end of the cable to Saghalien, and to begin a movement against the Town of Alexandrovsk on the mainland, from which place the Japanese are likely to cut off Nikolaievsk on the south side. It is officially announced that previous to the capture of Alexandrovsk Saghalien, the Japanese landed at Mugati, dislodged the Russians there and captured 40,000 tons of coal and some railway material. Two hundred prisoners, gun carriages and ammunition were captured on Monday. JAPS IN SIBERIA. A despatch from St. Petersburg, says:—Despatches from Manchuria report the landing of a Japanese battalion and the seizure of a lighthouse on the Siberian coast near Dekastrievka, a post formerly called Alexandrovsk, 700 miles north of Vladivostok, after a preliminary shelling by torpedo-boat destroyers. Military officials here attach importance to this episode only in connection with the Sakhalin campaign, and say that as the landing was effected at a place where the Straits of Tartary are narrowest, apparently it is part of the strategy of the Japanese to prevent the escape of Russian garrisons in Sakhalin, across the straits. They add that the landing is too far north to have any bearing on the main campaign or on the operation against Vladivostok. WHAT LANDING MEANS. A despatch from London says:—The Japanese landing at Dekastrievka, which is the terminus of the only cable line connecting the mainland with the Island of Sakhalin, is regarded by the London morning newspapers as an attempt to seize the mouth of the Amur River in order to enable the Japanese to despatch an army up the river to threaten the Russian communications, Japanese gunboats and torpedo boats could thus reach Harbin and give effectual assistance to any attack on the Russian fortifications. Both the Ussuri and Sungari Rivers are navigable for vessels of high draught, and thus the Japanese could advance inland in three different directions for a considerable distance. If, as is supposed, Japan has a river expedition in readiness, the success of its advance may suffer to charge the plans of the Russian and compel the retirement from the Kirin and Fenghua districts upon Harbin. ROJESTVENSKY'S INJURIES. Tokio, July 26.—The wound in Admiral Rojestvensky's forehead has been reopened and a small piece of bone has been removed. The Admiral's condition is now considered satisfactory. Stockers, choice 3.00 3.50 Do., common 2.25 2.75 Do., bulls 2.00 2.40 Export cows, per cwt. 4.00 4.15 Do., bucks 3.00 3.25 Cull sheep, per cwt. 2.50 3.50 Lambs, cwt. 6.25 6.75 Calves, cwt. 3.50 5.75 Do., each 2.00 10.00 Suckers, per cwt. 6.50 6.50 Lighters, per cwt. 6.25 6.25 Fats, per cwt. 6.10 6.10 Important strikes of iron ore are being made by prospectors in the neighborhood of Iron Lake, east of Port Arthur, and already applications for locations are being made. Wiley Brothers, who have been among the best iron miners, report that the quality is "very good" and low enough in sulphur and phosphorus to be suitable for the manufacture of Bessemer steel. Prof. Miller, the provincial geologist, has had a party inspecting the ground for a month. From these experts he has received word that the field is much larger than was thought, and that the field of operations is being extended rapidly. Little can be said, however, of the quality or actual value of the ore discovered until mining operations are commenced. THE PEOPLE SHOULD ACT. Outline of the Appeal of the Zemstvos. The Moscow correspondent of the London Standard telegraphs an outline of the appeal of the Zemstvos to the country. It rehearses the events of the past month, especially the fruitlessness of the reform ukases, and adds that all hope of the fulfillment of the Czar's promises is gone. It is time for the people to act. They must meet openly and discuss the best means of attaining reforms regardless of the frowns of the authorities. This is the way of peace. This alone will prevent the shedding of torrents of blood and save thousands of innocent lives. Against the expressed opinion of the united nation no amount of illegality or arbitrary exercise of authority can prevail. FERNIE FIRE SWEPT. Business Portion of Mining Town Destroyed. A despatch from Fernie, B.C., says:—A disastrous fire, the second within two years, devastated the business portion of this town on Wednesday night, wiping out the Fernie Press office, Carruthers' tailor shop, Shepard and Elliott's store, British Columbia Furniture store, Great Northern city office, Northern Hotel, Kenny and McLeod's tailor shop, C. C. Wright, jeweler, all totally destroyed. The Waldorf Hotel on the opposite side of the street was very much damaged by heat. Loss \$50,000, and insurance one-third of that amount.

LEADING MARKETS

BREADSTUFFS. Toronto, Aug. 1.—Wheat—Ontario—No. 2 red and white, 89c to 90c. Good is quoted at 78c to 80c, and spring at 85c to 86c. Manitoba—We quote No. 1, \$1.15 to \$1.17; No. 2, \$1.09. No. 3 is unchanged at 90c to 91c. Flour—Ontario—90 per cent. patents, \$4.15 to \$4.25, buyers' sacks, west, with 15c to 20c more for choice. Manitoba, first patents, \$5.30 to \$5.40; second patents, \$5 to \$5.30, and bakers', \$4.90 to \$5.10. Millfeed—Ontario—Bran, \$11.50 to \$12; shorts higher at \$18.50 to \$19. Manitoba—\$17 for bran, \$19 for shorts, at Toronto and equal freight points. Oats—No. 2 are quoted at 44c outside, according to location and freight rates. Barley—No. 2, 46c to 47c; No. 3 extra, 44c to 45c; and No. 3, 43c outside. Rye—Prices are quoted nominally at 60c outside. Canadian is unchanged at 54c for Chatham freights. American casier at 62c to 64c for No. 2 yellow and 63c for No. 3 yellow, lake and rail freights, Ontario points and 63c to 63 1/2c on track, Toronto. Peas—Nominal at 72c for No. 2 outside. Rolled Oats—\$5 for cars of barrels on track here and \$4.75 for cars of bags; 25c more for broken lots here and 40c outside. BUTTER—Prices are firm in tone. Creamery, prints 21c to 22c do solids 20c to 21c Dairy lb. rolls, good to choice 17c to 18c do medium 15c to 16c do tubs, good to choice, 16c to 17c do inferior 14c to 15c Cheese—Prices have a firm tone at 10c to 11c per lb. Eggs—Prices are unchanged at 17c to 18c. Potatoes—Prices are unchanged at \$2.25 to \$2.50 per barrel. Baled Hay—\$7.50 per ton for No. 1 timothy, in car lots on track here, and \$6 for No. 2. Baled Straw—Car lots on track here are quoted unchanged at \$5.50 to \$6 per ton. MONTREAL MARKETS. Montreal, Aug. 1.—Grain—The demand for oats is limited at 49c for No. 2 white and 48c for No. 3 white per bushel ex-store. Barley—Is firmer at 54c per bushel ex-store. Flour—Manitoba shipping wheat patents, \$5.30 to \$5.40; winter wheat patents, \$5.50; straight rollers, \$5 to \$5.15, and in bags \$2.35 to \$2.45. Millfeed—Manitoba bran in bags, \$15.50 to \$16; shorts, \$19 to \$20 per ton; Ontario bran in bulk, \$14.50 to \$15; shorts, \$19 to \$20; moullie, \$21 to \$24 per ton, as to quality. Oats—\$2.40 to \$2.42; per bag. Cornmeal continues quiet at \$1.35 to \$1.45 per bag. Hay—No. 1 \$8.50 to No. 2, \$7.50 to \$8; clover mixed, \$6.50 to \$7, and pure clover, \$6 to \$6.25 per ton in car lots. Eggs—Straight cream, 17c; No. 2, 14c. Butter—Choice creamery, 22c to 22 1/2c; undergrades, 21c to 22c; dairy, 18c to 20c. Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, \$20 to \$21; light short cut, \$18 to \$19; American cut clear fat back, \$18.50 to \$19; compound lard, 5c to 6c; Canadian lard, 9c to 9 1/2c; kettle rendered, 10c to 11c, according to quality; hams, 12c, 13c and 14c; fresh killed abattoir hogs \$10 alive, \$7.25 for mixed lots, \$7.50 for select. Cheese—Hats are asking 10c to 10 1/2c for townships, and 10c to 10 1/2c for Ontario. BUFFALO MARKETS. Buffalo, Aug. 1.—Flour—Quiet and steady. Wheat—Spring, winter; No. 1 Northern, \$1.15; asked; winter; No. 2 red, 90c. Corn—Week, No. 2 yellow, 62c; No. 2 white, 61c. Oats—Week, No. 2 white, 36c; No. 2 mixed, 36c. Rye—Dull, unsettled; No. 3 offered at 67c. LIVE STOCK MARKET. Toronto, Aug. 1.—The following is the range of quotations:—\$4.75 Do., medium 4.30 4.50 Do., bulls 3.90 4.50 Do., cows 3.00 3.60 Butchers', picked 4.50 4.65 Do., choice 4.00 4.50 Do., medium 3.75 4.00 Do., common 3.00 3.75 Do., common 2.00 3.00 Do., bulls 2.50 3.00 Do., medium 3.75 4.25 Feeders, short-keep 3.50 4.00 Do., medium 3.40 3.75 Do., light 3.00 3.40 around him, and cling to him with passionate vehemence. "It is you—you! And you are safe! Oh, Seaton! Oh, thank God, thank God!" Whose voice is it? Not Vera's? Vera; and yet the clinging arms are warm, living and genuine: the sobbing voice is real; a small dishevelled head is very close to him—very! What has happened? Has he gone mad? Not a word escapes him, but he draws a long, long breath, and suddenly, as it were, new life seems given to him. How could he have thought he was tired a moment since? The strength of ten men seems now to have entered into him, as he takes up the slender trembling figure bodily into his arms, and carries it over the rough shingles until he reaches a smoother part of the pathway.