

# TOMMY

By Joseph Hocking  
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## PETER XI—(Cont'd.)

happy, and marriage with love is a poor thing, however much brass you may have. "Appen I can put Tom in the way of getting on when the war's over, he's a grand lad, as you say, and it was real plucky the way he nabbed that German spy and got the papers. No wonder the King thinks such a lot of him."

Upon this George Lister filled his pipe slowly, and there was a look of pride in his eyes.  
"The never see!" and Mrs. Pollard's voice was very caressing. "That's one for Polly Powell, anyhow. She never held her tongue to do so. He held out his hand to her."

"How are you, Alice?" he said.  
"Alice gave him her hand, but did not reply, save that her fingers trembled in his."  
A thousand hopes, fancies, and fears flashed through his mind and heart; then Alice shyly lifted her eyes to his.

"May I walk home with you, Alice?" he stammered.  
"Yes, if you will, Tom," and the two walked away side by side.  
They walked up Liverpool Road together for some time without speaking a word. On every side the crowd passed them, but Tom did not heed, his heart was too full for words, his mind too occupied with the thoughts and fancies. Presently they passed into a quiet lane where they were apparently alone.

"Alice," said Tom at length, "I'm fair ashamed of myself, I—I'm just a—"  
"No," and Alice interrupted him, "you are a hero, Tom, you have done wonderful things."  
"Ah, but that is nothing," was Tom's reply. "I could never help doing that, no decent lad could. But the other now—my Alice, I am ashamed of myself. I was such a fool too!"

"Alice did not speak; perhaps she was delighted at Tom's self-commendation, or perhaps, which was more likely, she was eagerly waiting for him to say more.  
"Is it true what mother told me?" he asked, after what seemed a long silence.  
"That did she tell you?"  
"That you were engaged to Harry Brafield?"

"No!" replied the girl eagerly, "I never was!"  
"Then is that young person?"  
"No, Tom; who could have told you such lies?"  
"Just a bit rough," replied Tom, "but they are all right. Some of those men are just heroes, you know; they would face any kind of danger to do a good turn. Perhaps you do not realize that it is to look after them, and their hearts are true as gold. This war has made a wonderful difference in them."

Alice pressed his arm convulsively, while the other day went on, "that book of Kipling's where there is a story about a ship that found herself. It means a lot, does that story. That's why Tom has done for a lot of us. He's helped us to find ourselves." The guard blew his whistle, and there was a slamming of doors.  
"Good-bye, Alice," and Tom held her close to his heart. "The war will be over soon, and then, please God, I will come back again."

"Yes, yes, Tom, and—and you know I will be always thinking of you, and praying for you, and then, Alice, it's a bit afraid. It's not good-bye, Alice, though her voice was husky, and Tom's was husky, with a sob—"I shall be loving you—loving you like the time I—I—"  
"I heard all about it," replied the girl, "but it didn't need that to tell me that you would come back to me, Tom."  
"Yes," said Tom, "but I feel so ashamed. I feel as though I ought to do something to offer you. I am only a poor Tommy with a bob a day, but will you ever for me, Alice, till the war is over?—and then if God spares my life I will work for you."  
"I will give you as good a home as there is in Brunford."

"I can't help waiting for you," sobbed Alice.  
"Can't help? Why?" asked Tom.  
"Because—because—oh, you know." It was not until an hour later that Tom and Alice appeared at George Lister's house. During that time Tom had told Alice the story of his life, since he had parted from her. "Told her of the influences which had led to work, how he had been led to pray, and how his heart had all the time been longing for her. In spite of Alice's repeated questions he had said very little about his hour of peril, when he had risked his life to serve his country; that seemed of little importance to him. His one thought was to make Alice know that he was named of himself for leaving her, and that he loved her all the time."  
"Ay," said George Lister, and to his wife when Tom had left the house, "our Alice is a fool."  
"Appen she is," replied Mrs. Lister, "but you's a grand lad, a fair grand lad!"  
"He may be a grand lad," retorted her husband, "and I don't deny that he has behaved very well, but how can he keep a wife? What sort of a home can he give our Alice?"  
"A lad that can do what he has done," replied Mrs. Lister, "will make his way anywhere. If God spares his life, he will come back when the war's over, and you will not have any reason to be ashamed of him. He is not earning any brass now, and that's right, for he's serving his King and Country, and doing his duty like a man; but wait till we have licked the Germans, then Tom will let us know."  
"I don't deny that he's a sharp, capable lad," said George, "and it's easy to see that our Alice is fair gone on him. That's why she had now to do with the young person, and wif Harry Brafield. Well, I want Alice to be

## SIGNIFICANCE OF DISCIPLINE

SALUTE AS IT ORIGINATED IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

The Training of a Soldier Means That He Will Instantly Obey Orders.

At this stage of the war no one can deny that the British have borne a heavy weight in the war, not only the little army of 100,000 that saved the army at Mons but the big British army now standing between the world and the Huns of Attila.

The most necessary thing to win the war is discipline, says Lieut.-Colonel W. Applin, D.S.O., of the British army. It hardly requires any explanation that discipline is the first and last word of modern war. Look at Russia. Comparatively unprepared in 1914, she was able to defy Germany and enter East Prussia, thus giving us valuable time to prepare. Yet the moment she lost her discipline she was unable to prevent an inferior force from overrunning the country.

Italy is another example of the vital importance of discipline. If we have learned anything in this war it is that discipline and efficiency are the same thing. If Germany had not had iron discipline we should long ago have been in Berlin, and the reason we are now able to drive back the Germans and capture ground, guns, and prisoners at any time, anywhere on the western front, whereas Germany has not gained a yard of ground or won one military success in a year, is the fact that our system of discipline is better than theirs.

The Anglo-Saxon Discipline. Compulsion is purely German, whereas the discipline of the British—or rather of the Anglo-Saxon—is that of free will. It is absolutely voluntary. I can only liken it to the discipline of the football field, where every man submits himself willingly to hard discipline to win the match, and plays not for himself but for the team, obeying instructions, whether he agrees that they are right or not.

Fighting men must submit themselves in the same way to Spartan training to meet the conditions of modern war—conditions far more severe than obtained in any war ever fought. If necessary to the ancient Greeks, if the Romans, whose legions conquered the world, needed it, it is infinitely more necessary to-day when millions instead of thousands are taking the field and when arms have developed and increased from the simple sword and spear to the thousand and one complicated means of destruction which make up the modern battle.

When one thinks of the means of destruction placed at the disposal of the human race one is aghast at the number, size and variety of these implements. Not only do we fight, as of old, upon the ground, but we have weapons in the air and under the water, and to enable us to co-ordinate and bring under the direction of one single brain this mass of material for waging war it is absolutely essential that every unit be perfectly disciplined. Whether it be the fighting man in the trenches, the gunner, the flying man, the transport driver or the thousands of departments necessary to feed, clothe and supply the mighty armies—the first necessity to the smooth working of this gigantic machine is personal discipline of the humblest man.

What the Salute Means. An American asked me the other day why a British officer drew himself up so stiffly and looked his brother officer full in the face when he saluted. I asked him if he understood what the military salute was. He said he guessed it was a sort of homage. I explained that he was entirely mistaken. The military salute is a kind of Masonic sign between soldier and soldier and it originated in the Middle Ages, when only the highest classes of society were permitted to bear arms. When knights wore armor they rode out with the visors of their helmets down, covering the face. When two knights met it was the custom for the new or stranger knight to raise his visor and show his face, the other then doing likewise. If you perform this motion you will find that it is the same as that of the modern military salute. That is why, in our army, a man never salutes unless he has his cap on. It corresponds to the visor over the face.

Unless this discipline is instilled and instant obedience becomes second nature, an incident which happened earlier in the war would be impossible. In this case a company retiring before overwhelming forces of the enemy lost all its officers, and non-commissioned officers in an effort to hold an important bridgehead to enable the rest of the army to retire. Suddenly a young man sprang up and shouted a few words of command and the little body of survivors instantly followed him to apparent death.

When Discipline Saved the Army. Through a few yards of bullets they ran, falling into a drain which the youth's sharp eyes had discovered. Enabled to get on the flank of the Germans, they poured a last desperate volley from close range into the reserves, waiting for the final assault. Surprised and thrown into confusion, these reserves began to retire in disorder, and before they could be rallied fresh forces came up to the relief of

## QUEER BEASTS OF LONG AGO.

That Did Not Survive Because Not Adapted to Environment.

Nature seems to have made a whole lot of experiments that were not very successful. There were the Titanotheres (meaning "huge beasts") for example. Some of them were nearly as big as elephants; but no human being ever saw one alive.

They passed out of existence a million or more years ago, and such knowledge as we have of them today is derived from their bones, dug out of the rocks in the western part of North America. They were of many species, and undoubtedly in their time were very numerous.

The Museum of Natural History, in New York, has made great collections of their osseous remains; and many of the skeletons it has secured are so nearly complete that its experts are able to make good "restorations" of the creatures, showing what they looked like in life.

They were contemporary, in this country, with horses the size of modern foxes, tapers not much bigger, camels no larger than cottontail rabbits (which seem to have been exceedingly numerous in the plains region of the West), bear-like cats and giant dogs four times the weight of a St. Bernard.

In those days there was a land-bridge across Bering Strait, and animals migrated to and fro between Asia and North America. Our buffalo came from Asia (say the naturalists) by that path; and it was by the same route that the Old World obtained from this continent the horse and the camel.

But the Titanotheres failed to survive somehow. Perhaps they were wiped out by bear-cats and other big carnivores. Whatever the reason, they ceased entirely to exist, being replaced by other herbivorous mammals better adapted to the American environment.

HOW WAS FIRE OBTAINED? Natives of Bay of Bengal Islands Depended on Volcanoes. It has been argued that primitive man must first have obtained fire from volcanoes.

Perhaps he did; there is no telling. But one should remember that man was originally a forest dweller, and that forests are often set on fire by lightning. There is plenty of burning wood at hand on such occasions.

Man, originally, did not make fire; he found it. And having found it, he may soon have discovered uses for it. But it is an incontestable fact that the natives of the Andaman Islands, in the Bay of Bengal, depended until very recent years for their supplies of fire upon an active volcano.

These people are black pygmies. The men average no more than four feet ten inches in stature, and the women three inches shorter. And though about them it is that they never seem to grow up; they look like pot-bellied babies all their lives.

## A POISONED SEA.

Poisonous Gases Released by Earthquake Shock.

For the eighth time since 1844 fish have been killed along the west coast of Florida in an area of poisoned water. Not only the water, but the air has been charged with a suffocating gas, odorless but irritating to the air-passages. The last mortality was reported in October and November of 1916.

The Bureau of Fisheries sent experts to the spot, but they were obliged to admit, after a careful investigation, that the cause of the strange occurrence is a mystery. One explanation advanced is that earthquake shocks, possibly due to West Indian hurricanes, released poisonous gases from the sea bottom.

To keep lemons have some dry clean sawdust in a box and bury them in it and they will keep for weeks,

### About the House

DOMESTIC SCIENCE AT HOME  
Twenty-Fourth Lesson—Children's Food

The baby who must depend upon the bottle to supply nutriment to maintain life needs good care and attention.

Good home-made bread and pure milk contain the necessary elements that are of vital importance for the successful growth during childhood. That the bread contain all the necessary elements of the wheat, it should be made from whole wheat meal or white flour. This gives the valuable vitamins that are contained in the wheat. The outer covering of the grain contains valuable material for bone and teeth structure.

Know the source of your milk supply and also the conditions under which it is cared for before it reaches you. Upon receiving milk, if it is not already pasteurized, then pasteurize it at once, then cool and store in a place where it will be free from all contamination. Remember that milk will spoil very quickly if it is kept in a careless or dirty manner, or if it is permitted to stand in a heat.

Physicians will tell you that thousands of babies die each year because of the careless manner in which milk fed to them is handled. Always wash, if possible, under running water, the top of the milk bottle or jar, before opening it. When once the bottle is open turn the glass down upon the top of the bottle. This forms a sanitary covering that can quickly be removed.

Do not give small children candy. Large quantities of sugar overheat the blood stream and upset the digestion. It is positively criminal to give pennies to the children and allow them to buy cheap candies of unknown origin. If candy is necessary, make it at home and be assured of its purity.

Plenty of cool drinking water should be given to the children, even the smallest baby may be given a teaspoonful of water three or four times during the day. Do not give small children ice water; for safety's sake the beans, tomatoes, cabbage and cucumbers should be boiled and cooled.

COOKIES FOR WAR-TIME. Cookies loom large on the housewife's horizon just at present for winter is near at hand and wherever there are children there must be wholesome and nourishing and delicious cookies to cheer their young hearts and please their palates.

In making the weekly supply the men at the front should not be forgotten for they welcome cookies all the year round, just as much as they did when they were youngsters at home with insatiable appetites. A good scheme is to send the cookies overseas in old baking powder tins. If well sealed they arrive at their destination in excellent shape and if the "kinds that mother makes" are good at home how much better they are in the trenches!

Whole-Wheat Meal Cookies—3 cups eggs, 1½ cups each flour and brown sugar, 1 cup each whole wheat flour, 1 cup butter, 1 teaspoon each cream of tartar and vanilla, ½ teaspoon baking soda, 1 cup seedless raisins, 2 eggs beaten until light. Cream butter and sugar. Add the eggs and then the other ingredients. Use enough whole wheat flour to make a stiff dough. Roll out very thin. Cut in small shapes and put on a baking pan. Bake for about ten minutes in quick oven.

Hermit Cookies (4626 calories)—3 eggs, 1½ cups each flour and brown sugar, 1 cup each whole wheat flour, 1 cup butter, 1 teaspoon each cream of tartar and vanilla, ½ teaspoon baking soda, 1 cup seedless raisins, 2 eggs beaten until light. Cream butter and sugar. Add the eggs and then the other ingredients. Use enough whole wheat flour to make a stiff dough. Roll out very thin. Cut in small shapes and put on a baking pan. Bake for about ten minutes in quick oven.

Maple or Brown Sugar Drop Cookies (3789 calories)—1 cup whole wheat flour, 1½ cups flour, 1 egg, beaten light, ½ cup each shortening and sour cream, ¾ cup each dark brown or maple sugar and chopped raisins, ¼ cup light brown sugar, ¼ teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon vanilla. Mix ingredients and drop by dessert-spoonfuls on a greased pan and bake in a hot oven about ten minutes.

Spice Tea Cakes (3773 calories)—2 cups each brown sugar and whole wheat flour, ½ cup shortening, 3 eggs, ½ cup milk, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon each ground cloves and ground cinnamon, ½ teaspoon nutmeg. Sift the dry ingredients together before mixing. Bake in small muffin pans.

Bran Oatmeal Cookies (6070 calories)—2 cups each rolled oats and whole wheat flour, 1½ cups bran, 1½ cups brown sugar, 2 tablespoons molasses, 2 eggs, 1 cup melted shortening, 1 cup raisins, 1 teaspoon each salt and cinnamon, ¼ teaspoon each soda and alspice, ¾ teaspoon each cloves and nutmeg, ½ cup sweet milk.

### GAIN OF 100,000 MARRIAGES

IN GREAT BRITAIN AS RESULT OF THE WAR.

Germany and Austria, However, Show a Marked Decrease in Births and Weddings.

Crudely stated, said Sir Bernard Mallet, in his presidential address to the Statistical Society, according to the London Daily Chronicle, the war has resulted in 200,000 persons in the United Kingdom being married between August, 1914, and June, 1917, who in the ordinary course would not have married. The marriage rate for 1915 was the highest recorded—19.4—the previous maximum being in 1853, which was 17.9.

Referring to the marriage statistics in enemy countries, in Hungary the effect of the war had been that more than 600,000 persons who in the ordinary course would have married had not done so. In Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Hesse, Hamburg and Bremen, six States containing more than eighty per cent. of the German population, the total number of marriages in 1912 was 434,103 and in 1914 392,453, a decrease of 41,650, or nearly ten per cent., in spite of a great outburst of war marriages during the first month of the war.

The Birth Rate. The loss of potential lives to the belligerent countries by the decrease in the number of children born was, perhaps, the most important effect produced by the war on vital statistics. In births the United Kingdom had suffered far less than Germany and Hungary, the United Kingdom having lost 10,000 per million of the population, Germany 40,000 per million and Hungary 70,000 per million. As regards infant mortality, the rate during 1914-1916 had been lower both in the United Kingdom and in Germany than in any previous period of like duration, but the summer mortality in 1917 appeared to be more extraordinarily high in several German cities, and the German rate all through remained at some fifty per cent. higher than in this country.

Some curious results were noted. An alteration in the sex ratio of birth appeared to be established by the figures of the United Kingdom, especially by those of England, the proportion of male births having noticeably increased. Contrary to expectation, the war had produced no effect upon the figures of illegitimate births. Deaths in suicides was another interesting feature.

Comparison between the natural increase or decrease of the population showed that whereas the population of the United Kingdom was now somewhat greater than at the beginning of the war, in spite of all losses of life in the army and navy, Austria-Hungary and Germany had each suffered a decrease of some 600,000, in addition to losses in the field outside of these countries—perhaps a total decrease of at least four millions.

HARES AND RABBITS. More Species of Hares in North America Than in Europe. There is a technical difference between rabbits and hares that is a specific difference. All animals and plants are classified as belonging to kingdoms, classes, orders, families, genera and species, and from the latter two the scientific or technical names are chosen. Thus our common molly cottontail belongs to the genus (plural genera) Lepus (meaning hare), to which all hares and rabbits belong, and the species Sylvaticus (meaning of the woods). Thus we have "woodland hare."

The term rabbit was formerly more properly applied to the burrowing species of the Old World, Lepus cuniculus (meaning to burrow), though by common usage our molly cottontail has so long been termed a rabbit that the name will now stand, as will that of jack rabbit for the big western hare of the prairies and Pacific coast.

All of the domestic varieties of rabbits, except the Belgian hare, are descendants of the burrowing rabbits of the Old World, and the big European hare, almost as large as our western jack rabbit, is the ancestor of the so-called Belgian form, which is now quite popular as a domestic animal of profit and is becoming more so.

In the Northern Hemisphere of the New World we have many more species of hares than the Old World can boast of, as the cottontail, the southern swamp hare, the Arctic hare or snowshoe rabbit and two species of western jack rabbits or giant hares. Yet we have not successfully domesticated one of these forms, though this might be done as a matter of profit in the production of meat.

Suspended Walls. One of the queerest structures in the world is an electric-station building at Cristobal, in the Panama Canal zone. The roof is supported by powerful central columns and the side walls bear no weight whatsoever but are suspended from the eaves by means of cantilever beams. On one side of the building, the wall is made fast to the foundation with anchor bolts. This unique construction was adopted to prevent the building from settling and shifting the foundation.

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