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RALPH HARDELOT'S MEDIATION

BY WILLIAM MINTO

CHAPTER VI.—Continued.

Ralph accordingly was brought in between two men-at-arms, his hands bound behind him.

"Welcome to Sturmer!" said the knight.

Ralph, looking him impassively in the face, made a slight bow.

"Ah, by my faith, most courtly. We have a high spirit. We trust your reverence is not much inconvenienced by this detour."

"If it pleases you to play the buffoon, my good sir," answered Ralph, "I am in your power."

"It grieves me much to displease you. But a poor knight must do his humble duty. We are under strict orders to question such as you."

"Orders from whom? Produce your orders, and I will answer any questions you choose to put."

"Did you not wear yesterday a different dress from this in which I have now the honor to see you?"

"I did."

"The ridiculous dress of the turbulent fellows who call themselves poor priests?"

Ralph made a gesture of assent.

"We have the dress here," said Nicholas. "We found it in his wallet."

"Ah!" cried the knight. "Then it was your purpose to wear it again? I was in hopes that you had repented of your folly. I will ask next on what treasonable errand you were bound?"

"I was bound on no treasonable errand. But I deny your right to question me."

"I will answer for my right," laughed the knight, looking round to catch the answering smiles of his retainers. "Do you not know that you poor priests, as you call yourselves, are under interdiction?"

"I know the terms of the interdiction," said Ralph coldly. "They give you no right to seize me on the king's highway, or bring me here for this mockery of examination."

"You will find it no mockery, my malapert sir, if your answers do not satisfy me. With what purpose did you travel?"

"Show me your authority to put the question."

"Oh, ho! we stand on nice terms of law, do we?"

"We do," said Ralph.

The knight laughed mockingly. "My authority is that I have you here, and will keep you here till you account for yourself in a satisfactory manner."

"That is authority unadaptable."

"I am glad your reverence admits so much. Your reverence may be in a more benign temper a few days hence. Meantime, we will consign you to such poor accommodations as our humble castle can furnish."

"Is this not a mean revenge for a knight of your prowess?" asked Ralph, in a contemptuous tone. "I will not bandy words with you. Are you afraid to meet me man to man?"

"Man to man, braggart!" Sir Richard's face was contorted for an instant with passion.

"Remember, I am not your prisoner. Will you dare to meet me alone, without your rabble to save you from consequences beyond your own strength to avert?"

"The knight gave a coarse, uneasy laugh. "The priest is wondrous valiant. Nay, nay, we have another way of bringing such insolent clerks to order. Nicholas, conduct his reverence to his lodgings."

Nicholas stared in mute inquiry, pointing to the prisoner's legs.

"Have you not a tongue, do you?" shouted the knight.

"Shall we bind his legs?" asked Nicholas, meekly.

"No; we will leave him the use of his legs. He may walk out if he can."

"But—" began Nicholas.

"What means this dog by his bute? Will you take him away?"

Ralph followed his conductor without a word. A mad impulse to denounce the brutal tyrant, to spring at him and tear him with his teeth, mounted for a moment to his brain; but he was still sufficiently master of himself to keep it down. If all hope was gone, if he must bear whatever came, better bear it with fortitude and dignity.

The lodging to which he was conducted was the dungeon of the castle, a damp ground floor, or cellar, on a level with the moat.

Ralph walked a pace into the darkness and stood still, while the door was locked and the creaking bolts shot into their places. Sounds of coarse laughter and retreating footsteps came faintly and more faintly through the thick door, and then all was still—still and dark as the grave. He moved back till his hands, still tied behind him, touched the door, and let himself sink down on the damp earth.

There was no bitterness in his reflections now. He felt like one entombed and at peace, sunk deep beneath the waves after a violent and distracting storm, enveloped but not oppressed by a great pall of restful sadness.

He sat for a time as in a trance, and then gradually his thoughts began to wander back over the events of his past life. But memory brought back no poignant feelings. The events of the last hour or two seemed as remote and passionless as the events of years ago—all separated from his present life by a dark, silent, impassable wall.

He accepted his lot with unquestion-

ing faith in the Eternal Justice. But his thoughts ran upon the stirring scene from which the All-Disposing power had withdrawn him. Would men continue to stumble on as they were doing, crowding and struggling through their several appointed courses? He had vowed with others to proclaim to a headless generation Christ's clear law of service and self-sacrifice: would they triumph speedily? How many of them were permitted to fail as he had done before the great work was accomplished? That it would be accomplished in God's good time and way he believed with high and loyal assurance; but ah! how sad it was to think of the slowness of fulfillment, of the many warm hearts and fervent voices that might never be gladdened by the certain consummation of their hopes! Sad, too, still more profoundly sad, to think of the iniquities of the world, and the mystery of God's indulgence of His creatures in the open defiance of His Son's clear law.

England as he had known it passed before him as in a vision, and high above the crowd of shifting figures he saw the stern features of his master Wycliffe, and heard as in a dream the tones of his strong, firm voice denouncing the sins of the followers of anti-Christ, the pomp of prelates, and the sensual vanity of worldly clerks. That voice took him back to the scenes of his first discipleship, and he sat once more on his bench in the lecture room, pen in hand and ink horn at his girdle, eager to catch words that thrilled in the ears of youth. He sighed to think of that enthusiasm now.

Scene after scene of his past life unfolded itself under the quickly shifting finger of Memory, all touched with ineffable sadness. His life at Cavendish Hall came back, and a keener thrill went through his blood as the aching figure of the girl whom he had worshipped flashed upon his mental vision out of the darkness of the past as vividly as if he saw her with his bodily eye. His whole being was flushed for a moment with wild rapture, and he half started from the ground. But he sank down again with a sigh, and saw the sweet vision receding, watched with a strange, and resignation as its brightness became dimmer and dimmer in the distance, making no effort to detain it.

For a minute or two this tranquil mood lasted, his heart stirring under sad memories like a stringed instrument under a gentle, wandering hand. But suddenly a harsher note was struck, and jarring vibrations took the place of soft music. What would become of her? How would she fare if she fell again into the hands of her brutal lord? This was a more disturbing thought, and he tried in vain to beat it back by saying to himself that she was safe in her convent. Why should so fair a life have been marred by a union so revolting? As the thought took possession of him, it brought back with it all the indignation and pity he had felt when first he heard of the ill assorted match, all the agitation in which he had lived through the preparations for its celebration. The shroud of resignation in which he had lain before restfully, as if charmed out of all desire to move, was rent roughly asunder, and he tried in vain to retain his former mood. He could not banish from his mind the hideous apparition of the ruffian knight. It came between him and his visions of peace like some monstrous harpy, blotting out the sun, fluttering over him with its black wings, clutching at him with oak and claw. The question why God suffered such men to live forced itself upon his thoughts, and no satisfactory answer came to give peace to his troubled soul. For a moment he lost all self control, stamped with insensate fury on the ground, and struck at the door with his heel.

CHAPTER VII.

Was it imagination, or did he really hear in the farther corner of the dungeon, mingling with the heavy, muffled sounds of his violence, a faint cry like a suppressed scream? He caused, and looked and listened intently, striving to control the wild beating of his heart. He stamped again with all his force, but nothing was audible except the dull thud.

He paused and listened intently. Not a sound was heard; he could hear nothing but the violent beating of his own heart. He made another step, with expectation strained to the utmost. The sound of his foot fell dead; the silence was otherwise unbroken. He advanced his foot again, and brought it down with a louder stamp. This time the rustling was distinctly audible: it sounded as if something were trying to pass him by the wall on the right.

A horrible suspicion crossed his mind, and filled him for an instant with panic. He remembered Nicholas' words—"rats and other scratching company." What if he had been shut up with some wild beast!

Abominable cruelties were practiced on prisoners in those days. To incarcerate a man with a leopard or a tiger was not considered too barbarous a method of taking revenge on a hated enemy. Such things were done. Ralph Hardelet had heard of them, and the suspicion that this might be his fate filled him with momentary horror and dismay.

But it was only for a moment that his heart seemed to stop. Another moment and he hurled himself with fierce resolution at the spot from which the

rustling had proceeded.

He encountered nothing but the wall. He impinged on this with his shoulder, having instinctively turned his right side to the unknown danger. He could no longer doubt that there was some living thing in the cell with him. As it rushed swiftly out of his way he had almost touched it, and he could hear it taking refuge at the other end of the cell. But having only the sound to guide his judgment, he was utterly at a loss to divine what it was that fled from him.

"My God! my God!" he cried, "would that my hands were free!" and saying this, and trying with all his might to break the cords, or wrench his hands out of them, he advanced again upon the mysterious companion of his imprisonment.

The few rays of light that streamed through the crooked aperture revealed no outline in the darkness of the dungeon. But the creature had now stationed itself at the far end directly opposite the light, and as Ralph advanced, straining his vision to penetrate the gloom, he became aware of a faint gleam from two eyes in the distance.

He was now able to interpret the rustling.

"If you are human," he cried, in a voice strangely unlike his own, "if you are human, speak!"

No answer was returned.

"Speak!" he cried again, advancing. "I will know what you are."

It was a woman's voice that answered, but the tones were deep and menacing. "You dare not! I am not human!"

"Then what are you? I will know," he advanced another step.

"I am a fiend! If you dare to come nearer I will tear you in pieces! Yes, I will tear you in pieces!"

There was a touch of frenzied terror in the voice, which belied the ferocity of the words; and there was a tolltale rustling too, as if the speaker were shifting ground and preparing again to rush past.

"If you are a poor prisoner like myself," said Ralph, in a voice now relieved from the distortion produced by the darkness and exciting mystery of the situation, "have no fear, I will not harm you. But tell me who it is that speaks to me? There is something in that voice that I should know. But it cannot be! Oh, God, it can never be!"

"Ralph!" gasped the voice out of the darkness in an agony of astonishment. "Is it you?"

The answer was a groan. He staggered heavily against the wall.

"Oh, Ralph! Is it you? Is it you? Oh, the horror of this place! Speak again. Is it you? Let me hear you again! Where are you? Let me come to you, Ralph!"

"Clara, my darling," he half sobbed in reply. "Has heaven no pity? It cannot be that she is in his power. It is not possible. It is some hideous mockery of her voice, sent here to torture me. Cruelty of hell! how can God suffer it?"

"Ralph, Ralph!" the voice answered, "I am here, alas! in very truth. It is no mockery. My love, where are you? I cannot see you in this horrible darkness! Oh, let me come near you! Ralph, speak again, where are you?"

"Here," he answered, in a calmer voice, making an effort to master the oppression of the despair forced upon him by the frightful discovery that Clara was his companion in captivity. The shock of the discovery, joined with his knowledge of his own utter helplessness, was overwhelming at first. His own fate he could bear with resignation; but that she should be treated with such barbarous inhumanity tore at his heart with pity. And he was powerless to help her.

(To be continued.)

Inconsiderate Father.

"I think papa is just as mean as he can be!" asserted the little one with indignation.

"Why?" asked her mother, in surprise.

"Oh, he can never tell anything about the changes in the weather," was the reply. "Why doesn't he get the rheumatism, like Lucy Miller's father?"

Watch the Humorist.

"The features of the human face," said Mark Twain, the other day, "can readily be compelled into a kaleidoscope of contortions, running the gamut from the expression of intense delight to the expression of excruciating agony. You will never wholly realize this, however, until you have the opportunity of watching a humorist in the throes of turning out a 'side splitter.'"

Seemed to Do It More.

"What are you doing here?" said the woman to the tramp that had got over the wall just in time to escape the bulldog.

"Madam," he said, with dignity, "I did intend to request something to eat, but all I now ask is that, in the interest of humanity, you'll feed that dog."

In Dog Days.

"I notice you've got your summer pants on," remarked the dog fancier.

"Yes," gasped the exhausted terrier, "but they're not long; certainly not as long as some of this season's fashions."

"True. Nevertheless, what you need is muzzlin'!"—Philadelphia Press.

Padrones in Philippines.

All employment of natives in the Philippines is on the padrone system. No American can walk out and hire a dozen Filipinos to go to work for him; he must instead arrange with a "boss" on a commission for so much labor. This is the Philippine substitute for trade unionism.

Freeze Their Soups.

Travelers in Eastern Siberia carry soups in sacks. They are frozen solid as stone and kept indefinitely. Milk also is frozen and sold by the pound.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

A Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in a Condensed Form, Which is Most Likely to Prove of Interest to Our Many Readers.

The senate is working on the oleomargarine bill.

An Alabama negro was lynched for the assault of a little white girl.

An agent of the Southern China rebels has arrived in this country to buy arms.

Governor General Wood, of Cuba, is being talked of as a successor to General Miles.

An ex-premier of Japan says his country is not going to have any trouble with Russia.

A Kansas postoffice robber has been captured on the Pacific coast after a chase of over 5,000 miles.

The miners association of Pennsylvania has issued an ultimatum, and if it is not accepted by the mine owners a repetition of the 1900 strike will occur in the anthracite region.

A man has been arrested in Wisconsin for burglary who confesses that he is an anarchist and that he tied the handkerchief over the hand of Cologoz just prior to the shooting of McKinley.

Cholera has broken out at Manila.

A coal miners' strike in Virginia and West Virginia is probable.

A hardware trust has been formed with a capital of \$30,000,000.

A combine is being formed in New York which, if completed, will control the entire nickel output of the world.

The new Chinese exclusion bill contains a clause which will prevent China from participating in the St. Louis fair.

The Canadian Pacific freight sheds at Winnipeg were burned, together with all freight records for the past 22 years. Loss, \$150,000.

The senate passed the war revenue repeal bill.

The house has passed the rivers and harbors bill.

President Roosevelt will retire Gen. Miles in the near future.

The bill for the protection of the president has passed the senate.

The anthracite coal miners of Pennsylvania have demanded an eight hour day.

Another delay in the ratification of the Danish treaty by the Danish government has been brought about by the opposition.

Large holdings in the Rock Island have been purchased by the Harriman interests and now that road will not be extended to the coast.

An inventory of Collis P. Huntington's estate shows it to be worth about \$29,000,000.

William J. Bryan celebrated his 42d birthday by moving onto his farm near Lincoln, Neb.

Anthracite coal miners of Pennsylvania are on the eve of another strike. The trouble is over the wage scale.

Governor Brady, of Alaska, has asked congress to appropriate \$100,000 with which to represent Alaska at the St. Louis exposition.

A resolution has been introduced in the senate thanking Rear Admiral Kempff for refusing to join the allied forces in the bombardment of the forts at Taku, China.

It is understood that the president is considering the appointment of ex-Senator Wolcott, of Colorado, to succeed Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock, who will retire from the cabinet.

Fire on the Hoboken, N. J., waterfront caused a loss of \$1,000,000.

Ex-President Cleveland celebrated his 65th birthday on the 18th inst.

First Assistant Postmaster General Johnson has resigned on account of poor health.

Joseph H. Manley has been offered the position of first assistant postmaster general.

The senate is working on the measure for the protection of the president against anarchists.

King Edward has made arrangements to feed 500,000 of the poor of London during coronation week.

The state asylum for deaf and dumb at Jackson, Miss., was totally destroyed by fire. Loss, \$40,000.

Prince Henry has landed on German soil.

The senate has passed the ship subsidy bill.

The house is working on the rivers and harbors bill.

In a collision at Milwaukee between a passenger train and street car 10 persons were injured.

Governor Taft, testifying before the house insular committee, denied reports that Filipinos are cowardly.

The Pennsylvania management contemplates a new union station for Chicago, to cost, with terminal facilities, \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

William Hoey, for many years general superintendent of the Adams Express Company, committed suicide at New York while temporarily insane from illness.

ARMISTICE IS IN EFFECT.

No Fighting for a Time Between British and Boers—Negotiations Under Way.

London, March 26.—The Daily Chronicle this morning asserts that an armistice has been arranged pending the duration of Schalkberger's mission to General Dewet, and that offensive operations against Dewet, Delarey and Botha have been suspended. The three generals have agreed to observe the armistice honorably until the return of the envoys to the Boer lines. It is believed, continues the Daily Chronicle, that the envoys, after acquainting Botha with the result of their mission, will again confer with Lord Kitchener, although no arrangement for a second conference has actually been made.

How Amsterdam Explains It.

Amsterdam, March 26.—It is believed in Boer circles here that the action of Acting President Schalkberger is the result of a communication from the Boer representatives in Europe. An ex-member of the Transvaal government said tonight:

"After the exchange of the Dutch-English notes a conference was called for February 3. This conference was attended by Mr. Kruger, Dr. Leyds and the delegates, and it was decided to send six emissaries to South Africa by different routes with dispatches for Steyn and Schalkberger, giving them a detailed account of the situation. One of these agents ought to have arrived about this time. Documents lately received from Schalkberger indicated that peace terms had been recently issued by the leaders in South Africa, but the leaders declared they could not accept anything less than the terms demanded at Middelburg by General Botha, February 28, 1901, and especially the point of complete amnesty for Cape rebels, because the greater part of the commandos actually in arms are composed of Cape insurgents.

"The fact that the Boers in the field are inclined to compromise their demands for absolute independence," continued the speaker, "seems to be indicated by the plan Schalkberger has outlined for the government of industrial centers. This consists of a British board of administration, with proportional representation."

PHILIPPINE MINERAL LANDS.

Senate Committee Agrees on a Plan for Their Disposal.

Washington, March 25.—The senate committee on the Philippines today accepted the report of the subcommittee, consisting of Senators McCooms, Deitrich and Rawlins, appointed to prepare a plan for disposing of the mineral lands in the Philippine islands, and prescribing the conditions of mining in those islands, and the plans suggested will be adopted as a substitute for the portion of Senator Lodge's bill dealing with this subject.

The substitute adopts the British American system of not permitting the locator of a lode claim to go outside his boundaries vertically extended. The locator of a lode or vein is allowed to enter a tract of land 1,000 feet square, and is required plainly to mark his claim with posts. Record of claims is to be made with the secretary of the province in which they may be located. No one person is to be allowed to make more than one location on the same lode, and the surface land and the timber are to be used only for the development of the lode. It is required that not less than \$100 worth of work shall be done on a claim each year. To secure a patent on a claim \$500 worth of work must be done.

Placer claims are to be limited to 20 acres of land for individuals, and 100 acres for associations, and authority is given to enter petroleum or building stone land under this provision. Entries of coal lands to the extent of 160 acres are authorized.

PHILIPPINE COMMERCE.

Latest Reports Show an Increase in Imports and Exports.

Washington, March 26.—The insular division of the war department has prepared for publication a comparative statement showing the commerce of the Philippine islands for the nine months ended September 30, 1901, and 1900.

The total value of merchandise imported during the nine months ended September 30, 1901, was \$21,818,212, against \$17,187,991 for the corresponding period of 1900; and the exports of merchandise amounted to \$18,896,798, against \$17,883,200 for 1900. These figures show an increase of 27 per cent for the imports and 6 per cent for the exports during the nine months. Gold and silver were imported during the nine months of 1901, to the value of \$2,082,644, for the same period of 1900, \$2,363,291; exported during the 1901 period, \$736,167; corresponding period of 1900, \$2,222,087.

The value of merchandise coming from the United States for the nine months ended September 30, 1901, was \$2,712,190, an increase of \$1,140,218 over the corresponding period of 1900, while the exports for the period of 1901 amounted to \$2,737,059, an increase of \$629,534.

Trains Meet in a Fog.

Youngstown, O., March 26.—In a head-on collision between freight trains this morning on the Pittsburgh, Youngstown & Ashtabula division of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago road, four men were killed and three injured. The trains crashed together in a heavy fog, completely wrecking both engines and piling the cars up. The cause of the wreck is not yet determined. The engineers on both trains state that they had orders to go ahead.

NEWS OF THE STATE

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF OREGON.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Importance—A Brief Review of the Growth and Improvements of the Many Industries Throughout Our Thriving Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

The Weston brickyard, the principal industry of the town, has again resumed operations.

The Columbia River Development Company, of Arlington, has filed articles of incorporation. Capital, \$500,000.

The settlers rates given by the railroads are bringing many new arrivals from the East daily, who are buying homes in various parts of the state.

The Baker City & Snake River railroad, with headquarters at Baker City, has filed articles of incorporation. Its object is to build a railroad from Baker City northerly to the mouth of Squaw creek, on the Snake river. Capital stock, \$2,500,000.

Regarding the recent decision of the interior department vesting authority to grant grazing permits in the Cascade reserve in the executive committee of the Oregon Woolgrowers' association, satisfaction is generally expressed, and the move was considered a judicious one by the sheepmen who attended an informal meeting of the association in The Dalles last week.

Republican county conventions and primaries were held in a number of counties Saturday. In the Second congressional district the fight between Moody and Williamson was the chief issue. Results seem to have left the contest in a great doubt as ever. Moody appears to have the best of it in Baker county, and Williamson in Union. Wheeler and Gilliam are for Williamson and Sherman for Moody. Columbia county is said to be mostly for the Wasco county man. Clatsop will go for the man from Crook. For governor, Geer has carried a number of counties, and Furnish is in favor in Eastern Oregon. In many of the more important counties, however, the delegations are noncommittal.

Cococ county Prohibitionists have placed a ticket in the field.

The district convention of Christian Endeavor societies of Lane and Douglas counties will meet in Eugene March 24.

Of the 41 delegates sent to the Wheeler county Republican convention, 23 are for Moody and 18 for Williamson.

The Polk county Prohibitionists will hold a convention in Dallas April 5, for the purpose of placing a full county ticket in the field.

The board of directors of the Florence school district has decided to extend the school term one month, making the closing of seven months of school on April 18.

Continued heavy rains in Southern Oregon have kept an abundant supply of water in all the ditches, allowing the hydraulic placer mining operations to continue in full blast throughout the Josephine mining district. It is estimated that the output will be 50 per cent greater this year than in any season past.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 63½@64c; bluestem, 66c; Valley, 64@65c.

Barley—Feed, \$20@21.15; brewing, \$21@21.50 per ton.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.15@1.22½; gray, \$1.10@1.20.

Flour—Best grades, \$2.80@3.40 per barrel; graham, \$2.50@2.80.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$18 per ton; middlings, \$20; shorts, \$20; chop, \$18.50.

Hay—Timothy, \$12@13; clover, \$7.50@8; Oregon wild hay, \$5@6 per ton.

Potatoes—Best Burbanks, \$1.10@1.30 per cental; ordinary, 70@80c per cental, growers' price; sweets, \$2.25@2.50 per cental.

Butter—Creamery, 25@30c; dairy, 18@22c; store, 18@16c.

Eggs—14c for Oregon.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 13@13½c; Young America, 14@15c; factory prices, 1@1½c less.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$4.00@5.00; hens, \$5.00@6.50 per dozen, 11@12½c per pound; springs, 11@11½c per pound; ducks, \$5@6 per dozen; turkeys, live, 12@13c, dressed, 14@16c per pound; geese, \$6½@7 per dozen.

Mutton—Gross, 4c per pound; dressed, 7@7½c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, 5½c; dressed, 6½@7c per pound.

Veal—8@8½c for small; 7@7½c for large.

Beef—Gross, cows, 3½@4c; steers, 4@4½c; dressed, 6½@7½c per pound.

Hops—12@13c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 13@15c; Eastern Oregon, 8@12½c; mohair, 21@21½c per pound.

About 32,000,000 tons of water roll over the cliff at Niagara every hour.

It takes the constant labor of 60,000 people to make matches for the world.

From a twenty-year-old mulberry tree 218 pounds of leaves can be plucked yearly for feeding silkworms.

Hop growing has so greatly increased in the United States that last year 240,000 pickers were employed to strip 72,000,000 hop vines.

REFORMERS BACK OF IT.

Revolution in Southern China is Serious and Spreading Rapidly.

Victoria, B. C., March 25.—According to the advices received by the two Oriental liners which arrived here today, the reformers are at the back of the big revolution in South China, which is a wide-spread and serious movement. Coincidentally, reports come from Kansu and Mongolia, in the northwest, of outbreaks fomented by Tung Fu Heien, an ex-Boxer, aided by Mongolian princes. The Nang correspondent of the Shanghai Mercury says that 10,000 rebels have massed at that city to move on Kwang Si towns.

From Shanghai comes news of excitement over the decision of Germany to maintain her garrison there, which means that France, Britain and Japan will also be obliged to have garrisons there, and Shanghai will become an international garrison town.

The Shanghai Mercury says that before his death, Li Hung Chang surrendered full privileges to Russia in Manchuria, and the negotiations now going on are said to be a blind to hoodwink rival powers. The Mercury says that had Li not died, his adhesion to Russia's policy would have involved China in war.

Anxiety at Washington.

Washington, March 25.—The situation in Southern China is attracting the anxiety of the state department officials, who are in no mood to become again involved in that quarter of the world. The latest advices to the department from the seat of trouble were contained in a cablegram received here from United States Consul McWade, at Canton, dated March 18, saying: "The reports of rebellion in Kwang Si almost crushed." This is not borne out by the press advices of later date, hence the anxiety of the officials.

Chinese Rebels Capture a Town.

Hong Kong, March 25.—The rebels have captured the prefectural town of Kan Chou, in the province of Kwang Tung, and have seized the arsenal and granaries. The Mandarins of the garrison fled and appealed to Canton for reinforcements. The viceroy of Canton replied that it was impossible further to deplete the Canton garrison, and urged General Ma to make the utmost efforts to put down the rebellion.

STRICKEN FROM THE BILL.

House Committee Rejects Clause Prohibiting Employment of Chinese Sailors.

Washington, March 25.—By an almost unanimous vote the house committee on foreign affairs struck out of the Mitchell-Kahn Chinese exclusion bill the paragraph prohibiting ships flying the American flag from employing Chinese sailors, under \$2,000 penalty for each offense. This provision has proved one of the chief sources of controversy over the bill. The senators and representatives from the Pacific coast states regard this provision as the most important.

The main argument leading to striking out the provision was that the American ships on the Pacific compete with English and Japanese lines, and that the latter ships would indirectly receive a great advantage in continuing the employment of Chinese at \$7.50 per month, whereas the American ships would have to pay about \$30 per month for white sailors.

Representative Kahn, of California, has talked with Speaker Henderson as to the exclusion bill when it reaches the house, and it is understood that while Mr. Kahn considers the sailors' clause most important, he will not insist upon it to the extent of jeopardizing the entire exclusion measure.

Cholera in Manila.

Manila, March 25.—The board of health is making a strong effort to prevent the spread of cholera. There have been 16 cases and 15 deaths among the natives in two days, and other natives are suspected of having contracted the disease. The importation of vegetable matter from China is prohibited; inspection camps are being established in every district, and leaflets are published advising the people to boil their drinking water before using it. Finally, every one is urged to co-operate in the destruction of this dangerous enemy.

Will Give Bozeman a Library.

Bozeman, Mont., March 24.—Word has been received from Andrew Carnegie, who will furnish Bozeman with a free public library, provided the city is willing to support the institution at not less than \$1,500 a year. The library is to cost \$15,000.

Troops for Coronation.

New York, March 25.—It is stated, says a London dispatch to the Tribune, that there will be 2,500 colonial troops in London for the coronation. Practically every colony will be represented.

Destroyer Barry Launched.

Philadelphia, March 25.—The Barry, the third of the series of torpedo boat destroyers which have been built for the United States government by Bethlehem & Lehigh, has been launched. Miss Charlotte Barnes, a descendant of Commodore Barry, after whom the craft is named, christened the boat. The little fighter had steam up when the launching took place and took a short spin down the Delaware river.