

# WAR AND PEACE

BY WILLIAM R. O'DONOVAN



IN THESE DAYS OF THE GREAT CIVIL WAR

## "HALT!"

The command was passed as quietly as practicable along the line of skirmishers as they reached the edge of the thick wood bordering on the grounds of the old mansion of Sackett's Landing.

In the shade of a great tree on the lawn were a number of chairs, and clinging there in the grateful coolness were two ladies whose attention had been drawn to the wood by the slight noise made by the advancing skirmishers.

The two officers—Lieutenants Pelham of the artillery and Page of the infantry—advanced cautiously into the opening, signaling with their hands—chiefs to the ladies, who going to the barn, which sheltered them from view from the river, awaited the officers.

Lieutenant Page, the elder and more imposing of the officers, although not in command, acted as spokesman, chiefly because it was expected of him, and explained that they were reconnoitering for a position from which a battalion of artillery might fire on the Yankee sunboats lying in the James, with the view of covering the landing of troops from the south side.

"We have been told," said Page, "that the bluff to your left will answer that purpose, as the guns of the vessel can be elevated to such a degree as to harm the artillery posted there, while it might pour shrapnel or even canister down upon their decks."

"It is true," said the elder lady, quietly, "the shot would be destroyed from that point. It would be much for the cause, but hard for us."

## THE DUEL OF CARTER PAGE AND BERKLEY PELHAM

The hostess, as she moved away to other guests.

"It seems to me," said the admiral, "I have known you at some time, and yet."

"And yet," said the lady, "it may be so. Many come into one's life and pass out and on, to be seen no more."

"Yet, it is without the continuity of the story teller—in his world they must come in again or be, as the lawyers say, irrelevant, inconsequent."

"Really, it is very fragmentary, admiral—one's life, made up of unrelated bits—mere sketches, as to speak."

## CASTRO, THE RIDDLE OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS

Castro's visit to Caracas opened his eyes to the paramount importance of the life of a frontier ranchman, and when the accession of Crespo drove him into exile he hid himself across the Colombian border with a young wife and a goodly stock of books.

Castro always aims high, and the manner in which he entered the political sphere well illustrates this peculiarity.

Castro's absolutely dauntless nature, which never stops to count difficulties or dangers, was the keynote of his successful raid upon the presidency.

Castro's marvelous natural gift of oratory compensated for his entire lack of culture.

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