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Second Cousin Sarah

BY THE AUTHOR OF "ANNE JUDGE, SPINSTER," "LITTLE RATE KIDDY," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XXII. It is time that we follow the fortunes of Second-cousin Sarah, whom we left with her sister-in-law in the grounds of Sedge Hill. Taken off her guard by Mrs. Thomas Eastbell's sudden appearance, disturbed by the events of the night, and ever conscious of the danger which the presence of the two intruders in her aunt's house foreshadowed, she followed the woman in good faith some distance along the garden paths and in the direction of the high road. "We will go no further," she said; "tell me what I have to fear from your husband and Peterson, and I will reward you handsomely." "Listen then as well as you can. I ain't going to speak loud for anybody." "I am listening." "Sarah Eastbell inclined her head more closely to the woman, who began whispering about her husband in a rambling fashion that was difficult to follow, until she went suddenly back three steps, to Sarah's surprise, and stood gazing at her, or at something near her. "What is it?" exclaimed Sarah; "what is there so important to say more, to scream, or to struggle. Two strong arms closed round her, and a cloth, wet and sticky with drugs, was pressed to her mouth and nostrils by a merciless hand, that seemed to smother her at once from active life to oblivion. When she came back to consciousness it was to a life apart from Sedge Hill, and those who loved her there. She was lying on a bed, with Sophy Eastbell dosing by the side of a scantily furnished fire. There was a narrow window in the side of the room, with some boards nailed across it to keep the light of one spluttering candle from betraying itself to the night. Suddenly Sophy woke up, and gave a nervous jump in her chair at finding her sister-in-law crouched upon the bed, with her great dark eyes glaring at her. "Where have you brought me? Why am I in this dreadful place?" Sarah asked in an eager voice. "You've come round, have you? Bless my soul, I'm glad of that! Bless my soul, I think they'd overdose it with their kerry-kerry-name, and sent you bang off afore they meant it." Sarah Eastbell was sitting at the edge of the bed now, regarding her jailer with eager attention. She was scarcely back from dreamland yet. "Why have I been brought here?" she asked less patiently. "You'll know in good time, gal. There's no 'casion for a hurry, or a hurry. Take it cool. You're safe enuf." Sarah Eastbell was standing at the door of the room when she heard her sister-in-law herself. It was locked, as she had suspected. "It's no use your thinking of getting out, Sally," said Tom's wife; "don't build on that, or harm will happen to you. That's my word." "Do you think I am the weak girl whom you remember last?" said Sarah, walking from the door to the woman's side, and clutching her tightly by the waist, "or that I am to be frightened by this trick of yours, and of the wretches who have assisted you? Do you know in what peril you have put yourself?" "Oh, yes, we all know; it's all been thought on," said the woman ironically. "We're of the don't care sort, and have cheated it. You can't say it wasn't well done, Sally." "Give me the key of the door, or you will find me the stronger woman of the two!" cried Sarah. "Don't ketch hold of my wrist like that," cried her sister-in-law, "or you'll be sorry if I go away, or if any one downstairs comes up instead of me, because you are too violent for my company. You can't behave like a lady, for all your fine flash silk. I have only to sneeze out, and there are three men below who don't stand nonsense such as yours." Sarah Eastbell released her hold. Yes, she was in danger, and must be cautious. They who brought her to this den of thieves, and to this den of thieves, and would risk more rather than allow her to escape. She must be prudent and on her guard, not defiant and aggressive. "I ain't got no key, if you must know," said Sophy, as she returned to her chair and set down; "this is my room, and we're both locked in together. I'm to take charge of you, that's all, my gal, and think yourself lucky it's me." "What place is it?" Sarah asked again. "A place of bliss," was the enigmatical answer. "Coiners—the old gang from Potter's Court—the Petersons," cried Sarah. Mrs. Eastbell did not answer. She warmed her thin hands at the fire, and a convenient cough prevented all possibility of reply. She was a prudent woman, and not likely to commit herself and her friends by responding to leading questions of this character. The splitting away of a young lady from home without her consent, and without leaving a clue wherewith to trace her, is no light feat in the nineteenth century, and Mrs. Thomas Eastbell had shown a natural pride in the neatness of the achievement. True, the house was five or six miles from a quiet city, and was desolate enough at all times, the hour was late, the circumstances were opportune, and how to profit by the riches of old Mrs. Eastbell and her granddaughter had been the study of six months, but still Mrs. Thomas Eastbell had something to be proud of. It was a bold stroke carried out by desperate men, and it had succeeded where a more timid line of policy would have assuredly failed. It was the boldest bit of business that the Peterson gang had ever been engaged in, and the Petersons had been engaged, under various aliases, in innumerable shady transactions. They had come to "fresh fields and pastures new" by adopting the fair county of Worcester as a sphere for their operations; they had rented a tumble-down old edifice in a wild part of the county, and put on the door the name of Jackson, buton maker; they had even made a few acquaintances in distant villages, and bore a respectable name among honest, unsuspecting folk who believed that their buttons, and no one visited them certainly—it was an out-of-the-way place, to which nobody

EVENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES.

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting to Our Many Readers.

A heavy snow has fallen in Northern and Central New York. Altogether 10 Russian vessels have been damaged or lost since the outbreak of the war.

Russia has notified all nations that she will regard as spies correspondents using wireless telegraphy.

The Port Arthur squadron will not again be risked in battle until reinforced by the Baltic fleet.

Japan denies that she has any submarine boats and says the Russian ships were sunk by torpedoes.

Carnegie has created a "fund for heroes," and set aside \$5,000,000. Next in kind of those who lose their lives will also benefit.

A party of 50 prominent Filipinos has started for the St. Louis fair. They will also visit the principal cities of the United States.

Heavy rains stopped all regular traffic on the Southern Pacific and O. R. & N., into Portland, leaving the Northern Pacific the only route for Eastern mail.

Landgrabber Benson has been claimed by two wives at San Francisco.

The house has passed the Philippine bond bill to encourage the building of railroads.

St. Petersburg has the report that Togo sunk several steamers and closed the entrance to Port Arthur.

Ex-Mayor Ames, of Minneapolis, has been arrested, charged with having accepted a bribe while in office.

According to latest accounts Russia lost about 650 men and officers in the sinking of the battleship and torpedo boat.

The senate committee on appropriations provides for no Northwest harbor work, save The Dalles-Celilo canal, in the sundry civil bill.

Wreckage washed ashore at Vancouver island indicates the loss of the sailing schooner Triumph. There were 25 persons on board.

A gunner's mate on the Missouri is found to have saved the ship and the lives of 600 men by jumping into the magazine and closing the door. The injuries of two of the seamen have proven fatal.

Pope Pius is again reported ill. Russians have won two small land engagements.

A young anarchist attempted to assassinate Premier Maura, of Spain, at Barcelona.

A work train on the Canadian Pacific was struck by a land slide near Winnipeg and a number of men killed.

Cardinal Satolli, with the permission of the pope, is coming to the United States. He has no mission and is to make the tour as a private citizen.

The house committee on naval affairs has reported favorably the bill authorizing the president, at his discretion, to reinstate cadets suspended for hazing.

The secretary of the interior has issued permits for grazing 87,815 sheep in the northern division and 100,000 sheep in the southern division of the Cascade forest reserve during the coming summer.

A bill has been introduced in the senate authorizing the secretary of war to purchase the original manuscript copy of the order book of General Arthur St. Clair, who was governor of the Northwest territory and commander of its military forces during the administrations of Presidents Washington and Adams.

The agitation in Spain over France's acquiring a firm hold on Morocco does not cause anxiety in France, as it is believed the irritation will subside without straining the relation between the two countries.

Easter services in Russia are much more impressive than usual this year. Spain is very bitter because of the Anglo-French treaty.

WAR LOSS STUNS.

Russia Finds Japanese Also Sunk a Torpedo Boat.

St. Petersburg, April 16.—On the heels of the announcement of the sinking of the battleship Petropavlovsk comes the news that the Japanese destroyer Bestrashni. Only five of her crew escaped, although it is probable some were taken prisoners.

News of the reverse was communicated to the east by Admiral Okumsky. He wired today that the destroyers and four escorts were outside scouting during the night. The Bestrashni lagged behind and became lost in the mist. When day broke, she tried to creep in along the coast but was discovered, cut off, overpowered and sunk. Admiral Okumsky's dispatch concludes as follows:

"I have taken command provisionally of the fleet since the disaster to the Petropavlovsk. During some maneuvering of the battleship squadron the Pobieda struck against a mine situated on the starboard side. She was able to regain port by herself. No one on board of her was killed or wounded."

The Russian word in the text of the official dispatch describing the accident to the Pobieda means either "mine" or "torpedo," but the qualifying adjective indicates something moving toward the ship. This dispatch puts an end to the idea prevailing here that there had been an engagement following the disaster to the Petropavlovsk. It is considered remarkable here that the Japanese did not take advantage of this terrible accident to attack Port Arthur.

PENSION ITEM IS \$4,000,000. House Committee Completes General Deficiency Appropriation Bill.

Washington, April 16.—The house committee on appropriations today completed the general deficiency appropriation bill, carrying a total of \$10,388,744. The largest item in the bill is \$4,000,000 for pensions. Of this sum, \$1,500,000 is an estimated deficiency which will be caused by the execution of the recent service pension order.

The minority members of the committee made a fight against this amendment, and it was ordered reported by a party vote.

As the item is included, a minority report accompanies that of the majority to the house. This minority views are signed by Underwood, Brandegee, Benton, Livingston and Pierce. Taylor of Alabama, was absent. The conclusion of the minority is that there was no warrant of law for the appropriation of the million and a half dollars requested by the commissioner of pensions for the purpose herein stated. It quotes the recent order in full, and says that while there are members of congress who favor a service pension law, it is not wholly the jurisdiction of the appropriations committee to consider the question. "Our duty," the report says, "is confined to providing the money to pay the obligations of the United States contracted under the law. The point we desire to make is that there is no law on the statute books of the United States that allows the \$1,500,000 appropriation asked by the commissioner of pensions to pay the deficiency caused by executive order, and we will move on the floor of the house to reduce the appropriation asked for pensions to the extent of \$1,500,000 for that reason."

SUBMARINE BOATS IN PLAY. Japan Believed to Have Two to Plant Mines at Port Arthur.

Paris, April 16.—The St. Petersburg correspondent to the Echo de Paris, under this morning's date, sends the following:

"I learn that a firm opinion prevails in naval circles, based on telegrams from the surviving officers, that the loss of the Petropavlovsk and the injuries to the Pobieda were caused by torpedoes launched by the Japanese, and by submarine vessels. Hitherto it has not been believed that the Japanese had any submarine boats, but it is now admitted that such boats might have been received with the cruisers bought from Argentina and brought out from Genoa by English crews. It is difficult to verify this, but the admiralty is of the opinion that the cruiser brought out two submarine vessels."

Bayan Evidently Damaged. London, April 16.—The Daily Telegraph correspondent at Wai Hai Wei, telegraphing under date of April 13, says: "The British cruiser Espiegle reports that at 5:45 o'clock this morning she sighted five Japanese warships engaging the Russian cruiser Bayan, making for Port Arthur from the direction of the Yalu. The Russian cruiser Askold and another cruiser issued from Port Arthur to assist the Bayan. At 6:45 o'clock the Russians got under the shelter of the forts, but the Bayan was damaged."

Alexieff Ordered to Take Charge. Paris, April 16.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris telegraphs the following: At 3 o'clock today the emperor telegraphed Viceroy Alexieff ordering him to go to Port Arthur immediately and assume command of the squadron pending the appointment of Vice Admiral Makaroff's successor. The rear leaves tonight. Rumors that Rear Admiral Prince Oukomsky was in action against 18 Japanese vessels is unconfirmed.

Snow Falls in Maryland. Cumberland, Md., April 16.—Snow fell here and throughout Western Maryland today. At Frostburg and other points it covered the ground to the depth of two inches.

RUSSIAN VICTORY

SURPRISE JAPS WHILE TRYING TO LAND 12,000 MEN.

Enemy Was Lying in Wait and Inflicted Heavy Loss in Men and Guns—Admiral Togo Again Bombed Port Arthur Without Damage to Fort, Although Several are Killed.

London, April 15.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Standard sends a rumor to the effect that Vice Admiral Togo's fleet coerced a Japanese landing of troops to the westward of the Yalu river. When 12,000 men had been landed the Russian troops, which were lying concealed, suddenly attacked them, driving them back to the ships, with heavy losses in men and guns.

Russian Fortifications Completed. St. Petersburg, April 15.—A dispatch from Liao Yang says that the Russian fortifications on the Yalu river have been completed. The center of the line of fortified positions is Antung. The right flank rests on Ta Tung Kau and the left flank on Kiu Len Cheng, on the west bank of the Yalu.

AGAIN BOMBARD PORT ARTHUR. Japanese Fire Many Projectiles, but Cause No Damage.

St. Petersburg, April 15.—A telegram from Admiral Alexieff says that from 9:15 o'clock this morning to midday the Japanese fleet, in two divisions, bombarded the fortress and the town alternately from the Liao Tshan promontory, firing 185 projectiles.

The Russian squadron, including the battleship Pobieda, replied from the anchorage by a plunging fire. The batteries also participated.

The losses on land were seven Chinese killed and five soldiers and three Chinese wounded.

The Russian warships sustained no damage and there was no loss of life on them.

This attack is taken here to show Admiral Togo has not given up his purpose of damaging the rest of the Russian ships, now that there is little possibility of them again going to sea. Unquestionably he is aware of the effect of his previous bombardment, and the fact that he has reported it indicates to the officers here that he believes there is a good chance for a projectile hitting a target. In order to drop a shell into the harbor or city, a high angle fire is necessary. This is the reason the Japanese squadron took up a position at Liao Tshan. Other bombardments from the same point, which, at the time, did not seem to be within the range of the Russian batteries.

MAY GIVE UP POSTAL INQUIRY. Senate Now Looks With Little Favor Upon an Investigation.

Washington, April 18.—President Roosevelt had an important conference today with Senators Aldrich, Spooner and Penrose, the last named being the chairman of the committee of post-offices and postroads. The conference related to the proposed investigation by a senate committee of the affairs of the postoffice department. All parties to it were reticent as to the details of the interview, but enough is known about it to indicate that an inquiry into the postal affairs is not likely to be authorized as it was a day or two ago. The subject is being considered confidentially by the senate leaders, and a definite decision, one way or the other, may be reached soon. Objections to a congressional investigation have been suggested which may induce the senate to abandon the proposition altogether. A searching investigation into the affairs of the Washington and New York postoffices is now being conducted. These inquiries were instituted by the president himself, and they are being made very thorough. In addition to these inquiries, Messrs. Conrad and Bonaparte, under general instructions from the president, are still pursuing their investigation into postoffice department matters.

Commander of Czarovitch Perished. Paris, April 18.—A dispatch to the Temps from St. Petersburg says: "The causes of the catastrophe at Port Arthur are limited to two hypotheses, a submerged Russian mine or an explosion on board the Petropavlovsk. All the victims are badly burned and the catastrophe was complete within one minute and a half. The fleet remaining at Port Arthur is reduced to a strictly defensive basis. The commander of the Czarovitch perished on the Petropavlovsk before he had assumed command."

Mrs. Botkin in Police Court. San Francisco, April 18.—Mrs. Cordelia Botkin appears today in Police Judge Conlan's court for her preliminary examination on the charge of poisoning Mrs. Joshua Deane, of Dover, Del. She was represented by Attorney R. C. Larke, a friend of her former counsel. The taking of testimony of the Delaware witnesses was at once begun. Mrs. Lizzie L. Kemp, formerly a clerk in the postoffice at Dover, being the first witness called.

Urges Nation Pay for Work of Mob. Washington, April 18.—President Roosevelt today sent to congress a message recommending an appropriation of \$25,000 to compensate William R. Radcliffe, a British subject, for loss of property by mob in Colorado in 1901.