

Unselfishness. Flick the flower that blooms at the door; Charish the love that the day may send; Consume an hour when all thy store. Vainly were offered for flower or friend; Gratefully take what life offers; Look to heaven, nor seek a reward; So shalt thou find, come life or death, Earth and sky are in sweet accord. —Louise Manning Hodgkins.

Pegasus Hitched to a Perambulator. I thought I could be happy. If she's content to marriage, But now she calls me "Peggy." Makes me jog the baby carriage. There is a marital to be had. That must be plain to all. But I haven't time to write it. For I hear the clock is striking. —Smith, Gray & Co.'s Monthly.

### The Great War Syndicate.

By FRANK R. STOCKTON.

Author of "Rudder Grange," "Anon Elbright," "The Sea Story of the," "Christmas Eve," "The Lady or the Tiger," "The Late Mrs. Nell," "The Humdrum," "The Casting Away of Mrs. Leek," and "Alchibian." "The Dunes," etc.

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The captain of the Adamant, pallid with fury, stood upon the poop. In a moment the crabs were in the air, and ready to fire, was hanging from its boom over the stern. Crab K, whose roof had the additional protection of spring armor, now moved forward, as if to directly astern of the Adamant. Before she could reach the rudder her forward part came under the suspended cannon, and two massive steel shot were driven down upon her with a force sufficient to send them through masses of solid rock, but from the surface of elastic steel springs and air buffers they bounced upward, one of them almost falling on the deck of the Adamant.

The gunners of this piece had been well trained. In a moment the boom was swung around, the cannon reloaded, and when Crab K fixed her rippers on the rudder of the Adamant, two more shot came down upon her. As in the first instance she dipped and rolled, but the ribs of her unimpaired armor had scarcely sprung back into their places before her rippers turned and the rudder of the Adamant was broken in two and the upper portion dragged from its fastenings; then a quick backward jump snatched the crabs and it was dropped into the sea.

A signal was now sent from Crab J to Repeller No. 7, to the effect that the Adamant had rendered incapable of steaming or sailing, and that she lay subject to order.

Subject to order, or not, the Adamant did not remain passive. Every gun on board which could be sufficiently depressed was made ready to fire upon the crabs should they attempt to get away. Four large boats, furnished with machine guns, grapnels, and with various appliances which might be brought into use on a steel plated roof were lowered from their davits, and immediately began firing upon the exposed portions of the crabs. Their machine guns were loaded with small shells, and these penetrated under the horizontal plates of a crab, and through the heavy glass of the crane, until they struck the crew of the submerged craft would be soon destroyed.

The quick eye of the captain of the Adamant had observed through his glass, while the crabs were still at a considerable distance, their protruding air pipes, and he had instructed the officers to charge the boats to make an especial attack upon these. If the air pipes of a crab could be rendered useless the crew must inevitably be smothered.

But the brave captain did not know that the condensed air chambers of the crabs would supply their inmates for an hour or more without recourse to the outer air, and that the air pipes, furnished with valves at the top, were always withdrawn under water during action with an enemy. Nor did he know that the glass bubbles under the armor plates of the crabs, which were placed in rubber frames to protect them from concussion above, were also guarded by netting from injury by small balls.

and shot ahead, and, turning, presented her port side to the enemy. Instant examination of the armor on her other side showed that the two banks of springs were uninjured, and that not an air buffer had exploded or failed to spring back to its normal length.

Firing from the Adamant now came thick and fast, the crabs in obedience to signals turning her about so as to admit the firing of some heavy guns mounted amidships. Three enormous solid shot struck the repeller at different points on her starboard armor without inflicting damage, while the explosion of several shells which hit her had no more effect over her elastic armor than the impact of the solid shot.

It was the desire of the syndicate not only to demonstrate to its own satisfaction the efficiency of its spring armor, but to convince Great Britain that her heaviest guns would have no effect upon its armored vessels. To prove the absolute superiority of their means of offense and defense was the supreme object of the syndicate. For this its members studied and worked by day and by night; for this they poured out their millions; for this they waged war. To prove what they claimed would be their victory.

When Repeller No. 7 had sustained the heavy fire of the Adamant for about half an hour, it was considered that the strength of her armor had been sufficiently demonstrated, and with a much lighter heart than when he had turned her broadside to the Adamant, her director gave orders that she should steam out of the range of the guns of the British ship. During the cannonade Crab J had quietly slipped away from the vicinity of the Adamant, and now joined the repeller.

The great ironclad battle ship, with her late with nearly two feet of solid steel, with her six great guns, each weighing more than a hundred tons, with her armament of other guns, machine cannon, and almost every appliance of naval warfare, with a small party of officers and men on board, was left in charge of Crab K, which only a few square yards of armored roof could be seen above the water. This little vessel proceeded to tow southward her rudder, rudder and propeller blades were broken and useless.

Although the engines of the crab were of enormous power, the progress made was slow, for the Adamant was being towed stern foremost. It would have been easier to tow the great vessel had the crabs been attached to her bow, but a cable which extended many feet under water rendered it dangerous for a submerged vessel to attach itself in this vicinity.

During the night the repeller kept company, although at a considerable distance, with the captured vessel; and early the next morning her director prepared to send to the Adamant a boat with a flag of truce and a letter demanding the surrender and subsequent evacuation of the British ship. It was supposed that now, when the officers of the Adamant had had time to appreciate the fact that they had no control over the movements of their vessel; that their armament was powerless against their enemies; that the Adamant could be towed wherever the syndicate chose to tow her; and that there was nothing for them to do but to surrender.

But events proved that no such ideas had entered the minds of the Adamant's officers, and their action still prevented sending a flag of truce boat. As soon as it was light enough to see the repeller the Adamant began firing great guns at her. She was too far away for the shot to strike her, but to launch and send a boat of any kind into a storm of shot and shell was of course impossible.

The cannon suspended over the stern of the Adamant now began to play and shot after shot was driven down upon the towing crab. Every ball rebounded from the spring armor, but the officer in charge of the crab became convinced that after a time this constant pounding, almost in the same place, would injure his vessel, and he signaled the repeller to that effect.

continued to roar. The next morning, however, the firing was not resumed, and the officers of the repeller were greatly surprised to see approaching from the British ship a boat carrying a white flag. This was a very welcome sight, and the arrival of the boat was awaited with eager interest.

During the night a council had been held on board the Adamant. Her commanding had had no effect, either in bringing assistance or in injuring the enemy; she was being towed steadily southward farther and farther from the probable neighborhood of a British man-of-war; and it was agreed that it would be the part of wisdom to come to terms with the syndicate's vessels.

Therefore the captain of the Adamant sent a letter to the repeller, in which he stated to the persons in charge of that ship that although his vessel had been injured in a manner totally at variance with the rules of naval warfare, he would overlook this fact and would agree to cease firing upon the syndicate's vessels, provided that the submerged craft which was now made fast to his cables should attach itself to the Adamant's bow, and by means of a suitable cable which would furnish, would tow her into British waters.

THE SKELETON OF A CRAB BEFORE THE WHEELS OF THE ADAMANT. The vessel, which was towed from the bow, the stern, the starboard and the port guns of the great battle ship, was towed wherever the syndicate chose to tow her; and that there was nothing for them to do but to surrender.

For a week Crab K towed steadily to the south this blazing and thundering marine citadel, and then the cable, which made the still accompanying repeller, it must be recalled, had not been fitted out for so long a cruise, and supplies were getting low.

The syndicate, which had been kept informed of all the details of this affair, had already perceived the necessity of relieving Crab K, and another crab, well provisioned and fitted out, was already on the way to take its place. This new Crab C, possessing powerful engines, but in point of armor the weakest of its class. It could be better spared than any other crab to tow the Adamant, and as the British ship had not, and could not, put out another suspended cannon, it was considered quite suitable for the service required.

But when Crab C came within half a mile of the Adamant it stopped. It was evident that on board the British ship a steady look had been maintained for the approach of fresh crabs, for several enormous shells and shot from heavy guns, which had been trained upon the high angle, now fell into the sea a short distance from the crab.

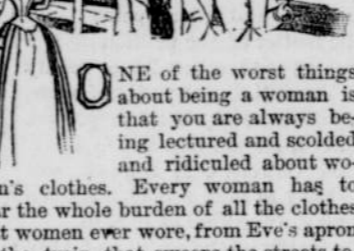
Crab C would not have feared these heavy shot had they been fired from an ordinary elevation; and although no other vessel in the syndicate's service would have hesitated to run the terrible gauntlet, this one, by reason of errors in construction, being less able to resist the fall from a great height of ponderous shot and shell, thought it prudent not to venture into this rain of iron, and moving rapidly beyond the range of danger, it attempted to approach the Adamant from another quarter. If it could get within the circle of falling shot to be safe. But this it could not do.

On all sides of the Adamant shells had been raining in such quantities that it was a distance of half a mile from the ship.

### A SPIRITED PROTEST.

A REPLY TO CHRONIC GRUMBLERS ABOUT WOMAN'S DRESS.

Florence Finch-Kelly Thinks the Sea Has Been Sufficiently Labeled on the Subject of Dress—The Female Figure Is Not So Terribly Abused After All.



ONE of the worst things that you are always being lectured and scolded about is woman's dress. Every woman has to bear the whole burden of all the clothes that women ever wore, from Eve's apron to the train that sweeps the streets today.

No matter what woman wears, there's always something wrong about it—or, rather, there's never anything right. It is always ridiculous or inartistic or uncomfortable or unbecoming or woefully injurious to her health. And usually in the eyes of most of her critics it is all five of these things at the same time and all the time.

If the future is to be judged by the past there is small hope that posterity, persecuted woman will ever have any rest from her clothes critics. I haven't the past doubt but that to do so would be heaven's three-fourths of all the other angels will insist that she ought to wear goggles and a green shade over her eyes, so that they won't be injured by the brightness of the sun.

Now, life is worth living only because it pays, only as it furnishes more happiness than unhappiness. And it is true, too, that the sum total of life's happiness is made up of a few little things of inconsequential pleasures which one is allowed to enjoy in peace without interference from other people.

And if a woman enjoys pulling her hair out by the roots, and engineering a train through crowded streets and over muddy crossings, why shouldn't she be left in quiet enjoyment of her pleasure?

What more happiness out of the consciousness of possessing a 20-inch waist than she would out of the habit of breathing from her diaphragm, and then the crab, which was towed from the bow, the stern, the starboard and the port guns of the great battle ship, was towed wherever the syndicate chose to tow her; and that there was nothing for them to do but to surrender.

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### PARIS FASHIONS.

A New Reign of Modified Directorate Styles Predicted.

I think it is certain now that we are to have a new reign of the Directorate styles. But they will be modified to a certain extent and the chief Directorate effect will consist in the ruffs at the sleeves, the fichus, the revers and the hats and that genre of ensemble that is indefinable and yet is unmistakable.

THE RACES ALWAYS CALL FOR THAT WHICH SHALL REIGN IN GENERAL, and two of the present leaders of Paris fashions were to be seen at the Grand Palais, all the ballers, and since then Directorate has fairly bristled everywhere.

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### WOMAN'S WORLD IN PARAGRAPHS.

The G. O. M.'s Pronouncement Against the Englishman's Smack Which Only an Englishman can Give to His Utterances on the Woman Question.

With that superior smack which only an Englishman can give to his utterances on the woman question, the editor of the London Speaker, Mr. Gladstone's private organ, congratulates the Liberal party of Great Britain that by means of Mr. Gladstone's letter denouncing woman suffrage it has been delivered from a danger that was really menacing. Now that the G. O. M. has thus snuffed out the troublesome females, the Speaker is sure we shall hear no more of woman suffrage, and the Liberal party will sniff serenely on to victory.

Her office for the executive committee of the G. O. M. was appointed to act in reference to the entire board of lady managers.

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