

the open and turned page downward as though the reader had desired to keep his place and had stepped away from it on a sudden call. In the galleys of this great floating home pots, pans, and kettles were placed in orderly array in their racks,—no thrifty housewife could have left her kitchen in better state. In the chart room the traced highways of the ocean's bed were drawn up in their closed cases, and the hoists were not loaded or littered with ammunition as would have been the case had the battleship been in action when overcome by the enemy. There was nothing above or below offering a key to the enigma.

Puzzled and overcome, the patrolmen took temporary charge of the ship, while a boat hurried away from the miniature flotilla, carrying a detailed report to the Admiralty, where the news was received with amazement no less than that which had brought the crowd on the embankment. Subordinates of departments called for their tardy superiors, telephone bells jangled, and British phlegm gave way to excitement; but even in this remarkable state precedent was maintained and routine observed, so that from man to man, going constantly upward, the report reached the first Lord of the Admiralty.

Then for the first time it was learned that this high and mighty official was missing from his home, and had been summoned to the palace in the night. No delay could be brooked in an event so startling, and with due ceremony inquiries were instituted for him. This caused an investigation in gray old Buckingham, which spread until it came to the head of Government, when it became known that not only was the naval officer missing, but no less a personage than the King of England as well.

In great disasters by sea or land where swift death ravages, men cry aloud in their excitement and distress; but when a calamity threatens a nation and a King is involved, they seek to hide their emotions. Hence it was that in the palace men came hurriedly together without words to those around, and in whispers expressed their anxiety. It was recalled with alarm that the Kaiser had left his palace in an equally unceremonious manner, decoyed by a stranger, and enticed into the night. Nor was his fate as uncertain or with more ground for question, because there he had been traced to a carriage which had driven away. The King of England had gone into his garden, and the guards at the gates swore he had not passed the portals which they watched. And for their pains they were doubted and placed under temporary detention until the King should return to prove that they were not in a conspiracy against the State.

Perhaps the alarm would have been less keen were it not for the tale of the Kaiser; but the cases were so parallel that the conclusion was instantly formed that England's monarch was probably in as great jeopardy as his fellow ruler who had now been gone for many days. The nobles looked at one another askance, and asked what times were these when no person might be so august as to be immune from seizure. Where was the limit to be reached? What could be expected next? Was there no possible protection even for the heads of Government and society?

In the offices of the Admiralty those of more or less prominence in the department held a conference and detailed men to take charge of the Dreadnought. There could be no attempt to rehabilitate her at that time, inasmuch as it would be impossible ever again to bring her into service without destroying a span of the bridge below; therefore no corner's inquest could have convened with more solemnity than did those men who took charge of and boarded this great dead thing of the sea.

A derelict cast upon an open sandy beach offered more chance of salvage than the greatest vessel of the greatest navy of the world, nosed in the mud and practically wallowed in. And while she lay in this state of helplessness there was forming round English shores a formidable flotilla of other war vessels flying the British flag, which had been summoned from all waters of the globe to protect the mother country from German invasion or

if need arose gallantly to seek death beds in the sea in the attempt to fend off the American terror should it be directed against the island ruler of the waves.

As they advanced, Captains of this great navy arrived in London in response to urgent summons and hastened to the Admiralty. One and all they were asked to pass expert opinion on the condition of the Dreadnought, and offer a solution of the methods used to bring her to that singular anchorage in the river; but, like children groping in the mist, they could formulate no tenable theory nor give any lucid explanation. They looked at each other in amazement, wagged their heads, and admitted their inability. Plague would have left dead men at their posts, or battle would have left more serious scars than the cutting away of the fighting masts and wrecking of the stacks; but even then who would navigate her to home waters, and what could account for her presence in a place where even a small sea going craft could not go? If that nation in the West had a submarine of terrific speed and unknown power, it might perhaps destroy a ship; but by what means could it force it under or over a bridge of solid masonry and steel?

And so the men of the sea passed down and back, while the people of London spent the time in trying to see the latest evidence of disaster, took turns in crowding to the embankment, and then went to their homes. Business came to a halt, shops were unopened, and desks were closed. In the Government offices men moved helplessly, and in homes throughout the country families sat within doors gravely discussing the latest manifestation of power.

Nor was the public aware that in higher circles another cause for anxiety had been uncovered, which was nothing less than the disappearance of the Prime Minister. A King, a Prime Minister, and the first Lord of the Admiralty taken at one time! It was sufficient to make others of pronouncement look at one another questioning when their turn might come and what the end would be. No one was safe in this great crisis, when thrones tottered on their settings and men were whisked away in the night, when the most powerful vessels of war created by all the wisdom of science and ingenuity of invention might be dominated and handled like toys.

There was no ground for belief that any power other than the United States might have been the controlling spirit in this long series of untoward events; but from that nation came no word, only a silence more menacing than the thunder of distant guns, and more terrible and ominous than an open display of invincible arms. It took no great stretch of imagination to people the air with phalanx on phalanx of stern and implacable foemen bent on invasion when the time seemed ripe. A country which could flaunt the world was capable of anything, and it was not believable that she was acting without a purpose. But what means did she intend to take? What would be her next move? How had she accomplished those victories already scored upon her tally sheet? Only one hope for partial explanation remained, and that was based upon the return to sanity of a maddened sailor who had come to them on a life raft from the unknown, as the only witness of a disaster, and the only living link.

And even while the anxious officials thought of him a group of surgeons and specialists were standing round a cot in a hospital watching this man breathe his last. Now that his importance had increased a hundredfold Death was intervening and sealing his lips. He passed away as silently as he had been found, his jumbled wits giving no new and tangible clue. Speechless he had been picked up on a life raft in mid ocean, and speechless he voyaged out into another world.

Night fell over London, infolding a stricken city where none came upon the streets and men within doors whispered to each other, dreading what the morrow might bring forth. The heart of Britain, beating with dogged determination to the last, was broken. America was the master of fate, and could deal out its awards or blows with the inexorableness of a god.

To be continued next Sunday

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters

A MOST astounding anomaly prevailed in the United States when this country was threatened with war with Japan. Although the conflict had been impending for several weeks, and the Japanese had been mobilizing their navy and obviously getting ready to make a belligerent move, the Government had complacently and supinely gone on its way, even stopping work on its fortifications in the Philippines, and indeed, when war was finally declared and Japanese war-ships appeared off Manila, the Stars and Stripes were lowered from the fort and the white flag of surrender run up, notwithstanding that not a shot had been fired. The same procedure was followed at Hawaii.

The administration replied with indifference and evasion to all requests from the press and foreign representatives for information, and to cap the climax of its amazing action ordered all principal warships in the Pacific to report at once to Baltimore, and then announced mysteriously that there probably would not be any fighting on land.

Guy Hillier, secretary of the British Embassy at Washington, was ordered to London to lay before the Foreign Office such things as he knew. He was in love with Norma Roberts, daughter of "Old Bill" Roberts, an eccentric inventor who maintained close relations with the Government. Upon the outbreak of hostilities, Norma, to whose ability her father had been due the perfection of his inventions, started on a secret trip to Florida, in company with several of the highest officials of the United States navy.

permitted to send or receive any outside communications.

Count Seigo, a prominent young Japanese, remained in the United States after the beginning of the war as the secret agent of his Government, and, adopting the guise of a Chinese laundryman, soon discovered enough to convince him that the administration was engaged in mysterious preparations of tremendous importance. When spying upon a conference of high officials in a deserted field on the outskirts of Washington, he suddenly saw something that made him shriek in despair, "Only the gods can save Nippon!" He learned that he was watched, and traveled as a tramp on Puget Sound, hoping to be able to cross to Canada and warn his Government; but just as he was about to succeed he was overtaken and shot.

Japan sent the most formidable fleet of warships ever mobilized to attack the Western coast of the United States; but this fleet disappeared from the face of the sea, without leaving even the slightest information. England sent a war squadron across the Atlantic to pacify Canada, and this too disappeared.

Hillier was sent back with a message to the President of the United States, which he was instructed to get to Washington at all hazards. But the Embassy secretary, despite all his subterfuges, was unable to get through the lines from Canada, or to get his message transmitted to the President. Then the world was astounded by the news that the British fleet had disappeared. Without her navy and helpless, England was almost immediately drawn into a complication with Germany; but just at the critical moment the warlike Kaiser and his Chancellor also disappeared, and, to add to the mystery, they were found to have last been seen in the carriage of the American Ambassador to Berlin.

An Increase of over 25% in Dividends To Policy Holders

The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York has paid more in dividends to policy holders than any other company in the world. Since organization it has returned in dividends over \$118,000,000. As a result chiefly of increased earnings and decreased expenses the annual dividends to policy holders this year, on policies issued in 1905, will be 25% to 30% more than in 1906.

The Mutual Life Insurance Company

feels sure its policy-holders will be pleased with this great reduction in cost. The news may be doubly welcome now when increased cost in other lines seems everywhere the order of the day. If you have others for whose continued care you are concerned, you should learn for yourself how and how cheaply it can be guaranteed by the staunchest life insurance company in the world.

The Time to Act is NOW.

For the new forms of policies write to The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, N. Y.



LEARN Photo-Engraving or Photography
Engravers Earn From \$20 to \$50 Per Week
The only college in the world where these paying professions are taught successfully. Endorsed by the International Association of Photo-Engravers and the Photographers' Association of Illinois. Terms easy and living inexpensive. Graduates placed in good positions. Write for catalogue and specify the course in which you are interested. Address: Illinois College of Photography or 966 Wabash Avenue, Russell College of Photo-Engraving, Elmhurst, Illinois. L. H. RISELL, President.

Strong Arms!

FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN
For 10c in stamps or coin
I will send as long as they last, one of my charts showing exercises that will quickly build up shoulders, arms, forearms and hands without any apparatus. They are beautifully illustrated with twenty half-tone cuts. Regular price 25 cents.
IN ADDITION TO THIS
If you send for one at once, will make you a present of another chart which alone is worth more than you pay for the first-mentioned one. The latter shows my new method for building up a great chest, shoulders and arms.
PROF. ANTHONY BARKER, 31 Barker Bldg., Select School of Physical Culture, 110 West 42d Street, New York City

25% TO 75% SAVED

TYPEWRITERS
Of All Makes, At All Prices Sold, Rented, Repaired.
Write for Illustrated Catalogue "A"
347 Broadway, N. Y.
THE TYPEWRITER EXCHANGE
Operated by the American Writing Machine Co., 347 Broadway, New York

"WHITNEY—THE HELPER OF YOUNG MEN"
Young men, become free and independent for life. I start ambitious men in the Collection Agency business for themselves, without capital. A hustler can easily make several thousand dollars a year. Write for free booklet about the plan that has made me successful.
L. M. WHITNEY
90 William St., New Bedford, Mass.

10 SOUVENIR POST CARDS 10 cts
We will send 10 Artistic Post Cards for 10c. 24 for 20c., 30 for 25c. Best value ever given. Send stamps or silver. Kansas Post Card Co., Dept. 250 Topeka, Kans.

U. S. METAL POLISH
Indispensable in Every Household 3 oz. Box 10c. At Your Dealers or Geo. W. Hoffman, Indianapolis, Ind.

DON'T PAY TWO PRICES FOR STOVES & RANGES
Order direct from our Stove Factory and save for yourself all jobbers' and dealers' big profits.
Hoosier Stoves and Ranges
"The best in the world." Are sold on 30 days' free trial. We pay the freight. Guaranteed for years. "Backed by a million dollars." Hoosier's are "fuel savers" and "easy bakers."
They are built of highest grade selected material, beautifully finished, with many new improvements and features. Our large stove and range catalog shows the greatest bargains ever offered.
Write for catalog and Special Free Trial Offer.
Hoosier Stove Co., 215 State St., Marion, Ind.