

Among the laboring classes in Germany meet once a week is the rule.

A medical "expert" advises women to smoke. Anything to get your name in the papers.

The German emperor is probably ready to join the party whose platform is: "Let us alone."

England, which was 200 years in passing the deceased woman's sister bill, is not likely to grant women the ballot this year.

London did not have an adequate water supply till 1906. Two-thirds of it comes from the Thames, the rest from artesian wells.

The Panama canal is one-third completed. Evidently there is more work going on than talk in the enterprise under its present management.

Overcrowding in Scotland is not so bad as it used to be. The proportion living more than four per room fell from 18.67 per cent. in 1861 to 6.56 in 1901.

We would be deeply interested in Mrs. Melba's statement if she meant that the women we know are to be more beautiful 100 years hence than they are now.

Some young Chinese women are reported on route to this country to study housekeeping. Can we teach them anything on that subject, or are they probably better capable of teaching us?

A British medical investigator advances the theory that high speeding checks the tuberculous germ in chauffeurs. It is, however, also conducive to sudden deaths for the intersecting part of the population.

Harvard men will think twice before they spend a half-dime for the other day a half-dime of the issue of 1903 sold for \$715. But after they have thought twice they will spend it, for there are not any more coins like that in circulation.

Of the 1,125,000 persons in Berlin who support themselves or themselves and families only \$8,611, or less than 5% per cent, have incomes of \$74 or more a year. About 1,066,000 have less than that amount and more than half of these even less than \$24 a year.

A distinguished Methodist preacher, Rev. Charles Goodell, expresses a somewhat prevalent notion when he rises to remark that if the superfluous money of Mr. Carnegie and of Mr. Rockefeller is really tainted it is incumbent on the churches to take it and relieve it of its taint.

Prof. Goodwin of New York, who thinks that the organization of the public schools of the largest cities must be revolutionized, says that he would burn the pupils into groups, one for learning trades, another for preparation for commercial life, and a third for the college and university. It is so easy for a ten-year-old boy to decide whether he is going to be a haberdasher or a minister!

A Japanese lady of rank, who has been traveling in this country, says American women are unhappy and discontented, and she ascribes this to the fact that they are so well taken care of that they relax in their lives the stimulating influence of a little neglect. The inference is that if their husbands beat them now and then they would be more in a position to appreciate their happiness.

An election board chairman in New York made trouble for a woman suffragist when she tried to register lately. She camped on his trail, found out he had a home in New Jersey, lay in wait for him to vote, and had him arrested and deprived of his vote and his job on the ground that he was a non-resident. So much for what a woman can do, even in politics, when she makes up her mind to get even.

Why should the merits of the proposed model husband contest in Chicago be based solely on their comparative speed in buttoning up the backs of the embroidered shirt waists of their respective wives? Has the good temper displayed by them while performing the task and their ready compliance in undertaking it as often as requested nothing to do with it? Yea, rather!

"While the southern states suffer the stigma of night riders we cannot justly point the finger of scorn at any nation on earth," says the Pilot. And while there is so much crime and lawlessness here in the north none of us can afford to point the finger of scorn at the southern states. Pointing the finger of scorn is poor business, anyway, remarks the Boston Globe. It is a great deal better to be charitable to our neighbor's shortcomings and to do all in our power to correct our own.

Every American girl is a queen, according to the old song, but they cannot all have warships to accompany them on their journeys back to the homes of their husbands, like some that might be mentioned.

In the presence of an ordinary crop failure one may remain unmoved, but it is grievous indeed to learn that the recent forest fires will cause a shortage of Christmas trees. The least that Santa Claus can do in such circumstances is to permit good children to keep up more than one stocking.

The VANISHING FLEETS

ROYAL NORFOLK

(CONTINUED FROM THE ASSOCIATED SUNDAY PUBLICATIONS)

SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of "what might have happened," opens in Washington with the United States and Japan on the verge of war. Guy Hillier, secretary of the British embassy, and Miss Norma Roberts, chief aide of inventor Roberts, are introduced as lovers. The government is much criticized because of its lack of preparation for strife. At the most inopportune moment Japan declares war. Japan takes the Philippines without loss of a man. The entire country is in a state of turmoil because of the government's indifference. Guy Hillier starts for England with secret message and is compelled to leave Norma Roberts, who with military officers also leaves Washington on mysterious expedition for an isolated point on the Florida coast. Hawaii is captured by the Japs. Country, in turmoil, demands explanation of policy from government. All ports are closed. Hillier going to England on last boat. England learns that Jap fleet is fast approaching western coast of America.

CHAPTER IV.—Continued.

The prime minister, as if recognizing their informant's plight, in a friendly tone of voice said: "Mr. Hillier, I presume you are tired after your journey and would like to rest before any further discussion of this subject. I would suggest that you go to your chambers and return here tomorrow."

"What sense is there in his retreating?" came the angry question of the lord of the admiralty, as the secretary bowed himself out of the room. "He doesn't even know, I presume, that Japan is already sending every available ship she has against the western coast of America as fast as steam will carry it."

Sending an invading fleet against an apparently passive country in some part of which was the woman he loved! This thought reiterated itself through Guy's mind as he passed down the corridor and out into the din and movement of the street. Where could she be now, he wondered, and what of her father? Insane, perhaps, and incapable of offering her protection of which she would stand so sadly in need in case of Japanese success. The words of a letter which he carried in his pocket, and which to him was of more importance than the dispatches he delivered, constantly recurred to him:

"It is always within the realms of possibility, when war is on a land, that friends may never meet again. If that should be our case, I pray that you will remember this, even up to the last—I loved you."

In the dusk of early evening an army of countless men and women hurrying to the trains, the tubes and the buses, swept past him ignorant of his misery. What was war to them in a country thousands of miles across a sea and in which perhaps there was some bond to them by ties of affection? The United States might isolate itself by sea and trench itself behind cordons of soldiers; but he would go back! Yes, he would find a way to pass all their barriers and gain the side of the woman who merited his protection through her avowed love, and in this, her hour of need, seemed crying out to him across the uttermost spaces of the world, beseeching him to return—only to return!

CHAPTER V.

In Secret Paths.

Nippon, the home of the Samurai, in her adoption of newer methods, had not permitted her secret service department to remain in ancient form. Modeled on those lines which had made the intelligence bureau of Russia one of the most effective in the entire world, and profiting by the publicity given to nearly every movement of importance in the United States, she was minutely informed of all that had been and was taking place in the country she hoped to overcome. She had depended upon this knowledge as a valued factor for the subjugation of the American colossus, not foreseeing that a country capable of closing its doors to the world would also find means to circumvent foreign agents. To the last minute she relied upon her emissaries in nearly all the larger cities of America under the direction of Count Seigo.

Away back in the time of the Tokugawa Shogunate, when the almost invincible leader Seigo was an idol to the youth of Satsuma to be toppled over only in the civil war of 1877, his son was being educated in a leading American university. The downfall of the father practically exiled the lad in the United States until family and political influence had time to reassert itself, when by progressive steps he gained the good graces of his government and was given responsible positions in affairs of state. His knowledge of the American political situation was complete and accurate, and no man was better informed on the strength and weakness of the republic.

It had been largely through his ad-



Seigo's Most Valuable Ally Was One Meredith.

vice that the dispute between the two nations, trivial in itself but portentous in possibilities, had been used as a pretext for war. Thoroughly conversant with congressional methods in the United States, he had watched year by year the quibblings of legislators over naval bills which usually ended in inadequate appropriations. Of broader mind than they, he had long foreseen that a country which had come into distant colonial possessions must of necessity enlarge its navy and augment its efficiency, expend money in unremitting streams for maintenance, and stimulate its men to seek individual excellence in gunnery and drill. He had observed the growth of conceit, which, like rust beneath a coat of paint, led men to believe so devoutly in American superiority that they neglected to analyze the actual power which could positively be developed. By a process of elimination he estimated the fighting value of the American navy, discarding vessels still in service but obsolete, and others still on paper but looked upon by the unsophisticated as a part of the nation's strength. National prowess he regarded as a small factor when granting equality.

Seigo's observations had been so careful and his conclusions so logical, that reports sent to and passed upon by the elder statesmen of Japan had led them to feel certain of victory long before war was declared. Nor had his predictions in the opening events been unfulfilled. True he had not expected the abandonment of the Philippines; but he had confidently foretold the period of torpidity, of confusion and lack of cohesion, which had followed. It was with satisfaction, therefore, that he observed the trend of events when hostilities were finally declared, and from the quietude of his study saw the whole country waiting for the government to act while apparently it remained somnolent.

The surrender of the islands came as the first perplexing problem for which he could neither account nor understand, and his activities prior to that event were nothing when compared with those subsequent. He was too adroit ever to have appeared as a laborer in the limelight, and was therefore eminently fitted to drop from sight at the outbreak, when his fellow countrymen were leaving by hundreds seeking places of refuge across the border lines north and south or embarking on the high seas for foreign ports. Singularly enough, race prejudice in the eastern states had never reached the point of acute discrimination which made the denizens of that section classify the Japanese and Chinese in one broad category as orientals; it was therefore easy for Seigo to don the garb of a laundryman in the city of Washington, improve a pigtail, and without interruption assume to pursue this vocation.

Fertile of resource, he readily discovered that in a situation where anarchy might thrive the followers of

the red flag would be his most valuable spies. Without difficulty he allied himself with this element, and gained a friendly footing with them by ostensibly favoring the advancement of their cause in Russian domains. Their confidence in him was strengthened by the fact that he was accomplished in their language, which he spoke fluently, and was a liberal contributor to their treasury.

Having thus ingratiated himself, the next step was made easy. He selected such tools from the ranks of these malcontents as seemed best fitted to his hands, and thereby established a means of securing news that would have been impossible in any other way. From his little band he directed those men so skilfully, assigning them to tasks of more or less magnitude, and paying lavishly for anything of value; and to his obscure place there came diverse men when night time closed the cloak of darkness to the future.

Seigo's most valuable ally was one Meredith, of English parentage, and a man who for years resided on Cross street, Paterson, N. J., that unfortunate city whose very industry and peacefulness had made it the gathering place of the Reds. Meredith was a machinist by trade, and an employe of a supply house; so it was not surprising that he brought news of strange and unusual purchases made through many sources by the United States government. In this there was nothing alarming, and it was rather with curiosity that the astute descendant of a Samurai looked over these reports and vaguely wondered whether they might have bearing on war. He was sufficiently painstaking to ask for others and check them up; but in this he gained nothing beyond the certainty that the navy department, while existing in a state of seeming stagnation, was inwardly very active. He made many trips to the points where these purchases were made, but found them innocuous in so far as he could reason.

As time went on, however, he found that the greater portion of these shipments were being sent to Miami, Fla., and was driven to the final conclusion that if the government was active in any way at all, the key must be at the small city on the southeastern coast. News had leaked through to him to the effect that the ships of the United States were scattering out over many seas instead of mobilizing in western waters. More than this, Seigo learned that in all navy yards there had been a cessation of work, whereas an increase would have seemed more reasonable, considering the unfinished state of several cruisers and battle ships.

On first thought he attributed this latter lapse to one of the frequent changes of policy or a dearth of funds, but now, in view of these later shipments and purchases, he began to question. In Washington no news was obtainable. The administration was preserving a wooden front toward not

ILLUSTRATED BY A. WEIL

only the world but its own people as well. Congressmen and senators knew nothing beyond the declaration of war and the empowering of the president and his cabinet in special session to act for the country, and the administration was apparently doing nothing whatever out of the regular routine of business. It was this paucity which drove the sham laundryman from his irons and away upon a journey.

His trip southward was accomplished with ridiculous ease. He bought his ticket to Miami without being subjected to interrogation, boarded the second-class or smoking coach at the head of the train without hindrance, and rode away in undisturbed solitude. No one seemed aware or in any event to care for his presence. There were no attempts at conversation, except in one instance where a good-natured Southerner hailed him with: "Hello, John! Going to start a wash shop somewhere?" nor was he in the least perturbed save on an occasion when a rough thug threatened to tweak his pigtail; but even this went no further than words. Everywhere were evidences of the conduct of the war and imprecations against the administration. The Americans themselves were no more cogitant than he of why soldiers had been stretched along the border line, ports closed, and communication cut off. The citizens of the country itself were as mystified as the Japanese, and frankly thought the situation a foolish one. In all that long journey down the eastern coast he learned nothing whatever of importance.

His delayed train dropped him off late at night in the Florida town, and he was compelled to seek lodging with strangers or to sleep in the open. He chose the latter course, and went out below the city, across the bridge and toward the French Bowl, where he found rest beside the road till early morning. When the first rays of the sun were filtering through the great trees and drenching the creepers with light, he returned to the city, assisted on his way by a kindly farmer who was driving in for supplies.

From him he learned where the Chinese laundries were situated; he could gather nothing whatever concerning his espionage that the government was either in possession of a plant at this point or even conducting any operations in the vicinity.

Still drenched and sitting upon what had been told him, he sought the abode of the Chinese, who was already sweating over his task, and found him amenable to persuasion and desirous of giving assistance when paid considerable sums of protection money. His horn of plenty was a golden one, but served useless in view of business effort, his most careful inquiries bringing nothing in the way of return. Tired and discouraged, he passed the early part of the night in sleep from which he was aroused by nightmares of horror and forebodings of failure, his mental state robbing him of rest.

In the hope that fatigue would cure lassitude, he donned his clothing and sauntered away through the deserted streets, his heavy leather shoes clumping upon board walks and across sandy patches. It was past one o'clock in the morning, and all was still. He wandered idly along the main thoroughfare, and reached the far end of the town, before his attention was attracted by a sound from the water front, where hollowly through the stillness a steam whine was chugging and sputtering as it tolled away with its load. It brought him to a quick halt and aroused in his mind a multitude of questions, because along the entire shore line of this great country no craft was now loading and none arriving, according to his knowledge. He hastily directed his steps toward the wharves, stealthily seeking the shadows of the palm trees, and stopping now and then to avoid any chance of being observed.

Lying against the pier was a small gunboat of the United States navy, which was receiving supplies, and the men at work were evidently hurrying at their utmost. The vessel had not been there during the daylight hours—of this he was certain—hence her loading at night could indicate but one thing, a desire for secrecy. His nerves keyed up in the hope of a discovery, alert and inquisitive, he crept close to the freight shed where the arc lights threw huge spots of white.

So this accounted for the disposal of those mysterious orders which had been reported to him by Meredith and others! But where could they be bound? What was the destination of this ship which, even as he watched, was casting off her lines preparatory to sailing away into the night? (TO BE CONTINUED.)

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Edited and Published by the Rev. J. J. ...

1. LAMBSON TESTIMONY. ...
2. GOLDEN TEST. ...
3. Luke 24:1-12. ...
4. TIME. ...
5. PLACE. ...
6. COMMENT AND SUGGESTIVE THOUGHT.

The life of Jesus on earth, including (1) What he was; (2) What he did; (3) What he taught; was an essential condition of all his power during the centuries of Christianity.

It made him a real being to us, while unseen on earth.

It illustrates his teachings for all ages.

It was a perpetual ideal, by which to test all we are and do and teach.

It is in itself a supreme power to influence character.

Illustrations—I know of no discordant notes among educators in the testimony that "The greatest thing a teacher ever brings to a child is not the subject matter, but the uplift which comes from heart contact with a great personality."

President Charles F. Thwing records the results of "a very interesting study of 50 representative men to questions involving the best thing college does for a man." The entire drift of the testimony was that the most these men got from college was inspiration from life contact with great leaders.

"No nobler feeling," says Carlyle, "than admiration for one higher than himself dwells in the breast of man. It is to this hour, and at all hours, the vivifying influence in man's life."

The promise of the Father was the special, overflowing gift of the Holy Spirit, as we learn from verses 5 and 6, and the fulfillment of the promise in the next chapter. The Father had promised this gift through Joel (2:28, 29) as shown in Acts 2:17, 18; through Isaiah (44:3; 45:1; 55:1); Zechariah (4:6; 12:10, 13:10).

The promise is called The Promise, for it really includes all the promises of the coming of the kingdom of God.

The disciples were the instrumentally used by the Great Leader. God works not only directly on the hearts of men, but through his people on other men. God in men is the power through which the kingdom of God has so far come, and is to come in its fulness.

"The agencies he employs must, by their very nature, be the Divine Spirit and the human disciple." —Kirtley. The achievements of the apostles in the story of the Acts were the outcome of what Jesus explained to do after his ascension. The author of "The Fifth Gospel" (I. e., Saint Paul's gospel as recorded in his epistles, many of them written before the first of our New Testaments) shows that the apostles not only preached the facts of Jesus' life, but the significance of the life which Jesus continued to lead them through their own experience guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

1. They had their ideal in the promise of the Father.

2. They were imbued with power by the Holy Spirit.

3. They were changed, transformed, by the Holy Spirit into new men fitted to carry on the work of Christ.

4. They knew the truth about Christ, and they experienced his presence and his teachings, so that they could be witnesses to the whole world.

It was at this time, doubtless, that the great change came over his body described in I Cor. 15:51-54. For such a change is signified by his appearance as John saw him (Rev. 1:12-16).

The Importance of the Ascension.—

1. It is the one fitting ending to the earthly life of Jesus. Coming from the Father he returns to the Father.

2. The last view of Jesus is not on the cross, but going home in glory.

3. It kept before the disciples the fact that he is their ever living Saviour. We do not worship and serve and trust a dead Saviour, but one who is alive forevermore.

4. He can rule and guide his people infinitely better there than on any earthly plane, where but few could come into his near presence.

5. It places Jesus before all men as their ideal.

6. "It enables us to realize his divinity, without losing his humanity."

7. It gives us the true idea of his kingdom as a spiritual kingdom of righteousness.

8. The doctrine of the ascension, with its hope of future glory, with its transfigured son of man (not son of Jew or Greek, but of man) on the throne, "adds new dignity to life," for the lowliest shall be changed into the likeness of his glorified body.

The power of faith is a supreme leader. The church without him would be an army without a general, the evolution of nature without a God. Never has been such a leader as the ascended and enthroned Christ.

The power of an ideal before all Christians, the ideal for each personal life in Jesus himself; the ideal to be gained by the church as a whole for which each disciple is laboring and to which he has consecrated himself and all he has and is.

The assurance of success is a mighty inspiration in the times of struggle with the powers of evil.