

Beautiful Cynthia;

Victory After Many Defeats.

CHAPTER XXI.
A LITTLE WAR.

Had she become engaged to Northam? Perhaps they were married—it was quite possible; Lady Gwen would know how to apply the pressure, the daily, hourly, insidious pressure which wears down opposition, as the continual dropping of water wears away a stone. Yes; perhaps she was married! Oh, he wouldn't think of her; he would not! He'd got something better to think of; there was the fort, the fight a couple of days ahead.

Let him think of that; let him dwell upon the men, the comrades he had lost, the dear good fellows whom, as they lay in the quiet and peace of death, he had sometimes envied. He didn't want to die before they got to the fort, to close quarters with the enemy. He strongly objected to being sniped by a dirty savage behind a rock. He wondered whether he could end the game of life in a hand-to-hand fight.

With a hot flush of shame—for a soldier's life belongs not to himself, but to his king and country—he drove his ignoble longing from him, and at last fell asleep.

CHAPTER XXII.
MISSING.

It may be easy for a well-seasoned soldier, a toughened veteran, to sleep soundly in any circumstances. Is there not a story of Suvaroff, the great Russian general, who, when awakened and told that the attack by the foe had commenced, turned over and, with a yawn, requested that he might be called when a certain regiment in the forefront of the battle had gained a given point? But Darrel was young and his nerves highly strung, and he could not forget the stealthy foe surrounding him.

He woke in a couple of hours and lay for a time on his back, looking up at the wonderful sky, a cobalt blue, in which the stars shone like burnished silver; then he got out of his blanket and noiselessly went round about his men, most of whom were sleeping like infants from whose lips the feeding bottle had just dropped. No lights nor fires had been lit, for even the striking of a match might

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Mr. J. D. S. Barrett.
If you suffer from chronic indigestion, forget about the stomach and pay attention to the condition of the liver and bowels. Ten to one that is where the real trouble lies. The liver gets sluggish and fails to filter the bile from the blood, the bowels become constipated and the whole digestive system is upset. As to cure, you cannot do better than to read of Mr. Barrett's experience with Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. There is no treatment so prompt and thoroughly effective. Mr. J. D. S. Barrett, Nelson, B. C., and formerly of Twillingate, Nfld., writes:—"For several years I was a great sufferer from indigestion. The least bit of food caused me considerable trouble and often I could scarcely eat a meal a day. The many remedies I tried proved futile until in 1908 I began the use of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, and after using about eight boxes I was completely cured. Since that time I have not been troubled with indigestion, which I consider a great blessing." Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, one pill a dose, 25 cents a box, all dealers or Edmanston Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.

serve as a mark for the man behind the rock.

For the same reason every glittering object, a sword, the epaulets of the officers, were either set aside or concealed.

The expeditionary force was, according to the latest idea, a dull yellowish-drab body whose color, or lack of color, was fused into that of the hills.

Not long since we marched to a certain battle with flags flying and bands playing; but we have learned by costly experience that this spectacular display is more suitable for the ninth of November, for the Lord Mayor's show, than for modern warfare.

Darrel seated himself behind a rock and sucked at his unlit pipe, wrapped in a silence broken only by the occasional complaint of a camel suffering, like himself, from insomnia; and presently another form crept up to him. It was Dunton, as wide awake as Darrel; and he, too, was sucking at a precious pipe.

"I saw you get up," he said, in a whisper, as if he were under a spell of the silence. "I thought I was tired enough, when I lay down to sleep through a regular bombardment, but it was no go. How the men snore! And why shouldn't they? They haven't anything on their minds; they've only got to do what they're told, and go where they're ordered."

"And they do it," said Darrel. "Rather! I say, have you any idea how many of those gentry we have to tackle?"

Darrel thought a moment. "Difficult to say," he replied. "I think it must be between six and seven hundred. Some of them are spread around on the hills keeping pace with us, and, of course, there are others in and about the fort. The fellows, who are on the hills above, have been hanging onto us, will do so until we reach the fort."

"And we're all told—let's see. There's four hundred of the Rexfords; there's the battalion of the native infantry, four hundred; half a company of miners and sappers, forty; and the two mountain batteries, say, eight hundred. And the transports—but you can't count them in as fighters. Pretty even, as far as numbers go, but the Afridis will have the pull, or will have until we come to close quarters, for they can, and do, thin us out as 'we go marching along.'"

"Yes; I suppose we're not so strong as we should be," said Darrel. "but we shall worry through all right."

"Some of us," said Dunton, with a grin. "I wonder whether any of the armchair strategists and club warriors, who've never smelled powder, have any idea of the seriousness of these little frontier scraps. They think they know, because some Johnnie, who generally mugs up his information from a book, writes about it as if he had been there all the time. That's a ball from a Schneider," he broke off as something went "bleurr" and a splinter flew from a rock near them. "I've learned the different sounds. The Schneider has its 'bleurr, bleurr,' the Martini-Henry its 'crack, click,' and the Mauser its 'tack, tick.'"

"They make very good Mausers in Cabul," remarked Darrel, a trifle cynically. "We taught 'em. And the native gunsmith, with the right tools, can turn out a very good imitation of a small-bore rifle, its only fault being that the bore is generally too small, and gets choked pretty soon; so if he can't buy, borrow, or steal a Mauser from Cabul he prefers a Martini-Henry or a Schneider."

Dunton glanced at the serious face beside him.

"You seem to have picked up a great deal of information, Frayne," he remarked.

Darrel shrugged his shoulders. "My man, Lal Sef, talks sometimes," he said, "and I've a decent memory."



"Lal and you are rather pals, aren't you?" said Dunton. "He appears to be devoted to you."

"Lal's a good sort. I happened to be of some use to him a little while back—"

"I know, I heard," said Dunton. "You got a daughter of his out of a tight place. I heard him telling me about it. Saved the girl from a double-dyed scoundrel of the Adelphi type, and got her safely married to her own fancy man."

"These chaps never forget a benefit or an injury, I'll say that for them," remarked Dunton. "They can be grateful as well as cruel—and, by George! they can be the latter. Potts, of the sappers, who has played this game before, says that when the fighting is over the women come out with carefully sharpened knives and—"

"But it isn't a very cheerful subject; it doesn't seem to chime in with his peaceful scene. And it is peaceful, isn't it? If it weren't for those ugly nine-pounders these blessed nules have been squealing under all day, you'd fancy this was a scene in pastoral play."

He moved as if he were going away, but paused, and, looking away from the motionless figure beside him, said awkwardly:

"I say, Frayne, we—you or I—one of us may not come through this." "The odds are even," said Frayne, absently.

"That's about it," assented Dunton. "I suppose you've written home?"

"No," replied Darrel, rather curtly. Dunton colored under his tan. "Oh, I didn't know; thought perhaps we might exchange messages, don't you know?" As he spoke he fingered a piece of paper folded like an envelope.

"I've got a little screed here that I should be glad for my mother to get if I don't come out to the roll call—"

Darrel held out his hand, without a word, and without a word Dunton slipped the paper into it. Then he waited, but Darrel, having put the message in his pocket, made no sign.

"Want a pencil, piece of paper?" asked Dunton suggestively.

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Waurike, Okla.—"I had female troubles for seven years, was all run down, and so nervous I could not do anything. The doctors treated me for different things but did me no good. I got so bad that I could not sleep day or night. While in this condition I read of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and began its use and wrote to you for special advice. In a short time I had regained my health and am now strong and well."



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Darrel shook his head; but suddenly his lips drew straight and he frowned reflectively.

The wedding ring he had bought the night he had parted from Cynthia lay snugly in a corner of one of his pockets.

If he fell—well, it would not be pleasant to think that the thing would adorn the blood-stained finger of an Afridi woman.

He took it out, accepted a sheet of paper from Dunton, folded the ring, and addressed the tiny packet to Cynthia. He gave it to Dunton with an apologetic laugh that sounded rather grim.

"Both messages to be returned if we come through all right, of course," he said.

"Of course," assented Dunton, also with a laugh, for he was rather ashamed of this exchange of farewell messages. "The dear old mater would like to have a last word."

Darrel rose and almost stretched out his hand to recover the ring. Why should he harrow Cynthia with the gruesome token? But Dunton had stolen away, and Darrel did not call him back.

Darrel returned to his blanket and got another sleep. He was awakened by the stir of the camp. In the shimmer of the heat rising from the ground the various objects moved like figures in a dissolving view.

The camels sighed and groaned as they were loaded up with the dry fodder and long water tins; the mules kicked and whined as the leather skins, also containing the precious fluid, were adjusted to their sleek sides or the nine-pounders were strapped across their backs.

The expeditionary force was about to start for the long day's march, to toil in the heat, to offer a mark to the half-naked gentlemen behind the rocks on the hills above; but every man bore himself cheerfully, for on the morrow—just before dawn, so it was rumored—they would cease to be targets for the unseen Afridi marksman, and would—oh, happy reflection!—come to close quarters with him.

(To be continued.)

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Under the provisions of Chapter 23, 2 Edward VII., entitled "An Act to amend the Post Office Act, 1891," and upon the recommendation of the Board appointed under Section 1, thereof, notice is hereby given that, three months after this date, a Proclamation will issue for the alteration of name or re-naming of places as under, that is to say:

1. That North West Arm, Green Bay, Twillingate District, be re-named BURLINGTON.
2. That Northern Bight, Random Sound, Trinity Bay, be re-named HILLVIEW.
3. That Seal Cove, Bonavista Bay, be re-named PRINCETON.

R. WATSON, Colonial Secretary, Department of the Colonial Secretary, March 14th, 1913. mar20.141.tb.

Evening Telegram Fashion Plates.

The Home Dressmaker should keep a Catalogue Scrap Book of our Pattern Cuts. These will be found very useful to refer to from time to time.

9580 — 9579. — AN ATTRACTIVE GOWN FOR MANY OCCASIONS.



Blue crepe de chine, trimmed with hands of Oriental embroidery is here shown. The waist and skirt show a pretty effect in draping. The shoulders are long, forming part of the sleeve, which is in full length but may be made in shorter length. The waist has a chemisette and standing collar that may be of lace, net or chiffon. The Waist Pattern, 9580, is cut in 5 sizes: 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 inches waist measure. It requires 7 yards of 3 inch material for a 36 inch size, for the entire dress.

This illustration calls for TWO separate patterns which will be mailed to any address on receipt of 10c. FOR EACH pattern in silver or stamps.

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