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**The Puzzling
Pretty Widow**

"Without any cause? When Mrs. Dale and you were both unkind, making excuses to send me away, and—"

"She stopped, afraid for her self-control. Rudolph, taking a seat beside her, went on very quietly:

"She was very unhappy; you had said something, without knowing it, which gave her a great shock. She was hardly mistress of herself; you must have seen that."

"But why was I to be sent away, like a child, without any explanation? When I had just been doing a very difficult thing, too, to try to help her?"

"What was the difficult thing?"

"I had called at Stone House, and seen this man who calls himself Mr. Banks, and got him to promise that he wouldn't get into the Towens at night, as he has done twice, and frighten her."

"At this, much to her indignation, Rudolph's mouth curved into an irresponsible smile. Mabel sprang up, but before she had fled very far, he caught her up and insisted on keeping pace with her as she ran towards the house."

"Stop, Mabel, and consider. If you run into the house, you will go straight into Mrs. Dale's arms; and if you don't, I will send her to your room after you. You had much better have it out with me."

"So she turned and confronted him directly."

"Why did you laugh at me?"

"I can hardly tell you. No, don't go off again. I mean that the reason is part of a secret that is not mine."

"A secret, of course. I know that. A secret which has been confided to you, but which I am not to know?"

"Rudolph was silent."

"Can you expect me to be satisfied to be laughed at and neglected while you and Mrs. Dale exchange confidences, and for—"

"Now, Mabel, you are silly, my darling, silly, childish! You have known just as well as I that there was a secret somewhere. Can't you be content to wait till the proper time comes for you to be told, instead of behaving like an inquisitive schoolgirl?"

"Now, this was the very worst sort of speech he could have made. If Rudolph had not been himself a good deal excited that afternoon by the story which Mrs. Dale had confided to his ear, he would have exercised greater restraint, and given more consideration to his fiancée's point of view."

"Mabel grew white."

"I can wait, certainly," she said, with a sudden change to an extremely quiet manner and tone, "for the great secret which absorbed you so deeply. But there is another, a little mystery, which I want to know now, and that is—how a woman, who is in the depths of despair at four o'clock, as Mrs. Dale appeared to be, can be in the highest of spirits at five, or is that a secret I have to wait to know?"

"It's all part of the same story," replied Rudolph, humbly feeling that greater demands were being made upon his patience than was quite fair.

"And I can only repeat that you will know everything presently."

"And why not now?"

"The whole story was confided to me, and I don't feel at liberty to say any more even to you. Surely you can trust me—can trust us both? Why, Mabel, I thought you were so proud of your loyalty to your friends."

"The tears sprang to the girl's eyes. She was giving way, yet feeling all the time that she had not been well treated, when, unluckily, she noticed a little movement on the part of her companion, and looked up quickly enough to see that Mrs. Dale, with a mischievous smile on her face, was standing at the door of the house, and waving a strip of paper to him as a signal."

"Go! Make haste! Mrs. Dale wants you!" cried Mabel bitterly.

"And without leaving him time to protest or explain she ran away."

"That evening passed uncomfortably for both Mabel and Mrs. Dale. When they met at dinner they both showed traces of recent tears on their pretty faces, and both were unusually despondent, as if nothing had happened to disturb the usual course of things."

"Mrs. Dale indeed, made advances towards a modified half-confidence, but it was so abundantly evident that she did so against her will, and that she was afraid of saying too much, that she felt rather than encouraged the shy, proud girl."

"Rudolph did not return. This was another sore point with poor Mabel, who ended by persuading herself that Mrs. Dale had succeeded in alienating from her the affections of her lover."

"So that the hours dragged wearily by until bedtime, and both ladies showed an unusual anxiety to get early to bed."

"But next morning there was a change in Mrs. Dale's manner; she had lost her feverish high spirits, and was in such a state of nervous irritability that even the sound of Mabel's voice, coldly asking a question at the breakfast table, made her start and flush painfully. Her eyes were heavy, her cheeks were white; there were dark lines under her eyes which told of a sleepless night."

"Mabel felt sorry for her and was quite ready to 'kiss and be friends.' After all, she said to herself, with resignation not unmingled with bitterness, if Rudolph loved the lovely widow, it was not her fault, and it was not surprising. She felt ashamed of her jealousy and ill-temper of the previous evening, excusable as they had been. And she deliberately made up her mind that, whatever happened, she would take matters quietly, and even if Rudolph deserted her altogether for Mrs. Dale, that she would give him up without a murmur, whatever the effort cost her."

"After all, what was the use, she said to herself, with a heavy sigh, of trying to keep a man's love against his will? It had been a very fleeting happiness she had lost; but the superstitious feeling the loss of it had about it, the suddenness made her inclined to accept the loss of it as inevitable; and no manner and measured voice, that Mabel was suffering the keenest sorrow she had ever known."

"It was Mrs. Dale who was reticent to-day. She told Mabel that she expected a visitor that evening, but she did not say who it was. And from the feverishness which increased upon her as the day went on, the young girl guessed that some matter of great importance was to be discussed or arranged."

"Was the visitor to be Mr. Banks?" she asked herself. But she did not dare put the question to her hostess."

"One unprecedented occurrence signalized the occasion. The musty drawing-room was turned out, aired, and prepared for the reception of the visitor."

"Do you take your work in there, and leave it about, and try to make the place look less like a chambermaid's?" cried Mrs. Dale to Mabel that night, when they had gone together to inspect the state of the apartment."

"It does look rather dreary, certainly," admitted Mabel. "But it won't do so bad to anyone who hasn't been shut up."

[To be Continued.]

**In a State of
Unreadiness.**

(Continued from Page 1.)

tion to life. There was not an armored ship in the harbor, and the fleet, the nearest approach being the fleetship Olympia. She had some coal protection around the sides, and an arched steel deck, calculated to protect the vitals of the ship. The other vessels of the fleet, save those recently added to the navy, like the McCulloch, have light steel decks of this character, but in all cases, with the exception of some slight protection, in the shape of gun shields, the personnel of the ships was exposed to the fire of their enemy."

"The late reports that Manila was being bombarded caused much uneasiness at the foreign headquarters. It was said that if the town itself was under bombardment, serious complications might arise. It, however, Commander Dewey is confining his bombardment to Cavite and other forts, no such questions can arise."

"Naval bureau chiefs, who have charge of equipping the fleets with ammunition and coal, say that Commander Dewey's engagements do not deplete his stock of projectiles, powder, coal, and other necessary supplies to any serious extent, and that he had ample supplies of this vital character to carry on such further operations as may be necessary."

CUBANS CAN ENLIST.

Senator Proctor has introduced a bill permitting Cubans to enlist in the American army during the Spanish war. The bill also permits the president to accept the services of Cuban independent volunteer troops, and to mount them into the military service of the United States for a period of not less than one month nor more than two years. There is also a provision giving those serving under this law the benefit of the pension laws of the United States.

EFFECTS OF THE VICTORY.

Washington, May 3.—The general opinion among prominent members of the administration is that the naval victory at Manila is not only highly important itself, but that it will have a very decided influence among the nations of Europe, which may ultimately result in their united action in forcing Spain to an early relinquishment of the impossible task of compelling the United States to change its course with respect to Cuba.

The attorney-general said today that a few such defeats must convince the Spanish Government that the case was a hopeless one, and it was his opinion that it would be a matter of only a few weeks or months, at most, before Spain would be anxious to begin the negotiations with the United States with a view to a complete surrender of her sovereignty over Cuba.

INVASION OF CUBA.

New York, May 3.—War department officials state that the invasion of Cuba has been put off until the where the Spanish fleet has been definitely ascertained. The army now at Tampa is in perfect condition, as far as equipment and supplies are concerned, and all are anxious to begin the actual warfare. Preparations for the organization of the large volunteer army of 125,000 men are now completed.

Havana, May 3.—It is reported at the palace that an engagement between the Spanish troops and the insurgents has taken place at Puerto Principe, the insurgents losing 15, among them two officers.

London, May 3.—According to a dispatch from Cadix to the Daily Chronicle it is believed there that orders have been given for a fleet of five vessels to start for Cuba on May 15.

AN ITALIAN VIEW—END OF THE WAR, IN SIGHT.

New York, May 3.—A special cable dispatch to the World from Rome says: At the railway station, commenting on the Manila fight with Under Secretary Palmieri and others, Admiral Brin, minister of marine, said: "The Spaniards have thus effectively proved their unpreparedness. The conclusion of the

war is now within sight. The Spaniards may take seriously, continuing to receive a fresh beating in Cuban waters, but the superiority of Anglo-Saxon seamanship is too noted to leave any doubt of the early results."

REPORT THAT MANILA HAS SURRENDERED.

New York, May 3.—A special cable dispatch to the World from London says: The report is current in the House of Commons at midnight that an official telegram had been received by the foreign office from the British consul-general at Manila, announcing the capitulation of Manila. The story is unconfirmed.

London, May 3.—The Eastern Telegraph Company announces it is impossible for any word to have come from Manila since ten o'clock yesterday morning, London time. Tests from Hong Kong show the cable was cut 50 miles from Manila. A week or a fortnight may elapse before it can be repaired.

Paris, May 3.—It is reported here that an American warship cut the Manila cable and took aboard her the fact of the purpose of communication.

London, May 3.—Inquiry at the main office of the Eastern Telegraph Company in this city develops the fact that the last message before the interruption in the cable service was timed at Manila at 6 o'clock Monday morning, and that nothing has been received since.

ATTACK ON UNITED STATES SEAPORTS ANTICIPATED.

New York, May 3.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: "Fearing an attack upon the seaports of the North Atlantic coast by the Spanish fleet, now on their way to western waters, Secretary Alger has taken steps to further improve the sea coast defenses. There is excellent authority for the statement that the administration believes the Spanish men-of-war will appear at some point on the coast and attempt to retaliate for the loss of the Philippine Islands, doing as much damage as possible, and when this work has been completed, with all speed to Porto Rico, and, if necessary, fight their way to San Juan. As to the point where Spain will strike, the authorities are totally unable to say. New York is considered in a very good way to resist attack, but this is not the case with New England cities and with ports along the southern coast."

BIG SPANISH STEAMER CAPTURED.

Key West, Fla., May 3.—The auxiliary cruiser Eagle, a transformed yacht, was scouting along the southern coast of Cuba near Cienfuegos when she sighted the Argonauta, and started in pursuit. She was fired upon from the shore, but continued the chase and drove the big steamer along the coast toward the Matanzas and almost ran. They put a couple of shots across her bows, and she quickly heaved to and surrendered. The Nashville took the Spanish army officers on board as prisoners of war and brought them into Key West. She lies out in the stream. No further particulars of the capture can be learned from her.

Bayamo Abandoned.

SPANIARDS WITHDRAW FROM AN IMPORTANT CUBAN TOWN.

Montego Bay, Jamaica, via Kingston, Jamaica, May 3.—General Pando, the commander of the Spanish forces in the field, withdrew the Spanish garrison from Bayamo, one of the important towns of the province of Santiago de Cuba, on April 25, and refugees who have arrived here from Manzanillo, the port of Bayamo, by the schooner General Blake, says General Claxio Garlo (the insurgent commander), occupied the town the next day. Bayamo, or San Salvador, is situated about 60 miles northwest of the city of Santiago de Cuba. It has a population of about 7,000 in time of peace. There is knowing what its population is at present.

The Spanish merchants and residents of Bayamo, it appears, were in great fear of plunder and massacre, but Gen. Garlo issued a proclamation, declaring that the property of Spaniards and their civil rights would be respected. The general also personally assured the leading Spaniards of the place that they were perfectly safe in remaining at Bayamo, with the result that business went on as usual, and tranquility prevailed there. The people began bringing in vegetables and meats from the country, and prices of provisions fell. No cases of outrages have been reported.

Gen. Pando is reported to be at Manzanillo, near the River Cauto, with the main body of the troops, while the operations have been directed in Eastern Cuba. From April 27, it is added, about 6,000 men, or one-third of Gen. Pando's forces, has been sent to Havana, and is said more of them are to go, accompanied by Gen. Pando himself.

The population of Manzanillo, which was about 12,000 before the war, is now shrunk to 5,000, and food is double and treble the ordinary prices. But few preparations have been made for the defense of Manzanillo.

About 150 of the refugees who arrived here on the Governor Blake were released from quarantine yesterday.

New York, May 3.—The British steamer Plymouth arrived here today, sailed from Guatemala, April 22, with cargo of sugar for New York. Before sailing from Guatemala the British consul instructed Capt. Pearn to inform the British authorities that he would need protection from the mobs on account of his activity in protecting American citizens.

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ALBERTA, Tuesday, May 3.

MANITOBA, Saturday, May 6.

And on corresponding days of week during navigation season of 1898, making connection at Sault Ste. Marie with Soo Line and Duluth and Fort William with Pacific Express for Canadian Northern and Yukon Gold Fields.

For full information apply to any Canadian Pacific agent, or to E. F. McPherson, A. G. P. A., 1 King street east, Toronto.

THOS. R. PARKER, City Passenger Agent,
161 Dundas street, corner of Richmond.

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First cabin, Derry and Liverpool, \$32 50 and upwards; return, \$60 and upwards. Second cabin, Liverpool, Derry, Belfast, Glasgow, London, everything found, \$22 50 and \$23 50.

Glasgow-New York service—State of New York, May 5, cabin, \$45 and upwards; return, \$80 and upwards; second cabin, \$35; return, \$64 12; steerage, \$23 50.

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