

consul, and Oki met him smiling. "So, Mr. Craig," he said, "the honorable visit you have condescended to pay us is over. Can you forgive our rudeness toward you and our contemptible conduct in raising a disturbance on the eve of your departure?"

"Why, Mr. Oki, what is the matter?" said Craig, quickly, as a dozen little carts and rickshas passed, laden with bundles tied up in what appeared to be huge blue and green cotton handkerchiefs, and drawn by men and women. Close after them came a string of shaggy ponies, not much bigger than Newfoundland dogs, with hastily-made packs on their backs, and tiny children trotting at their heads. And then a party of soldiers and police came by at a run, carrying stretchers, with old people and sick. There was hurry everywhere, but a very systematic hurry, absolutely without confusion.

Oki smiled. "You see, Mr. Craig," he said, "the honorable Russian cruisers from Vladivostok, 'Rossia,' 'Gromoboi,' and 'Rurik,' with a flotilla of torpedo boats, are just off this port, and I think we have about twenty minutes before they enter the harbor."

He bowed and smiled cheerfully, and Craig rushed off to the "Goya Maru," where his charges were standing together on deck, watching with mild interest the Russian torpedo boats as they crossed the bay, the warships remaining outside.

Craig was standing by Madame Kabokusai when the Russians boarded the "Goya," and he stared at them with an air of insolent curiosity, like some western tourist looking at something he did not understand, and was satisfied not to.

"Yes, I am travelling with Madame and her children," he said, in answer to the officer's questions.

"And the boy, your servant, monsieur?" queried the Russian, barely glancing at Noshi, his whole attention being given to the study of Madame Kabokusai.

"I would take my oath that the woman was sixty," he said, dramatically, as he described the scene to his brother officers afterwards. "One hears much of the incomprehensible eccentricities of these English, but in Japan, where every woman is a geisha, why did he choose this one who—think of it, my brothers—is sixty."

"And so engrossed were those Russian men over the details of this supposed intrigue, that they noted nothing else in the harbor of Gensan.

Every one on the "Goya" had been ordered on shore, and from the rocky

beach near the mouth of the harbor, they watched the sinking of their ship by the enemy's torpedoes.

"Behold the avenging of your attack on Port Arthur, Miss Toshio," said Craig. "The great bear of the north has risen in insulted majesty at last, and boldly entered one of your harbors to torpedo your ships. You are now seeing a great Russian naval victory."

"I fear they have gained a strategic victory," Mr. Craig," said Noshi, very seriously. "You see, this sea of Nippon is, and must be, altogether ours; we cannot possibly allow an unfriendly fleet to be at large on it, if we would continue to exist. Admiral Kamimura was to strictly blockade Vladivostok, and yet part of its squadron is in Gensan."

"But consider the dense sea fogs of the last two days, Miss Toshio," urged Craig, rather surprised at her criticism. "Even Brer Rabbit cannot perform the impossible."

"But we must not make mistakes," said Noshi, quickly. "We are prepared for the loss of thousands of our men, if necessary, as part of some careful plan, but not to be ever outwitted by these slow-thinking Russians."

Noshi was unwontedly excited, or she would not have followed her woman's instinct to trust this man entirely, disregarding the careful maxims of her people.

"Mr. Craig," she said, frankly, "the 'Kinshu Maru' left this morning for I-won, where the troops on board would be landed to reconnoitre the neighborhood. Then she was to return with them, arriving to-morrow morning. Can we warn her, for if the enemy remains off Gensan, she will certainly be taken. And there is the merchant ship, 'Taisei Maru,'—she, too, is due here to-night."

"I have sailed this course in a sampan before," said Craig, thoughtfully, "and in worse weather. It's not very likely I can meet your ships in time to warn them, but I think I'll try."

"It would be a keissheitai, I think, Mr. Craig."

"Is that Nipponese for heap big fool?"

"I do not quite follow your exalted language, Mr. Craig, but keissheitai is when men volunteer to go to certain death for the honor of the Emperor. And it is evident to me that you are very really a Christian, seeing that you would rather risk your life for others than think only of your own safety."

"I am afraid I shall have my troubles trying to live up to your exalted opinion