

oil, and vegetable produce. Tents, bedding, cooking utensils, all had to be taken into account.

Of weapons they had but 120 up-to-date guns, about 400 of an antiquated design, a few old pistols, and, for all these scanty enough ammunition. Every man and boy had their big girdle knives, and there were not a few lances, and serviceable elubs.

Spasms of bitter weeping did not fail among the women, heartbroken for the tragic loss of their homes. Children ran in and out as usual, alternately helping and hindering, bursting with the excitement of coming change, the whole business being to them a glorified picnic to which camping-out was to lend its perennial glamour.

Always brought up to dread the enemy at their gate, these preparations were but the evil dream come true to the adults as a mass. The grim faces and set faces of the men formed a plain index to their stiffened resolve to hold out to the "edge of doom." Never again would these at any rate submit afresh to a bootless and merciless tyranny.

"My Veronice! Would to God I could be certain that all was well with her," exclaimed Mme. Severin on the second day of strenuous work. "What if she were to reach Halat after we had all left. Such a possibility terrifies me."

"Banish that fear utterly. She is in no danger, none whatever," replied the pastor. "No one will know better than your American friends the state of the roads for traveling. They will not allow her to stir from Opella. Besides our secret courier starts to-night to beg the consul's intervention on our behalf. A special message can go at the same time about Veronica."