

Knights Who Fought the Dragon

quainted with both Elsie and me painted it." The noise of bursting shells and shrapnel on the roof prevented conversation for a time.

"How near that cannon sounds," said Duke.

"Yes," said Ray. "That is Betsey's roar."

"It is . . . ? I beg your pardon?"

"Haven't you heard about Betsey? She is our new cannon. Some call it the International. the Chinese found it, and the soldiers rigged it up. It is a Chinese gun on an Italian carriage, using Russian shells and fired by an American. She was a great kicker at first and jumped entirely across a room, but now they have restrained her sportiveness and bound her to a beam."

"Is the beam Japanese?"

"I never could distinguish between woods," rejoined Ray.

"Why do you call the cannon Betsey?"

"I don't know, unless it is because Mitchell, the gunner, loves it so well they have named it his sweet-heart. Betsey is a noble female. She has silenced the gun on the Imperial Wall that was threatening to blow us to atoms."

"Dr. Medhurst told me you were to be up to-morrow. Mother sent an invitation to you to have dinner with us. We are going to have our last can of peas for a celebration."