

IN THE CHINA SEA

A NARRATIVE OF ADVENTURE.

By SEWARD W. HOPKINS.

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CHAPTER III.

WESTWARD, HO!

I am not telling a detective story, neither am I going to relate a great piece of tragedy. It is not my purpose to dwell at length upon the efforts put forth by the police of San Francisco in the search for Annie Halston. All the ingenuity of law and force that wealth and influence could control was brought into action. But it was of no use. The wily Chinaman and the man with the scarred face had done their work without an error. They had left no sign to betray them. The police were mystified.

I met the father of the missing girl. He was a splendid specimen of American. I judged that when not suffering from a great affliction the ex-Senator was a man whose talents and bearing would make him a marked man in any sphere or any land. My heart went out to him in his great grief, and the more I saw of him and realized the awful burden under which he was staggering the more I cursed myself for a brazen fool for not strangling the Chinaman the night I saw him and had a chance to do it.

I met, also, Annie's brother, Edward Halston. He was a man of many noble qualities. He was intellectual, he was noble-minded, but his time was spent in his library with his books. When called upon to meet the world and grapple with one of its tragedies he floundered helplessly, utterly lost in the whirlwind of crime that he saw whirling around him. He resembled somewhat the girl I had seen, and whose picture the captain of police had shown me. After a few days' acquaintance with Edward Halston, I decided him to be a royal good fellow. In this I was heartily seconded by my legal friend.

I had even dragged Langston into the case. His experience in complicated criminal cases—always, of course, in a professional capacity—assisted me not a little in solving some of the riddles of this peculiar kidnapping or abduction or whatever else his legal life might name it.

As for me, the more I thought over it the more morbid I became. I had come to believe that upon me lay the responsibility for the second disappearance and escape. This thought being formed into my brain, it was but another step to decide that it was my duty to search until Annie Halston was found, no matter what the cost.

I was hunted day and night by visions of that pale, beautiful face lying so helplessly on the pillow. Often I would grow almost sick and dizzy when I thought of her and her probable fate.

Langston, much to my surprise, plunged heartily into the search. He was better posted on police ways than I was, and often when I rebelled at a seeming lack of interest, he would assure me that it was all right and then tell me of some secret line of action that was being followed.

But it was all of no use. In the language of the people who choose their pleasures for their expressiveness and not for beauty, we had been "put to sleep."

We began to get discouraged. In fact, that became my chronic condition. I neglected my meals, I neglected my patients. My entire being was absorbed by the thought that I must find Annie Halston.

One day, when the police had almost exhausted their efforts and were going to declare the game lost, and the poor father's heart was full of misery, the superintendent received a telegram from Victoria, Vancouver, that again plunged us all into a fever. At the same time it lifted our hopes and overwhelmed us with despair. This telegram was short; it might mean nothing, it might mean everything. All it said was:

"You mustn't leave me out," said Edward Halston. "To attempt now to express my thanks to both of you would be useless. I am too full of gratitude on one hand and grief on the other to be myself. But I shall share your dangers. Not only that, I will place at your disposal all the money you will need for any kind of enterprise you deem advisable. This is about all I can do. As you know, I am a student. I do not know the world as you do. Hence, I shall have to rely on you for the leadership."

"If we are only equal to it," I said. "At any rate, we can get to China. Then our adventures will begin."

"Ah, you are friends to help!" cried Mr. Halston, wringing our hands. "May God bless you, both of you! I am ready to go with you. Do what you will, and draw on me for all the money you want. Ah, I will go with you! I will hunt down the vile desecrator of my home and slay him. Oh, my child—my poor, poor girl! Oh, my loving her back to me! She is my life, my joy, my hope! Bring her back! Bring her back!"

"Father, you must not go," said Edward, laying his hand on his father's shoulder. "You must go back to your doctor. You know how she is. She will die. We will go to China. We will find Annie. But you must stay with mother. Don't you know?"

"Yes, yes, it is so. But oh, my heart will go with you. My heart will go with you in its sorrow."

"Now let's see what's what," said Langston. "If we want to accomplish anything when we get to Shanghai, it is a time we were getting ready. Let's see. I've got a traveler's guide here somewhere. I had it the other day when I went to Los Angeles. What did I do with it? Ah, here it is! Now let's see."

"What time will the Ketoto arrive at Shanghai?" I asked, standing so I could look over his shoulder.

"Yes, that is first. The Ketoto belongs to the British America and China line, and might not be in this guide, which is only a coast line. Here! What is this? The Pacific coast line of steamers connects with the R. A. and C. at Vancouver. Ah, here it is: The R. A. and C. from Vancouver to Shanghai every Wednesday. Passage, twenty-two days. This is the 21st of December. The Ketoto, then, won't be due in Shanghai on the 14th of January. That is all right so far. Now the fastest line between here and China is the Occidental and Oriental Line, stopping at Hong Kong and Bangkok. We don't care about the Bangkok part of it. Where is it? O. O. and O., page 119. Now: Occidental and Oriental Line of steamships, San Francisco to Hong Kong, twenty days; Bangkok, twenty-three days. Well, Bangkok is no good. You see, that lands in Hong Kong first. Sailing Thursday, Empress of India, December 15. City of Rio de Janeiro, December 22. Good! That will bring her into Hong Kong on January 1, just one day before the Ketoto arrives at Shanghai. I believe the distance by rail from Hong Kong to Shanghai is about eight hundred to a thousand miles. By making connections quickly, we might, if we sailed on the Rio de Janeiro tomorrow, to be in Shanghai at just as soon as the Ketoto reaches here."

"He closed the book and lay back in his chair, waiting for someone to speak. The Halstons, father and son, followed him breathlessly as he had proceeded, and now Edward, whose face showed great emotion, said: "Father, you will see that you can go tomorrow, both of you? What about your professions?"

FARM AND GARDEN.

Weeds in the Strawberry Beds. Strawberry plants may be worked until the rows are full of runners, and should only weeds or grass appear in the rows pull them out by hand, as every weed that goes to seed in a strawberry row means a hundred or more next spring. The beds will last two or three years if kept clean this year.

Shade For the Hog. With shade in which the hog can be in comfort during hot weather means not only better health for him, but an actual gain of a pound or more per day without such arrangement. The hog loses a pound or more per day. One of the most perfect arrangements for this purpose is made by placing posts in the ground reaching about four feet above the ground upon which a platform is built of poles or cheap lumber, and such platform arrangement covered over with a thick covering of straw.

Scarcity of lime and salt on the ground plentifully under this shed. The salt draws lamp and prevents dust from accumulating under the shed, and the lime is one of the best disinfectants that can be used about hog lots, and also destroys all unpleasant odors.

The absence of side walls allows perfect ventilation. One upon trying this plan will be surprised to find how comfortable and pleasant it is for the hog beneath the shed during the hottest of the weather, and how much he receives from the extra growth for the small outlay of labor in constructing such shade.

Plenty of pure water for drinking purposes should be kept at all times within easy access of the hog, especially during hot weather. —Farm, Field and Fireside.

Growing Parsnips in Winter.

The common parsnip is a root that always brings a good price in market. It can be grown as cheaply as any other winter crop, and the demand cannot be supplied except at rates which if the grower could get them would make this the most profitable crop grown. In such cases it is the fact that parsnips are held back by the difficulty of getting them to market that makes them scarce, rather than any real deficiency in the supply.

The parsnip is so hardy that it is often left in the ground all winter, and in contact with the soil and its favor is not injured. There is a difficulty with these parsnips that is wintered where they grow. The plants started to grow so soon as the ground thaws, and after the first green sprout appears it very soon becomes unfit to eat. For this reason most growers put the parsnips in underground pits, covering them well with earth and throwing some water on this to prevent them from drying out. From these pits they must be removed early in spring and placed in close proximity to ice so that they will always be kept at near the freezing temperature.

For fruit in the house. Fruit can be dried in the house with a hot water device as is shown in the cut. The box has a bottom of sheet iron, with a wooden bottom two inches above this perforated with holes. Air is admitted to the two high spaces through holes in the sides of the box. A small one-burner oil stove beneath causes a constant current of warm air to pass up through the box in which the fruit can be placed on tiers of slatted shelves and at the top through the small openings in the sides. The whole of the bottom of the box is covered by the sheet iron. —New York Tribune.

Early Breeding of Sheep. Good treatment has of course much to do with the early breeding of all sheep. If they are poor and thin they will not show much desire for mating, and sometimes it is impossible to bring them around with any kind of success. Ewes intended for early breeding should not be made to live out in the hot sun without any shelter from it in the middle of the day except such as they can find on the shady side of a fence. Provide them with sufficient shade, good pasture and plenty of clean water through the summer, and then before you want to breed them feed them liberally on oats. This will allow help to bring them around and give the desired result. Always have a thoroughbred buck at the head of the flock, but the

WOMAN'S REALM.

The Latest Vehicle in Tracing Millinery and Dressmaking. Art is now applied to millinery and dressmaking. In all the industrial schools where these subjects are taught according to the most improved methods the study of drawing now accompanies instruction in trimming and making bonnets, and cutting, fitting and fashioning gowns. The teacher of drawing as applied to millinery has her pupils sketch faces. She shows them that a person with a down turned nose should not wear a hat with a forward drooping brim, and conversely that the woman with a high forehead should avoid an upturned hat. The pronounced features of a face should not be emphasized, says the teacher of millinery drawing. Drawings of bonnets, flowers, different styles of bows and other kinds of carousing are made and the grouping of trimming studied in detail on different styles of hats. In the dressmaking class drawings are made from models, the lines of the body are sketched and fashions adapted to short, tall, stout and thin figures pointed out to the class by illustration. One of the city industrial schools obtained last winter the privilege of taking its pupils to one of the large department stores to make sketches of the latest importations in gowns and dresses. The young women went in twos and threes and seated themselves in secluded spaces in the big display rooms and made the most of their opportunity to capture hints of trimming detail and design which the limited horizon of their daily life would never bring them in contact with. On the morning of the exercise, using a number of the classes, a model in a gown was made in every case to duplicate the graceful lines of the Paris collections.

Passing of the Tan Shoe. The popularity of the tan shoe for women's wear is a thing of the past. A class manufacturer who has made a specialty of their production in late years. Without exception the makers display a marked feeling of in the demand for them, and some concerns have not sent out any samples of them for this season.

Reasons for Unproductive Orchards. Observations and studies had the Illinois experiment station to offer the following as some of the many reasons why orchards are unproductive:

First—Too many growers are practicing a crop to the ground method without paying much attention to the soil. The apple requires the same careful attention as do other fruit crops.

Second—Lack of moisture is a common cause of failure in the apple grower in Illinois. This is because grass and other crops are allowed to compete with the trees for the moisture supplied by rains. Water is so essential to the apple tree on a hot summer's day as it is to the laborer in the hottest field.

Third—Injuries resulting from attacks of insects or of fungus diseases are a very common cause of failure. These diseases will probably always exist, but they have not much right to the products of the farm as does the farmer himself. For this reason he must get his artillery and ammunition and make the enemy.

Fourth—Lack of fertility is a very common cause of failure in southern, western and some sections of northern Illinois. The apple orchard cannot produce a profitable crop unless provided with an ample supply of nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid.

Fifth—Some orchards in the State which have come to the notice of this station are unproductive because of improper pruning or lack of pruning. Light and air are essential for the development and ripening of the apple.

Sixth—Many varieties of apple trees have been planted without any thought given to their adaptability to the particular soil or climate. Loss in apple growing is often wholly a matter of varieties.

Seventh—Trees propagated from unproductive stock have been responsible for many failures. Scions should be selected from bearing trees or those which have demonstrated their ability for productivity.

Eighth—Soil fertility as a result of planting an orchard of only one variety is a common cause of failure in part at least. Cross fertilization is desirable with all fruits.

Ninth—Excessive climatic conditions as the February frosts of 1899, or the killing of the blossoms by frost, are oftentimes responsible for unproductiveness.

For the Hatched Woman. What a mistake women often make in dyeing the hair! The woman of gray hairs is often much more attractive than is her youth. Hair prematurely gray is not desirable, of course, but when the skin is withering and wrinkling, the color leaving the lips and the curves of chin and cheek turning to angles, gray hair has a wonderfully softening influence. Dyeed hair on an elderly woman plays havoc with the complexion, bringing out yellow patches that almost verge on green, and giving a repellent hardness of expression to the eyes. A dark wig is a necessity that might be made an elderly person eligible for the next time for the table. Nature is the best artist, when all is said, and any tampering with her painting in a normally healthy body is fatal to good looks. White haired women, too,

ART OF COSTUMING.

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