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IN THE CHINA SEA

A NARRATIVE OF ADVENTURE.

By SEWARD W. HOPKINS.

CHAPTER XVI.

Oso-Bark sat down. Garn-Saak looked at him with a glow of pride. With his hands on the brim of his sword, the stern officer had stood motionless and silent while his fellow-Jungar had dealt the tyrant his telling blow. When the outburst of Tamooch had finished, the warrior of Galnear said but one word: "Good!"

"By heaven, this is strange!" muttered Langton. He started toward me, but the hand of the officer restrained him. "He careful," said the salt to my friend. "Let me do the talking now." Then to me: "I am Captain Harwood of the United States Navy. My ship founder is the Beaver. I came here, under orders, to demand an American prisoner from the hands of the governor, Hen-Ko-Hi. The story was that this Hen-Ko-Hi was a murderous tyrant, and had held two American prisoners for months. One of them scaped and reached the American consul at Hong Kong. Investigation showed that Hen-Ko-Hi was carrying things with a higher hand than was permitted by his royal master, the Emperor. He was supposed to be merely the governor of a penal colony, whereas he made the criminals sent under his care his friends and soldiers and lived riotously and wickedly. Now, who are you, and where is the man I want?"

"I turned to Mr. Avery, and he arose. He lifted his one good arm and raised his eyes toward heaven. The impressiveness of the scene cannot be portrayed. In a calm, unpassioned voice the missionary prayed. "O, Thou God, who art wiser than we, look down upon us in this hour of darkness and guide us. Thine eyes have seen the crimes that have been committed by this man, over whom we sit in judgment. Shall it be Thy will that we show to him that mercy shown by no being save Thyself, since man has lived, or shall it be Thy will that the law of Moses shall be the law by which this man must meet his punishment? Guide us, Thou God of Peace and War. Place in our hands that instrument of good or ill that will enable Thine own wishes to be fulfilled. O God—"

"I am the King of Tamooch. Hen-Ko-Hi was Governor until yesterday. The people over whom he had ruled so long without mercy arose in their might and crushed him at a blow. I know of no American prisoner, but I have plenty of Chinese in the dungeons. "Keep them there. But where is Hen-Ko-Hi? He might be able to tell us something." "He might, if you had not carried away his head with your first shot." "Alas! Then Hailston—poor Hailston—must be dead?" muttered Langton.

"That is not lock-picking. That is child's play. To open a door which has been locked and from which the key has been removed is a different proposition, but old policemen declare there are very few if any doors on ordinary dwellings and the buildings which are secured by locks able to resist the advances of the burglar. What are known as 'skeleton' keys are made like ordinary keys, only the wards, which in regular keys cut several notches of different depths are very thin and delicate. In a bunch of these keys each one has a guard just a shade wider or longer than the next one, and the burglar tries them one by one until he usually strikes one which will do the business—raise the proper tumblers in the lock and shoot the bolt back. Where the old-fashioned 'rim' locks are used, the door which is screwed to the door and now found only in very old frame buildings, is in the cheaper class of locks, this is easy. Any one who has ever lost the key to one of these locks must have discovered that the key he had borrowed from the neighbors would not do the job. A buttonlock will usually do it. Any slight projection on a slender rod which will raise the simple tumblers in the lock will allow the bolt to be removed.

"CHAPTER XVII.
RESCUE OF ANNIE BALSTON.
My emotion can be more easily imagined than described when I recognized in the thin, worn man my old friend Langton. I wanted to rush to him and clasp him in my arms. I wanted to shout and scream my joy in his very ears. But something in his appearance held me back. He looked like a sick man—did Langton—and some occult influence warned me not to declare my identity to him with too great a suddenness. He had evidently suffered much. He was not the robust athlete I had once known, in whose massive arms the power of a horse lay hidden. He looked haggard. His eyes had a shifty way that was not natural to him. His mind was evidently not at rest. I knew that he believed me dead at the bottom of the China Sea. Should I declare myself in an awkward manner, the shock might be too much for him. I knew that it would be difficult for him to recognize me with my brown skin, yet I hoped that the sound of my voice, if we came to speak to each other, would give him an inkling of the truth. The commanding officer stepped from the boat to the land. After him came Langton. They were followed by other officers and several sailors and marines, all fully armed and ready for any emergency. They were not yet near enough for me to hear their voices, but I could tell from the expressions on the faces of Langton and his companion that they were having a heated discussion. Langton repeatedly pointed to the tower and seemed to be insisting upon something. The officer shook his head and appeared to be in doubt. Langton began to look worried. They came toward me. I stood, surrounded by my officers waiting to receive them. As they approached, I noticed that the commander was a handsome fellow, and bore himself with a dignity becoming the representative of my own great country. "You surrender to the United States?" said he, stopping before me and studying me and my officers with a wondering look. "And right glad am I to do it," I replied. "You might have come in and taken us without a shot, and would have been made welcome."

"I know not," he said, bewildered. I let him tottering from the room, and rushed through the corridor toward the southern tower. Miss Arnold met me. "What is this?" she cried. "I hear cannon. They tell me there is more war—that we are attacked from the sea. Is it true?" "It is true, but there is no danger. I have not seen the enemy, but we can defeat her. Come into the south tower."

"I followed his look, and lo, the flag of China was flying gaily from the north tower." "Garn-Saak!" I called. My general had withdrawn to a respectful distance when he saw that Langton and I were friends. "Sir, I am here," he replied, stepping forward. "Do you know of any dungeon under the north tower?" "No, sir; I have seen none. There are no prisoners there."

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ART OF LOCK PICKING

ORDINARY ONES YIELD AT ONCE, OTHERS EASILY PERSUADED.

Nothing. Unless It Be an Open Door, Gives an Expert Burglar Less Trouble Than an Average Lock—The Use of Skeleton Keys and "Picks."

When the householder gets ready to turn on the gas for the night, the probability of turning in he makes the rounds of the house, turns all the keys to assure himself the outer doors are locked, and goes to bed confident that no burglar can get in unless he saves a hole in the door, says the Chicago Chronicle. Nothing, unless it be an open door, gives an expert burglar less trouble than the average lock. "Pick-locking" has come to be such a fine art that there are only a few locks, and those specially made to offer work to the burglar. Some people think they can find the lock picker by leaving the key in the lock on the inside, so that the burglar cannot insert a "skeleton" key. This only makes things easier. The man who knows how and has the proper tools can turn a key just as easily from the outside of a door as though it were on the side where the handle of the key projects. A slender, strong piece of steel properly applied will catch the little end of the key which extends below the notches and turn it easily and silently.

ABOUT WASHINGTON, D. C.

FACTS SUGGESTED BY THE CENTENNIAL OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Five Miles Long by Three Wide—A French Officer Laid Out the City—Capitol and White House Once Partially Destroyed by the British.

Washington had a population of 3994 in 1800, 8208 in 1810, 13,474 in 1820; the census just completed showed it to have a population of 293,000 in 1900. In the first decade of the city's history the Government officials numbered fewer than 100. Now there are nearly 15,000, including the clerks in the various departments. Washington is now five miles long by three miles wide. The District of Columbia contains about sixty square miles, and all of this territory is now being laid out with magnificent avenues to comprise greater Washington. Georgetown, now a part of Washington, was laid out in 1761. It is across Rock Creek from Washington proper. Georgetown University, the first educational institution of the capital, was founded by Bishop Carroll in 1799. The cornerstone of the White House was laid on October 13, 1792. Had Congress appropriated the money asked for last winter the cornerstone of the new White House addition would have been laid. Work on the Capitol was begun on September 18, 1793. Its centennial was celebrated seven years ago. The Capitol is the hub of Washington, from which most of the avenues radiate like spokes from a wheel. After the destruction of the Capitol in 1814, the Thirtieth Congress held sessions in the Union Pacific Hotel, which was built in 1793 and burned in 1816. It was expected that the best part of Washington would be built on Capitol Hill. Hence the grandness of Liberty in the Capitol dome faces eastward. But the most fashionable part of the city is in the opposite direction, to the northwest. The terraces of the Capitol were completed only in 1891, the total cost of the building footing up to \$14,475,000. The present site on the Potomac, President Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre by John Wilkes Booth. The building stands on Terra Santa, between E and F streets and directly opposite the house in which Lincoln died. Washington had a municipal government from 1802 to 1871, then a Territorial government until 1874, since which time it has been controlled by Congress through three District Commissioners. The Government subsequently abandoned Washington in 1844, when the British captured the city, partially destroyed the Capitol and the White House, and blew up the arsenal at Greenleaf's Point. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, a French army officer and engineer, laid out the plan of Washington. It is supposed to cost a million to him, since he received no money for his work. His grave is an unmarked one on the outskirts of Washington, where he died. The dome alone of the Capitol cost \$1,250,000. The Crawford bronze door at the Senate wing weighs 14,000 pounds and cost nearly \$57,000. The hall of the House of Representatives is the largest legislative assembly room in the world. The columns of the eastern portico of the Capitol are solid blocks of sandstone, each thirty feet high. The Congress of the United States has met annually in Washington since November, 1800. An old woman named Jenkins recently resided in Tennessee who raised a good deal of poultry for sale. She set a hen on a dozen eggs and in a few days went out to see how things were getting along, when she found a large snake in the nest. The snake had frightened the hen away and swallowed the eggs. Mrs. Jenkins did not flee in fright as might be supposed, but, undismayed, she dispatched the serpent with a stick and cut it open and secured the stolen eggs, which, strange as it may seem, she did not set again under the hen and hatch, but sold to a country grocery. Nashville, Tenn.

Snake Had to Give Up Life and Eggs.

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Advantages of Subterranean Boats.

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