

IN THE CHINA SEA

A NARRATIVE OF ADVENTURE.

By SEWARD W. HOPKINS.

CHAPTER XIV.

(Continued.)

My hope was that Hen-Ko-Hi would make the best use of sending a small force, which he would not do if the alarm-bells were heard all over Tal-mooch.

I went word to Balo-Ror to gather about six hundred of his bravest men, and wait with them in the forest about Bromporrah until the forces of Hen-Ko-Hi had passed them on the way to Quental, then to follow them down and attack their rear while we were engaged in their front.

The men at Quental were set to build a fort. In this the women rendered valuable assistance. They were eager enough to help.

I sent a messenger into the cave for my uniform and sword. For reasons of my own I did not wish to meet Miss Arnold there.

It was late in the afternoon when we heard the hurried tramp of horse hoofs.

The fort was built on that side of Quental nearest Bromporrah. In it I placed all the women at hand, and a force of soldiers under Oso-Bark. To the right of the fort I stretched a line of sentries through the woods. The force thus detailed was under the command of Gan-Sak.

I stretched a similar line, and took command myself. We three formed a front, the axes of which was the fort, and into the mouth of which led the street of the invaders.

The sound of hoofs was most welcome. My men were becoming impatient for the fight to begin. The shouts of the cavalry could now be heard. It was Tartar cavalry. This fact was surprising. The presence of these lawless horsemen so far away from their usual haunts was unexpected.

It made me shudder with more terror, although it was not necessary. But the reputation of the Tartar as a fighter is justly established, and I know we had to work before us.

When the head of the column entered the funnel formed by my forces, I gave the order to fire.

I did not follow them; we would have plenty to do without that. Gan-Sak came running to me, and from the fort came Oso-Bark, followed by a shouting crowd of women.

"One hundred men," I said, "as my general has reached my side. How many men have we lost?"

"About one hundred of mine," said Gan-Sak.

"I lost none," said Oso-Bark. "About fifty of my own men were missing, and I counted them as dead. At once sent men to pick up the wounded and gave them proper care. We found four hundred and seventy-five Tartars dead or dying in the woods and in the road.

"Gan-Sak," I said, "after I had looked the situation over, we are not half done. The fight has but just commenced. Order the alarm-bells rung at once and call the entire army to arms."

"Sir, it shall be done at once," he replied.

Balo-Ror reported to me, and then went back to his own forces. He led out but few men.

From the great bells I heard a ringing in the forest as a alarm rang out. The call to arms came in every portion of the island, whenever a Jinnar or a Kalek heard.

From every direction men came running.

Some morning I had an army of twelve thousand armed and drilled soldiers, and as many more men ready to pick up their arms as fast as the bullets of the enemy left a gun unattended.

THE ORIGIN OF STYLES

CAUSES THAT MAKE FOR AND AGAINST NEW FASHIONS.

How the New Modes Are Created—Some of American Origin and Demands Upon Parisian Production—Unsettled Conditions No Longer Accepted.

Fashions and styles are never formed out of thin air; they are always brought into being from a definite cause or for a certain purpose.

Why a mode is born is rarely thought of by the majority of possessors and wearers, especially on this side of the water.

Some of the fashions of bygone days reached us in consequence of a loan and were so directly related to the influences that gave them birth that their origin was unmistakable.

When it was over, there were two thousand Tartar soldiers dead upon the plain, and the entire army of Hen-Ko-Hi.

We had won. Mr. Avery, Miss Arnold and myself were free. The people of Tal-mooch were again a nation, and I was for the time its ruler.

The world had been satisfied for many years to look to Paris and its cosmopolitan and high-pressure civilization as the birthplace of all that was particularly interesting in art and style.

CHAPTER XV. AFTER THE CONQUEST.

The palace at Quental stood at the northern end of the city. Therefore it stood at the most northerly point of Tal-mooch, for Quental was the northern extremity of the island.

The streets of Quental were narrow. The more pretentious houses were of stone. There were bath-rooms, coffee-houses, gambling places, beer-drinking rooms and all other places generally to be found in a Chinese city.

OUR BUDGET OF HUMOR

LAUGHTER-PROVOKING STORIES FOR LOVERS OF FUN.

The Reason You Plainly Can See—His Conjecture—Their Flight Woes—'Twas the night when I was in bed, my head was on a pillow, and I was in a dream.

His Conjecture. Myer—"I wonder what causes our condition of the brain?"

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