

## Three Cruisers for Spain.

The English newspapers confirm the news of Spain's purchase of warships. The *St. James' Gazette*, which published the denial of the Spanish embassy, which has an office in London, says: "It is ascertained on very high authority, in spite of denial, that the Spanish Government has almost certainly succeeded in buying two nearly completed cruisers in England, and two coast defense vessels which are about to be launched in France. Experts are almost as much surprised at the success of Madrid in raising money as by the clever diplomacy which secured the Chilean and Brazilian cruisers of the Armstrongs at a cost believed to be £1,000,000, almost before the move was suspected." The article goes on to say that much competition between Spain and the United States for these various ships was expected, "but America has come to the conclusion that its naval resources are strong enough to confront Spain, and is playing a waiting game."

## BULLETIN ON LIVE STOCK.

## Decrease in Number of Horses, Cows, Cattle and Swine.

The Agricultural Department at Washington has issued the following bulletin on live stock: The returns of the number of live stock on farms in the United States Jan. 1 show 12,960,911 horses, 2,257,625 mules, 15,840,886 milch cows, 29,264,197 oxen and other cattle, 37,656,930 sheep and 39,759,993 swine. These figures show a decrease of 403,756 in the number of horses, 100,841 in milch cows, 1,244,211 in oxen and other cattle and 840,283 in swine. There is an increase of 883,317 in the number of sheep and 42,011 in milches. While there has been an increase in the number of milch cows in each of the New England States, and a considerable increase in the Northwestern States, there has been a decrease throughout almost the entire South, and this fact, together with a slight decrease in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, reduces the total for the country at large to six-tenths of 1 per cent below that of last year. Of the seventeen states reporting a total of over 1,000,000 hogs, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska show an increase, and Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and eight Southern States a decrease. There is a marked increase in the value of live stock on farms reported from almost every section of the country, the total value of farm horses having increased during the year by \$25,713,011; of mules, \$6,728,972; milch cows, \$65,573,933; oxen and other cattle, \$104,367,218; sheep, \$25,700,191, and swine, \$8,078,639; a total increase in value of \$236,162,859, or 14.27 per cent.

## AMERICAN SCHOONER SEIZED.

## Captured by Spanish Gunboat on South Coast of Cuba.

The Spanish gunboat Artilia has captured in an inlet near Casilda, on the south coast of Cuba, the American schooner Esther of Edenton, N. C., bound from Pensacola to Jamaica. The captain of the schooner was asked to give the reason for the presence of his vessel in the inlet and claimed that his rudder was broken. No further details of the affair have been received, but if the statements of the captain of the Esther turn out to be correct the schooner will be liberated. The captain has protested against the seizure of his vessel. The Esther is of 1,311 tons gross register.

## Enforces an Age Limit.

A maximum age limit for employees has been fixed by the new Union Pacific management. The rule is now in operation as far as the shops of the company are concerned, but as to whether it will be enforced in other departments is at present bothering some 10,000 men on the lines of the company in the West. Sixty years is the limit of employment in the mechanical department. Not only are all persons over that age in the shops being discharged, but none will be employed in the future who are near that period of life. No official announcement has been made by the company.

## Moving Over the Passes.

The steamship North Pacific, from Skagway, Juneau and Wrangell, called at Departure Bay, her supply of coal having run out. Her officers describe the situation at Skagway most favorably. They say that deaths from spinal meningitis were often the result of exposure on the trails, the men being brought into Skagway dying. The number of deaths, Captain Carter says, has been greatly exaggerated. Fine weather prevailed when the North Pacific left Skagway. White and Chilkoot passes were fit for travel, and many had already begun the journey inland.

## Higher Wages Granted.

As the result of a conference recently held between Thomas Dolan and a number of workmen employed in the cloth mills of Thomas Dolan & Co. at Philadelphia, a 12 per cent increase has been granted.

## Russia Wins in China.

The Berlin *Tageblatt* publishes a dispatch from Pekin saying China has agreed to lease Port Arthur and Ta-Lien-Wan to Russia for ninety-nine years.

## Killed by a Burglar.

William O. Hutchins, a manufacturing jeweler at Providence, R. I., was shot and killed by a burglar. The robber was fleeing after discovery, and Hutchins was knocking the intruder over the head with a heavy walking stick, when the one fatal bullet was fired.

## Crushed Under a Car.

Two Italian laborers were instantly killed and two badly hurt by a two-ton dirt car which fell upon them while they were at work on the new East river bridge at New York.

## Cashier Cunning Confesses.

Sherwood S. Cuning, receiving teller of the First National Bank of Cincinnati, O., was arrested and locked up on the charge of embezzling \$23,000 of the bank's funds. Cuning broke down when put behind the bars and confessed. He is married and has a daughter.

## Big Tag Underwriter Lost.

Terrible weather is reported from Northern Persia, the worst known for a quarter of a century. The highway from Rehmat on the Caspian sea to Teheran is impossible from snowdrifts. More than 100 persons have perished, and many others are missing.

## WOODED AND MARRIED

BY  
CHARLOTTE M  
BRAEME

## CHAPTER XVIII.

With an intolerable sense of shame and disgrace, it suddenly occurred to Lady Caraven that her lot in life was quite different from other people's. It seemed to pass over her with a sudden terrible conviction. She had been so occupied with her efforts to re-education her husband, her plans of reform, her schemes for the benefit of others, that she had not given much thought to her own position as a wife whose husband made no pretense of loving her. The knowledge of her real status came to her now with a keen sense of intolerable pain, yet she would have borne its bitterness but for the fear lest the brilliant, beautiful blonde should become as wise as herself. That would have been intolerable.

A trifling circumstance brought Hildred's jealousy to a climax. The Earl was going out in a great hurry one morning when he found that the button of his glove was hanging by a thread. Lady Hamilton, who was now engaged on some kind of fancy work, with needle and silk in her hand, sat by. He went to her at once.

"Lady Hamilton, be kind to me—give me one stitch." She laughingly complied; she would not let him remove the glove.

"You need not take that trouble," she said; "I can do it as it is."

With a pale face and darkening eyes the young Countess watched the little scene. Why had he gone to her for this small service? Why should she hold her husband's hand and look with laughing eyes into his face? She could not endure it.

"She went up to them.

"Oh, thank you, Lady Hamilton," she said, "I will do that for Lord Caraven."

Lady Hamilton looked up in amazement, but there was something in the young Countess' face which made her yield at once. She drew back coldly.

"Lord Caraven asked me to do it," she said.

"In all probability he had forgotten that I was here," she returned, in a high, clear voice.

The Earl, like a prudent man, remained quite silent. He looked at his wife's face as she bent over the glove, and he saw something there that, shrewd as he was, puzzled him. Why was she so pale?

What was it that shone and gleamed in the dark eyes? Why did the proud lips tremble? What was in her face? He gazed in silent wonder. She had finished.

"The button will not come off again," she declared.

"I hope not," said Lady Hamilton in a peculiar tone of voice; "and if it does, do not ask me to help you again, Lord Caraven."

He turned away with a laugh, but the mischief was done; the sight of her golden head bending over her husband's hand had fanned the jealousy of the young wife into a flame—nor did what followed extinguish it.

The Earl had laughed to himself, thinking the occurrence a pretty bit of play.

He was smiling still when, an hour afterward, his wife met him.

"Hildred," he said in a tone of gay banter, "were you jealous of Lady Hamilton?"

Then the idea seemed so absurd to him that he laughed aloud. To his surprise she drew deadly pale; her lips quivered with emotion.

"Yes," she replied, bitterly—"I scorn to speak falsely—I was jealous of her. You may think what you like of me."

She would not be serious about it. He said jestingly:

"I always thought until now that jealousy presupposed love."

"Did you?" questioned his wife, with proud indifference. "I always thought love presupposed perfect trust."

"You are a good fencer, Hildred," laughed her husband, and he thought no more of the matter. But she did. It had wanted but that trifling incident to fan her jealousy into a flame.

How the hours of that day passed she never knew. One picture filled her mind—that of Lady Hamilton's golden head bending over her husband's hand. She could not bear the thought of it. He did not love any one else. He should not laugh because she was jealous; he should not admire this fair woman while he so cruelly neglected her. She worked herself into a frenzy of jealous despair, yet was too weary calm and proud as usual.

The dinner party at the castle on that day was not a large one; many of the guests had left, Lord and Lady Damer had returned home. Sir Raoul was in his room. Lady Caraven had dressed herself for the dinner party, the jest was that her husband did not care for her!

"I cannot bear it!" she thought.

The next moment there was the sound of a shot—something seemed to rattle through the alder branches—there was a low, sharp started exclamation.

"There are poachers in the wood," she thought; "he will be in search of them, and then he will find me."

She turned to fly; now that there was the danger of being caught, she seemed to wake to a full consciousness of what she was doing; the bare fact that she was listening seemed to come home to her as it had never come before. She turned to fly; not for anything that could be given would she be caught there. She wanted to hasten, but she could not; it was as though great weights of lead were fastened to her feet. Her brain was dizzy; the fire of love, the madness of jealousy rag in her heart—how long? It was almost unbearable. She felt inclined to cry out that it must end. She clinched her fingers, she bit her lip; then suddenly she heard the sound of her name—her maiden name—"Hildred Ransome!" What were they saying? Was the Earl telling how he had been compelled to encumber himself with a wife he did not love? Was he saying that, although he did not love her, and they were strangers to each other, she cared for him? Was he laughing because she had owned that she was jealous?

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