

How Modern Sieges Are Begun and Conducted; Facts Concerning Some Famous World's Strong Places

IN conducting a siege it is the usual custom of the attacking force to surround the enemy and cut off all supplies and reinforcements. In the siege of Port Arthur this complete investment was not possible for many weeks, and the only alternative was a fierce and almost continuous bombardment from the water side. If immediate investment had been possible the Japanese would have found the problem of reducing the stronghold a comparatively easy matter, since they might have surrounded the land side with a system of trenches and waited calmly for the imprisoned Russians either to surrender or starve. They might have indulged in an occasional bombardment to give artillery practice and to lend reality to the business of warfare, but it would have been vastly cheaper and quite as certain if they had been contented to wait for the inevitable end.

If Port Arthur had been inland the course of procedure would have been as follows: The Japanese would have disposed their artillery in a position best adapted to control the battery fire of the enemy and would have begun at once a system of trenching at the front in which to establish the infantry. This would have been accompanied by vigorous attempts on the part of the mikado's forces to hold down the fire of the defenders and to push the infantry intrenchments as close as possible to the enemy's works. If it had been feasible the Japanese would have constructed these intrenchments in sections parallel with the enemy's line of defense. The most modern way of doing this is known in military parlance as "flying sap." Under cover of darkness a large force of men moves into position, carrying boxes, planks and shovels. When they have gone as far forward as is deemed advisable the boxes are placed in position, and the men dig the earth from behind them, first filling the boxes and then throwing the earth in front of them.

If the fire from the fortress had been so telling that the parallel intrenchment scheme could not have been carried out the process known as "sapping" would have been employed. Here the advance is made by pushing trenches forward obliquely by end work. These approaches are so inclined that they cannot be enfiladed by the enemy. Having once gained a position, it is fortified as strongly as is necessary to enable it to be held. It is by these



methods that an active siege is pushed as rapidly as possible until the assailants are close to the position held by the defenders.

Since the Russian force in Port Arthur was provided with sufficient provision and material to hold out for an indefinite period without surrender on account of starvation, and since it is not probable that the Japanese threat for the victory would have permitted them to accept the waiting plan, attacks would have been made on the weakest part of the defensive works. A frequent repetition of these vigorous movements, even though they may not at the time accomplish great apparent results, serves to diminish the endurance of the defenders and to give employment to the overstimulated energies of the attacking force. It would seem almost incredible that a force of 23,000 men imprisoned within a system of the most elaborate and complicated defenses ever devised by the hand of man, with a line over twelve miles in length demanding constant attention, should be able to protect every point from the determined and unceasing efforts of the enemy.

Compared with the number of battles and other engagements in a war, sieges are infrequent, but there have been some notable examples of this form of military activity in modern times. The siege of Vicksburg is an instance of an investment carried to a logical conclusion. Both sides were thoroughly convinced that the possession of Vicksburg was an absolute necessity. Its ownership meant the control of the Mississippi valley. The Confederate army penned up in the city was gradually surrounded and cut off from all sources of supply. It was commanded by Gen-



HAUNTING SHADOWS OF THE SIEGE.

eral John C. Pemberton, who was one of the best strategists in the country, a noted West Point man and a veteran of the Mexican war. He had with him about 30,000 men, and they were provided with rations for sixty days. The Federal army, under General Grant, while closing in on the city, erected a line of intrenchments strong enough to resist any possible attack by any Confederate army sent to relieve the besieged town. General Grant at once began to press forward under cover of lines of parallel intrenchments, but he had not accomplished the reduction of the stronghold when the imminence of starvation compelled General Pemberton to surrender.

One of the most unique sieges of the civil war was that of Fort Wagner, one of the defenses of Charleston. After many assaults had been made without avail recourse was had to advances by parallels and approaches. Finally it seemed to be impossible to make further headway by this method. Mining was impossible because the bottoms of the trenches were already near the level of the ground water. The fort was so close to deep water that it was possible for the Federal gunboats to add their fire to that of the batteries and so keep down the fire of the fort that the besiegers were able to advance their trenches with great rapidity. In this manner the works were carried up to the fort. The night before the Federal forces were about to make a final desperate assault the Confederates abandoned the fort, leaving it from the water side.

In most respects the episode known as the siege of Khartum was different from any other siege either before or since. It almost amounted to a one-

man siege. At this Sudanese capital, it will be remembered, the heroic and somewhat eccentric General "Chinese" Gordon, with a mere handful of soldiers and faithful native adherents, kept the mahdi's great army at bay for nearly a year, hoping and praying continually for the rescue which never came. Although a strict chronicler of military events would hesitate before recording Gordon's manly defense of Khartum among the notable sieges, the fact remains that no one, either before or since, has accomplished such military wonders with such fragile resources.

Some of the sieges of antiquity were protracted to unconscionable length. According to Herodotus, the city of Ashdod withstood a siege of twenty-nine years conducted by Psammetichus. Since there is no evidence that Ashdod made any pretensions to impregnability, it must be inferred that Psammetichus and his soldiers were indifferent warriors, endowed with heroic patience, but unskilled in the art of fighting. It is perhaps not quite so laborious to comprehend how it was that the city of Troy managed to hold out against a besieging force for ten years, because that famous place was made as strong as the military knowledge of the time would permit. Its rugged walls were proof against the rather feeble weapons of the day, and its defenders were brave enough to accomplish marvels in the way of sorties and excursions in pursuit of food.

The Russians are not strangers to long sieges. In the Crimean war the fortified town of Sevastopol was besieged both by land and sea by the allied armies of the English, French and Turks before it capitulated. During all of that period it was supposed that investment was complete. Some military commentators maintain that investment is rarely if ever absolute. In duration the siege of Port Arthur averages high among modern instances. Khartum held out 240 days. Sevastopol 327, Mafeking 216, Paris 167, Kimberley 123, Plevna 94, Lucknow 86, Saragossa 62 and Cambrun 21.

WALTON WILLIAMS.

VALUABLE WOODS.

Kauri wood lasts perfectly underground for twenty-five years. Jarrah, another Australian timber, has been tested for thirty-three years beneath the sea and found sound at the end of that time.

AN AMERICAN GIRL WHO IS NOW A COUNTESS.

The Countess of Yarmouth, who was formerly Miss Alice Thaw of Pittsburgh, has been on a visit to her native city, and her presence recalls some of the circumstances connected with her engagement and marriage. The young woman's brother, who had recently inherited a great fortune from his father



was making the grand tour of the European continent and had found Paris so attractive that he was determined to go no farther. Here he made the acquaintance of the youthful Earl of Yarmouth, who had rank, but no estate. It occurred to the practical American that his sister's fortune and his friend's title would form a combination that would be irresistible, so he arranged for an introduction, and a speedy engagement followed. The earl is heir to the marquise of Hertford.

HOW ELEPHANTS SLEEP.

In captivity elephants always stand up when they sleep, but when in the jungle in their own land and home they lie down. The reason given for the difference between the elephant in captivity and in freedom is that the animal never acquires complete confidence in his keepers and always longs for liberty.

Queen Alexandra has given orders that all her linen and tweed gowns for Cowes week should be of Irish manufacture.

THROAT SPECIALISTS.

Gather to Hear Paper on Cancer of the Larynx.

New York, Nov. 3.—Hundreds of specialists in diseases of the throat from this and many other cities have gathered to hear what they consider one of the most able papers on cancer of the larynx ever presented in this country. It was prepared and read by Sir Felix Semon of London under the auspices of the section on laryngology and rhinology of the New York Academy of Medicine. Sir Felix laid great stress on the necessity for men who had reached the age of 40 years to watch closely for symptoms of cancer of the larynx. He advised those approaching middle age not to delay in seeing a physician if he were troubled by hoarseness. The redness of the throat and the formation of a nodule in the vicinity of the larynx were dangerous signs which, he said, should not be neglected. Sir Felix, in contradicting the theories of many American practitioners said that if the cancer were recognized in its early stage it could be cured without the removal of the larynx.

Attention was drawn to the importance of making a microscopic examination of a fragment taken from the throat of a patient who develops suspicious symptoms. In describing his

method of treatment, he said the operation (known as thyrotomy) consisted merely in laying back the flaps of the cartilage known as the thyroid and removing diseased tissue found in the larynx. In this way the patient's power of speech is saved.

Dr. Semon took the ground that operations which resulted in the loss of voice and weakened the patient were scarcely worth the trouble of prolonging a life which was attended with constant misery.

NAN PATTERSON'S CASE.

A Tomb's Prisoner Says Caesar Young Shot Himself.

New York, Nov. 3.—Another man, a prisoner in the Tombs, has come forward with a new statement regarding the shooting of Frank T. Young, the turfman, for whose death Nan Patterson, an actress, has been under indictment several months. He has been mentioned previously as the "red-headed man" who a moment after the shooting, jumped on the step of the cab in which Young and Miss Patterson were riding.

John Latour, as the man is known, pleaded guilty a few days ago to stealing goods from a truck and is now awaiting sentence. At the time of the shooting he says he was on the way

home, heard the shot and ran after the cab. Jumping to the step he declares he plainly saw the fatal pistol in Young's hands, indicating that the horseman shot himself. He called to the woman, advising that Young be taken to a drug store near by, and then went on his way. Arriving at home he told his wife what he had seen but they decided to keep silence fearing Latour's employer would learn that he had once been in prison and discharge him. Recently Latour was arrested for a second offense and decided that he would tell what he saw. Mrs. Latour corroborated his statement.

WOMAN ACCUSED OF ROBBERY.

Mrs. Grace Squire of San Francisco the Person.

San Francisco, Nov. 2.—Mrs. Grace Squire, who is accused of burglary, was before Judge Cabanis today, but the case was continued to await the arrival of her husband, who is in the interior of the state. She is a well-dressed woman of refined manners and is said to be known in the east, though the detectives have not yet fully traced her history. She was first arrested for entering the room of Mrs. Henry Campbell on Turk street. Money and jewels worth over \$3,000 were in her possession, but she claimed their ownership.

Some of the valuables have been identified as the property of Mrs. Charles Oldag, and two pieces of silk found in her rooms match samples of stolen goods in the possession of the police. Mrs. Oldag today swore to a second charge of burglary against Mrs. Squire, who positively asserts her innocence of all the accusations. The police are seeking to secure the identification of several jewels recently stolen from Mrs. Hattie Wallace at a fashionable apartment house.

FIVE PRISONERS ESCAPE.

Sawed Their Way Out of Portland, Or., County Jail.

Portland, Nov. 2.—Five prisoners who were serving on the rock pile gang, and who had sentences of from four to 18 months to complete, escaped from the county jail by sawing their way through bolts, bars and locks between the hours of 10 o'clock last night and 5 o'clock this morning. Information received by Sheriff Word and several of his deputies to believe that the saws used were smuggled in to the escape while they were at work on the rock pile.

Overcome by Smoke.

Chicago, Nov. 3.—Seven persons in the household of Eliza W. Case, president of a local ice company, were today overcome by smoke and carried to the street unconscious by members of the fire department. A blaze caused by spontaneous combustion in the basement filled the house with smoke and awakened Mrs. Case, who had barely time to awaken the members of the family and the servants and lead them in a partly suffocated condition to the windows in the front part of the house. They were all unconscious when the firemen arrived and carried them to the street where they were revived. Those rescued were: Mrs. Eliza W. Case, Mrs. Manasse, her mother, two of the Case children and three servants.

MRS. ARTHUR PAGET.

She Has Had to Undergo Another Operation.

New York, Nov. 3.—Another operation has been performed upon Mrs. Arthur Paget, the well-known society leader, who was injured several months ago by an elevator accident in her residence, says a Herald dispatch from London. Mrs. Paget's condition has been the cause of much concern to her friends and finally a distinguished German surgeon whose specialty is bloodless operations, was called.

After a consultation with the attending surgeons, the specialist began his work. The fractured hip was literally forced into position, the adhesions broken down and the sufferer put into plaster of paris. Much to the astonishment of the attendants a surgeon, a few hours later, took Mrs. Paget from her bed and stood her on her feet for some minutes while she was supported by the nurses. He expressed the belief that the fractures will now knit and she will be able to walk much sooner than had been expected.

SUIT FOR REAL ESTATE.

Property is in New York and Valued at \$100,000,000.

New York, Nov. 2.—Real estate valued at fully \$100,000,000 and in the possession of about 50 persons, is involved in a series of legal actions, one of which has just been brought in the supreme court. The properties lie in the districts bounded by Eleventh and Thirtieth streets and Fourth and Sixth avenues and Thirty-first and Thirty-third streets and Sixth and Eighth avenues.

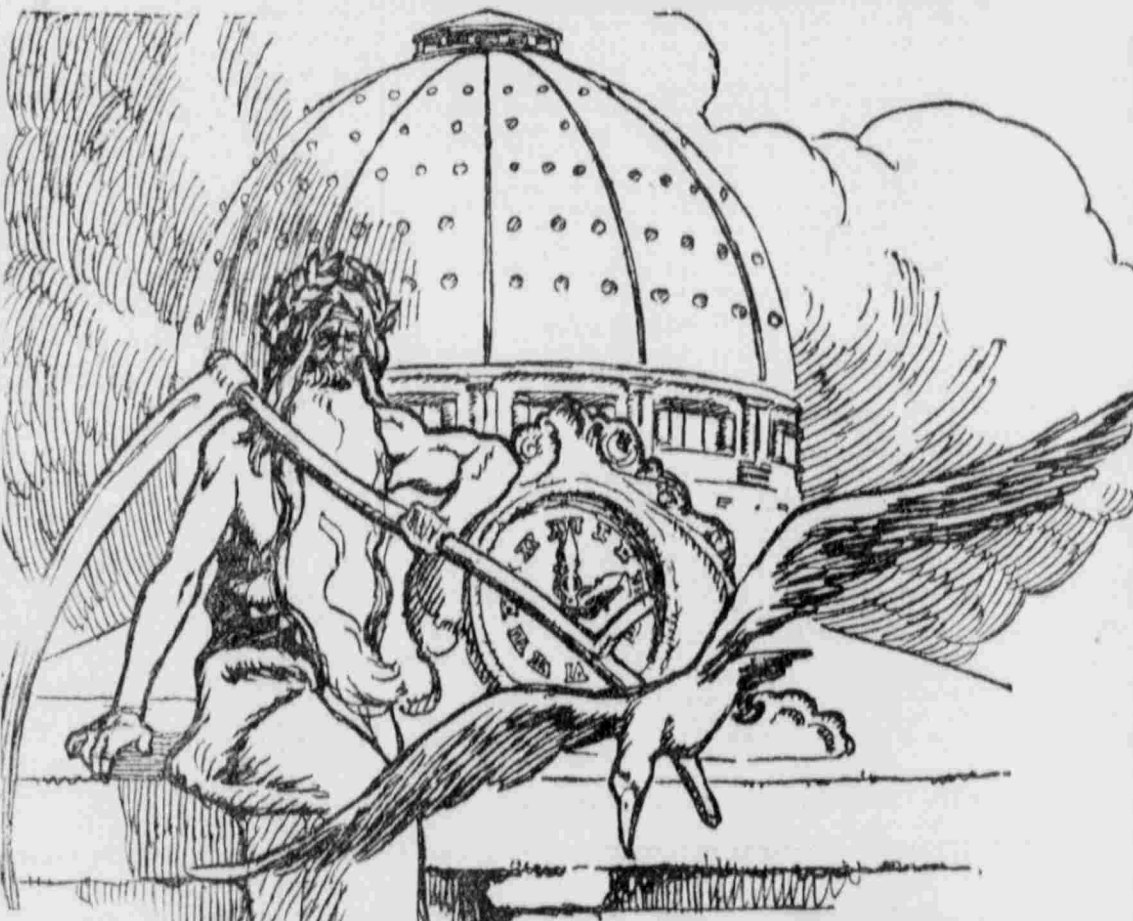
In the present suit William Le Boeuf is the plaintiff, and a publishing company is defendant. Le Boeuf contends that he has an undivided interest in the property occupied by the company as one of the heirs of Jacob I. Arden, the original possessor of the two tracts, which, at the time of his death, in 1861, were known as the Arden farm.

One of the properties involved in another of Le Boeuf's suits is that occupied by Robert B. Roosevelt, uncle of President Roosevelt, at No. 15 Fifth avenue. Mr. Roosevelt having bought it from James Lenox, whose title was derived indirectly from Arden.

Another series of actions concerning the same tracts of land is pending, brought by various plaintiffs, and which involve deeds dating back more than 100 years. It appears that Jacob I. Arden, in his will, bequeathed the property to his son, Jacob S. Arden, with the provision that if the son died without issue the title should pass to John Summers, son of his sister, Catherine Summers. It is stated that John Summers sold his contingent claim to Jacob S. Arden in September, 1865, for \$5,000. Upon this transfer of right the heir is said to have disposed of property in which he had only a life interest, and as he died unmarried the claim is set up that the property belonged to right to his heirs.

In the district concerned are some of the best known hotels, clubhouses and private residences in New York.

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