

VICTOR AND VANQUISHED.

By Harry T. Peck.)

I.

Through the crowded street returning, at the end of the day,
Hastened one whom all saluted as he sped along
along his way;
In his eye a gleam of triumph, in his heart a joy
sincere,
And the voice of shouting thousands still resounding
in his ear,
Passed he heath a stately archway toward the
goal of his desire,
Till he saw a woman's figure lolling idly by the
fire.

'I have won!' he cried exultant; 'I have saved a
cause from wreck,
Crushed the rival that I dreaded, set my foot upon
his neck!
Now at last the way is open, now at last men call
me great,
I am leader of the leaders, I am master in the
state!'

Languidly she turned to listen, and decorous was
her pretence,
And her cold patrician features mirrored forth
indifference;
Ten are always scheming, striving for some petty
end,' said she;
'a little yawn suppressing, 'What is all of
this to me?'

II.

Through the shadows of the evening, as they
quenched the sunset glow,
Came the other, faring homeward, with dejected
step and slow;
Wistful, peering through the darkness, till he saw,
as oft before,
Where a woman stood impatient at the threshold
of the door.

'I have lost!' he faltered, faintly. 'All is over,
with a groan;
Then he paused and gazed expectant at the face
beside his own.
Two soft eyes were turned upon him with a
woman's tenderness,
Two white arms were flung about him with a
passionate caress,
And a voice of thrilling music to his mutely
uttered plea,
Said, 'If only you are with me, what is all the
rest to me?'

III.

All night long the people's leader sat in silence,
and alone,
Dull of eye, with brain unthinking, for his heart
was turned to stone;
While the hours past all unheeded till the hush of
night had ceased,
And the haggard light, returning, flecked the
melancholy east.

But the other, the defeated, laughed a laugh of
merriment,
And he thrust his cares behind him with an infi-
nite content;
Reeking not of place and power and the smiles of
those above,
For his darkness was illumined by the radiance of
love.

Each had grasped the gift of fortune, each had
counted up the cost,
And the vanquished was the victor, and the win-
ner he who lost.

A LOST TREASURE.

Six or seven years previous to the outbreak
of the Indian mutiny, the Rajah of the Province
of Gwallor was dethroned for treason to
the English. He had long been a ruler over
one of the largest provinces in India, and was
known to be one of the wealthiest in the em-
pire. He had an army of 2,000 men, a herd
of 200 elephants and lived in style no Euro-
pean monarch could approach. While pro-
fessing to be friendly to the English he
plotted against them and when this was
discovered steps were taken to curtail his
powers. His army was reduced to a body
guard of 100 men; his right to issue edicts
and make local laws was abrogated; English
civil officers were stationed here and there to
collect the taxes, and the proud and powerful
Rajah had only his empty title.

He bowed to the terms imposed by a su-
perior force, but became one of the bitterest
foes the English had to deal with, and was
first and foremost in bringing about the
mutiny. The date of the outbreak was known
by the deposed Rajah weeks in advance. It
was afterwards charged that he set the date
himself. At any rate, he was so well pre-
pared that his troops were almost the first in
the field against the English. Although his
army had been disbanded for three or four
years, he had secretly purchased and stored
away large amounts of equipment, and for
two months previous to the outbreak he was
secretly arming and training his subjects.

Two weeks before the uprising, the Rajah
made preparations to secure the safety of the
great treasure. In his palace thirty miles
from Gwallor, he had a secret chamber in
which the wealth had been stored for three
generations. No European had ever set foot
in the palace, but it was currently reported
that the value of the gems and jewels, many
of which had been handed down from his
great grandfather, aggregated \$10,000,000.
It was afterward believed that this sum was
too small by half.

One day the Rajah left his palace with an
escort of ten of his oldest and most trusted
soldiers and each soldier had charge of a
pack-horse carrying a share of the treasure.
His band travelled to the northwest for two
days, and then halted amidst the ruins of an
ancient city between the town of Jeypore
and the river Ganges. So much was learned
years after. At the end of five days the
Rajah returned to his palace, accompanied
only by a servant who had acted as cook.
This servant was locked in a dungeon, and
never seen again. No one dared to ask what
had become of him or the soldiers, and if any-
one suspected that the Rajah had removed
his treasure from the palace he wisely kept
his thoughts to himself, well knowing what
would follow a word of gossip.

Two months after the Rajah had taken
the field against the English at the head of a
thousand men he was killed in battle. A
month later his palace was captured, looted
of such treasure as the soldiers fancied, and
then destroyed by fire and explosion. The
treasure room was found by the soldiers, but
it was empty. From some of the servants it

was learned how and when the wealth had
been removed, but it could not be searched
for until the rebellion had been put down.
During the mutiny the soldiers were permit-
ted to loot right and left, but when peace
came the government reserved the right to
search for all treasure hidden away.

But little has ever been written on this
subject, though it is a fact beyond cavil that
money, gems and other things, valued at
\$10,000,000, were recovered and turned into
the government treasury. No sooner was
the government at Gwallor in working order
than a party in charge of an official was
started out to search for the Rajah's treasure.
By this time not a soldier or servant who
knew anything of the matter could be found.
It was simply known that the party had gone
away to the northwest. After several days'
search the treasure hunters came upon the
ruins, and thinking the spot to be a likely
place, they began to work. Here was a space
of half a mile square of standing and fallen
walls, with trees and bushes and vines grow-
ing in the greatest profusion, and a thousand
safe places in which to hide the treasure.
The party, which numbered four Englishmen
and sixty natives, went to work, however,
and it was five months before they quit in
despair. They reported to the government
that it would take a thousand men fully two
years to clear away the debris.

Soon after it had become generally known
that the party had given up the search a
native was arrested at Delhi charged
with the murder of two European women
at the outbreak of the mutiny. When he
was put on trial an English ensign testified
in his behalf and proved that it was
a case of mistaken identity. As soon as
the native was released from custody he
went to his preserver and declared that
he was one of the Rajah's soldiers who took
away the treasure. It was buried in the
ruins' he said, and when the work had been
finished the Rajah gave the party several
bottles of wine to drink to his health. This
wine was poisoned. Every man who partook
of it except this one died within two hours.
He was made very ill and simulated death to
escape the Rajah's dagger.

When the cold-blooded rulers departed,
leaving the dead to be devoured by beasts of
prey, the sole survivor crawled away and after
a time recovered and made good his escape.
He fought against the English to the last,
but was ready to divide the hidden treasure
with the man who had saved his life.
Just at this time the government offered 25
per cent. to finders of treasure, and the officer
and native proceeded to Jeypore and made
up a party. In due time they reached the
ruins, but only to find the treasure gone.
The native pointed out the spot where it had
been concealed and there was no doubt of
his veracity but some one had removed the
wealth. As it had been taken away during
the war it was almost useless to hope for a
clue but the native declared he would devote
the remainder of his days to following the
matter up.

It was three years before anything more
was learned of the Rajah's treasure. Then a
native who was confined in prison at Lucknow
for theft told a story which later on reached
the ears of the Government officials. During
the last six months of the war the regiment
to which he belonged was encamped for some
days near the old ruins. Nearly all the Na-
tives had come to realize that the English
rule would soon be restored, and this man
and five comrades decided to desert their
colors and make their way to the east. Be-
lieving they would be pursued if they started
off across the country, they secreted them-
selves among the ruins until their comrades
marched away. Then they clambered over
walls and stone heaps and crept amidst vines
and bushes until reaching the centre of the
ruins and finding a hiding place.

In removing some of the debris for their
own convenience they came across the trea-
sure, which was in teak wood and iron boxes.
Here was the ransom of the greatest king in
the world to be divided among six soldiers,
not one of whom had ever been possessed of
\$25 at once in his life, but yet the evil of
avarice soon entered into all hearts. In
making a division of the spoils they quarreled,
and within five minutes of the first hot words
three of them lay dead. The three survivors
were content that their shares had doubled,
but the question was, what to do with the
treasure. They could carry only a few hand-
fuls of it away on their persons, even if they
could find purchasers in those turbulent times.

After remaining in seclusion for two weeks,
and at a time when the neighborhood was
clear of troops, the treasure was carried a
distance of nine miles towards the Ganges
and reburied in a thicket. The three men
then started for Delhi, each having a few of
the gems with him, but within a week they
were captured by mutineers and two of them
shot down. The third was saved by influence,
and joined the troops and served to the end
of the war. He was at Lucknow, enlisting a
party to go after the treasure, when he com-
mitted a robbery and was sentenced to jail
for a year.

The government lost no time in investigat-
ing this story. The prisoner retold it to
officials, and added such detail as made it
plain that he was telling the truth. He was
promised a pardon and 10 per cent. of the
value of the treasure for acting as guide, and
he led a party straight to the spot. The hole
where the treasure had been buried was
speedily found, but of the gems and jewels
not one remained. The despoilers had in
turn been despoiled. It was a year before
another clue was found, and then it came
through a woman. She was the wife of a
ryot or farmer, and from a hiding place in
the thicket had seen the three soldiers bury
the boxes and caskets. Her husband was in
the rebel army, and after a few weeks, find-
ing the soldiers did not return for their booty,
she dug it up and reburied it in one of the
cultivated fields. Her husband was killed in
battle, and at the close of the war, when
bands of natives were riding about and
plundering right and left, her hut was one
day visited by a band of six scoundrels who
threatened her life. Being greatly terrified
by their actions she told them of the treasure,
and they were speedily in possession of it.
They decided to convey it down the Ganges
by boat. It was taken to the river on horses
by night, but instead of purchasing a craft,
they seized one by force and murdered the
crew of three men. The craft with the six

robbers on board was seen by various parties
during the next four days, but it was a month
later before the government got track of it.
Every effort was then made to discover what
had become of the men and their plunder.
It was found that the boat had reached Alla-
habad, where two men went ashore to pur-
chase supplies, and she was again seen by
various parties thirty miles below the city.
Then all traces of her were lost. Every sea-
port was watched and every dealer in gems
notified, but it was months before any new
developments took place. Then a villainous-
looking native offered some diamonds and
rubies for sale in Bombay, and was arrested.
He had on his person about \$50,000 worth
of unset gems.

For several weeks he refused any explana-
tions, but at length confessed that he was the
leader of the gang who got the treasure from
the woman. After passing Allahabad they
started to divide the treasure. As all were
grasping and avaricious, a quarrel soon arose
and in the height of this quarrel the boat ran
upon a snag and received such damages that
she soon filled and went down. Five of the
men and all of the treasure except that found
on this man went to the bottom in forty feet
of water. The fellow stubbornly refused to
name the locality or to go with a party, and
after a few weeks died in prison of fever.

A dozen different parties searched for the
wreck at much trouble and expense, but it
had been covered by mud or sand and could
not be found. Of the vast treasures of the
rebel Rajah, computed on good authority at
from \$17,000,000 to \$20,000,000, the trifling
amount found on the robber was alone re-
covered. Only last year a party under orders
of the government made a new attempt to
discover the wreck, but after a search of four
months gave it up in despair.—M. Quad in
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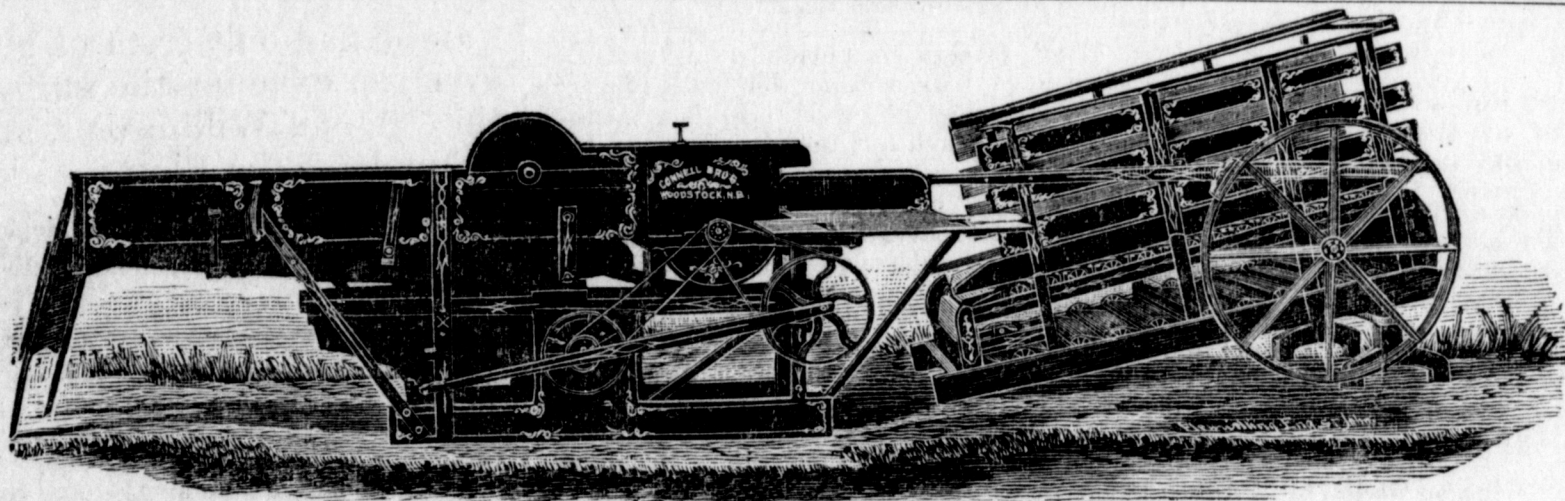
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