

## THE LONG, HARD HILL.

BY CY WARMAN.

They were standing in the sunlight  
Of the summer time of life;  
She was still without a husband,  
And her cheeks were rich and rosy,  
And her lips were luscious red,  
So he pressed her dimple fingers  
As he looked at her and said,  
As they stood there in the heather  
Where the road had crossed the rill:  
"May we not fare together  
Up this long, hard hill?"

Now her hand began to tremble  
And her eyes were full of tears  
As she trained them on the road that  
Wound away among the years;  
But she had no voice to answer  
Him: she could not understand,  
For the future lay before her  
Like a far-off fairy land.  
There was sunlight on the heather,  
There was music in the rill,  
As they went away together  
Up the long, hard hill.

Oftentimes the way was sunny,  
Other times 'twas full of lures,  
But the love that had come to them  
Was the true love that endures.  
Though the bonny brow is wrinkled,  
Though the raven lock is gray,  
Yet the road might have been rougher  
Had she gone the other way.  
Now the frost is on the heather  
And the snow is on the rill,  
And they're coasting down the short side  
Of the long, hard hill.

—New York Sun.

## IN HIS ISLAND PRISON.

## Dreyfus Lives a Life That Would Make Most Men Crazy.

Our ship, the Netherlands steamship Andalusia, was anchored off Devil's Island on April 1, after a visit to Cayenne, when we were hailed from shore. At the same time a small boat put off manned by soldiers. They came alongside to ask the captain for the loan of a cask while the Andalusia was waiting for freight. The cook of the little garrison had broken his arm, they said, and our cook was to teach one of their men, so that he might be able to attend to the kitchen until another was sent to the commander.

The captain sent me to the island, and while busy in the little kitchen instructing a soldier in the mysteries of broiling lamb chops and cooking pork I had plenty of opportunity to question Captain Dreyfus' guards. The men, who at first seemed disinclined to speak, became quite loquacious after awhile. "He" was not so ill treated as those in the world seemed to think, he is not confined; he can go everywhere on the island. Of course, two men are always at his heels. He gets up between 6 and 7 in the morning, and his first breakfast consists of a cup of chocolate. If the weather is good he goes for a walk soon afterward and winds up his promenade by a bath.

But are you not afraid he might away or commit suicide?" I asked.

Not at all, said the soldiers, for a rope is fastened to both his wrists, and the ends of the rope are in the hands of the guard. After the bath he takes his second breakfast—butter, bread, ham or eggs and a bottle of beer. Then he goes in for study. He reads and writes for several hours.

What kind of books has he got? The soldiers looked at each other. After awhile one of them said: He is only allowed to read technical works. But he can write whatever he pleases. He is now writing an account of his life.

Two weeks ago he received permission from the commander to play cards with the prisoner, and he has become an inveterate gambler since. After dinner—he has always soup, a roast and desert—about two o'clock in the afternoon we always play baccarat together.

What are the stakes?

The soldiers laughed. He has not got a sou, and there are probably not three francs on the island. We play for shells. The prisoner gets his supper at 6 in the evening—roast or ham and a bottle of beer.

Soon afterwards he goes to bed. He is not allowed to have light, you know. Only the guard at the door keeps up a wood fire. He says the hours from 7 to 10 are his worst. He cannot go to sleep before 10 o'clock and the guard is not allowed to answer any question he may put. In the day time we may talk to him, but only on the most trivial subjects, the weather, his health, etc. Our own country is not to be mentioned.

Is he allowed to smoke?

No, that is, I think he is not, for the commander does not furnish him tobacco?

May I leave some cigars for him?

The soldier did not answer. I emptied my tobacco pouch and my cigar case on the table. I hope he got what I left for him.

As I was about to return to my ship I saw a man followed by two soldiers, approaching from the stand. Dreyfus! He seemed to have heard of my presence and measured me with questioning looks. His lips moved but he did not speak. He is a middle-aged man, cadaverous, and of a yellow complexion. His eyes are deep in their sockets; he walks with a stoop, and his forehead is furrowed. He is growing old rapidly, no doubt.

Dreyfus whispered with his guard, and when the latter nodded his assent, walked up to me and shook me by the hand. "Bring my best wishes to the wide world," he said, in a voice quivering with emotion. Then he walked slowly toward his hut, where he remained standing at the door, waving his hand as the boat dashed into the billows.

Half an hour later we were on our way home. —Karl Weinheber, cook of the Netherlands Steamship, Andalusia, in Kuche and Keller, for May.

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## Cervera's Hard Luck.

A special correspondent of the Boston Herald says:—

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 12—Admiral Cervera is to be court-martialled for the loss of his fleet at Santiago upon his return to Spain, according to the information coming to his friends here, who strongly resent the injustice of such action and place the blame for the loss of the fleet upon Capt. Gen. Blanco, who is also, they claim, instigating the proposed court-martial proceeding against Admiral Cervera and his officers.

One of them made the following statement in defence of Admiral Cervera today:

"It is untrue that Admiral Cervera after leaving the Cape Verde islands and reaching the western islands was seeking to avoid the American fleet; and flying here and there to avoid a fight. Naturally his plans were different from those laid out for him to follow by the American board of strategy, for he was endeavoring to separate the American fleet, and engage them separately. We wanted to meet and fight them singly, but his misfortune would not permit him to do that. When he was nearly without coal, and being in need of some slight repairs to his ships, he naturally put in to Santiago, expecting there to find supplies to make what few repairs were needed, get provisions and proceed further, but there he was greatly disappointed.

"Through the interference of Gen. Blanco, he was prevented from carrying out his plans and the whole world knows the result. Gen. Blanco immediately communicated to Spain and asked the minister of marine to place Admiral Cervera and his fleet under his (Blanco) orders, making various representations, and explaining the necessity of such action from his standpoint, and his request was finally granted.

"It was simply a deep, diabolical trick on the part of Gen. Blanco. He foresaw disaster somewhere, and in case it should come he wanted to have some one high in authority upon whom he could place a portion, if not all, of the blame for any loss which might accrue to Spain, and for which he was held responsible.

"Gen. Blanco ordered Cervera to remain in Santiago and assist in the defence of the shore batteries. Admiral Cervera protested strongly against this and appealed to Spain but it is doubtful if his appeal ever reached the government. He asked to be allowed to coal up and then leave Santiago where he might be free to meet the American fleet, rather than to be bottled up in a blockaded harbor. He contended that he could not possibly be useful to Spain by remaining in Santiago harbor with the certainty of American ships coming to keep him there, whereas outside and free his strong fleet could be of great value to the Spanish cause. The answer of Gen. Blanco was that Admiral Cervera was now subject to his orders, and that he and not Admiral Cervera was in command of affairs in Cuba and that the admiral must obey his commands. Cervera could then do nothing.

"After the Merrimac affair which made the name of Lieut. Hobson immortal and made Admiral Cervera by his kindly treatment of the prisoners well regarded by Americans when he came to be a prisoner himself Cervera was fully aware that he could still get out of Santiago harbor, if given permission to do so. His immediate investigation showed that the channel was not entirely closed and that his ships could pass out. Finally when fully aware that the strong American fleets were waiting for him outside of the harbor as he was completely posted of the movements of the Americans at all times, he concluded that he would do his best to defend the city as it would at that time be certain destruction to attempt to run out of the harbor.

"The time to escape had already passed and he became resigned to do his best. Then one night an order came to him from Gen. Blanco, to be ready to sail out of the harbor within 24 hours and setting 1 o'clock in the morning for the time for departure, when, it was argued by Gen. Blanco, the Americans would be taken by surprise, and probably off their guard and that the escape could be made.

Admiral Cervera protested strongly against this maintaining that the American commanders were too shrewd not to double and treble their guard at night. He pointed out to Gen. Blanco that one o'clock in the morning would be a very bad time to start, if, indeed he should insist upon the order to get out of the harbor.

"Admiral Cervera did not know at that time of the villany of Blanco in telegraphing to Madrid asking that Cervera be removed from command of the fleet and Commodore Villami be placed in command. Then later

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when the fleet was destroyed he sent another telegram stating that it was the fault of the minister of marine in not heeding his advice and granting his request to remove Cervera.

"Blanco was fully aware that to leave Santiago meant the destruction of the fleet, and he wanted to again shift the blame and so made the request for the change which he knew would not and could not be made but he nevertheless had an excuse and some one to blame for not accepting his counsel. Gen. Blanco knew that the action which he ordered must mean the destruction of the fleet, and he actually hoped and believed that it would mean the death, believed that it would mean the death of Admiral Cervera so that dead he could not make answer to the charges which Blanco proposed to make against him.

"The same vile treachery of General Blanco is also shown in his conduct toward Gen. Toral, when he first ordered to surrender the city, when it became actually necessary to do so, and the siege could no longer be endured, and then publicly accused him of cowardice when he and his command had laid down their arms in honorable surrender.

"Every one of Admiral Cervera's crew, officers and men, knew that in attempting to escape from Santiago harbor at the time they did meant not only the loss of their vessel, but probably death to them. They knew that the course they were entering upon by order of Gen. Blanco was one of suicide, and all expected to find graves at the bottom of the sea. But the fleet would not have attempted the escape had it not been for the command of Blanco, and the only concession which Admiral Cervera could obtain from the captain-general was a change in the time of departure.

"It is true that Admiral Cervera and some of his officers and crew attempted to escape by swimming to the shore, but there they found another obstacle, and were fired upon by a force of men whom it was afterwards learned were Cubans, under command of Col. Candelaris Cebrecos. The Spaniards have no cause for complaint at the treatment received at their hands, for when the rank of their prisoners was ascertained, they were taken to the Cuban camp and afterwards surrendered to the American commanders, and distributed among the American ships.

"The remainder is all history, but the world at large has never known the real inside facts or the cause which led to the destruction of the Spanish navy, and the blame has never been properly attached. History knows that the Spanish Cape Verde fleet was destroyed by superior American forces, but does not know of the wilful treachery, incompetency and diabolical villainy of those who were responsible for it, and Admiral Cervera will, in the end, be vindicated."

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