

MUSIC OF THE CORN.

The grand armies of peace are encamping
afield,
There is no glint on the spear, no glaze on
the shield,
No flashing of helmet, nor the gleaming
of blade,
For the shaft of each weapon is with pearl
inlaid,
Their standards are glistening with the
dew of the dawn,
And glowing in splendor with the grow-
ing of morn,
And there's music far sweeter than the
clarion horn—
'Tis the life-giving music of the rustling
corn.

gazed at them thoughtfully. She was
small and brown-eyed, with golden
hair, and a radiant complexion; her
smile was entrancing. She picked up
the letters and re-read them. Then
she calmly tore them to bits.
"I've a notion to do it," she said to
herself. "Things are getting mixed.
They are ready to fly off the handle—
each so jealous of the other! I've got
to calm them down, till I can decide
which I—like."
Then she wrote to each man an hon-
est, casual, friendly letter, with no
trace of flirtation, or any sentiment
beyond friendship. They were much
alike. She told the news, hoped she
might see each man sometime before;
long addressed each as "Dear Mr.—"
and signed herself, "Sincerely your
friend, Margaret Benton."
She deliberately but Bobby's letter
into Ned's envelope, and Ned's into
Bobby's. Each, she thought, would,
after proper qualms, read the other
man's letter, return it to her with the
assurance that he had not read it, and
take fresh heart from her frankly un-
sentimental attitude to his rival. Thus
would she gain time, and peace. She
sealed, stamped and mailed the letters
with relief, and a little mischievous
glee in her heart.
But she reckoned without her hosts.
Up to a certain point her calculations
were correct however: each man re-
ceived the letter belonging to the other,
resolved virtuously not to read it, and
succumbed in the end, jubilant that
the lady of his desire had evidently no
love whatever for a rival; each put
the letter in his pocket intending to
return it, not to its owner proper, but
to Peggy herself. For on the spot,
each decided to run up Friday and sur-
prise Peggy. Each decided to declare
his love, and each, thanks to the letter
in his pocket, was sure the other had
no chance with her, and was confident
of winning. They received these let-
ters Wednesday.
About the same time Mrs. Benton
wrote a note to John Burton, 100 miles
north in Clayton.
"Dear Jack: I promised to write you
when I thought it would do you any
good to come. I think this is the time.
When a girl finds it hard to choose
between two men, it is ten to one she
wants a third man, and doesn't know
it. You are the third man, and the
right one. Yesterday Peggy grew very
angry when I mentioned Neil Forest.
Hadn't you better explain? Do it by
force if necessary; make her listen! She
deserves punishment for her treat-
ment of you. And I am so tired of
having Ned and Bobby about! Sincere-
ly yours,
"ELEANOR BENTON."
Friday came and found Peggy all
unconscious of three approaching sur-
prises. Jack Burton was speeding
along on a south-bound train; Bobby
from the east, and Ned from the west,
were complacently approaching her,
and—each other. For as fate and poor
railway connections would have it,
Ned had to pass Bentonville by 16
miles, and change cars at Flat Junc-
tion, where Bobby also changed cars
for the city of his lady-love. The
trains of both men were late; they
missed connections, and met, aston-
ished, but friendly, on the platform. It
was raining in floods, and there would
not be another train till morning.
They took a room together at the
little place that called itself a hotel,
and decided to make the best of it.
Thus it befell that gradually and cau-
tiously they compared notes. It all
began by Bobby magnanimously re-
turning Ned's letter, with the assur-
ance that he had not read it, by Ned's
astonished reciprocation of the com-
pliment, and the perusal by each of
his own letter, which he saw, with dis-
gusted amazement, was almost the du-
plicate of his rival's.
Then there were explanations, and
from being angry at each other, they
became angry at Peggy, for the whole
story came out—how each had been to
see her every two weeks, and how
each hoped to get her now that she
had broken with Burton.
Finally they went to bed, having
agreed to give her a thorough surprise.
Together they would visit her, declare
their love almost in unison, and make
her choose between them; each was to
abide by her decision, and to bear the
victim no ill-will. They agreed that
they had been friends too long to
quarrel about a girl. But in his heart
each man was sure that he would suc-
ceed.
They slept; so did Jack Burton in a
Bentonville hotel; and Peggy in her
dainty room at home. Saturday morn-
ing Ned and Bobby, immaculate, and
not suspecting the surprise they were
to spring upon themselves, sauntered
out to Peggy's. They went by the back
road to the old orchard. She might be
there, and they could take her entire-
ly unaware. She was there—and un-
aware of them with a vengeance.
As they came to a sudden turn in
the winding path, they stopped and
stared. Beneath an old apple tree, her
sweet face upturned, was Peggy—in
the arms of John Burton! Her pretty
laugh rippled out.
"It's all right about Ned, dear. Of
course you couldn't refuse when she
asked you to take her! She's so bold!
And the man didn't come on that busi-
ness? I was so silly. I'm—sorry
Jack! Here Jack asked a few ques-
tions, accompanied by a kiss.
"Those silly boys? Of course not!
I never loved anyone but you."
Jack kissed her again. "Not for
one little moment," she continued.
Ned and Bobby felt that she spoke the
truth. They turned unseen, and went
as they came.
"I think we can catch that noon
train," Ned observed dryly. But Bob-
by asked solemnly:
"Ned, will you please kiss me?"
Then the two men laughed.
The schools of vice are seldom re-
cruited from the homes where the
boys are treated as companions.

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War News
SUSPENSION OF HOSTILITIES.
Tokio, Oct. 20.—The Japanese government has decided to draw the attention of the Russian government to the unlawful action of Russian troops in using Chinese costumes. The notice will be served through the American state department, which will transmit it through the American embassy at St. Petersburg. A memorandum issued by the foreign office says that on October 4 a body of infantry belonging to a Russian regiment of sharpshooters, wearing Chinese costumes, attacked the Japanese forces on the Mukden road and that Russians similarly clad approached the Japanese lines and attempted surprise. Different reports received, it is charged, indicate that the Russians are purchasing enormous quantities of Chinese costumes.
St. Petersburg, Oct. 20.—For the moment heavy rains and impassable roads have compelled a suspension of operations in Manchuria. There was practically no fighting yesterday and none whatever last night.
Veiled hints continue to arrive that the Russians have recovered from the blow inflicted last week by Field Marshal Oyama and that Gen. Kuropatkin is preparing to renew the struggle as soon as the roads become dry.
The enforced cessation of operations by the bad weather gives both armies a chance to breathe and pull themselves together and would seem to ensure as much benefit to one side as the other. When operations recommence they will assume an entirely new phase.
RUSSIAN SHIPS DAMAGED.
Mukden, Oct. 21.—The hostile armies yesterday were concealed from view of each other by a dense fog, in which it was impossible to make out objects at a distance of 100 paces. Under such conditions only unimportant operations are possible, such as surprises and ambushes.
Che Foo, Oct. 21.—The most important recent events at Port Arthur include the capture by the Japanese of further minor positions near Riblung mountain and the severe damage of a Japanese torpedo boat destroyer by striking a floating mine.
According to Chinese advices which reached here Thursday and which are confirmed by Russian letters from Port Dalny, the Japanese made assaults on the remaining outer works of Riblung mountain at dawn October 8 and were repulsed. The following day the Russians made an attack on the Japanese trenches and they in turn were repulsed. The Japanese immediately followed with another assault, resulting in the capture of an iron railroad bridge and the heights south of the bridge, which is 500 yards from the main fortress.
At 10 o'clock in the morning of October 12 seven Russian torpedo boat destroyers emerged from the harbor of Port Arthur and later they were followed by two more destroyers. This squadron proceeded to Shaopingtau and bombarded the Japanese left flank. Four Japanese torpedo boat destroyers hurried to the scene and the Russians retired to the harbor, followed by the Japanese. The pursuit ceased upon entering the mined area. One Japanese destroyer while returning hit a mine and was severely damaged.
Meanwhile the Japanese siege guns continued to drop big shells in the harbor, the Japanese claiming that they damaged the Russian gunboat Giliak, which is alleged to have been hit three times. It is also believed that the funnel of another Russian warship was pierced.
WARRIORS ARE RESTING.
St. Petersburg, Oct. 22.—The rival armies of Russia and Japan entrenched a short distance from each other south of the Shakhe river are forced to continued inactivity until the fine weather now prevailing dries the sodden ground and the tired warriors are sufficiently rested to resume operations.
A dispatch from Mukden reports that the Russians yesterday confined themselves to a bombardment of Shakhe Station and the adjoining village of Lamatung, the Japanese feebly responding.
Russian correspondents report that some regiments of the Fifth Siberian corps have been engaged in slight skirmishes on the advance line the past few days. The fact that the First and Fifth Siberian were the only corps hitherto mentioned in reports of the fighting on October 19 shows that Gen. Kuropatkin has sent the reserves to the trenches, giving other much-tired corps a thorough rest. Meanwhile the Cossacks are raiding the Japanese lines.
Che Foo, Oct. 22.—News from Port Arthur brought to Che Foo by a junk which left there October 19 says a fierce bombardment which began October 16 was still progressing without interruption. Many buildings had been damaged and ships in the harbor had also been hit by shells, but the extent of the damages are not stated. The Japanese have placed guns of a large caliber on Iunghia mountain. The Russians continue making sorties successfully and inflicting heavy losses on the besiegers, whose losses since the commencement of the siege are said to have been 50,000.
Robber Shot Himself.
Newark, N. J., Oct. 22.—A daring attempt was made Friday to rob the J. S. Mundy machine works. The thief succeeded in carrying off several packages of money amounting to \$1,271, but was pursued and caught. Just as his pursuers reached him he placed a revolver at his head and fired twice, inflicting probably mortal wounds. Previously he had fired at but missed his pursuers. Before he lost consciousness he said his name was James Wilson and that he had no home. The packages containing the money were found in his coat pocket.

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