

# The Wings of the Morning

By LOUIS TRACY

CHAPTER XVII.—(Continued)

**R**OBERT, in calmer mood, informed them of the manner in which he hit upon the mine. The story sounded like wild romance—this finding of a volcano dyke guarded by the bones of "J. S." and the poison-filled quarry—but the production of some samples changed wonder into reality.

Next day a government metallurgist estimated the value of the contents of the two oil-tins at about \$500, yet the specimens brought from the island were not by any means the richest known.

And now there is not much more to tell of Rainbow Island and its castaways. On the day that Captain Robert Anstruther's name appeared in the *Gazette*, reinstating him to his rank and regiment, Iris and he were married in the English church at Hongkong; for it was his wife's wish that the place where he had won his kingdom should also witness his triumph.

A good-natured admiral decided that the urgent requirements of the British navy should bring El M. S. Orient to the island before the date fixed for the ceremony. Lieutenant Playdon officiated as best man, while the Orient was left so scandalously short-handed for many hours that a hostile naval force took her side might have ventured to attack her.

Soon afterward Robert resigned his commission. He regretted the necessity, but the demands of his new sphere in life rendered this step imperative. Mining engineers, laborers, stores, portable houses, tools and equipment were all obtained with all hands, and a party started on board of Sir Arthur's steamer to convey a small steamer specially hired to attend to the wants of the miners.

At last, one evening, early in July, the two vessels anchored outside Fairmount Rock, and Mr. Jan could be seen running frantically along the shore, for no valid reason, so that they could not stand still. The sailor brought him good news. The Governor of Hongkong felt that any reasonable request made by Anstruther should be granted if possible. He had written such a strong representation of the Mohammedan's case to the Government of India that there was little doubt the returning mail would convey an official notification that Mr. Jan, formerly a cook in the *Kumang Ressia*, who once killed a man, had been granted a free pardon.

The mining experts verified Robert's most sanguine views after a very brief examination of the deposit. Hardly any preliminary work was needed. In twenty-four hours a small concentrating plant was set up and the crude ore drawn off the carbonic anhydride in the valley. After dusk a party of coolies cleared the quarry of its former occupants. Toward the close of the following day, when the great steamer once more slowly turned her head to the northwest, Iris could hear the death-thud of an engine at work on the first compartment of the hull.

Robert had been busy up to the last moment. There was so much to be done in a short space of time. The vessel carried a large number of passengers, and he did not wish to detain them too long, though they one and all expressed their willingness to suit his convenience in this respect.

He had his share of the necessary preparations was concluded. His wife, Sir Arthur and his uncle were gathered in a corner of the promenade deck when he approached and told them that his last instruction ashore was for a light to be fixed on Summit Rock, as soon as the dynamo was in working order.

"When we all come back in the cold winter," he explained gaily, "we will not imitate the Sirdar by running on the reef, should we arrive by night."

Iris answered not. Her blue eyes were fixed on the fast receding cliffs.

"Sweetheart," said her husband, "why are you so silent?"

She turned to him. The light of the setting sun illuminated her face with its golden radiance.

"Because I am so happy," she said. "Oh, Robert dear, so happy and thankful!"

POSTSCRIPT

The latest news of Colonel and Mrs. Anstruther is contained in a letter written by an elderly maiden lady, resident in the North Riding of Yorkshire, to a friend in London. It is dated some four years after the events already recorded.

Although his information is garbled and, to a certain extent, inaccurate, those who have followed the adventures of the young couple under discussion will be able to appreciate the opinions at their true value. When the unknown fate of course, her existence is unquestionable, but occasionally she founders badly when she depends upon her own judgment.

Here is the letter:

"My dear Helen—I have not seen or heard of you during so long a time that I am simply dying to tell you all that is happening here. You will remember that some people named Anstruther bought the Fairlawn estate near our village some three years ago. They are as you know, enormously rich. The doctor tells me that they are not squandering their wealth, but the writhed Chinese who dig it in barrels loads out of some magic island in the Atlantic or the Pacific—I really forget which."

"Anyhow, they could afford to entertain much more than they do. Mrs. Anstruther is very nice, though, and she seems to be a leader of society if she chose, but she seems to be in the sun, but she has had her happiness. She has a boy and a girl, very charming children. I admit, we do not see her without them. They have a French home apiece, and a most murderous-looking person—a Mohammedan native, I believe—strolls alongside and behaves as if he would instantly decapitate any person who he chose. Such a proportion you never saw. Mrs. Anstruther's devotion to her husband is too absurd. He is a tall, handsome man, of distinguished appearance, but on the few occasions I have spoken to him he impressed me as somewhat taciturn. Yet to see the way in which his wife even looks at him, you would think that he had no equal in the world."

"Believe there is some secret in their lives. Colonel Anstruther used to be in the army—he is now in command of our local yeomanry—and although his name is Robert's, not court. I have often heard Mrs. Anstruther call him 'Junks.' Their boy, too, is christened 'Robert Junks' Anstruther."

"The old school is well attended, especially about them in town circles. I particularly wish to find out who is this person 'Junks'—a most vulgar name. I am sure you will unearth something curious, because Mrs. Anstruther was a Miss Deane, daughter of the baronet, and Anstruther's people are well known in Yorkshire. There are also the Junks connected with them, either side."

"I think I can help you by another clue, as a very odd incident occurred at our hunt hall last week. The Anstruthers, I must tell you, usually go away for the winter, to China, or to their fabulous island. This year they remained at home, and Colonel Anstruther sent M. F. H., as he is called, to meet them, as far as sport and charity are concerned."

"Well, dear, the Dodgsons—you remember the Dodges—those people having consented to enter County society, invited the Earl of Veston down for the ball. He, it seems, knew nothing about Mrs. Anstruther being M. F. H., and, of course, Mrs. Anstruther resented this. The master of the ball, her son, was very angry, and said he did not care to meet her, and left for London by the next train. The Dodges were awfully annoyed with him, and Mrs. Dodges had the bad taste to tell Mrs. Anstruther all about it. And what do you think our Lord Veston said? He said my son had been frightened. My husband was not there, but young Barker told me that Mrs. Anstruther looked very impressive as she said this. 'Blowing' was not good, but young Barker is in the most beautiful shape, and he is very

handsome, they say."

## Deaths

**A**NTHONY.—Oct. 8. JOHN J. JR., age of 61, son of John W. Anthony, aged 61, and Elizabeth A. St. John, and E. C. St. John's son, Ward Counselor, in residence, 100 N. Broad st., Philadelphia, died Saturday morning. Services were held at the Cathedral of St. Peter, 100 N. Broad st., at 10 a.m. Int. Holy Sepulchre Church.

**B**ABE.—Oct. 8. ALICE T., wife of John Ault and daughter of Sarah and late John Ault, in residence, 2811 Amber st., Germantown, 10 a.m. Int. Holy Sepulchre Church.

**C**ARL.—Oct. 8. EDWARD, son of John Ault and wife, Alice, in residence, 2811 Amber st., Germantown, 10 a.m. Int. Holy Sepulchre Church.

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