



CHAPTER XIV—CONTINUED.

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CHAPTER XV

CECIL AT THE REGATTA.

Whereby had the wonderful change been wrought? It had come about of itself, it had been the result of an effort, of no ingenuity, no ability.

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We generally think of Siberia as a desolate province where the victims of "darkest Russia" are locked out of the world; but this immense region of the earth has vast tracts of fertile land, and the new road will prepare the way for a flood of cheap grain to inundate the markets of Europe and appal the European farmer.

Such a vast speculative enterprise as this, spanning over a fifth of the circumference of the earth and costing \$125,000,000 for construction, could hardly be carried through in any other country than Russia, where the co-operation of the Czar counts for everything.

When this road is completed and unites Asia and Europe its influence upon the destinies of the East will be incalculable. Every European country having possessions in the Orient will be set in the heart of the Eastern continent.

It may mean, too, that Russia, and not the United States, is yet to supply Europe with bread, for another United States, for purposes of supply, will be set up in the heart of the Eastern continent.

The world is wide. The vast resources locked up in the almost boundless Russian empire are relatively untouched as yet, to say nothing of the possible capacities of the oriental nations for the future.

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