

CHRONICLES CHAPTER III.

BY "GHEVGELI."

Now it came to pass that after many days sojourn in the desert, the Joakems grew exceedingly weary and sore in spirit. Moreover as the days multiplied they were nigh sick unto death of the scorching sand, and pests of flies, and they cried with a loud voice, saying—
"Wherefore have we been taken out of the Land of the Greeks, which was a goodly land, and lain aside in the desert. Yea, verily, we shalt surely turn to dead men, even like unto the mummies of the Pharaohs themselves. Were not our officers the greatest among all the physicians in the land of Massey the Hittite, and are not our men strong and sinewy men, and well practised in their work." And they further reasoned together among themselves, saying—
"Behold our High Priest hath thrice started anew in the field, and hath get unto him much knowledge in the organisation thereof: should, therefore, the boastful Medes and Persians, who sit in their chariots in the quiet city be likened unto him, for his wisdom is great, and who shalt declare his understanding."

And before these days two ships had crossed over the waters from the Seas of the South, even from the chief port of the land of Massey the Hittite; and the ships were for the taking of the wounded from the battlefield to another shore. And the staff of the first ship were given great power, and by many they were reckoned like unto the tin gods of old. Their military officers were all powerful on the sea, and were great navigators. Moreover, many of the officers and men did claim to have their attestation parchments witnessed by the Governor of the land. And a certain Dunbar, a Salonite, had mapped out great plans for keeping the records of the wounded, and many other new and costly things were done in keeping with the great monies bestowed upon them by the

people of the land of Massey the Hittite. But, behold as the days passed by the ships for taking the wounded multiplied greatly in the seas, and there was little for the ships from the South to do, and the people of the Land of Massey the Hittite repented that they had subscribed such great monies to these ships, and that they had bestowed such greatness on the staff thereof: "For," they said, "rather had we given some of the money to cheer our soldiers in the hospitals in the field of battle."

Now about this time the forces of Massey the Hittite were great in the land of the Pharaohs. And they that arrived last in the land received much persecution from the remnants of them that arrived first. And the latter spake unto the former, saying—"Wherefore dost thou come to help at such a late hour, for behold the trumpets of the King and of Massey the Hittite have sounded loud and long, even for the space of six hundred and fourteen days. And the accused answered their tormentors, saying—"Be not hard with us, good sirs, but rejoice that we are now here with thee in repentance thereof for our wrongs; far rather that thou shouldst stay thine anger for them who are still in the land of Massey the Hittite, who have not yet gone forth to give battle to the Huns—many of whom hide behind the petty garments of certain of the weaker women of the land, and all of whom are indifferent to the call of the Great High Priest Jimallan."

And it came to pass in the fourth month of the year that most of the forces from the land of Massey the Hittite left the sands of Egypt, and there was great rejoicing among them.

And after they had gone the men of Western Asia drew their forces towards the Canal, even to the waters which join the Great Sea with the Oceans of the South. And at divers times they attacked portions of our army, even across the desert from Ismailia. Moreover, they brought cars through the air, from which they flung deadly missiles on the city of Port Said; and when two Joakems, to wit, Bartholomew the Apothecary,

AIRCRAFT.

BY S. G. JONES.

and Staffe, King of the Mungaree, who had journeyed quietly in chariots to Port Said, heard the crashing thereof, they immediately fled to camp. And great was the rejoicing in camp that they had received no hurt, though they were slightly stunned.

And the fourth month grew on even until the last day, and the Joakems were very disconsolate in heart, "for, lo!" they said, "even shall it be as Hazard the Sorcerer hath said.—"No man of the Joakems shall leave the sandy desert of Egypt until seven times seventy and seven days."

But, behold! at midnight on the same day a bright light appeared before the Prophet Lonedale in a dream, and a voice of great might spake unto him, saying—

"Be not afraid for I speak unto thee words of comfort and of wisdom."

"Many days hast thou and all the Joakems laboured in this land of sand and flies, and in other lands, but the time is at hand."

"Before thirty and seven days have passed away thou shalt remove from this land, and the place on which thou standest shall know thee no more."

"Be just and aspire to wisdom; be of noble thought; and when thou sittest in the taverns take not so freely of spirits which only harm the body."

And Lonedale the Prophet trembled greatly, and his knees smote one against the other, and he bowed himself many times in his dream. And when his courage came he asked of the spirit when the great war would cease. And the spirit answered him saying—"Lo! the reapers shall go forth twice to reap the golden grain, yet the end shall not be. But, lo! in the last year thereof when the trees become yellow in the leaf, and the Autumn winds stir the branches, then thou shalt know that the end has come."

And Lonedale, the Prophet, awoke from his slumbers, and told all the Joakems even as the vision had spoken unto him.

Aviation, up to 1914, was only a sporting proposition, until, on the outbreak of hostilities the military powers became aware of the immense possibilities of the flying machine. This brought about the miraculous transformation of all aircraft. Previous to this both England and Germany were almost entirely dependent on France for their engines. The machines used in both countries were mostly Bleriot's, Voisin, Antoinettes, Poulhan, Farman and the wonderful little Wright.

The first step in military aviation really took place in 1912, when Germany first began to doubt the efficiency of her Zeppelins and to turn her attention to the creation an aeroplane fleet. At that time she was dependent on France for the motors and the rotary Gnome figured largely in German sporting events. The change was rapid: under military direction the automobile factories of Germany devoted themselves to the task of producing a strong, reliable water cooled fixed engine motor, refusing anything in the nature of the French Gnome. The outcome of their efforts, was a machine called the Albatross. This machine was fitted with a Mercedes, six cylinder 100 horsepower motor, that proved insufficient for an armoured, long distance machine, but quite satisfactory so far as short flights for reconnaissance were concerned. It is interesting to recall that the first Albatross to visit Salonika, on a raiding expedition, was brought down with the first shell from an Indian Howitzer Battery, the bursting shrapnel being easily discernible from our Hospital. Their next attempt was the Taube which was for a while, thought the acme of aviation. This machine is a tractor screw biplane, possessing an exceptional turn of speed, and climbing power. It is engined with a Mercedes motor of 120 horse-power, and has a mounting of one Maxim gun. It is easily distinguished on account of its short