### SYNOPSIS.

The story opens with the introduction of John Stephens, adventurer, a Massachusetts man marconed by nuthorites at Valparaiso, Chile. Being interested in mining operations in Bolivia, he was denounced by Chile as an insurrectionist and as a consequence was hiding. At his botel his attention was attracted by an Englishman and a young woman from a drunken officer. He was thanked by her. Admiral of the Peruvian navy confronted Stephens, told him that war had been declared between Chile and Peru and offered him the office of captain. He desired that that night the Esmeraida, a Chilean vesmel, should be captured. Stephens accepted the commission. Stephens met a motley crew, to which he was assigned. He gave them final instructions. They boarded the vessel. They successfully captured the vessel supposed to be the Esmeraida, through strategy. Capt. Stephens gave directions for the departure of the craft. He entered the cabin and discovered the English woman and her maid. Stephens quickly learned the wrong vessel had been captured. It was Lord Darlington's private yasht, the lord's wife and maid being aboard. He explained the situation to her lady-ship. Then First Mate Tuttle laid bure the plot, saving that the Sea Queen had been taken in order to go to the Autarctic circle. Tuttis explained that on a former voyage he had learned that the Donna Isabel was lost in 1753. He had found it frozen in a huge case of ice on an island and contained much gold. Stephens consented to be the captain of the expedition. He told Lady Darlington. She was greatly alarmed, but expressed confidence in him. The Sea Queen hand here the sea queen headed south again. Under Tuttle's guidance the vessel made progress toward its goal. De Nova, the mate, told Stephens that he believed Tuttle, now acting as skipper, inspiration, English was a staken ill. Tuttle committed suicide by shooting. Upon vote of the crew. Stephens assumed the leadership and the men decided to continue the transite here in the grip of a spasm of religious mails and overcame out in a life boat. Ten were rescued. Stephens saw only one chance in a thousand for life. Lady Darlington confessed her love to Stephens and he did likewise. Lady Darlington told her life story; how she had been bartered for a title, her yearning for absent love. She revealed herself as the school chum of Stephens' sister. She expressed a wish to die in the sea rather than face her former friends and go back to the old life. A ship was sighted. The craft proved to be a derelict. They bearded her. She was frozen tight with hundreds of years of ice. The vessel was the Donna Isabel, lost in 1753, 125 years previous. The frozen bodies of the former crew were removed. They read the log of the Isabel, which told how the Spaniards had died from cold, one by one. Lady Darlington sang to prevent the men from becoming moody. The crew commenced the hunt for freasure. They found the iron chest, said to contain a part of 3,000,000 pesos, firmly imbedded in ice.

## CHAPTER XXVI.-Continued.

"By God, mates, there's one of 'em, anyhow!" roared a voice, hoarse from exploding excitement. But I was already upon my knees, feeling blindly into the ice cavity. They came howling about me like

so many wolves, eager to see with their own eyes, but I crowded them back, snatching the candle from De Nova's fingers and throwing the flickering light down level with the deck. "It's a brass-bound chest, men," I

cried, straightening up and facing "But it is going to require some hard digging to get it out. About all I can see is the handle of it." I never comprehended before how

the passion and lust for gold can express itself upon men's faces. Tense, motionless, breathing heavily, their features drawn, their eyes gleaming feverishly in the yellow flame, they stared at me and then at that ice-front, demented and speechless. No one thought of where we were-castaways, our lives the sport of winds and waves, a sodden wreck under us, our nearest port a thousand miles away across a stormy sea; all we realized at that moment was that there, just before us, under that mantle of ice, lay buried three million pesos. God! the collar of my jacket seemed choking me; I breathed as if a man's fingers clutched my throat, and I saw McKnight's burly form shaking as if be had an ague fit. Three million pesos! The hot blood rushed to my head, a lava stream, and De Nova's face, white as chalk behind his little black mustaches, seemed dancing before me ghostlike. Damn him! the fellow made me think of Salvatore, the man who, just above, frozen and dead, had guarded this treasure for 126 years. I cast the suggestion aside with a curse and a laugh, grasping Kelly by the shoulder to steady myself-to realize these were real men, this task before us real work. It was like coming forth from under an anaesthetic, leaving me weak as a child, yet with brain and faculties aroused to action. Johnson thrust forward the cleaver.

"Let me get in there, sir; I'm the man for a cuttin' job."

They Came Howling About Me Like So Many Wolves, Eager to See. fell slashing against the front of the jory of it-until I bring you back to

real life again."

sition returning.

us.

"I do not need it, sweetheart," and

"Oh, no; you would have recovered

"I certainly shall not spare you to

She laughed, her happiness of dispo-

"That would be useless; they are of

See how excited Celeste is. Perhaps

foolish here-here," and she swept

ture, "when we know it can be ours

only for a day, or at most a week."

"But we have not given up hope," I

"Even in case of that miracle I want

below. It will never do good to any

living and the dead guarded it, and

It is not superstition but faith which

will never make port; that gold be-

be left where it is, buried in the ice."

castles; but do you come out on deck

with me, where the sea and sky will

Comprehending only vaguely what

spell of her presence I went gladly

treasure imbedded in the ice below.

CHAPTER XXVII.

would mutiny."

give us other thoughts."

low will never do a soul on board

"Only two of you men can work An axman, with a helper to know how it ever laid such hold upon haul back the ice out of the way, is me, but the thought of all that wealth all we need. Any more would only below drove me as mad as the others. be in the way; besides, some of us You see how much I need you." ought to be on deck. It is going to require hours, maybe days, to get that without my help, although it might chest out, and meanwhile we must sail bave required more time to complete this vessel and keep her right side up. a cure. But I fear there is no hope The thing to do is to arrange relays, for the men." and keep at it steady. Johnson, you and Kelly go to work first. The rest minister to them." of us will climb up into the cabin, and figure it out."

They went along with me up the ladder as though they were prisoners, casting the last lingering glances below, where the weird flame of the clustered about the stove, welcoming below decks, although we had been scarcely conscious of it in our excitement. But now we stood shivering. gazing into each others' faces and actually afraid to talk lest the whole occurrence should prove a dream from which a chance word might awaken us. Three million pesos-here, actually here; almost within reach of our hands; they were digging for them just below; even then, in the stience, we could hear the faint echo of blows being struck against the ice. Three million pesos!-and it was all ours. our very own-to-divide, to spend, to do with exactly as we pleased. We had dreamed about all this before, on the decks of the ill-fated Sea Queen, but now we sought to grasp it as an actual existing fact, and our minds seemed paralyzed by the knowledge. I even forgot that Doris was present until she touched me gently on the shoulder, and I looked down into her questioning eyes.

"Do you not know what we have just discovered below?" I asked, still tingling to the marvel of it. "The treasure, the Spanish treasure!"

"Oh, yes," but the soft voice seemed tinged with sadness. "Yet it does not greatly interest me. Money seems so little here, so utterly valueless."

The simple words, the tone of their utterance brought me to myself as enough, forgetting utterly that useless though I had received an electric shock. She was still smiling, yet all at once I noticed how white her face was, how dark the shadows beneath her eyes. The lure of the gold vanished from my mind, as if some wizard's wand had waved it away. thought of the treacherous sea without, the life and death struggle before from hope. My hands clasped hers, the expression of love in my eyes

brightening her face instantly. said tenderly. "I knew it was only being carried on between decks. It before the desired result is effected, the madness of a moment which I stepped aside and the broad blade deck with me until you lose all mem- them reaming aimlessly about the this method

cavity.

to block and tackle, and even then experienced no small difficulty in dragging it away from the ice grip. Under the dim candlelight it appeared a fairsized sea-chest, constructed of some heavy, dark wood, and bound securely by metal bands, with a cumbersome lock. A considerable quantity of water from somewhere continued to seep down into the lazarette, making the floor an icy puddle, and so we tailed on to the ropes again, and hoisted the chest up through the trap-door out upon the cabin deck. I could find no keys in any of the state-rooms, and we must have been half an hour breaking the rusty lock and prying open the lid, the only sounds audible the blows struck and the heavy breathing of the men. Finally we wrenched apart the last band, and our eager eyes beheld the revealed contents-pieces-ofeight, yellow and level to the top! There was a wild yell, a flerce scramble, the crazed men digging their fingers into the coins, handling them, fondling them, laughing and crying like children in their excitement, and cursing each other as they struggled for a chance at the box. For the moment, staring down at the dull glow of the metal, I even lost control of myself, scarcely aware of the mad uproar. It was actually there—there before me! That old Spanish record had all been true; here, and beneath that ice between decks lay the remainderthree million pesos! Here was the wealth of a king; here, almost within reach of our hands, and it was all ours -ours, if we could only bring it forth to where it possessed value. If we only could! The thought

"That's enough, men. This is part of the treasure all right, but there is anything but harm. I wish it could no occasion for you to go crazy over it. Put those coins back-do you hear, "At such a suggestion the men McKnight?-put them back, and we'll shut down the lid. They're nice to "I suppose so," she acknowledged look at, and dream over, but that's sadly, "and the end will be the same about all the good we'll ever get of in either case. But I want you to be them. Were there any signs of othdifferent. Let them build their air ers down there in the ice, Johnson?"

Hot Water Cure for Insomnia.

To insure the benefit of the hot wa she meant, yet beneath the witching ter, it must be taken off the fire the moment it bolls-not just before or after -and poured at once into a cup or glass. Then it should be taken while very hot. A little practice will enable one to swallow it at little less than the boiling point, and in addition to In Which the Treasure Causes Trouble the proper temperature, the proper But the men did not forget, or cease time must be observed. It is most efin their eager efforts to rescue that ficacious in curing indigestion and imfrozen gold from the grasp of the ice. proving the general tone of the system By this time, thoroughly convinced if taken immediately on waking in the us, those dreary leagues separating us myself that our final preservation of morning, again an hour before lunch this wealth would prove impossible, I and an hour before dinner also, and was still far from devoid of interest to drink two glassfuls on retiring will in its recovery, and consequently almost positively insure sound sleep "That is so much better, Jack," she | made no effort to interrupt the work | It may require two or three days' trial was better that the men be busy and but once gained it can be held withcaused you to forget. Come out on their minds occupied than to have out interruntion by faithfully pursuing

#### gone there within the past few years have had that much more value added to their holdings. There is proof here that as a field for investment there is nowhere to be found a more profitable one than in purchasing farm lands in Canada. And, as a field for occupation and working the farms there is nowhere on the continent where more satisfactory return is

decks in discontent, now that the ship and weather gave us little occasion for concern. Here they vigorously plied the cleaver, working in relays of two hours each, during the remainder of the day and night. After breakfast had been served we all of us went below to unite our strength in hauling forth the loosened box from the Ice

We accomplished this by resorting

struck me like a blow. I knew the truth, the truth. There was not one men, even the mate, blinded by the gold-lust had ignored facts plain as day to me-the terrible listing of the ship to port, the constant seeping of water into the hold, the increasing soddenness of the staggering hull-all these combined to tell the story-that the Donna Isabel was doomed. No power of men, situated as we were. could ever save her. The protecting ice-sheath, by help of which she had drifted ghost-like out of the Antarctic, pounded by the fierce seas, loosened by the milder air of more northern different stamp. The fever for sudden latitudes, had already commenced to wealth is in the blood of all of us. flake off, and the invading water was discovering crevices everywhere along candle flickered yellow, the blows of if I had ever experienced poverty I her ancient seams. We had come to the cleaver echoing sharply as they might be crazed also. But it is so the gold; we had discovered it; it was ours. But we could only gaze on the warmth of it. It had been frigid her hands about in comprehensive ges- it, and give it back to the ocean in exchange for our lives. I straightened up, my lips compressed, and looked beyond the struggling figures of the men protested. "Why should we? The into Doris' questioning gray eyes. Donna Isabel seems stanch beneath Father of Mercy, I possessed something worth more than money-the love of a woman! Ay, but what of nothing to do with this treasure," she the men? What of the men? It would said gravely. "It seems to me, Jack, be cutting their hearts out; yet it there must be a curse upon that gold must be done-done, if necessary, with all the brutality of a slave driver. She human being. It was stolen by the had said this treasure was a curse, a sword, won for Spain by the shedding legacy of prime and death, a prize of blood, and has since cursed this for dead men. Not while I retained ship and all who sailed in her. The mind and body to battle should it cost our lives, I pushed De Nova backnow we have come into its evil clutch. ward, and planted myself across the open chest, scowling into the uplifted, makes me say this-the Donna Isabel

angry faces. (TO BE CONTINUED.)

from a rallway station. Roads are good, and big loads are easily handled. The price of getting grain to the primary market is low on this account, and then in reaching the world's markets the railways have their rates con-

value this Spring from fifteen to twenty per cent, and as a result of this

increase thousands of those who have

given. The crops are always sure and

the prices are always good. With

railroads entering and traversing all the settled parts, there are very few

districts in which the farmer will be

more than from ten to twelve miles

trolled by the Government, and what may be considered a fair deal is certain. Good prices for all kinds of grain is the rule, and if the investor has made good money by the increased value given to his unworked land, it is not difficult to understand that the profit to the man who works his land is just that much more, and there will be no depreciation. The man who holds a free homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he got for \$10 as an entry fee, has land which at its lowest estimate is worth \$10 an acre—yes, \$15 an acre -the moment he has completed his three years' residence duties. It will continue to increase in value until its earning power gives a reasonable interest on a certain sum. That is, if he takes off the land fifteen to twenty dollars per acre clear profit each year, his land is worth to him, at a fair rate of interest, \$200 an acre. If he only realizes \$10 an acre clear profit, it is worth \$100 per acre. Now, thou-sands of farmers are duplicating these figures. The price of land in Canada to-day is much less than its realizing

sand Americans who went to Canada year before last were followed by one hundred thousand last year offers some evidence, and good evidence, too, that there is getting to be a pretty fair knowledge that money is to be made in Canada lands. As an investment money is to be made, but more by living upon the land, secured either by homestead or purchase. The one hundred thousand of last year will be one hundred and fifty thousand this year. These comprise people from every state in the Union, and it is just being here at once," I put in hastily. "Hold I bent low, looking into her eyes. "The chance in a thousand—not one. I realized the asset that awaits the on, Johnson, until we get this ship fever has left my blood. I hardly made no effort to deceive myself. The homeseeker in Canada. The large numbers that have gone, though, makes no appreciable difference in the supply of land. There is still left vast quantities of the best of it. But the longer a delay is made in arriving at a decision, the price will advance proportionately, and the more destrable homesteads near the railway

value. The fact that the fifty thou-

agents) will be pleased to assist in any way possible in the choice of lo-Willing to Help. "If we didn't have the children," she bitterly declared, "I'd get a divorce from you." "I'll write and see if I can't get my folks to take them."

Spoiling It. "I've noticed that all unusually tall women are graceful."

"Thank you, Mr. Feathertop." "Why, Miss Flossie-aw-you're not unusually tall, you know."

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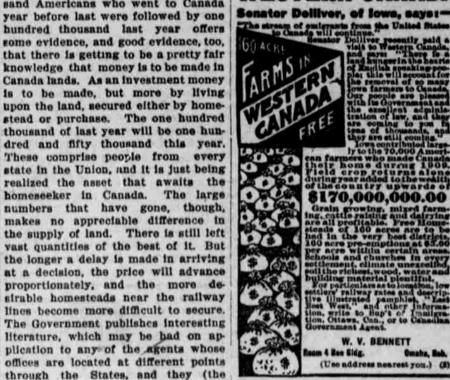
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