



CHAPTER VII.—(Continued.)

She was now about a mile and a half distant, and it was but a little after 2 o'clock. The wind was very near south, and the schooner was heading a very little north of northwest; the brig was upon the schooner's larboard or weather quarter, and heading about north by east, the direct line of her course striking ahead of the former. And thus they stood on fifteen minutes more.

CHAPTER VIII.

It was soon found that the relative speed of the two vessels was much changed by the position the schooner had now assumed. Before, the brig had been going rapidly, but now she was not so fast. She had changed her course when the schooner changed hers, and she must either now follow in the latter's wake or yaw about at a disadvantage.

"Yes, I do," returned Sloan. "Think ye can fetch him?" "Ef he was a bar I'd bet on startin' him."

"Then try it; your rifle is just a hair the smartest throwin' in the crowd. Draw on him."

Jack Sloan took his rifle and raised the hammer just so as to be sure that the cap was pressed down, and then he moved to the taffrail. His weapon was a beauty, and yet he claimed that it was better than it looked. He raised it to his arm and cocked it; the Mexican still stood upon the brig's bowsprit, with his right hand aloft upon the forestay, gazing after the schooner, probably to note how much they gained upon the chase.

"Hi!" cried Max, as he drove a slug into his rifle, "see them bloody scamps in the foretop. Mac, you take him as is on the starboard side, and you, Lascon, pick off that one a leavin' agin the larboard rigging. Go it! Remember what old Sam Houston told us at San Jacinto!"

seen to leap up and then settle down with his head bowed between his knees. One was dead sure; and the other was, in all probability, unfit for duty.

Howard found that the schooner was very easily managed, and having called Peter to come and take the helm, and explained to him the peculiar motions he was to look out for, he took the glass and gazed off upon the brig.

"Well," he said, "still keeping the glass to his eye and watching the movements of the Mexicans the while, 'they are beginning to get out of the way of our shots. Ha—there is one with—'"

But before he could finish his sentence, the quick eye of Adams, the oldest man of the crew, had caught the Mexican, and he had fired. The fellow had just raised his head above the rail by the bowsprit. As the old man's rifle was discharged he leaped up—stood for an instant like one in a sudden fright—and then fell over backward.

"You hit him in the head," said Clarence, who kept the glass to his eye. "By the mass, but they have taken the fright—had look sharp, some of you. There are two men crouching along after the man last shot; they may raise their heads when they lift the body up."

And so it proved. In a few moments more two heads were seen to pop up above the rail, and on the instant both Max and Sloan fired.

"One of them drops!" cried Clarence; "and perhaps both." "I couldn't tell whether the other dodged of his own accord or not."

The schooner was still running off wind-and-wing, and the brig was directly in her wake, and now, at 3 o'clock, about three-quarters of a mile distant. The latter craft gained but slowly now. Could she have had her course in any other direction, she would have overhauled the schooner ere this; and even now, could she have had studding sails to keep her on, she might increase her speed one quarter at least. But she had no studding sails set, and that seemed pretty good evidence that she had none.

The next ten minutes after Max and Sloan had fired together, not a human head was seen above the brig's rail. The man at the brig's helm was hidden by the foot of the foresail.

"Look ye," uttered Max Winter, starting into new life under the influence of a new thought, "we ken never take them chaps from here, but two men on them cross-trees can pick 'em off good. Jack, will you go up with me?"

"Yes, I will," replied Sloan, energetically.

"Cap'n Howard, you ken fix the haulin' lines, and my men ken load the rifles as fast as we ken fire 'em."

"All right," returned Clarence. "Go up at once, and I'll see that you have your rifles as fast as you can want them."

Four lines were procured and taken up to the cross-trees at the maintop, and when the two men reached the place, they made them fast there. Thus they had two lines each, by means of which each could have one down after the fresh rifle while he was firing another from the top.

"Aha!" cried Max, as he had perched himself snugly in his place, "I ken see 'em now."

Two rifles were sent up, and as soon as they were fired they were sent down and two others hauled up. They were fired without being cast clear from the hauling lines, so they had only to fire and lower away—pull up and fire again.

"By the great horn spoon," shouted Sloan, "we're a-droppin' 'em now!"

"Hi-yi!" returned Max, leveling his rifle as he spoke; "here's another one for the pile."

Thus they had fired five-and-twenty shots, Sloan having fired one the most, when the deck was cleared.

"They've gone below," said Max, who held a loaded rifle in his hands, ready for the first head he might see. "Oh, I wish I could git jest one peep at their belms-man."

One of the men, named Wilson, stood a moment looking up at his commander, and then he turned his gaze upon the brig. In a moment more he proposed firing some shots at random.

"We know who her wheel must be," he said, "and who knows but out of half a dozen balls one on 'em might hit him?"

Wilson's proposition was received with favor, and two of the men commenced the work. The slugs for this purpose were sharpened with a knife at the conical end, so that they might go through the foresail without much resistance. They fired six times, and would have fired more had not the report of Winter's rifle interrupted them.

"Look sharp!" the skipper cried, as he sent his rifle down. "They're tryin' to run a gun forward!"

The brig was now less than half a mile distant, and could she have brought a gun to bear upon the schooner, it would only have required a good aim to do much damage. The brig's bowport on the starboard side was thrown open, and in a few moments more the muzzle of a gun was seen protruding therefrom. But they were not destined to make much by the movement, for they could not work the gun without exposing themselves to the eyes of the Yankee marksmen.

Within five minutes from the time the port was thrown open, four men had fallen about the gun under the bullets that sped from the schooner's cross-trees. After this the Mexicans seemed to hold a consultation, and the result must have been that they would risk no more lives for in a few moments more the gun was left and the men disappeared; not, however, until two more of their number had fallen, for the distance was such now that the men could not have wished for a more safe mark than a man's head.

It was now four o'clock, and for half an hour not another man was seen on board the brig. Some effort had been made by Max and his men to shoot away the running rigging of the enemy, but without much effect. The topsails were either of rawhide or of iron chain, so that the bullets had no effect upon them; and the other ropes which were of consequence towards keeping the sails spread were hidden behind the canvas.

By half-past four the brig was less than a quarter of a mile distant, and it was soon evident that she was about to present her side to the chase, for her yards began to swing, and her head turned slowly to the westward.

"Now we are going to catch a broadside," said Clarence, as he noticed the movement.

"Aren't it best to give 'em one more salute as they come around?" queried Max, who had come down from the cross-tree some time before.

"Yes," returned Clarence. "Let all hands of you be prepared and stand by. They can't load their guns without exposing themselves. Stand in a row and pick your men, being sure that no two take the same mark."

There were fifteen rifles, and fourteen of them loaded, and these were placed ready—each man having a spare one to grasp as soon as he had fired the first. The brig soon presented her broadside, and three or four men at each gun went immediately at work to level the pieces and prepare for the shock.

"Steady!" uttered Max, at the same time raising his rifle. "Be sure of your men—take 'em as ye stand."

In a moment more the seven rifles were discharged, and there was a momentary suspension of operations on the brig's deck; but those who remained quickly set to again.

"Now!" cried Max; and as he spoke they fired again.

Clarence could plainly see that consternation had seized the survivors on board the enemy, but after a few moments' hesitation they went at the work again, and ere long her broadside was fired. The heavy balls came crashing and splashing about the schooner, but not one of her crew was injured. One ball had passed through the low bulwarks at the bows, and another had carried away the extreme end of the main boom.

"They only fired seven guns," said Max.

But the words were hardly out of his mouth when the eighth gun was discharged, and the schooner's foremast was crashed to splinters about six feet from the deck. Ere many moments the disabled craft began to yaw, for she could be kept before the wind no more. The brig had put her helm hard a-port, and was now coming down swiftly, seeming inclined to pass under the stern of the schooner.

"She means to give us another broadside," said Max.

"And if she does she'll rake us badly," replied Clarence.

"Then why not surrender?"

"I see nothing else for us to do," Clarence said, speaking hurriedly, but clearly. "We have stood bravely out while there was the least opportunity; but it would only be clear madness to do more. We might shoot three or four more of her men, but if she gives us her broadside as she passes under our stern, it may sweep the whole of us. She will be down in five minutes. Let us pull down our flag and await the result. But remember the tools I have given you; keep them safely, and be careful how you use them. Captain Winter, suppose you have two or three rifles fired to leeward as we pull our flag down? that will be more fully expressive of the fact that we have surrendered."

This was agreed to; the flag was immediately lowered, and the three rifles fired to leeward. A minute elapsed.

"Ah," said Clarence, "they will not fire—they are rounding to."

"Yes," returned Sloan, "they will not fire—they are rounding to."

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is Thursday. That will give her time enough for preparation. And then there's no need of making such a vast amount of preparation; we can do much of that after the ceremony has been performed."

So it was planned that the ceremony should be performed on the following Monday. It was on Friday evening that St. Marc came to inform his child that the marriage was to take place on Monday. She knew from Tudel's remarks that the time was to be changed, but she dreamed not of so much change. She clasped her hands, and besought her father to save her; but he turned coldly from her.

"I have nothing to do," he said, "only to inform you of the new arrangement that has been made. What odds can it make to you whether the marriage takes place in one week or in four?"

(To be continued.)

Victoria's Death Foreboded.

A clipping from the Tribune of Dec. 29 in the scrap book of Miss Edna Beach is very interesting, in view of the death a few weeks later of Queen Victoria. It is enough to make superstitious people "see things" for a month. It follows:

London, Dec. 28.—The ghost of Mary Queen of Scots, which, according to tradition, appears in the tower of London before the death of a crowned head, made itself heard on Christmas eve.

Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned by Queen Elizabeth in the constables' tower, and was led from it to execution in the tower quadrangle. Before the death of every king and queen since the day her spirit is reported as having appeared.

An officer of the guard on duty in the tower on Christmas eve heard a long wail from the top of the tower. He stopped to listen and heard it again. Footsteps followed and a third time the wail rang out over the fog-bound river and the sleeping city. He went to search for a cause, but found none.

Deafness Cannot be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure Deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a running or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed Deafness is the result and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O Sold by Druggists, 75c.

She Gets Exercise Enough.

"I thought your wife was going to join our physical culture class this year, Mr. Smythers?"

"She did intend to, but we've got a girl who has been over from Sweden only six weeks, and my wife has to talk to her by making signs."—Chicago Times-Herald.

The great public schools of the large cities use Carter's Ink exclusively. It is the best and costs no more than the poorest. Get it.

Japan to Use Roman Letters.

Japan is taking a new step to approach western civilization and withdraw from Chinese traditions by requiring officially that the Japanese language be taught in schools by means of Roman letters and no longer by the syllabic symbols.

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Longest Balloon Voyage.

The science of aeronautics is attracting more attention at the present time than ever before in the history. Several new and ingenious air-ships have been tested before the public in the past few months, including the remarkable machine of Count Zeppelin, and there is reason for the belief that the world is to be favored at an early date, with a successful solution of the problem of aerial navigation.

An event significant of the large possibilities in that direction was the recent balloon voyage of Count Henry de la Vaul, the French aeronaut, from Paris France, to Kiew, Russia, a distance of 1,304 miles. This is the longest balloon voyage ever made. The air-ship in which this remarkable flight was made is called Cenature, and was built according to plans invented by the count himself. The count was accompanied on the journey by one friend only, Count Castillon de Saint Victor. The balloon was well stocked with provision and equipped with all helpful apparatus for aerial observations. Not a single unpleasant incident marred the trip, which on record as the most notable voyage through the air ever accomplished.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. Samuel, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1900.

Credulity vs. Power.

Mr. Tesla's assertion that it will not require much power to open communications with Mars may be accepted as true, declares the Chicago Tribune. It may require more credulity than power.

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Action is Intersection.

Wrong cannot be merely an individual thing. The world is affected for good or ill by every word spoken, every deed performed. A sin against conscience is also a sin against humanity. A kind action benefits the race. Nothing dies.—Baptist Union.

Each package of PUTNAM FADELESS DYE colors either Silk, Wool or Cotton perfectly at one boiling.

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Mrs. Ella Rice, of Chelsea, Wis., whose portrait we publish, writes that she suffered for two years with beating-down pains, headache, backache, and had all kinds of miserable feelings, all of which was caused by falling and inflammation of the womb, and after doctoring with physicians and numerous medicines she was entirely cured by

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If you are troubled with pains, fainting spells, depression of spirits, reluctance to go anywhere, headache, backache, and always tired, please remember that there is an absolute remedy which will relieve you of your suffering as it did Mrs. Rice. Proof is monumental that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is the greatest medicine for suffering women.

No other medicine has made the cures that it has, and no other woman has helped so many women by direct advice as has Mrs. Pinkham; her experience is greater than that of any living person. If you are sick, write and get her advice; her address is Lynn, Mass.

Each package of PUTNAM FADELESS DYE colors either Silk, Wool or Cotton perfectly at one boiling.

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