

JOHN TOPP, PIRATE

By Weatherby Chesney and Alick Munro.

COPYRIGHT, 1900, BY WEATHERBY CHESNEY AND ALICK MUNRO. ILLUSTRATIONS BY H. C. COULTEAR.

CHAPTER IX.

At the sight of that band of shining water a spontaneous cheer arose from every throat on board. Discard and dismission fled discomfited before the advance of the visions of wealth that our hopes saw mirrored in the glassy surface of the river.

We hauled our whal somewhat and sailed to the mouth. Job Trehalton (grinning till his scar jagged up like a saw) was sent with an eager boat's crew to sound, and before the first star of night had thrown its reflection in the water round us were anchored, and the ripples that lapped against our wooden walls had not a grain of salt in them. We had left the treacherous ocean to follow where the river should lead us.

Nets of mangrove roots formed an impenetrable thicket on either bank, though it was no easy task to tell where the slug flowing water ended and the liquid mud of the shore began. Loathsome reptiles—which some of us took to be dragons, till the knowing ones told us they were only crocodiles—lay half in and half out of the evil smelling brown water, winking their lazy eyes at us and taking charge in a slow, cumbersome way of every scrap that was flung overboard. Tree toads barked, beasts of prey howled in the distant forests, foul night birds croaked from the thickets of the shores, and from the evil smelling stream there arose a putrid yellow mist thick and rank enough to choke one.

"It's a fever trap we've got into," growled Willie Trehalton, shifting his tangled black wig from the pocket where he had carried it during the heat of the day to his head, "an if we've no more'n half a score o' men down by morning's light we'll be uncommon lucky, say I."

"Don't croak, you unsatisfied old raven," said Alec lightly, but he looked grave none the less.

"The pagan," put in Job, with his usual grin, apologetic in meaning this time, "says this is only one o' the mouths, an we'll open into a great, broad river soon, where you can't see both banks at once. An there baint' any o' these yere mists on it, he says, but limmins on the trees an other fruits enough to feast an army, an all for the plucking of them."

"Go to the fore-castle and tell them that, Job," cried Alec, "and serve out a good, stiff dram to all hands and say that they can kill the stench by firing a few grains of powder now and then. Stay; I'll come with you and tell them that he who keeps a stout heart may laugh at fevers. They only attack cowards."

He went forward, and Willie Trehalton, the other two officers and I went down to the cabin for our meal, where we were shortly joined by Alec, who reported that the crew were all as merry as pipers at the prospect of making another step toward our golden goal.

When the meal was over, the devil came and whispered in my ear—at least on no other view can I explain my folly in taking up the dice, satan's own bones, they say—and proposing a throw apiece to sample our luck, sinister or dexter.

Alec, saying with a laugh that he did not believe in such omens, nevertheless humored our folly. He rattled the box first and flung on the table deuce ace.

One of the officers threw a pair of deuces!

The other threw a pair of aces!

Willie Trehalton threw deuce ace!

The heat had worn off, and the cabin was full of cold, clammy mist, but the perspiration streamed from my face as though the sun were high above our mastheads. My hand trembled like a palsied dotard's as I took up the fateful leather box, and for a full minute I rattled the box without daring to turn them down.

The others waited in breathless silence and watched intently. At last I took a deep breath, clapped the mouth of the box down on to the table and then slowly withdrew it.

"Aces again!" cried Willie Trehalton. "The Lord have mercy on me, a sinful mariner!"

Willie's cry was followed by an interval of dead silence. We stood staring at one another as though spell-bound.

A shout of laughter from the fore-castle broke the charm, and in a burst of sudden frenzy Alec threw box and dice together through a porthole into the fog without and began to chaff us for our superstitious fears.

"Cheer up, Jack," he cried, clapping me hard on the shoulder. "The devil hasn't got us yet."

I shuddered and drew back without answering.

"Come, come," said Alec, with some show of anger. "Don't let us have any more of this nonsense. I was a fool to take any part in your child's game."

"The Roman admiral threw his own giving chickens overboard," said I gloomily, "and two-thirds of his fleet was destroyed."

Alec turned to me sharply, and there was a taunting smile on his face.

"Turned pedant, Jack? I didn't know you were such a scholar. Perhaps you'll favor us with an account of the circumstances. The foolish birds re-

turned their corn, if I remember rightly. Correct me if I am wrong."

"I'm no scholar," I answered angrily, for his taunt annoyed me. "The pagan was the goody boy that did his lessons."

"While his friends amused themselves with tap venches and pastry cooks' lasses."

"Maybe," said I with a sneer. "But Jack Topp is gallant enough to prefer a pretty lass to a Greek root any day."

"Both good things in their way. But come, Jack, stand up, put your hands behind you and tell us all about this heathen fellow. Don't tremble so, man. There's no schoolmaster behind you with the birch. I'll correct all stupid errors you may make. Ha, ha, ha!"

How long this unseemly wrangle would have continued I do not know, probably till it came to blows. The two other officers had been listening with silent dismay, and honest Willie Trehalton had been looking from one to the other and pulling the skin cap about over his smooth head till his source fairly shone. What it was all about he knew no more than a powder tub, but he thought it about time to break into the quarrel, and maybe he was none too soon.

"Masters, masters!" he cried. "Ha! done with this unseemliness! The quarrel on deck there might be excuse for; the quarrel down here none. Here you're going at it tongs an hammer, hammer an tongs, fathom o' one, six foot o' t'other, till there baint a bean to choose between you. And this, too, when we ought all to be knit together by reason o' common enemies."

Alec turned away impatiently, but he did not interrupt the boatswain, who went on:

"Captain Ireland, many a good ship's been cast away through her captain quarrelling with his officers. Master Topp, an officer who can't keep a civil tongue for his superiors oftentimes gets hanged. Job, you graceless loon, what cause to come grinning down here for?"

"Glass run out, uncle. My watch over."

"Captain Ireland, then it's your next watch, an I hope you'll pardon an old mariner for plain speaking when it was needed."

Without a word Alec left the cabin and went on deck.

Through the whole of that watch I lay in my bunk brooding, brooding, brooding. To quarrel with my sworn shipmate, and about such a trifle too! Fool that I was! That we had had a serious wrangle and one whose consequences might easily bode ill for the success of our venture there was no doubt, but on looking back on what had passed I was almost as much fogged as Willie Trehalton to know what the cause of it all was. Fool, I called myself, and again, fool!

Nep came to me and shoved his cold nose against my cheek, and I rubbed his coarse, scrubby coat and conxed him to lie down. I was grateful to him, for I felt less wretched with a companion, though he were nothing but a cat. But then Nep was not as other cats.

After his watch was out Alec came below, and by the dim light of the horn lantern which hung to the beams I could see him pacing the other side of the cabin thwart ships. He could not see me, and I gave no sign of being awake. Presently he began to smile to himself, and then, turning his gait, made straight for my bunk.

"Jack, old boy, I was the bigger fool of the two."

"No, Alec; I was by far."

"No, I. It was my throwing the dice box through the port that started it."

"I proposed the dice."

"Come, come; we won't dispute again. I'll test you with jacks of ale."

We tied; I won, and from that moment the quarrel was never mentioned.

Next morning nine men were down with fevers, several others were undoubtedly sickening for them, and the rest were so scared that they were pretty sure to catch the ill on the first opportunity.

"There was no wind to drive the fetid mists away, and so we had to get a boat and tow the Bristol Merchant up stream by our own exertions. Any thing was better than letting the men stand trembling in idleness. But it was not till past midday that the stinging air was tempered with a breeze from the sea, which filled our sails and gave us headway against the sluggish current."

For five days did we tow, pole and sail through this awful canal. Nine men died. Almost all were sick, and but for the rumour of the pagan and the dread of Alec's pistol in the magazine they would have turned the ship's back to the sea again at any hazard."

On the afternoon of the sixth day we opened out into a broad, clear flowing river, and before nightfall we were anchored in a snug little bay with a pile of bright colored fruits on deck, whose luscious freshness tempted the men to brave a sudden death from overeating."

None, however, was any the worse for this change of diet, though the surgeon shook his head and suggested a good bloodletting all around as a preventive of possible evils. The sick men, except one who was too far gone to recover, mended as though under a spell.

During our voyage up the mighty stream we were able to revel in fresh meat, too, for the forests abounded in game, and the Devon and Somerset men, who had poached scores of noble stags on brown, boggy Exmoor, sent their clothyard arrows and the cross bow bolts into many a fine water buck as he came from the deep covers to gaze wonderingly with his great eyes on the strange craft that was furrowing the surface of his untilled river.

So fat venison steaks smoked in the mess kids, and tough, brine-fossilised beef became but a distant memory.

The navigation was easy, but slow. Alec was cautious about going too fast for fear of picking up a shoal and getting tightly imbedded on it, so he kept the ship under easy canvas, very often brailling up our courses altogether, unless there seemed every prospect of a deep fairway.

Thirty-four days of this easy progress brought us to the great cataract which barred our farther advance. The pagan had told us of it beforehand, and we heard the thunder of the waters a full day before we rose them. Anxious, however, to satisfy ourselves that the barrier really was impassable, we held on until the current grew too strong to force the ship against it under sail alone, and then we bore away into a vast lagoon on the northern bank, formed by the back swirl from the fall, and dropped our anchor in the midst of it.

(To be continued next Friday.)

LATEST NEWS OF TRADE.

Chicago Grain and Provisions.
Chicago, Jan. 17.—The decline in wheat was continued today under influences which have held sway recently, but the close was with some of the loss regained on export engagements. May, 89 1/2c; July, 91c; corn and oats each closed 1/2c higher and provisions unchanged to 1/2c higher. Closing prices:

Wheat—Jan., 72 1/2c; Feb., 73c; Mar., 74c; Apr., 75c; May, 76c; June, 77c; July, 78c; Aug., 79c; Sept., 80c; Oct., 81c; Nov., 82c; Dec., 83c.

Corn—Jan., 36 1/2c; May, 38 1/2c; Sept., 39 1/2c.

Oats—Jan., 23 1/2c; May, 25 1/2c.

Pork—Jan., \$13.95; May, \$14.15.

Lard—Jan., \$7.37 1/2; May, \$7.47 1/2; Feb., \$7.37 1/2.

Ribs—Jan., \$7.02 1/2; May, \$7.15.

Cash quotations—No. 2 red wheat, 73 1/2c; No. 2 cash corn, 36 1/2c; No. 2 cash oats, 24c.

Chicago Live Stock.
Chicago, Jan. 17.—Cattle—Receipts, 11,100, including 1,200 Texas; choice steers firm; others slow to 10c lower, including butchers' stock and Texans; good to choice steers, \$3.25@6.10; poor to medium, \$3.00@5.15; stockers and feeders, choice firm, others slow, \$2.00@4.00; cows, \$2.75@4.15; heifers, \$2.75@4.50; canners, \$2.00@2.65; bulls, slow, \$2.80@4.40; calves, steady, \$4.00@6.00; Texas fed steers, \$3.75@4.85; Texas grass steers, \$3.35@4.00; Texas bulls, \$2.50@3.50. Hogs—Receipts, today, 28,000; tomorrow, 28,000, estimated; left over, 5,000; steady, active; closing stronger; top, \$5.25; mixed and butchers, \$5.00@5.25; good to choice heavy, \$5.20@5.25; rough heavy, \$5.00@5.15; light, \$5.00@5.25; bulk of sales, \$5.20@5.27 1/2. Sheep—Receipts, 15,000; sheep choice steady; others slow to 10c lower; lambs, choice steady; others 10@12c lower; good to choice wethers, \$3.70@4.65; fair to choice mixed, \$3.00@4.75; western sheep, \$3.80@4.60; Texas sheep, \$2.50@3.50; native lambs, \$4.25@5.65; western lambs, \$4.00@5.00.

Kansas City Live Stock.
Kansas City, Jan. 17.—Cattle—Receipts, 4,000 natives; 450 Texans; 150 calves; dressed beef steers, stockers and feeders steady; cows and heifers steady to 10c higher; native beef steers, \$4.50@5.25; stockers and feeders, \$3.75@4.65; cows and heifers, \$3.25@4.75; canners, \$2.50@3.25; fed western steers, \$4.00@4.65; Texas and Indian steers, \$3.45@4.15; bulls, \$3.00@4.50; calves, \$4.00@6.00; Texas fed steers, \$3.75@4.85; Texas grass steers, \$3.35@4.00; Texas bulls, \$2.50@3.50. Hogs—Receipts, 18,000; steady to 2 1/2c higher; top, \$5.35; bulk of sales, \$5.25@5.30; heavy, \$5.25@5.35; mixed packers, \$5.20@5.30; light, \$5.15@5.25; pigs, \$4.00@4.80. Sheep—Receipts, 3,000; active and steady; native mixed, \$3.25@5.45; western muttons, \$4.25@4.40; western sheep and yearlings mixed, \$4.40@4.75; ewes, \$3.40@5.85; culls, \$2.75@3.25.

South Omaha Live Stock.
South Omaha, Jan. 17.—Cattle—Receipts, 1,700; steady to 10c higher; native beef steers, \$4.00@5.30; western steers, \$3.75@4.85; Texas steers, \$3.00@3.75; cows and heifers, 10c higher, \$2.90@3.85; canners, \$1.75@2.80; stockers and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; calves, \$4.00@6.00; bulls, stags, etc., \$2.50@4.00. Hogs—Receipts, 7,000; steady; closed stronger; heavy, \$5.15@5.25; mixed, \$5.15@5.30; light, \$5.15@5.35; mixed packers, \$5.20@5.30; light, \$5.15@5.25; pigs, \$4.00@4.80. Sheep—Receipts, 2,300; active, shade higher; native mixed, \$3.25@4.40; western, \$4.00@4.50; common and stock sheep, \$3.70@3.90; lambs, \$4.50@5.50.

The Mother's Favorite.
Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the mother's favorite. It is pleasant and safe for the children to take and always cures. It is intended especially for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough, and is the best medicine made for these diseases. There is not the least danger in giving it to children for it contains no opium or other injurious drug and may be given as confidently to a babe as to an adult. For sale by the Kiesau Drug Co.

Buchanan, Mich., May 22. Genesee Pure Food Co., Le Roy, N. Y.: Gentlemen.—My mamma has been a great coffee drinker and has found it very injurious. Having used several packages of your Grain-O, the drink that takes the place of coffee, she finds it much better for herself and us children to drink. She has given up coffee drinking entirely. We use a package of Grain-O every week. I am ten years old.

Yours respectfully,
FANNIE WILLIAMS.

Genuine Rocky Mountain Tea is never sold in bulk by peddlars or less than 50c. Don't be fooled, get the tea made famous by the Madison Medicine Co. Ask your druggist.

Nasal Catarrh quickly yields to treatment by Ely's Cream Balm, which is agreeably aromatic. It is received through the nostrils, cleanses and heals the whole surface over which it diffuses itself. Druggists sell the 50c. size; Trial size by mail, 10 cents. Fast it and you are sure to continue the treatment.

Announcement.
To accommodate those who are partial to the use of atomizers in applying liquids into the nasal passages for catarrhal troubles, the proprietors prepare Cream Balm in liquid form, which will be known as Ely's Liquid Cream Balm. Price including the spraying tube is 75 cents. Druggists or by mail. The liquid form embodies the medicinal properties of the solid preparation.

Skin Diseases



When the excretory organs fail to carry off the waste material from the system, there is an abnormal accumulation of effete matter which poisons and clogs the blood, and it becomes sour and acid. This poison is carried through the general circulation to all parts of the body, and upon reaching the skin surface there is a redness and eruption, and by certain peculiarities we recognize Eczema, Tetter, Acne, Salt Rheum, Psoriasis, Erysipelas and many other skin troubles, more or less severe. While the skin is the seat of irritation, the real disease is in the blood. Medicated lotions and powders may allay the itching and burning, but never cure, no matter how long and faithfully continued, and the condition is often aggravated and skin permanently injured by their use.

The disease is more than skin deep; the entire circulation is poisoned.

The many preparations of arsenic, mercury, potash, etc., not only do not cure skin diseases, but soon ruin the digestion and break down the constitution.

S. S. S., nature's own remedy, made of roots, herbs and barks, of great purifying and tonical properties, quickly and effectually cures blood and skin troubles, because it goes direct to the root of the disease and stimulates and restores normal, healthy action to the different organs, cleanses and enriches the blood, and thus relieves the system of all poisonous secretions. S. S. S. cures permanently because it leaves none of the original poison to referment in the blood and cause a fresh attack.

Healthy blood is necessary to preserve that clear, smooth skin and beautiful complexion so much desired by all. S. S. S. can be relied upon with certainty to keep the blood in perfect order. It has been curing blood and skin diseases for half a century; no other medicine can show such a record.

S. S. S. contains no poisonous minerals—is purely vegetable and harmless. Our medical department is in charge of physicians of large experience in treating blood and skin diseases, who will take pleasure in aiding by their advice and direction all who desire it. Write fully and freely about your case; your letters are held in strictest confidence. We make no charge whatever for this service. Our book on Blood and Skin Diseases will be sent free upon application.

SSS

Skin Diseases will be sent free upon application.

G. A. LUKART, PRESIDENT. W. H. JOHNSON, CASHIER.
CHAS. S. BRIDGE, VICE PRESIDENT. LEO PASEWALK, ASST. CASHIER

The Citizens National Bank.

Capital, \$50,000. Surplus, \$5,000.
Buy and sell exchange on this country and all parts of Europe. Farm Loans.
Directors—CARL ARMUR, W. H. JOHNSON, CHAS. S. BRIDGE, C. W. BRANCO, O. M. SWANK, G. A. LUKART, T. F. MEMMINGER, L. HERRISON.

BABIES..... WHEATLING

...CRY FOR WHEATLING AND BREAD MADE FROM

BON TON FLOUR.

SUGAR CITY CEREAL MILLS

Have You Tried Them?

WINE OF CARDUI

How a Woman Suffers.

HOWELL, IND., Nov. 28. I will always praise Wine of Cardui. It has done me more good than all the medicines I have ever taken in my life. Please send a book about female diseases to the ladies whose names I enclose.

Mrs. MINNIE STODGHILL.

Wine of Cardui

It isn't necessary for a woman to give particulars. When she says she has "female troubles", other women know what that means. It means days and nights of endless suffering. It means headaches which no tongue can describe. It means that terrible bearing and dragging down in the lower abdomen. It means agonizing backache, and shoulder ache, and arm ache, and aches in the lower limbs. It means nerves on edge—the blues—despondency and loss of hope. It means debilitating drains that the doctors call leucorrhoea. It means martyrdom—sometimes even death seems preferable.

And still Wine of Cardui will utterly put those diseases and pains to rout. It has cured thousands of cases when nothing else on earth would. To the budding woman, to the bride, to the wife, to the expectant mother, to those going through

the Change of Life, this Vegetable Wine is a blessing.

Druggists Sell Large Bottles for \$1.00.

WINE OF CARDUI

destroy the germ disease, but always inflammation, causes easy expectation, gives a good night's rest and cures the patient. Try one bottle. Recommended many years by all druggists in the world. Get Green's Prize Almanac. Kiesau Drug Co.

Brought Good Fortune.
A small item in his own paper lately brought amazing good fortune to Editor Chris. Reitter, of the Saginaw (Mich.) Post and Zeitung. He and his family had the grip in its worst form. Their doctor did them no good. Then he read that Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, coughs and colds was a guaranteed cure for the grippe and all throat and lung troubles; tried it and says: "Three bottles cured the whole family. No other medicine on earth equals it." Only 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at the Kiesau Drug Co.

It Girdles the Globe.
The fame of Bucklen's Arnica Salve, as the best in the world, extends round the earth. It's the one perfect healer of cuts, corns, burns, bruises, sores, scalds, boils, ulcers, felonis, aches, pains and all skin eruptions. Only infallible pile cure. 25c a box at the Kiesau Drug Co.

Blows to Atoms.
The old idea that the body sometimes needs a powerful, drastic, purgative pill has been exploded; for Dr. King's New Life Pills, which are perfectly harmless, gently stimulate liver and bowels to expel poisonous matter, cleanse the system and absolutely cure constipation and sick headache. Only 25c at the Kiesau Drug Co.

Does it Pay to Buy Cheap?
A cheap remedy for coughs and colds is all right, but you want something that will relieve and cure the more severe and dangerous results of throat and lung troubles. What shall you do? Go to a warmer and more regular climate? Yes, if possible; if not possible for you, then in either case take the only remedy that has been introduced in all civilized countries with success in severe throat and lung troubles, "Boschee's German Syrup." It not only heals and stimulates the tissues to

THE CLEANSING AND HEALING CURE FOR CATARRH

is Ely's Cream Balm

Easy and pleasant to use. Contains no injurious drug. It is quickly absorbed. Gives Relief at once. It Opens and Cleanses the Nasal Passages. Always Inflammation. Heals and Protects the Membrane. Restores the Senses of Taste and Smell. Large Size, 50 cents at Druggists or by mail; Trial Size, 10 cents by mail. ELY BROTHERS, 56 Warren Street, New York.

CUT THIS OUT AND TAKE IT TO THE KIESAU DRUG COMPANY'S DRUG STORE AND GET A FREE SAMPLE OF CHAMBERLAIN'S STOMACH AND LIVER TABLETS, THE BEST PHYSIC. THEY ALSO CURE DISORDERS OF THE STOMACH, BILIOUSNESS AND HEADACHE.

RED CROSS PILLS

FOR THE CURE OF CATARRH

ASK YOUR DRUGGIST FOR THE RED CROSS BOOKLET MAILED FREE

VIN DE CINCHONA CO. DES MOINES, IOWA

For Sale by George B. Christoph.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN TEA

Made only by Madison Medicine Co., Madison, Wis. It keeps you well. Our trade mark cut on each package. Price, 15 cents. Never sold in bulk. Accept no substitutes. Ask your druggist.

THE GREAT PRINCE REMEDY

produces the above results in 30 days. It acts powerfully and quickly. Cures when all other remedies fail. Young men will retain their lost manhood, and old men will recover their youthful vigor by using REVIVO. It quickly and surely restores Nervousness, Lost Vitality, Impotency, Nightly Emissions, Lost Power, Fading Memory, Wasting Disease, and all forms of self-abuse or excess and indolence which unite one for study, business or marriage. It not only cures by starting at the seat of disease, but is a great nerve tonic and blood builder, bringing back the pink glow to pale cheeks and restoring the fire of youth. It wards off Insanity and Consumption. Insist on having REVIVO as either. It can be carried in vest pocket. By mail \$1.00 per package, or six for \$5.00, with a positive written guarantee no cure or refund the money. Book and advice free. Address: ROYAL MEDICINE CO., 10-20 Plymouth Pl., CHICAGO, ILL.

For sale in Norfolk, Nebraska, by Geo. B. Christoph, druggist.

THE GREAT PRINCE REMEDY

ROCKY MOUNTAIN TEA