

# JOHN TOPP, PIRATE

By Weatherby Chesney and Alick Munro.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

A cold gray dawn at length lighted up the wreck, and as the chilly rays ruddled and grew warmer the violence of the gale began to moderate and the crested seas lost their cruel whiteness. The stern half of the galley had been torn away by the heavy surf and crumpled up like a sea urchin's shell, and with it most of the heavily armored Spanish officers had disappeared. Perhaps a score, too, of the slaves had been washed away and drowned and with them three or four of the soldiers who had rushed into the waist when we struck. Of the English, however, not a man was missing. Used to truck-



"The water's shallow," said Job. "Shall we go ashore?"

ing with the ocean, they had scrambled to what instinct said was a cove of safety and now clustered, a brawny, well armed group, on the forecastle head.

A short cable off from where we were wedged the land rose high and dry—a small island, so far as we could make out in the as yet uncertain light.

"The water's shallow," said Job Treballon, with his broadest grin. "Shall we go ashore, captain?"

"We can wade most of the way," said I, "and, for the rest, those who can't swim can raft themselves on planks. There are plenty of them floating about."

"What about sharks?" observed Alec.

"Oh, ho, ho!" chuckled the old man. "Never fear the sharks. They've enjoyed a good meal of fat Spaniard; they won't be hungry for lean Englishmen. See, I'll give a lead." And into the water he flopped and paddled with his arms to the shore.

The rest of us followed, some swimming, some on fragments of wreckage, and in a short time all got safely to land.

It was a small island about two miles in girth that we had been cast on, and the myriad sea fowl circling around our heads showed us there was little danger of starvation. But as there was no pond or stream in sight half of us scattered in search of fresh water, while the rest busied themselves on the shore or in the surf, laying hold of any bits of wreckage that might drift within reach. Spanish bandit and Spanish soldier worked cheerfully beside the English sailor, and no one could have told that a dozen hours ago they were dying at one another's throats. But, though we had by no means ceased to regard the Spaniards as prisoners, the pressing need of the moment thrust party rancors into the shade. We were all shipwrecked, and for the time everything else was of minor moment.

The blazing sun quickly dried whatever we were able to rescue from the water, so we were soon in a position to light a fire with which to cook the sea fowl which some of us had caught. Before nightfall we had a goodly array of these hanging on spits before two huge fires and scores of fresh eggs roasting in the embers.

"Better food this than you've been accustomed to of late," cried the old man, as he threw down a carcass from which he was tearing the tough, fishy fiber with his teeth. "But the sea fowl will soon become scarce if we stay here long, and then we shall have to take to barbecued Spaniard. Oh, ho, ho! A juicy morsel, indeed!"

I turned from the old ghoul with a gesture of horror. He noticed it, and I thought he winked.

"Ah, ha, ha! Jack, how do you like the prospect?" he inquired banteringly. "Oh, ho! I'd give another toe nail, if the torment chamber had left me one, to see those great jaws of yours numbing over a rib of fat Spanish mutton."

"Peace, cannibal," said I. "The sea fowl will last us for many a long day, and when they're gone we can live on shellfish."

"Nay, but the old man's right, Master Topp," growled Jan Pengony's deep voice. "Gulls soon get scary, an' fish is bad to depend on, let alone being this sort o' food to fight on at the best o' times."

"Then," said Alec decidedly, "the sooner we get away from here the better. There are six other islands clustered near us. One is a mere wave washed rock; four are, I think, about the size of this, and one, which lies some league and a half to the southwest, appears to be of considerable size."

"Aye, captain, if we had a boat to catch it," put in Pengony.

"We have what's as good—the material for a raft," replied Alec. "Now, I think that the first thing to be done is for a small party of us to raft it across to that larger island, and see what prospect it offers. If bad, we are no worse off than before, and can come back and make a larger raft on which we may attempt the voyage to the Spanish main itself. And once there, and in the neighborhood of Spanish towns, we shall be able to improve our fortunes by a sufficiently generous use of our English muscle."

"We'll help ourselves and spoil the thieving dons, no fear, captain," observed one of the men. "But if that's to be our venture what call to go over to the large island at all?"

"Because I hope we may find a ship there, or even a town. I have heard that the Spaniards have pearl fisheries hereabout, which ought to prove an easy quarry for us, while the other plan may mean a long, tiresome hunt lasting for months."

"Aixing your pardon, captain," said another, "but wouldn't it be best to build the big raft straight away? If there's Spaniards on that island, why, then, the more of us there is to tackle 'em the better, an' if there ain't, why, we can just go straight on."

"No," said Alec; "a raft large enough to carry all of us would be heavy to handle and far too conspicuous. I propose to build a light vessel, just big enough for four, without being cumbersome. In this we could go across quickly by night and land unobserved, while a larger raft, sluggish in its movements, would certainly be seen if the island is inhabited, and an arquebuser or a couple of archers could pick us off one by one before we got a chance of landing."

"Oh, ho, ho!" put in the old man at this point. "The youngster's got some sense in him after all! Do as your captain tells you, you dolts, and if he lands you all in heaven you can say it's the old man's fault!"

The men said no more, for they yielded to the old dotard's counsel when another, and he a man of unimpaired brain, might not have succeeded in persuading them. Even I felt more comfortable now that the plan had been approved by this uncanny authority.

The discussion was closed, for no one had anything more to say. We set a watch to guard against possible attempts on the part of our prisoners and addressed ourselves to slumber.

During the next day a small raft was made, and when night fell four of us embarked on it. Alec and myself, with Jan Pengony and another—the two last being enormously powerful men—formed the crew, and after we had cautiously paddled out through the reef we set a rag of sail and steered a course by the stars. The sea was smooth, the wind was dead aft, and, slipping through the water at about a knot and a half an hour, we made the island a little before midnight. The surf broke at the foot of tall, forbidding cliffs, and as there appeared no place for a landing we lowered the sail and, taking to our paddles, worked round to the southward.

In about a mile we came upon a scrap of shelving beach, upon which, after much trouble, we drew the raft, and then set out to explore.

It was mighty hard work scaling the cliff, and all our nimbleness was needed to keep clear of falls. But we reached the top at last and at once found ourselves in a tangled liane bound forest, through which it was furiously hard work to press a passage. It did not, however, extend very far, and presently we came out into the open.

The sea fowl were not quite so numerous as on Galley Island, but there were gay plumed parrots and other land birds in abundance. There were traces, too, of four footed beasts, and presently we flushed from a piece of swamp a fine drove of pigs, which made our mouths water and our heels itch to give chase. This, however, Alec forbade, saying that hunting cries might be dangerous if there were Spaniards in the neighborhood. He bade us walk prudently, therefore, rove our eyes and kennel our tongues.

"Why all this caution?" said I with a laugh. "There's never five toed foot trodden these thickets since deluge time."

"Very possibly, Jack. But have you no sense besides those keen eyes of yours? Turn your nose to wind, man."

"Well?"

"Now sniff."

"There's nothing but a smell of heated marsh and rotting leaves, with a sprinkling of pungent flower odors every now and again."

"Yes? And what bush do you think those same flowers grow on, Jack?"

"How should I know? I never learned their outlandish names. Firetree perhaps. It smells something like smoke."

"Something like smoke?" replied Alec dryly.

"Why, it is smoke!"

"Aye, smoke sure enough. I saw a thin blue wreath of it floating up above the clump of bushes ahead there not a minute since. Look! There goes another!"

"Phew!" said I. "Philistines, for an emperor's ransom!"

It seems to me we had better advance carefully and reconnoiter their position. They may be only one or two, or they may be hundreds. So forward to the bushes. Keep the cover of the long grass as much as possible and be ready to duck down your sconces smartly if any one puts in an appearance. There's no use in bringing the whole rookery round our ears by carelessness."

"Aye, aye, captain," said Jan Pengony, with a grin. "Trust me an Garge here for that. We haven't forgotten how a Dartmouth deer's poached yet, an' we've got the wind o' this un, so it's as easy as making a riled Spaniard swear."

We went on again through the rank vegetation, starting more pigs and keeping a bright lookout for chance snakes, but not a trace of Spaniards did we see, and in a very short space we were peering through the farther end of the cove. Neither house nor fire was in sight, but the thin trunk of smoke rising in front of us could mean nothing but that there was a fire burning somewhere out of our sight. It rose from a rocky fissure in the open ground, creled listlessly into the air and was carried away on the wings of the gentle breeze.

"The Lord be good to us!" said one of the men in awed tones; "we've gotten on a burning island that'll belch out fire an' melted rocks, like the volcanoes they tell of in the Peru coast."

"Sniff it, Garge; sniff it," said Pengony. "Smoke like that bain't come from the devil's stithy. There's brimstone in his'n, an' this be honest wood-reck or I never smelt my mother's fire. Lift up your bottle nose an' sniff, Garge."

Like a hound at fault, Garge sniffed, and as he sniffed pondered at some length.

"Aye, woodreck sure enough," he rumbled out at last and relapsed into puzzled silence.

Meanwhile Alec and I had advanced to the fissure and tried to look down it, but the pungent vapors made all the air in the shaft to dance, and at the same time lit our eyes so smartly that we were glad to draw our heads back out of their reach as quickly as possible. We could see nothing at all.

"I have it, Jack," said Alec in a whisper. "There's a cave somewhere below us, and its occupants are cooking their breakfast; that's the meaning of the wood smoke."

"A cave? Then it must have some other opening besides this chimney, if there are men in it."

"Of course; at the foot of the cliff. If we go to that knoll in front there, we ought to command a view of it."

"Forward, then, and we'll find out."

"Cautious! Jack; cautious! We don't want to bring the whole hornets' nest about our ears. We had better tell the other two to hide in the cove and fill their bellies with plantains, while you and I reconnoiter."

We did so, and then crept cautiously forward to the brow of the cliff. The sight that met our eyes when we gained the crown of the knoll and looked out from among the graceful fern fronds which sheltered it was one to make a sailor's heart sad.

There before us lay a landlocked harbor, sheltered from outside view on every side, yet capable of giving an anchorage to an armada if need be. Not a vessel floated on its smooth waters, and a solitary seal was swimming about near its upper end, now fishing for his breakfast beneath the surface, now erecting his head and staring anxiously about him. We paid but little heed to him, however, for at the harbor entrance we saw that which to any true mariner is the saddest sight in the whole world.

A finger of rock rose, black and ugly, from the soft blue waters and, wedged into a cleft which divided it to the water's edge, lay the corpse of what had once been a stout and stately ship, a snowy plumed carrack. Now, with her foremast snapped like a carrot above the round top, a great, yawning chasm in her waist and rivers of clear water hissing into the retreating ebb from a score of starting seams in her sides, she was but a battered ruin, a ghastly wrecked vessel.

A hundred different signs—the litter of cordage on her deck, the streamers of fluttering canvas hanging over her shattered bulwarks, the tangled fringe of broken spars and sea torn planks floating like fallen leaves around her—all made it easy for a seaman's eye to judge that she had not lain there long, and the great storm of two days ago gave an exact date.

No sign of life showed upon her littered decks. The sun was high in the morning heavens, but her gunners were not furnishing up her culverins and falconets in the waists. No candle trimmers were in the poop lanterns cleaning the glasses and refilling the sconces; no cooks were busy heating the great ship's kettle to boil the morning meal. The last sentry had left his post without calling relief. The silence of death was over all.

In the open channel which lay between the carrack and the land spit there floated something over which a dozen sea fowl were screaming and fighting. A glance was enough to show what it was for which they fought; it was the ill starred lover of a mermaid—some stout mariner swept from the decks by a huge green wave and then seized by snowy arms and carried away to a beauteous home among the branching sea shrubs.

I could see in my mind's eye all that happened from the moment when he was loosed from his trance.

He yawns, stretches, shakes himself, awakens. The mermaid is standing beside him, glass in hand, combing her streaming tresses. She turns, meets his gaze and speaks in words which fill him with delight. She puts a conch shell to her ruby lips and blows a call. It sounds afar through the waving bushes, through the rainbow colored weeds, over the open plain, through the tangled forest. The brilliant fishes hear the note and shoot away through

# 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.

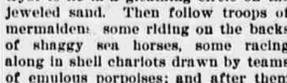
## The disease is more than skin deep; the entire circulation is poisoned.

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 reformer 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.



the limpid water with its message. A school of dolphins cry holiday to their master and come gambolling up to the tryst to lie in a gleaming circle on the jeweled sand. Then follow troops of mermaids, some riding on the backs of shaggy sea horses, some racing along in shell chariots drawn by teams of emulous porpoises; and after them come the mermen, bearing posies of fair sea flowers which wither when they meet the air. All stand and marvel at the mortal who has ventured down among the glories of their enchanted kingdom.

Then there bursts out a strain of delicious melody, and the mermaids' chant, which rises and falls to the throbbing of the sea bosom, tells the lone stranger how he must comport himself if he wishes to endure in this land of his new birth.

And this did I hear them sing:  
THE GREETING.  
Welcome, bright welcome, O wave cradled mariner!  
Welcome to hark in our beauteous realm.  
Pleasure it is for the merfolk to minister  
Unto a mortal beneath ocean's whelm.

THE PROFFER.  
We are thy servants, lord, slaves to thy beckoning;  
Come, let us lead to the great sea king's hall;  
Seat thee on Neptune's throne, 'neath azure covering.  
There to receive our best riches, our all.  
Gold of the galleon groans in thy treasures;  
Jewels the choicest we'll lay at thy knees;  
Fruit trees most curious blow on thy terraces,  
Flowers, heaven nurtured, to brighten the sea.  
Pearls we will bring to thee, corals and cowries,  
Perfume thy robe with the gulf ambergris.  
Men give their hands to thee, maidens their dowries:  
Never, great lord, shall our fealty cease.

THE WARNING.  
But, oh, lord, beware!  
Have a care, have a care.  
Keep thy beating heart still in its breast.  
Have a care, have a care.  
Good! my lord, oh, beware!  
Love for maidens is not for our guest.

Love for maidens is not for the merfolk's guest. The man knows that it is true and sighs as he looks at the radiant beauty round him—comely forms and soft white skins coyly half hidden beneath the trembling cascades of their silken tresses. He sits in the stately palace they have given him and covers his face with cruel hands to shut out the light of a hundred lustrous eyes. In vain those ravishing glances meet prevail. The shielding fingers unclasp, the bowed head erects

itself, and the man is lost. His heart swells within him, and half delirious with ecstasy, half mad with terror, he drinks deep down into the cup of pleasure and feels every moment his armored body becoming lighter, more fatal; light.

He clutches the sides of his throne and again closes his eyes for an instant. But only for an instant, for the loadstone is one that none has ever yet withstood. The mermaids see his strait and stretch out their soft, white arms, bidding him stay. Their eyes flash love unspeakable. Their floating curls caress his burning cheek. The perfume of their breath intoxicates him. With a cry of joy he lets his willing fingers loose their grip of the throne and reaches out a lover's arms to clasp the nearest.

Fatal movement! Like an arrow he shoots up from among them, and their wall mingles with his cry of doom as he rises.

A swollen corpse, he floats alone on the surface of the ocean, and the laughing mermaids take themselves again to their interrupted play.

(To be continued next Friday.)  
A Bad Combination  
A bad cold in bad weather. Weeks' "Break-Up-A-Cold Tablets" will break up the combination by breaking up the bad cold while you sleep. No Cure, No Pay. 25 cents. Kiesau Drug Co., Sole agents.

Into each life some ruins must fall. Wise people don't sit down and bawl; Only fools suicide or take to flight. Smart people take Rocky Mountain Tea at night. Ask your druggist.

### Question Answered.

Yes, August Flower still has the largest sale of any medicine in the civilized world. Your mothers and grandmothers never thought of using anything else for indigestion or biliousness. Doctors were scarce and they seldom heard of appendicitis, nervous prostration or heart failure, etc. They used August Flower to clean out the system and stop fermentation of undigested food, regulate the action of the liver, stimulate the nervous and organic action of the system and that is all they took when feeling dull and bad with headaches and other aches. You only need a few doses of Green's August Flower, in liquid form to make you satisfied there is nothing serious the matter with you. Get Green's Prize Almanac. Kiesau Drug Co.

If young ladies think sores, pimples and red noses look well with a bridal veil and orange blossoms, its all right. Yet Rocky Mountain Tea would drive them away. 35c. Ask your druggist.

La Grippe Quickly Cured.  
"In the winter of 1898 and 1899 I was taken down with a severe attack of what is called la grippe," says F. L. Hewett, a druggist of Winfield, Ill. "The only medicine I used was two bottles of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It broke up the cold and stopped the coughing like magic, and I have never since been troubled with grip." Chamberlain's Cough Remedy can always be depended upon to break up a severe cold and ward off any threatened attack of pneumonia. It is pleasant to take, too, which makes it the most desirable and one of the most popular preparations in use for these ailments. For sale by the Kiesau Drug Co.

Drying preparations simply develop catarrh; they dry up the secretions, which adhere to the membrane and decompose, causing a far more serious trouble than the ordinary form of catarrh. Avoid all drying inhalants, fumes, smokes and snuffs and use that which cleanses, soothes and heals. Ely's Cream Balm is such a remedy and will cure catarrh or cold in the head easily and pleasantly. A trial size will be mailed for 10 cents. All druggists sell the 50c. size. Ely Brothers, 56 Warren St., N. Y.

The Balm cures without pain, does not irritate or cause sneezing. It spreads itself over an irritated and angry surface, relieving immediately the painful inflammation. With Ely's Cream Balm you are armed against Nasal Catarrh and Hay Fever.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve  
Has world wide fame for marvelous cures. It surpasses any other salve, lotion, ointment or balm for cuts, corns, burns, boils, sores, felons, ulcers, tetter, salt rheum, fever sores, chapped hands, skin eruptions. Infallible for piles. Cure guaranteed. Only 25c at Kiesau Drug Co.'s store.

Will Boom His Business.  
S. Laval, a merchant of Dallas, Tex., writes: "I thought I would have to give up business after two years of suffering from general debility, brought on by overwork and long hours, but four bottles of Electric Bitters gave me new life. I can now eat anything, sleep well and feel like working all the time. It's the best tonic on earth." It's a wonderful tonic and health builder for tired, weak, sickly and run down people. Try it. Satisfaction guaranteed. Only 50c at Kiesau Drug Co.'s store.

It's Free If It Falls To Cure  
Rectol, the great pile cure. A pile pipe free with each package. We sell it under a positive written guarantee. No Cure, No Pay. 50 cents. Samples free. Kiesau Drug Co., Sole agents.

For Shattered Nerves.  
A remedy that will soothe, build up the wasted tissues and enrich the blood is indispensable. Litchey's Celery Nerve Compound has been wonderfully successful in cases of nervousness, as thousands of grateful people will testify. Sold by Geo. B. Christoph.

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

destroy the germ disease, but allays inflammation, causes easy expectoration, 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.

Vitality, nerves like steel, clear eyes, active brain, strength, health and happiness comes to those who take Rocky Mountain Tea made by Madison Medicine Co. 35c. Ask your druggist.

Headache Causes.  
Headache is usually caused by living in poorly ventilated rooms, overindulgence in food or drink, insufficient exercise, mental strain, excitement or malaria. Krause's Headache Capsules quickly cures the most severe cases, and leaves the head clear and cool. Price 25c. Sold by Geo. B. Christoph.

Working Overtime.  
Eight hour laws are ignored by those tireless, little workers—Dr. King's New Life Pills. Millions are always at work, night and day, curing indigestion, biliousness, constipation, sick headache and all stomach, liver and bowel troubles. Easy, pleasant, safe, sure. Only 25c at Kiesau Drug Co.'s store.

Cold Cure for Busy People.  
Many people neglect a cold because they say they have no time to attend to it. Krause's Cold Cure is a remedy which can be taken without danger while performing your daily duties, and will relieve the most aggravated cases in 24 hours. Price 25c. Sold by Geo. B. Christoph.

Nasal CATARRH  
In all its stages there should be cleanliness. Ely's Cream Balm cleanses, soothes and heals the diseased membrane. It cures catarrh and drives away a cold in the head quickly.

Ely's Cream Balm is placed into the nostrils, spreads over the membrane and is absorbed. Relief is immediate and a cure follows. It is not drying—does not produce sneezing. Large Size, 50 cents at Druggists or by mail; Trial Size, 10 cents by mail. ELY BROTHERS, 56 Warren Street, New York.

REVIVO RESTORES VITALITY  
Made a Well Man of Me.  
THE GREAT FRENCH REMEDY  
produces the above results in 30 days. It acts powerfully and quickly. Cures when all others fail. Young men will regain their lost manhood, and old men will recover their youthful vigor by using REVIVO. It quickly and surely restores Nervousness, Loss of Vitality, Impotency, Nightly Emissions, Loss of Power, Fading Memory, Wasting Diseases, and all effects of self-abuse or excess and indiscretion, which unite one for study, business or marriage. It not only cures by acting 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, no other. It can be carried in vest pocket. By mail, \$1.00 per package, or six for \$5.00, with postage free written guarantee to cure or refund the money. Book and advice free. Address: ROYAL MEDICINE CO., 10-20 Plymouth St. P. O. CHICAGO, ILL.

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

DON'T BE FOOLED!  
Take the genuine, original ROCKY MOUNTAIN TEA Made only by Madison Medicine Co., Madison, Wis. It keeps you well. Our trade mark cut on each package. Price, 35 cents. Never sold in bulk. Access no substitute. Ask your druggist.

+ RED CROSS PILLS  
SAFE, PURE, IMPROVED, MADE IN U.S.A. FOR WOMEN'S RELIEF. ARE UNEXCELLED FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL OBSTRUCTIONS OF THE UTERUS AND LONG STANDING AND THE REGULATION OF ALL FEMALE IRREGULARITIES. ADDRESS: VIN DE CINCHONA CO. DES MOINES, IOWA.

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