

# JOHN TOPP, PIRATE

By Weatherby Chesney and Alick Munro.

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CHAPTER XV.—Continued.

"I asked you just now to build me a ship that would take me away from this island, and you refused. Well, senoras, there are consequences to that refusal, and I am going to acquaint you with them. You may think I shall punish you today, but such is not my plan. I am simply going to let you enjoy the sight of a man drowning by slow inches before your eyes in order that you may have the opportunity of observing what a peculiarly unpleasant exit from this world such a death is. Tomorrow I shall again ask one of you to serve me. If in spite of the lesson of today he refuses, the rest of you shall see him slowly choked by the rising waters. The next day I shall try another, and so on. It will be interesting to see how many times I shall have to repeat this pleasing spectacle, but pray do not hurry yourselves to come to a decision. The island, senoras, is a pleasant one, and I shall not be distressed if my play should even for ten nights. It is a thousand pities that the audience will necessarily be diminished by one at each performance. Adios, senoras!"

And with that he strode away. Some of the other Spaniards lingered a while and then followed him, and the rest, to the number of perhaps 40, lit a fire and prepared to see the tragedy to its close. When the kindly shades of night began to steal over the island, we crept from our eyrie. A bush covered slope led from the cliff down to the beach, some hundred yards or so from where the prisoners stood, and down this we scrambled, avoiding carefully every little twig that might betray us by its snapping and forcing our very breaths to come lightly lest they should stir the leaves and give the alarm.

The breeze had dropped, the air was heavy and still, and the gabble of the Spaniards' voices came to us softly through the silence. A slight mist had blotted out the stars above, and the only light we had was the fitful glare of the bonfire. It burned fully for the most part, giving out dense clouds of smoke that rolled slowly upward till they were lost in the dark night, but every now and then some one would give the logs a stir, and the darting flames would for a moment send a lurid radiance over the whole scene.

There in the creek we could see Willie Trehalion, with the waters already up to his chest and his smooth, bald head shining like a mirror in the flashing firelight. Round the fire were grouped the Spaniards, chatting and smoking and, standing out dark against the uncertain blaze, were the ten forms of the bound Englishmen.

To cut the prisoners' bonds without at the same time drawing from them a shout of surprise was work to make the least nervous fingers tremble. Alec crept up to the first and, whispering to him not to move a finger till he was told, cut the cords that bound him to the tree. I went to the second and had just drawn my knife across the first cord when one of the Spaniards, whose ears were sharper than those of his fellows, heard what he thought were suspicious sounds and stroled up to see what was going on. Motionless we stood as tree trunks, and, though he peered curiously into the thicket, he could not see us, for at that moment, fortunately, the fire was burning dim. He was only half satisfied, though, so he sat him down within a fathom of the feet of the man I had been engaged upon and there remained.

Heavens, how slowly the leaden minutes dragged themselves away! Time had never seemed so long before. Every now and again, when the laughing talk of the Spaniards lulled, I could hear the monotonous lap-lap of the rising tide, which told that Willie Trehalion's reprieve was growing every moment more fatally less. I could see him, too, when the dancing firelight fell upon the waters, and, though his stolid face showed no sign of fear, still his solitary eye roved the shore uneasily, backward and forward, looking for the help which, it might be, would not come in time. The suspense was awful.

Suddenly a voice from beside the fire called out, "Pepe, you rascal, come and join in a madrigal!"

Pepe rose, stretched himself, heaved a pebble playfully at one of the bound men and went.

As the first words of the watchers' madrigal rose round the fire I drew my knife across the second man's thong. Alec loosened the third man and I the fourth, and then a blaze of summer lightning flashed through the sky and for a moment lit up the smooth, shining head of our boatswain, whose chin was now being lapped by the hungry ripples.

There was a shout. Some prying Spaniard had spied us in the brief glare of the lightning flash. The madrigal ceased in the middle of a bar and then confusion!

## CHAPTER XVI.

That telltale lightning flash came just a moment too soon and put an end to any hope of surprising the Spaniards by a rush from the darkness. The other six Englishmen were released as fast as our swords could cut their lashings, and the band of us made for the interrupted songsters round the fire.

Fortunately for us, few of the Spaniards were armed, and before our fierce onset they gave way at first like a flock of frightened sheep. The ten prisoners had seized whatever weapons they could lay their hands on—swords, daggers, logs of wood even—and were hacking and buffeting right and left like maniacs. But the Spaniards began to rally, and as the alarm spread re-enforcements came flocking from the cave. And those, of course, were fully armed.

We were in a tight place. "Jack, Jack!" I heard Alec shout. "Loose Willie Trehalion and then run the boat down! The rest of us will keep these mosquitoes back! Quick, though, for the lives of us all!"

Hitting out right and left, I got clear and waded into the water, but it was a full minute before I managed to set our old boatswain adrift. He was sobbing like a hysterical schoolgirl in his excitement, and tears of sheer joy were chasing one another down the furrows of his cheek.

"I can't stand, Master Topp," he cried as the last thong which held him up was severed. "The water has made my legs as limp as pack thread. Leave me an axe to cut my own skin. It's no use my trying. I must just drown in my own depth of water. But thank you kindly all the same."

"Not yet, Willie. You're heavy, but not too heavy for Jack Topp to carry; so we'll just ride you out of it. Besides, the water will help to keep you up."

With that I hoisted him on my back, holding him with my left hand and keeping my sword arm free.

We did not gain the boat without trouble, and my sword streamed afresh before we reached her. In went Willie plump on to the floor boards like a sack of grain, and desperately I strained every muscle to get her afloat. Inch by inch it was done, while the fight surged nearer and nearer to us. Every man of the English was far too busy to come and help me, but at last I got her into four feet of water. Rushing back, I joined in the furious battle, shouting to our lads to gain the shore as each man could.

One by one they scrambled into the boat, and the Spaniards followed shoulder deep into the water. But they could not touch us there. Two hands were lopped off as they clung to the gunwale, and then a few vigorous strokes with the paddles took us into deep water.

"Hasta manana, Senor Don Miguel del Cassamaro, late of Whitby," sung out Willie Trehalion, raising his round head with a great effort above the gunwale, and then we shot into the shadow of the opposite shore out of sight of the Spaniards and lay on our oars to count heads and examine our damages. There were 13 men in the boat. Where were the other two?

"Davy Griffiths is gone," said one of the men. "I seed 'im, with a foot o' smoking steel showing through his back, beat out the brains o' the chap as put it there."

"Joe the Cooper is killed, too," said another. "He an the Spaniards' cargo intendant fell foul o' one another an wrestled on the ground. The don had a dirk, Joe nothing but his bare hands. The don carved Joe's hide into a fishing net, an Joe tore the don's throat out w' his teeth."

"It was a warmish corner while it lasted."

"Aye, an we've all more or less scattered. You've a rib there peeping at the starlight."

"That's so. An you've a nasty hole in that nether arm."

"Tim there has half an ear shredded away, an Jan Pengony's countenance is opeener than ever natur' made it."

"Where's the little cordwainer?"

"Sorely wounded, poor lad. He's lying senseless here by Willie Trehalion in the bilge. This here clip on his head needs a surgeon's needle an pack though to caulk it sound again."

"Aye, an Sam's beside him with a hole in the ribs. Sam's done, I'm thinking."

"Let me bind this rag round your thigh, Master Topp. Got that cut in the last rush, did you? You're bleeding like a pig with a slit weasand."

"Captain Ireland, not scratched? The wonder o' it! How did you do it, sir?"

"No fault o' the captain's," put in Willie Trehalion, "for I watched him. No fault o' them Spanish devils neither. He was ever where the blows was the thickest, an they rained them on him like autumn leaves in a hurricane."

"Good luck armored me," said Alec. "Come, lads, out oars again and give me one. Willie, can you manage to sit up on the stern thwart and steer? I've shipped the rudder."

"Aye, aye, captain! Or row, either, at a pinch. I'm nigh all right again now, though but for Master Topp I should a' had to stop beside the post. They lashings had shrunk so w' the water that my feet was like a dead man's. Where shall I make for, captain?"

"You know the island that shields the harbor mouth?"

"Yes, captain. Shelter island we called it."

"It's steep, too, on this side, but there should be a sloping beach to noddard. Make round for there and see if you can't put us ashore. Now, lads, give way with a will!"

blackness and steered us on an arrow's course till he made the Carrack rock. Then, bearing away a point to the westward, he guided us by the direction of the ocean swell and by the fanning of a light westerly breeze which had again sprung up toward what he judged would be the tail of the island. We heard surf pounding upon it before we saw a rock, and drawing on cautiously inshore, coasted along in search of a landing place. The tide was just upon the top of its flood, and not an inch of forshore could we discover till we reached the north end of the island, for up to that point the coast was bound by black, rugged rocks that shot down sheer into the water. But here we came upon a sloping beach and ran the boat up on it, getting her three parts filled in the heavy surf, for the ground swell was running straight in. However, as the boat did not get staved and as the wetting was rather refreshing than otherwise, we thought ourselves very lucky in our fortune. At any rate we were free.

"Now," said Alec after wounds had been dressed as well as circumstances would permit and we had thrown our weary bodies to rest on a bed of short, dry moss, "who can make a tracing on the chart of the future?"

"I should like another cut at the dons, captain, an with a better weapon in my hand than a charred wood billet," said one of the men promptly, and a deep wolved assent hummed round the assembly.

"They bain't got much worth taking in that cave o' theirs," said Willie Trehalion, "but there should be tidy pickings on the old carrack. There were a gould crucifixion in the after cabin, an a tale was going about that Don Miguel always carried his private hoard in the locker under his berth."

"What say, you, Jack?" said Alec to me in a whisper.

"Have at 'em whenever we get a chance," I replied briskly.

"Nosing the plunder, eh, old sea thief?" he said, with a laugh, and then in louder tones for all to hear: "I'm with you, one and all, in not letting the dons rest in peace. What's your plan, Willie?"

"Stay here an recruit till we are sound," replied the boatswain, "an then catch them napping some night in their cave an smoke them like badgers."

"I fear," said Alec, "they will keep too good a watch to be trapped like that. But with our other lads—"

"What other lads, captain?" asked half a dozen voices eagerly.

"Has no one told how we rose on the Spaniards in the galley and after taking her by storm were wrecked among the breakers?"

"No, captain, but it's brave news. How many o' you are there?"

Alec gave them an account of all that had befallen us and told them the names of the lads who were saved.

"And now," he said when he had finished, "launch me the boat, and I'll take this fair wind across to Galley Island and bring them back with me."

"Best take a second hand, captain."

"No; he would only be another to bring back, and the load will be heavy enough anyway. The boat has her mast and sail stowed along the thwart, and this breeze will hold long enough to carry me over."

So we ran the boat down, waded out and helped her through the breakers and then returned to our moss beds, where, in spite of our wounds, we slept sounder and more comfortably than we had yet done since first we fell into the hands of the Spaniards, many months ago, at the fight by the mountain torrent. Ah, me! Many a brave lad that was full of life and hope on that day was now asleep beneath the waves. Our search for El Dorado had not brought us much luck as yet, but we still hoped. And when men have hope, who shall say that any quest is vain?

(To be continued next Friday.)

## LATEST NEWS OF TRADE.

### Chicago Grain and Provisions.

Chicago, Feb. 28.—A retrogressive movement on a small scale marked the course of the grain and hog product markets today. Provisions at the close showed no recovery, being from  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ above yesterday's final figures, but the grain market receded better support on 75¢ of corn, closing  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ higher, oats unchanged and wheat the easiest of the grains. Closing prices:

Wheat—March, 74 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; May, 75 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢. Corn—March, 39 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; May, 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. Pork—Feb., 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; May, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. Lard—March, 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; May, 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢. Hops—May, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; Sept., 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢.

Cash quotations—No. 2 red wheat, 75 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; No. 3 red wheat, 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 3 spring wheat, 67 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; No. 2 hard wheat, 72 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; No. 3 hard wheat, 71 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; No. 2 cash corn, 30 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; No. 3 cash corn, 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; No. 2 yellow corn, 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢; No. 3 yellow corn, 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; No. 2 cash oats, 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢.

### Chicago Live Stock.

Chicago, Feb. 28.—Cattle—Receipts, 9,400, including 300 Texas; choice steers strong medium weak, lower; butchers' stock and Texans steady; good to prime steers,  $41\frac{5}{8}$  to  $40\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; poor to medium,  $33\frac{1}{2}$  to  $34\frac{1}{4}$ ¢; stockers and feeders, steady,  $22\frac{3}{4}$  to  $24\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. Hogs—Receipts, today, 35,000; tomorrow, 30,000; left over, 10,000; opened steady, closed  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; calves, strong,  $44\frac{1}{2}$  to  $45\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; Texas fed steers,  $40\frac{3}{4}$  to  $41\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; Texas grass steers,  $33\frac{1}{2}$  to  $35\frac{1}{4}$ ¢; 16,000; hogs, heavy,  $25\frac{3}{4}$  to  $26\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; light,  $25\frac{1}{2}$  to  $26\frac{1}{4}$ ¢; today, 35,000; tomorrow, 30,000; left over, 10,000; opened steady, closed  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; good to choice hogs,  $42\frac{1}{2}$  to  $44\frac{1}{4}$ ¢; fair to choice mixed,  $41\frac{1}{2}$  to  $43\frac{1}{4}$ ¢; western sheep,  $44\frac{1}{2}$  to  $45\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; Texas sheep,  $25\frac{3}{4}$  to  $26\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; native lambs,  $44\frac{1}{2}$  to  $45\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; western lambs,  $45\frac{3}{4}$  to  $46\frac{1}{4}$ ¢.

### Kansas City Live Stock.

Kansas City, Feb. 28.—Cattle—Receipts, 5,000 natives, 1,300 Texans, 150 calves; choice beef steers 10 to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; stockers and feeders steady; native beef steers,  $44\frac{1}{2}$  to  $45\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; Texas grass steers,  $33\frac{1}{2}$  to  $35\frac{1}{4}$ ¢; 16,000; hogs, heavy,  $25\frac{3}{4}$  to  $26\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; light,  $25\frac{1}{2}$  to  $26\frac{1}{4}$ ¢; today, 35,000; tomorrow, 30,000; left over, 10,000; opened steady, closed  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; good to choice hogs,  $42\frac{1}{2}$  to  $44\frac{1}{4}$ ¢; fair to choice mixed,  $41\frac{1}{2}$  to  $43\frac{1}{4}$ ¢; western sheep,  $44\frac{1}{2}$  to  $45\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; Texas sheep,  $25\frac{3}{4}$  to  $26\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; native lambs,  $44\frac{1}{2}$  to  $45\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; western lambs,  $45\frac{3}{4}$  to  $46\frac{1}{4}$ ¢.

# CANCER

## Cannot be Cut Out or Removed with Plasters

Surgical operations and flesh destroying plasters are useless, painful and dangerous, and besides, never cure Cancer. No matter how often a cancerous sore is removed, another comes at or near the same point, and always in a worse form. Does not this prove conclusively that Cancer is a blood disease, and that it is folly to attempt to cure this deep-seated, dangerous blood trouble by cutting or burning out the sore, which, after all, is only an outward sign of the disease—a place of exit for the poison?

Cancer runs in families through many generations, and those whose ancestors have been afflicted with it are liable at any time to be stricken with the deadly malady.

## Only Blood Diseases can be Transmitted from One Generation to Another

further proof that Cancer is a disease of the blood. To cure a blood disease like this you must cure the entire blood system—remove every trace of the poison. Nothing cures Cancer effectually and permanently but S. S. S.

S. S. S. enters the circulation, searches out and removes all taint, and stops the formation of cancerous cells. No mere tonic or ordinary blood medicine can do this. S. S. S. goes down to the very roots of the disease, and forces out the deadly poison, allowing the sore to heal naturally and permanently. S. S. S. at the same time purifies the blood and builds up the general health.

A little pimple, a harmless looking wart or mole, a lump in the breast, a cut or bruise that refuses to heal under ordinary treatment, should all be looked upon with suspicion, as this is often the beginning of a bad form of cancer.



Mrs. Sarah M. Keeling, of Windsor Ave., Bristol, Tenn., writes: "I am 41 years old, and for three years had suffered with a severe form of the disease in this city said to be incurable, and that I could not live more than six months. I accepted their statement as true, and had given up all hope of ever being well again, when my druggist, knowing of my condition, recommended S. S. S. After taking a few bottles the sore began to heal, much to the surprise of the physicians, and in a short time made a complete cure. I have gained in flesh, my appetite is splendid, sleep is refreshing—in fact, an enjoying perfect health."

Our medical department is in charge of physicians of long experience, who are especially skilled in treating Cancer and other blood diseases. Write for any advice or information wanted, we make no charge whatever for this service.



THE SWIFT SPECIFIC COMPANY, ATLANTA, GA.

### Krause's Cold Cure

for colds in the head, chest, throat or any portion of the body, breaks up a cold in 24 hours without interruption to work. Will prevent colds if taken when first symptoms appear. Price 25c. Sold by Geo. B. Christoph.

### Nerves Like a Flatiron.

A woman who suffered for three years from nervous prostration says two bottles of Lichty's Celery Nerve Compound effected a complete cure. She hardly knows today whether she has nerves or not, as she never feels them. It is certainly a wonderful remedy. Sold by Geo. B. Christoph.

### 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.

### Genuine Rocky Mountain Tea

is never sold in bulk by peddlars or less than 35 cents. Don't be fooled, get the tea made famous by the Madison Medicine Co. GEO. B. CHRISTOPH.

### When You Get a Headache

don't waste a minute but go to your druggist and get a box of Krause's Headache Capsules. They will prevent pain, even though your skull were cracked. They are harmless too. Read the guarantee. Price 25c. Sold by Geo. B. Christoph.

### A Horrible Outbreak

"Of large sores on my little daughter's head developed into a case of scald head," writes C. D. Isbill of Morgantown, Tenn., "but Bucklen's Arnica Salve completely cured her." It's a guaranteed cure for eczema, tetter, salt rheum, pimples, sores, ulcers and piles. Only 25 cents at the Kiesau Drug Co.

### Night Was Her Terror.

"I would cough nearly all night long," writes Mrs. Chas. Applegate of Alexandria, Ind., "and could hardly get any sleep. I had consumption so bad that if I walked a block I would cough frightfully and spit blood, but when all other medicines failed, three \$1.00 bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery wholly cured me and I gained 58 pounds." It's absolutely guaranteed to cure coughs, colds, la grippe, bronchitis and all throat and lung troubles. Price 50 cents and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at the Kiesau Drug Co.

### Strikes a Rich Find.

"I was troubled for several years with chronic indigestion and nervous debility," writes F. J. Green of Lancaster, N. H., "no remedy helped me until I began using Electric Bitters, which did me more good than all the medicines I ever used. They have also kept my wife in excellent health for years. She says Electric Bitters are just splendid for female troubles; that they are a grand tonic and invigorator for weak, run down women. No other medicine can take its place in our family." Try them. Only 50 cents. Satisfaction guaranteed by the Kiesau Drug Co.

### Good Advice.

The most miserable beings in the world are those suffering from Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint. More than seventy-five per cent. of the people in the United States are afflicted with these two diseases and their effects: such as Sour Stomach, Sick Headache, Habitual Constiveness, Palpitation of the Heart, Heart-burn, Waterbrash, Gnaewing and Burning Pains at the Pit of the Stomach, Yellow Skin, Coated Tongue and Disagreeable Taste in the Mouth, Coming up of Food after Eating, Low Spirits, etc. Go to your Druggist and get a bottle of August Flower for 75 cents. Two doses will relieve you. Try it. Get Green's Prize Almanac Kiesau Drug Co.

### A Good Thing.

German Syrup is the special prescription of Dr. A. Boesche, a celebrated German Physician, and is acknowledged to be one of the most fortunate discoveries in Medicines. It quickly cures Coughs, Colds and all Lung troubles of the severest nature, removing, as it does the cause of the affection and leaving the parts in a strong and healthy condition. It is not an experimental medicine, but has stood the test of years, giving satisfaction in every case, which its rapidly increasing sale every season

confirms. Two million bottles sold annually. Boesche's German Syrup was introduced in the United States in 1868, and is now sold in every town and village in the civilized world. Three doses will relieve any ordinary cough. Price 75 cts. Get Green's Prize Almanac. Kiesau Drug Co.

### Remarkable Cures for Rheumatism.

Victor, Rutherfordton, N. C.: The Editor of the Victorian has had occasion to test the efficacy of Chamberlain's Pain Balm twice with the most remarkable results in each case. First, with rheumatism in the shoulder from which he suffered excruciating pain for ten days, which was relieved with two applications of Pain Balm, rubbing the parts afflicted and realizing instant benefit and entire relief in a very short time. Second, in rheumatism in thigh joint, almost prostrating him with severe pain, which was relieved by two applications, rubbing with the liniment on retiring at night, and getting up free from pain. For sale by Kiesau Drug Co.

### Drying Preparations simply develop dry 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, snokes 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.

### THE CLEANSING AND HEALING CURE FOR CATARRH

**ELY'S CREAM BALM** CURE FOR CATARRH OF THE EYE, NOSE, THROAT AND LUNGS. SOOTHES AND HEALS. ELY BROTHERS, 56 WARREN ST., N.Y.

### REVIVO RESTORES VITALITY

Made a Well Man of Me. THE GREAT REVIVO RESTORES VITALITY. ELY BROTHERS, 56 WARREN ST., N.Y.

### 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. Accept no substitution. **ASK YOUR DRUGGIST FOR THE RED CROSS BOOKLET FOR THE RED CROSS.** Mailed free.

### RED CROSS PILLS

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