

JOHN TOPP, PIRATE

By Weatherby Chesney and Alick Munro.

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CHAPTER XVII.

Waking when the morning sun was high in the heavens, we found him there called the cowardly lying stark and stiff. Poor lad, he had better stuck to his cobbler's bench and left adventuring in the western seas to tougher boats and more contented minds! For in life he was ever grumbling and complaining, as is often the case with those of his craft, and in death he made but a thin and weakly corpse. We gave him the best burial we could, digging the grave with sword blades and piling it high with sea worn bowlders, and then set ourselves, those of us who could walk, to hunting for breakfast.

The search was not marked by any overpowering success. Our island was sparsely wooded with low scrub, but its parched surface bore no fruit trees. Birds there were in plenty, but we could not catch them. And so we had to be contented with a meal of shellfish, of which fortunately the rocks yielded an inexhaustible store. At first we hoped to have been able to cook these, for many of us had seen the Indians light a fire by sharply rubbing a small pencil of wood along a larger block, and we knew that Willie Trehalton, though he never acquired the true heathen dexterity, had often succeeded in imitating them. Now, however, we had not the proper sort of timber, and the various makeshifts we tried refused even to smolder. So, as one of the Cornishmen said, "We had e'en to fancy ourselves hakey fish an swallow the baits raw."

The chief thing, however, which made it imperative that our stay on the island should be brief was the complete lack of fresh water. Search high, search low, we could find neither stream nor spring, and had it not been that there were a few rain filled pools lying here and there among the rocks we should hardly under such a sun as now beat down upon us have lived out the day, for from sea water no man, be he alchemist, be he wizard or be he honest mariner, has ever extracted a drinkable fluid, nor ever will, say I.

After breakfast Willie Trehalton and I had a talk.

"There's half a gale blowing from the eastward, Master Topp, an like to come on harder," said he. "An there's too heavy a sea running for a deep laden boat to cross without swamping,

this channel inside o' em. Now, see here, this is the point I'm shaping a course for. There's a tall hill at this end o' the big island where the Spaniards' cave is, an when I was up above just now searching for food I seed a man within 20 fathom o' the top o' it."

"Likely enough," said I. "You can't expect the Spaniards to stick like moles in their cave all the time."

"Master Topp, that man had a fagot on his shoulders."

"Well, Willie?"

"Well!" echoed Willie contemptuously. "Can't you guess what it means? Why, they've seed a ship in the distance, an hoping to see another they're making ready to signal her whenever she heaves in sight."

"Why," said I, glad that there was a chance of getting rid so easily of our troublesome neighbors, but for the present keeping that gladness to myself, "if they want to go we can't stop em."

"We must stop 'em, Master Topp. They know we're here. I've seed 'em watching us. An if they gets hold o' a ship we shall have the whole brood down about our ears in the twinkling o' a handspike. Don Miguel bain't the build to forget men as has got to windward o' him in a squall. Don't you believe it?"

"The boatswain was right. We could not afford to leave the Spaniards in peace."

"I'll come with you and look at this hill for myself," said I.

"But your wounded leg?" suggested Willie doubtfully.

"Pooh! A mere gnat bite. The stiffness is wearing off already."

And off we trudged, though truth to tell I found it no easy matter to limp along, and laid ourselves down in the scrub grass above in full view of the larger island.

The northern coast was high, green, steep and without foreshore and put me in mind of the piece between Scarborough and Whitby. The harbor showed tide left yellow beaches on either hand, with clear open water, in the middle, while right before us, almost within stone's throw it seemed, lay the great hill.

The like of it I have never seen before or since.

It was a forbidding pile of stone standing out boldly in its barren blackness against the rich greenery of the palms beyond and towering high on 2,000 feet above the fallen wave worn rocks that fringed its base. Nowhere could the eye discover a trace of vegetation on its steep and frowning cliffs, and from the seaside at any rate it was a citadel that would baffle the nimblest scaler. Its black heights were too desolate for even the ocean fowl's perch; its hateful crest could well have shattered a ghoul or vampire.

The very clouds seemed to shudder and draw in their gauzy bodies as they scurried past its hungry flanks.

But after a mere glance at the mountain's sullen precipices the eye fixed it self immovably upon the summit, for there lay a wonder of the world.

That the thing had been built by hands was plain, for even at our distance we could see the joints and sutures between the stones. But by what manner of hands? Surely of giants or of devils, for the size of the blocks was such that no human hand could have laid them. Each course was as high again as a tall man, yet there were eight courses. Each stone's length was twice its height, yet there were 20 of them in the side that faced us. A figured coping overhung the wall by an arm span, and at the corners were huge carved monoliths representing rampant serpents, whose outstretched necks and gaping jaws pointed to the four cardinal points.

Gnome's temple, giant's pleasure house or magician's eyrie it had stood there jesting the winds through the dim ages of the past, an everlasting monument to its forgotten founders.

And now, as Willie Trehalton had said, the Spaniards were laying wood for a signal fire upon the uppermost pinnacle. I could see two lusty fellows doing the work and a third, a little bowlegged man with a bright steel basket on his head, giving directions. I recognized that our lives hung on the chance of our being able to drive them away, but I saw no means of doing it and said as much to Willie.

"Fight the devil w' brimstone, Master Topp, an you'll choke him. The dons practices witches' craft, say you? Then witches' craft shall be the word. See that round stone before 'ee, sir? Well, hear it speak. It's got a message for you."

And to my horror and amazement the stone began in a high cracked voice to bid me send the boatswain across to the mountain so soon as ever it got dark and then to trust him to settle with the Spaniards. "He's my very good friend, is Willie Trehalton," said the stone, "and as such the knave dons will tumble over one another in their hurry to escape from him."

"Now, Master Topp?" asked Willie, with a grin.

"But I was all in a sweat with fright. 'Avant!" I said. "Get thee behind me, Sathanas. Domine in manus tuas." And there I stuck, for my Latinity had grown rusty with too long keeping.

"Ho, ho! Master Topp, smooth your

hair again. Willie Trehalton doesn't dabble in the black arts. It's naught but a trick. See, I keep my mouth closed so an speak from the back o' my gullet so. It took me many a day's hard practice to learn the trick, but by keeping it secret it has served my purpose many times already an mebbe will again. Anyway it will keep the Spaniards off that hill as well as would a regiment of arquebusers."

"Will it?" said I, pretending to doubt whether it would, for now that I knew that was only a trick I was not a little ashamed of my alarm.

"Aye, that it will! Sure as it frightens you, Master Topp. So, by your good leave, I shall swim across under cover o' the darkness—see, the water is quite smooth; those reefs to seaward break the waves—an stow myself away in some cranny to wait for the fagot carriers in the morning."

"But if they catch you?"

"If they catch me," replied Willie carelessly, "there will be dead men on Cayo Island. I shall take my sword."

"Four arms are better than two, Willie, though one of those two does carry a hook. I'll come too."

"Best not, Master Topp. Your great carcass would take a power o' hidin at that hole in your leg will get angry if it's carried about too much. Besides if the plot fails it is better that one should be gastados, as they dons call it, than two."

"Nevertheless I shall come. Two may succeed where one would fail, and as for my leg it can still deal a kick that most men would be unwilling to stand against. And if I'm too big to be hidden in the building I'll find a covert in the nearest thicket and be ready to make a diversion from the rear if you're attacked. So no more objections. I intend to go."

We waited with some impatience till nightfall, and then, bidding the other lads tell Alec when he came all that had befallen, slipped down into the water. We had few preparations to make for our swim, as the only clothing of which we could boast was a pair of trunks apiece, and those gashed with realer slashes than a tailor makes.

The sea was warm, and, striking out leisurely so as not to tire my wounded leg too much, we crossed over and coasted round the foot of the cliff, seeking a landing place. We found none till we were well beyond sight of Shelter Island, and then, coming to a shingly beach, we landed and lay quiet on the sand for awhile.

The night was thick as a quickset hedge, and so, as there was small danger of the Spaniards spying us, we wandered somewhat from the straight track on the chance of finding food, of which we were sorely in need, and in this we were wonderfully successful, for after a little search we came across a rare grove of bananas. Next to the discovery of a thicket of roast beef and October ale no windfall could have been more providential, for the bananas not only served to fill our empty stomachs, but at the same time gave us food which we could carry away for future needs. So, each bearing a brace of the huge yellow clusters, we took a straight path toward the hill.

The ascent steepened as it rose and finished in a well defined stair hewn from the living rock. At the top a doorway lay immediately before us. We passed its threshold and found ourselves within walls as perfect as the day they were built, though how the courses had been raised to their position unless by magic puzzled me even to guess. There was no roof nor trace of a window. The floor was bare save for wind borne rubbish and a great stone table in the middle which looked as though it might once have served as an altar in whatever devil worship went on here in tygone days. But no spot could we see where a man could hide. Save for a slanting footway that ran round two walls and gave access to the summit the whole interior was as austere plain as the coldest imagination could make it.

After a brief examination of the interior of this puzzle in stone we went aloft by the slanting footway to throw the Spaniards' pile of fagots over the cliff and then set about exploring the exterior.

At first the dull light showed us nothing but a smooth, almost polished pavement, but on close scrutiny we found an inequality in the surface near the tail of the great carved serpent which reared itself at that corner of the building which most effectually commanded the approach from below. A little burrowing discovered a hollow, which turned out to be a narrow alley just wide enough to admit one at a time. We cleared away the rubbish with which it was choked and then entered. It led up a dark winding stair in the body of the reptile and brought us after a hard climb to a tiny chamber inside the head. The gaping jaws formed a sentry box, from which we could command the whole of the path from the lower ground, so, confident in the strength of our eyrie, I lay down to rest for a space while Willie watched.

We had not long to wait. Scarcely had I relieved the boatswain and begun my turn of watching when a couple of men broke out of the bush below and began to climb the steps on the hillside.

I motioned to Willie, and together we watched their advance. Now we should see what Willie's witchcraft could do.

(To be continued next Friday.)

LATEST NEWS OF TRADE, Chicago Grain and Provisions.

Chicago, March 7.—Leading speculative grain options were handled on a declining market today in conspicuous contrast to the clear cut strength of hog product. The cereal slant was precipitated by weakness in oats, wheat closing $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢, corn $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ and oats $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ lower. Pork closed 20¢, lard 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ and ribs $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ higher. Closing prices:

Wheat—March 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; May, 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; July, 74 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.
Corn—March, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; May, 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; July, 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.
Oats—March, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; May, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.
Pork—March, \$14.55; May, \$14.52 $\frac{1}{2}$; July, \$14.10.
Lard—March, \$7.50; May, \$7.52 $\frac{1}{2}$; July, \$7.47 $\frac{1}{2}$.

ECZEMA = SATANIC ITCH.

This most aggravating and tormenting of all skin diseases is caused by an acid condition of the blood, and unless relieved through certain instrumentalities too much of this acid poison reaches the skin and it becomes red and inflamed. The itching and burning are almost unbearable, especially when overheated from any cause. The skin seems on fire, sleep or rest is impossible, the desperate sufferer, regardless of consequences, scratches until strength is exhausted. This burning, itching humor appears sometimes in little pustules, discharging a sticky fluid, which forms crusts and scales. Again the skin is dry, hard and fissured, itches intensely, bleeds and scabs over. This is a painful and stubborn form of the disease.

While Eczema, Tetter, Erysipelas, Salt Rheum and many like troubles are spoken of as diseases of the skin, they are really blood diseases, because

THERE CAN BE NO EXTERNAL IRRITATION WITHOUT AN INTERNAL CAUSE.

If the blood is in a pure, healthy condition, no poisonous elements can reach the skin. External applications of washes, lotions and salves sometimes mitigate the itching and soothe the inflammation, but cannot reach the disease. Only S. S. S., the real blood medicine, can do this.

S. S. S., the only purely vegetable remedy known, is a safe and permanent cure for Eczema and all deep-seated blood and skin troubles. It goes direct to the seat of the disease, neutralizes the acids and cleanses the blood, re-inforces and invigorates all the organs, and thus clears the system of all impurities through the natural channels; the skin relieved, all inflammation subsides, and all signs of the disease disappear.

Mrs. Lela M. Hoffman, of Cardington, Ohio, says she was afflicted with Scrofulous sores and Eczema from birth. Her face at times became so badly swollen that she was not recognizable, and her limbs and hands were very sore. She was treated by all the doctors in town without being benefited, and in her researches for relief, was told by an old physician to take S. S. S. She followed his advice and was promptly cured, and has never had a return of the disease. This was seventeen years ago. She sincerely believes she would have been in her grave years ago but for S. S. S., and adds, "what it has done for me it will do for others."

Send for our book on Blood and Skin Diseases, and write our physicians fully about your case; they will cheerfully give any information or advice wanted. We make no charge for this. Address: Swift Specific Co., Atlanta, Ga.

Ribs—March, \$7.15; May, \$7.17 $\frac{1}{2}$; July, \$7.20; Sept., \$7.30.
Cash quotations—No. 2 red wheat, 74 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 3 red wheat, 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 3 spring wheat, 69 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 2 hard wheat, 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 3 hard wheat, 68 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 2 cash corn, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 3 cash corn, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 2 cash oats, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 3 white oats, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

Chicago Live Stock.
Chicago, March 7.—Cattle—Receipts, 9,000, including 500 Texas; generally steady; canners lower; good to prime steers, \$5.05; spring wheat, \$2.74 $\frac{1}{2}$; No. 2 hard wheat, \$2.74 $\frac{1}{2}$; No. 3 hard wheat, \$2.74 $\frac{1}{2}$; No. 2 cash corn, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 3 cash corn, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 2 cash oats, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 3 white oats, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

Kansas City Live Stock.
Kansas City, March 7.—Cattle—Receipts, 1,200 natives, 1,200 Texas, 70 calves; native beef steers steady to 10¢ lower; Texas steady to strong; others steady; native beef steers, \$4.70 $\frac{1}{2}$ to \$4.75; stockers and feeders, strong, \$2.75 $\frac{1}{2}$ to \$2.80; cows, \$2.65 to \$2.70; heifers, \$2.60 to \$2.65; canners, \$2.00 to \$2.05; bulls, slow, \$2.90 to \$3.00; calves, steady, \$4.00 to \$4.25; Texas steers, \$4.00 to \$4.25; Texas grass steers, \$3.50 to \$4.00; Texas hogs, \$2.50 to \$2.60; left over, 3,500; opened shade higher, closing weak; top, \$5.05; mixed and butchers, \$5.35 to \$5.40; good to choice heavy, \$5.50 to \$5.65; rough heavy, \$5.30 to \$5.45; light, \$5.35 to \$5.40; bulk of sales, \$5.47 to \$5.57 $\frac{1}{2}$. Sheep—Receipts, 15,000; mixed, strong; lambs steady to slow; good to choice wethers, \$4.20 to \$4.35; fat to choice mixed, \$4.00 to \$4.40; western sheep, \$4.35 to \$4.45; Texas sheep, \$2.50 to \$2.75; native lambs, \$4.50 to \$5.25; western lambs, \$5.00 to \$5.25.

South Omaha Live Stock.
South Omaha, March 7.—Cattle—Receipts, 2,500; steady to stronger; native steers, \$4.00 to \$4.10; western steers, \$3.70 to \$4.00; Texas steers, \$3.00 to \$3.50; cows and heifers, lower, \$2.00 to \$2.50; canners, \$2.00 to \$2.50; stockers and feeders, \$3.25 to \$4.50; calves, \$3.50 to \$4.00; bulls, stags, etc., \$2.75 to \$3.00. Hogs—Receipts, 6,000; shade higher, closed weak; heavy, \$5.37 to \$5.45; mixed, \$5.32 to \$5.37 $\frac{1}{2}$; light, \$5.20 to \$5.37 $\frac{1}{2}$; pig, \$4.00 to \$4.25; sales, \$5.32 to \$5.40. Sheep—Receipts, 6,200; steady; yearlings, \$4.50 to \$4.80; wethers, \$4.20 to \$4.50; ewes, \$3.50 to \$4.00; common and stock sheep, \$3.00 to \$3.85; lambs, \$4.25 to \$5.10.

Headache often results from a disordered condition of the stomach and constipation of the bowels. A dose or two of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets will correct these disorders and cure the headache. Sold by the Kiesau Drug Co.

Bridges, rivers, tunnels, mountains, build cities, gathers up the scattered rays of one's ability. That's what Rocky Mountain Tea does. 35 cents. GEO. B. CHRISTOPH.

A Good Cough Medicine for Children.
"I have no hesitancy in recommending Chamberlain's Cough Remedy," says F. P. Moran, a well known and popular baker, of Petersburg, Va. "We have given it to our children when troubled with bad coughs, also whooping cough, and it has always given perfect satisfaction. It was recommended to me by a druggist as the best cough medicine for children as it contains no opium or other harmful drug." Sold by Kiesau Drug Co.

An Honest Medicine for La Grippe.
George W. Waitt, of South Cardiner, Me., says: "I have had the worst cough, cold, chills, and grip and have taken lots of trash of no account but profit to the vender. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the only thing that has done any good whatever. I have used one bottle of it and the chills, cold and grip have all left me. I congratulate the manufacturers of an honest medicine." For sale by Kiesau Drug Co.

Roosters often crow over eggs they did not lay. Same with people who sell an imitation Rocky mountain Tea, made famous by the Madison Medicine Co.'s advertising.

Mrs. C. E. VanDusen, of Kilbourn, Wis., was afflicted with stomach trouble and constipation for a long time. She says, "I have tried many preparations but none have done me the good that Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets have." These tablets are for sale at the Kiesau Drug Co. Price 25 cents. Samples free.

Receives a setback, if she has offensive breath through constipation, biliousness or stomach trouble, but Dr. King's New Life Pills always cure those troubles; clean the system, sweeten the breath, banish headache; best in the world for liver, kidneys and bowels. Only 25 cents at the Kiesau Drug Co.

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.

Rocky Mountain Tea. See it exterminate poison. Feel it revitalize your blood and nerves and bring back that happy, joyous feeling of boyhood days. 35 cents. 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 68 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 Costiveness, Palpitation of the Heart, Heart-burn, Waterbrash, Gnawing 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. Boschee, 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. Boschee'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.
Victorino, Rutherfordton, N. C.: The Editor of the Victorino 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.

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; it travels by mail, 10 cents. Test 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.

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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.

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