

JOHN TOPP, PIRATE

By Weatherby Chesney and Alick Munro.

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CHAPTER XXIV.

Silently and slowly the boats crept on toward the town. We had crowded every man of our crew into them, with the exception of the old man, who was left in charge of the Scourge. We were not pressed for time, as the dawn would hardly be in their first sleep yet. So we paddled easily, keeping a keen look-out and cursing in a whisper the man who allowed his own blade to raise the slightest splash. I tell you, to some of us the effort of that strained silence was harder work than it would have been to raise a hearty cheer and race to the landing through a hail of Spanish bullets.

Once Alec's boat got on a ledge of rocks, and her crew had to climb overboard and lift her into deep water, and once mine had to be eased over a shoal. But no damage was done to either of them, and the quietness with which we worked prevented any telltale sound from reaching the shore.

Foot by foot we crept on, feeling our way by instinct, as it were, through the velvet darkness. Not a light showed from the sleeping town, and but for the loom of the high rocks on the harbor's sides we could hardly tell sea from land. Sheltered from the wind, the water had become as smooth as an untarnished mirror, and, in spite of all

the caution with which we dipped and raised the oars, a splash now and then could not be avoided. And over such a surface sound travels far in the quiet of night.

Presently the voices of two men talking came to us across the water, and after a minute or so one of them challenged:

"Who goes there?"
"Amigos; Espanoles," replied Willie Trehallion.

"Mother of God, those accursed English!" exclaimed the man on shore and fired his pistol. We smothered a laugh at the poorneer of our boatswain's Spanish and, as further caution was now useless, bent to our oars with a will.

"There's a fort of some sort here," shouted Alec, "between me and the shore. Follow in quickly before they can bring their guns to bear."

Hardly had the words left his lips when there was a flash and a roar, and a dose of lead took the tips from our starboard oars.

"Very pretty aimed!" muttered Jan Pengony, who as a gunner must needs express his opinion. "The next may be closer. A demiculverin, too, by the ring o't. Jump her along, lads, an' let's be after the captain afore he's stormed the place by himself. Hooley for Captain Ireland an' the Scourge!"

And so lustily did our fellows lay their backs to the work that before another 30 seconds had passed the boat sprang almost high and dry on the shore, and the next shot from the demiculverin whistled safely over our heads.

"Now, lads," I shouted, "up we go and at 'em ax and hanger! But mind not to fall foul of our own men, for the night's as dark as the pit. Stay a moment! There's the captain clamoring for admittance on the right yonder. We'll try if we can't scramble in at the sea face."

So saying, I turned and cut across the rocks to the left, with the men after me helter skelter. The fools of Spaniards were still blazing away with cannon and arquebus overhead, showing us what a state of confusion they were in, and till I had actually squeezed by big carcasses in through an embrasure no one offered to stop me. And after that, though many had the will, no one had the power to cut me down.

Breach to breach with the very demiculverin that had first been fired at us I held the ground till the others picked their way through the darkness and clambered up. Then, yelling to tell Alec our whereabouts, we charged together, driving the dons before us with a tempest of hacks and haws that, dazed and half awake as they were, they had no stomach to stand against, and finally pinned a big crowd of them against a corner of the palisading.

But, in spite of the success of our first charge, we were very nearly overpowered, for others kept flocking out of the barrack as the din waked them from their sleep and, taking us between two fires, were like to have made a small mouthful of us by sheer weight of numbers. Rapidly forming

into a small hollow square, we fought for a while for our very lives, with a grinning circle of yellow Spanish teeth ravening at us on every side.

Then suddenly there was a cry of alarm from the great gate of the fort, and about half of our assailants ran off to defend that point. The hearty English cheer with which they were received told us that Alec and his lads had got in at last.

This was the turning point. A few more Spanish heads were broken before we succeeded in joining our two bands, but when that was once effected the combat was of short duration, for, shouting, after our usual custom, that we'd slaughter every soul unless they threw down their arms at once, we rushed them all into two opposite corners and held them so till every weapon was out of their hands.

"Jack, take a couple of men with you and go and examine the barrack," cried Alec.

I did as he bade me and returned presently to report that there was a large room in which we could hold the prisoners safe in the meantime. We jalled them all, therefore, with the exception of the commandant, in their own quarters and, after setting guards at the door, cast about what was to be done next.

Alec questioned the commandant.

"How many men have you here?"

"Some 180, senior, and had I known how small your handful was I would never have surrendered to you. However, in the town—"

"I have no time for parleying, Senior Commandant," said Alec shortly, "and if your townsfolk annoy us I'll batter the place down about their ears. But give me what I want, and I promise that my advantage shall not be pressed further. I must have powder and pearls—your whole stock of each."

"Your request is a modest one, Senior Englishman. You ask for all we have got."

"And, asking, intend to have. Recognize, senior, that might is right just now, and so save further bloodshed."

The Spaniard shrugged his shoulders. "The powder I cannot prevent you from taking," said he. "You will find it, or, at any rate, the greater part of it, in the magazine underneath the penthouse there. But the pearls, fortunately, are out of my keeping. They are stored in the treasury, and that lies in the very heart of the town."

"Very well, senior; to the heart of the town I go for them, and with you as my guide."

"Senior Captain," said the commandant indignantly, "consider my rank!"

"That is precisely what I am doing," replied Alec dryly enough. "You enjoy at present the rank of prisoner to Alexander Ireland, who will hold your body responsible for any ambush your tongue may lead him into."

"And now, lads," he continued, turning away from the Spaniard, "there's dawn beginning to show over the hill, and so the less time we waste the better. Carry the powder down to the boats, and when it's safely stowed tell the boatkeepers to shove off a couple of oars' length from the shore. Armorer, spike all those culverins but one, break the pans and stocks from the arquebuses and cut the crossbow strings. Willie Trehallion, I leave you here with four men to guard the barrack door. Slew that culverin round and fire mummance into the crowd of them if they get restive, and if that does not silence them post your men on either side of the door and baptize with your axes all those who try to come out. You understand?"

"Aye, aye, sir," replied the boatswain grimly.

"The rest of you form fours and follow me as hard as you can run. Senior Commandant, after you! And, senior, no attempts at escape, if you value your life. I'm fleet of foot, and my sword blade will split you in the back at the least sign of treachery."

Out we went as a good smart trot, the don, in his shirt, leading, and, speeding along a muddy, well used path, bore toward the town. It was not a very large place, so far as we could see, and there were no defenses, as the fort above could, from its position, have sunk any vessel that attempted to enter the upper harbor. But the inhabitants had been thoroughly aroused by the firing and now flocked out of every alley, armed and resolute to defend their homes. A spattering fire greeted our approach, but it touched no one and only changed the more orderly advance into a mere race for precedence.

Alec was among the first knot, while I was puffing and blowing full 20 fathoms astern, and his rashness very nearly led him into trouble, for one big fellow leaped on him from behind and had him on the ground before he could shake off the embrace. However, Job Trehallion's lean, long legs brought him on to the scene in time, and Alec's cap rolled over with a head split to the chin.

By the time our captain had got on his legs again the rest of us had come up, and together we drove the townsfolk down their street in a body, shouting that we'd fire the houses if they made us halt. The Spanish commandant had contrived to bolt when Alec's hands were full during the first melee, and so we pushed on without a guide, trusting that instinct would lead us to

where the jewels were stored, for in truth some of us had keen noses for blunder.

As it turned out we made two false searches, taking the trouble to overhaul a couple of stone buildings which were only food stores and dwelling places. Indeed, we were very nearly done out of the booty altogether, for the Spaniards made a clever and desperate attempt to carry off the pearls to a safer spot.

In the event, however, this effort of theirs gave us the very information we needed. We spied a knot of fellows hidden with leather pouches trying to slink away in the confusion, and, knowing that at a critical moment no man troubles himself with burdens unless they are of unusual value, we made after them.

On being pursued they dropped their loads, which we promptly gathered up, every man slinging two of the pouches to his belt, and then going to the building from which we had seen the fellows come, we broke down the door and fought our way in.

There was a strong defense, but it was carried at some cost—to the defenders—and we helped ourselves to another score of the leather bags and came out again. The fight was waxing furious outside, and re-enforcements were coming up every minute.

"We must get out of this," cried Alec, as a furious rush drove us back against the wall of the treasure houses. "Hack and thrust, lads; clear a space and form fours again. Drop the pearls if they're too heavy to hold. We must reach the fort and relieve the boat-swain."

"The soldiers is got out!" bawled a voice. "It's them that's at us now!"

"There's the commandant! 'Ware sword behind, Master Topp!"

"Down the street to the right, lads," sung out Alec, "and make for the shore. The boats are coming to meet us."

"Aye, an uncle's in 'em," added Job Trehallion with a chuckle. "They Spaniards in the barrack's been too many for him."

When they saw our object, the Spaniards, led on by their commandant, pressed us harder and harder, and, lumbered as most of us were by the leather bags—for the men held grimly on to their precious pearls—we were very nearly overcome. But the narrowness of the street was in our favor, and with Alec and Jan Pengony and myself covering the retreat, we got slowly down to the beach. Even then our work was not over, for the boats, having had to make a long circuit to avoid a reef, were still a considerable distance away, and the Spaniards, no longer fearing to hit friends, opened a galling arquebus fire.

Alec, however, was equal to the occasion. Calling upon us to drop the pearl bags by the water's edge and follow him, he dashed back against the assailants with the whole crew of us at his heels, and before they quite knew what had happened we had taken on prisoners the commandant and three of the other leaders as well as about a dozen of the rabble. These formed a breastwork which sheltered us completely from their friends' fire, and so no further attack was made until the boats came round.

There was some symptom of a final rush as, after heaving the precious stones on to the floor boards, we prepared to embark ourselves, but at the first forward movement we swore that we would slit the throats of our prisoners if we were molested.

The threat was enough. They let us slip off in peace, and as soon as we were out of gun and bow shot range we tipped our hostages into the water and let them swim back unmolested.

Without further incident the boats rowed down the harbor and steered alongside the Scourge, which had drifted in on the current and was lying scarcely a quarter of a mile off the land. We got under way at once and congratulated ourselves on our good luck.

Powder for our cannon and pearls for our purses—it was a good night's work. (To be continued next Friday.)

The Best Remedy for Rheumatism.
QUICK RELIEF FROM PAIN.

All who use Chamberlain's Pain Balm for rheumatism are delighted with the quick relief from pain which it affords. When speaking of this Mr. D. N. Sinks, of Troy, Ohio, says: "Some time ago I had a severe attack of rheumatism in my arm and shoulder. I tried numerous remedies but got no relief until I was recommended by Messrs. Geo. F. Parsons & Co., druggists of this place, to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. They recommended it so highly that I bought a bottle. I was soon relieved of all pain. I have since recommended this liniment to many of my friends, who agree with me that it is the best remedy for muscular rheumatism in the market." For sale by Kiesau Drug Co.

The Best Cold Cure
is one you can take without interruption to business. One that does not effect the head or hearing like the continued use of quinine. One that cures speedily and leaves you feeling fresh and clear-headed. Such a one is Krause's Cold Cure. Price 25c. Sold by Geo. B. Christoph.

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 Medicine. 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.

A Testimonial from Old England.
"I consider Chamberlain's Cough Remedy the best in the world for bronchitis," says Mr. William Savory, of Warrington, England. "It saved my wife's life, she having been a martyr to bronchitis for over six years, being most of the time confined to her bed. She is now quite well." Sold by Kiesau Drug Co.

The Most Stubborn Coughs resulting from an attack of la grippe or heavy cold, must yield to the wonderful healing properties of Foley's Honey and Tar, which strengthens the lungs and makes them sound. A. H. Kiesau.

It's Free if It Fails 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.

The editor of the Fordville, Ky., Miscellaneous, writes as a postscript to a business letter: "I was cured of kidney trouble by taking Foley's Kidney Cure." Take nothing else. A. H. Kiesau.

He Kept His Leg.
Twelve years ago J. W. Sullivan, of Hartford, Conn., scratched his leg with a rusty wire. Inflammation and blood poisoning set in. For two years he suffered intensely. Then the best doctors urged amputation, "but" he writes, "I used one bottle of Electric Bitters and 1½ boxes of Bucklen's Arnica Salve and my leg was sound and well as ever." For eruptions, eczema, tetter, salt rheum, sores and all blood disorders Electric Bitters has no rival on earth. Try them. A. H. Kiesau will guarantee satisfaction or refund money. Only 50 cents.

A Spring Tonic.
Everybody needs a tonic in the spring, at this time the system craves a tonic. It is housecleaning time for your body. Lichty's Celery Nerve Compound will tone up your nerves, blood, kidneys and liver, and fill you with health and energy. Sold by Geo. B. Christoph.

Caught A Dreadful Cold.
Marion Kooke, manager for T. M. Thompson, a large importer of a fine millinery at 1658 Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, says: "During the late severe weather I caught a dreadful cold which kept me awake at night and made me unfit to attend my work during the day. One of my milliners was taking Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for a severe cold at that time, which seemed to relieve her so quickly that I bought some for myself. It acted like magic and I began to improve at once. I am now entirely well and feel very pleased to acknowledge its merits." For sale by Kiesau Drug Co.

Piles of People Have Piles.
Rectol has cured piles of people of the piles to stay cured. A pile pipe free with each package. We sell it on a positive guarantee. No cure, no pay. 50 cents. Samples free. Kiesau Drug Co., Sole Agents.

Heller's Testimony.
Albert Heller, living at 1114 Farnham street, Omaha, says: "I have tried most every thing that is used as a preventive or cure for headache, but nothing did me so much good as Krause's Headache Capsules. Others who have used them say the same thing." Price 25c. Sold by Geo. B. Christoph.

Scours in Cattle and Calves.
For a young calf or colts from a day to a month old give one teaspoonful of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in half a gill of water as a draught after each operation of the bowels more than natural; usually one dose is sufficient. For older animals it may be given in the feed. Thousands of valuable animals are saved by it each year. This remedy is just what you should take yourself when troubled with diarrhoea. For sale by Kiesau Drug Co.

An Extensive Stock Raiser Tells How to Cure Scours in Calves.
Wm. Abbott, of Tyndall, S. Dak., quite an extensive stock raiser, has for a number of years used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy for scours in calves and says he has never known it to fail. He gives a teaspoonful in water as directed on the bottle for an adult man, after each operation of the bowels more than natural. Usually one dose is sufficient. For sale by Kiesau Drug Co.

'Tis Easy to Feel Good.
Countless thousands have found a blessing to the body in Dr. King's New Life Pills, which positively cure constipation, sick headache, dizziness, jaundice, malaria, fever and ague and all liver and stomach troubles. Purely vegetable; never gripe or weaken. Only 25c at Kiesau Drug Co.'s store.

"Stick to It"
Geo. L. Heard of High Tower, Georgia, writes: "Eczema broke out on my baby covering his entire body. Under treatment of our family physician he got worse as he could not sleep for the burning and itching. We used a box of 'Banner Salve' on him and by the time it was gone he was well. The doctor seeing it was curing him said, 'Stick to it for it is doing him more good than anything I have done for him.'" A. H. Kiesau.

CANCER

The diseases most feared are those which are inherited—handed down from generation to generation, and family to family. By far the most destructive of these is Cancer, which finds the greatest number of its victims among the children and grand-children of those whose blood was tainted with this dreadful malady. You may carry this poison in the blood for years, but as the vital powers begin to wane a slight bruise or cut, wart or mole, sore or pimple may develop into Cancer. From middle life to old age is the time when the slumbering poison is most apt to break out, a sore or ulcer often degenerating into Cancer, and Tumors become more progressive and ulcerate through the skin, the sharp, shooting pains causing the most intense suffering.

The Cancer patient naturally grows despondent as one after another the usual remedies fail, and the sore shows no sign of healing. The impurities that have been accumulating in the system, perhaps for generations, cannot be eliminated nor the poisoned blood made pure by salves, washes and plasters. The proper treatment is to purify and build up the blood, remove the cause, when the sore or ulcer heals.

Mr. J. B. Arnold, of Greenwood, S. C., writes: "A tiny ulcer came, just under the left eye. It began spreading, and grew worse rapidly, destroying the flesh as it went. An Cancer is hereditary in my family. I became thoroughly alarmed, consulting the best physicians and taking many blood medicines, none of which did me any good, when one of our leading druggists advised me to try S. S. S., and by the time I had taken the second bottle the Cancer began to show signs of healing, the discharge grew gradually less and finally ceased altogether, the sore dried up and nothing remains but a slight scar. I feel that I owe my life to S. S. S."

wait until the blood is so polluted and the system so thoroughly saturated with the poison that no medicine, however efficacious, can check the progress of the disease. If there is a taint in your blood get it out at once, don't wait for some external evidence of it, the appearance of a tumor or ulcer. We have prepared a special book on Cancer which we will mail free. Our physicians are ready to help you by their advice and such direction as your case requires. Write us fully and freely—no charge for medical advice. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

The Best Blood Purifier.

The blood is constantly being purified by the lungs, liver and kidneys. Keep these organs in a healthy condition and the bowels regular and you will have no need of a blood purifier. For this purpose there is nothing equal to Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets, one dose of them will do you more good than a dollar bottle of the best blood purifier. Price, 25 cents. Samples free at Kiesau Drug Co.'s drug store.

If troubled by a weak digestion, loss of appetite, or constipation, try a few doses of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. Every box warranted. For sale by Kiesau Drug Co.

Increases human energy, makes soldiers of weak men. The world has little pity for a man who having lost his grip does not regain it by taking Rocky Mountain Tea. 35c G. B. Christoph.

My lover built a house for me and tried to warm it with his flaming heart. It did not work as you will see until he got me Rocky Mountain Tea. 35c. G. B. Christoph.

V. B. Conklin, Bowersville, O., says: "I received more benefit from Foley's Kidney Cure than months of treatment by physicians." A. H. Kiesau.

A Raging, Roaring Flood.

Washed down a telegraph line which Chas. C. Ellis, of Lisbon, Ia., had to repair. "Standing waist deep in icy water," he writes "gave me a terrible cold and cough. It grew worse daily. Finally the best doctors in Oakdale, Neb., Sioux City and Omaha said I had consumption and could not live. Then I began using Dr. King's New Discovery and was wholly cured by six bottles." Positively guaranteed for coughs, colds and all throat and lung troubles by Kiesau Drug Co. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

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, 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 Street, 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.

Rectol is a Remedy With a Record.
Its record is 98 per cent of permanent cures. If you have the piles try it. It's free if it fails to cure you. Samples free. Kiesau Drug Co., Sole Agents.

Jangling Nerves.
Are you irritable? Do you sleep badly? Is it hard to concentrate your thoughts? Is your appetite poor? Do you feel tired, restless and despondent? Try Lichty's Celery Nerve Compound. It will do you more good than anything you have ever tried. Sold by Geo. B. Christoph.

You Take No Chance When You Buy Rectol for the piles. We will refund the full purchase price if it fails to cure. A pile pipe free with each package. Samples free. Kiesau Drug Co., Sole Agents.

B. Presson, Pressonville, Kans., writes: "Nothing like Foley's Honey and Tar" is the universal verdict of all who have used it. Especially has this been true of coughs accompanying la grippe. Not a single bottle failed to give relief. A. H. Kiesau.

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 Constipation, 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.

Running sores, ulcers, boils, pimples, etc., quickly cured by Banner Salve, the most healing salve in the world. A sure cure for piles. A. H. Kiesau.

Job Couldn't Have Stood It If he'd had itching piles. They're terribly annoying; but Bucklen's Arnica salve will cure the worst case of piles on earth. It has cured thousands. For injuries, pains or bodily eruptions it's the best salve in the world. Price 25c a box. Cure guaranteed. Sold by Kiesau Drug Co.

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.

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.

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

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