Charles Sales Sales

send releaded my only weapons? Then I sended not have been as now, a mere fleeing second before this butcher.

Wounded as he was, it was wonderful stew fast he could move, his grizzled hair stambling over his face, and his face itself as creat as a red eneign with his haste and fury. It had no time to try my other pistol, nor, inseco, much inclination, for I was sure it seemed to useless. One thing I saw plainly; somet not simply retreat before him, or he countd speedily hold me boxed into the bows, as moment since he had so nearly boxed me in the stern. Unce so enight, and all or ten inches of the blood-stateed dirk wor so my last experience on this side of etc f placed my palms against the mainmessed, every nerve upon the stretch.



the alter struck Hands across the chest, and stopped him for a moment.

mesod; and a moment or two passed in receive upon mine. It was such a game as a had often played at home about the rocks # Black Hill Cove; but never before, you may be sure, with such a wildly bea tweet as now. Still, as I say, it was a boy's a vasinat an ekterly seaman with a woundwere so high that I allowed myself a few we king thoughts on what would be the end at the affair; and while I saw certainly that if wistd spin it out for long, I saw no hope ef any ul'inate escape.

well, while things stood thus, suddenly the filemanicia struck, staggered, ground for each least in the sand, and then, swift as a tare seated over to the port side, till the the shood at an angle of forty five degrees, most about a puncheon of water splashed inse the semper-holes, and lay in a pool beween the deck and bulwark.

We were both of us capsized in a second, and both of us rolled, almost together, into to supports the dead red-cap, with his waste still spread out, tumbling stiffly after se So near were we, indeed, that my head of which the inside my teeth fattle. Blow and we i was the first afoot again; for Hands seed got involved with the dead body. The med ien canting of the ship had made the seed no place for running on; I had to find some new way of escape, and that apon the medani, for my foe was almost touching me. spreads rattled up hand over hand, and did mer from a breath till I was sented on the

t had been saved by being prompt; the gars had struck not half a foot below me, as the prevence my upward flight; and there should israel flands with his mouth open and the fine upturned to mine, a perfect statue

Now that I had a moment to myself, I east no time in changing the priming of my gretol, and then, having one ready for servwe and to make assurance doubly sure, I presecuted to draw the load of the other, defrecharge it afresh from the beginning. My new employment struck Hands all of mention him and after an obvious hesitation, monet's sind, with the dirk in his tooth, bewas terrly and painfully to mount. It cost ever selecting behind him; and I had quietly feed with the areangements before he was there, with a pistol in either hand, I ad-

same more stop, Mr. Hands," said I, "and were the show your brains out! Don't mon don't make dies, you know," I added, with a chuckle. the stopped instantly. I could see by the him: specific of his tage that he was trying to as apprecion that in my newdound somety, I he sweet with only At last, with a smallow or as a seen the spoke, his face still wearing the toppered the make he had to take the dagger years his muith, but, in all else, he romained

"langh save he, "I reckon we're fou wer as I me, and we'll have to sign articles. of the have been you but for that there inrehs course and I con't have tick, not 1; and 1 rocken are the 1888 have to strike, which comes hard, you am to a master mariner to a ship's younker

and I have drinking in his words and smiling Mages & as othersted as a cock upon a walk as a same all in a breath, back went his right special over his shoulder. Something sang a store a sharp pane, and there I was

steered pain and surprise of the moment-1 meste f am sife it was without a conscious mount with a choken ery, the coxswain his grip from the shrouds, and

sales of nead near into the water.

CHAPTER XXVIII to motor to savator is stomed series change to the east of the vessel, the mas the mage far out over the water, and from my with on the crosstrees I had nothing below the bast the enriace of the bay. Hands, who was use to the ship, and fell between me and the a takker of loam and blood, and then sank the a takker of loam and blood, and then sank the sank for good. As the water settled, I confidence him lying buildled together on the case, bright sand in the shadow of the vertices, bright sand in the shadow of the vertices, bright sand in the shadow of the vertices, and the property of the quivering of the mans, he appeared to move a little, as if he was trying to the little was dead assumed, for all that, being both that and tree med, and was food for that in the very same where he had designed my clampines I was not an regretal at this than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the than I be tree to the contract of the contract of the tree to the contract of the contract of the tree to the contract of the tree to the contract of the contra

blood was running over my back and chest, The dirk, where it had pinned my shoulder to the mast, seemed to burn like a hot iron; yet it was not so much these real suffering that distressed me, for these, it seemed that distressed me, the marmur; it me, I could bear without a murmur; it had mon my mind of fa the horror 1 had upon my mind of falli from the crosstrees into that still green w

ter, beside the body of the coxsw clung with both hands till my nails od, and I shat my eyes as if to cover up the peril. Graduatly my mind came back again, my pulses quieted down to a more natural time, and I was once more in pos-

It was my first thought to pluck forth the dirk; but either it stuck too hard or my nerve failed me; and I desisted with a violent thudder. Oddly enough, that very shudden fid the business. The knife, in fact, had come the nearest in the world to missing me altogether; it held me by a mere pinch of the skin, and this the shudder tore away. The blood ran down the faster, to be sure; but I was my own master again, and only

tacked to the mast by my coat and shirt.

These last I broke through with a sudden jerk, and then regained the deck by the starboard shrouds. For nothing in the world would I have again ventured, shaken as I was, upon the overhanging port shrouds, from which Israel had so lately fallen.

I went below, and did what I could for my wound; it pained me a good deal, and still bled freely; but it was neither deep nor dangerous, nor did it greatly gall me when I used my arm. Then I looked around me, and as the ship was now, in a county my own, I began to think of clearing it from its last passenger—the dead map. O'Firian.

He had pitched, as I have said, against the bulwarks, where he lay like some horrible, ungainly sort of puppet; life-size, indeed, but how different from life's color or life's comeliness! In that position, I could easil have my way with him; and as the habit of tragical adventures had worn off almost all my terror for the dead, I took him by the waist as if he had been a sack of bran, and, with one good heave, tumbled him overboard. He went in with a sounding plunge; the red cap came off, and remained floating on the surface; and as soon as the sp sided. I could see him and Israel lying side by side, both wavering with the tr nt of the water. O'Brie though still a young man, was very bald. There he lay, with that bald head across the knee of the man who had killed him, and quick fishes steering to and fro over

was alone now upon the ship; the had just turned. The sun was within so few degrees of setting that already the shadow of the pines upon the western shore began to reach right across the anchorage, and fall in patterns on the deck. The evening breeze had sprung up, and though it was well warded off by the hill with the two peaks upon the east, the cordage had begun to sing a little softly to itself and the idle sails

I began to see a danger to the ship. The fibs I speedily doused and brought tumbli to the deck; but the mainsail was a harder matter. Of course, when the schooner canted over, the boom had swung out-board, and the cap of it and a foot or two of sai hung even under water. I thought this made it still more dangerous; yet the strain was so heavy that I half feared to meddle. At last I got my knife and cut the halyards. The peak dropped instantly, a great belly of loose canvas floated broad upon, the water; and since, pull as I liked, I could not budge the downhall; that was the extent of what I could accomplish. For the rest, the Hispaniola must trust to luck, like myself.

By this time the whole anchorage had fallen into shadow-the last rays, I remem-ber, falling through a glade of the wood, and shining bright as jewels, on the flowery mantle of the wreck. It began to be chill; the tide was rapidly fleeting seaward, the schooner settling more and more on her beam-ends.

I sceam' led forward and looked over. It seemed shallow enough, and holding the cut hanser in both hands for a last security, I let myse;f drop softly overboard. The water scarce y reached my waist; the sand was firm and covered with ripple-marks, and I waded ashore in great spirits, leaving the Hispaniola on her side, with her mainsail trailing wide upon the surface of the bay. About the same time the sun went fairly lown and the breeze whistled low in the dusk among the tossing pines. At least, and at last, I was off the sea, nor

had I returned thence empty-handed. There lay the schoener, clear at last from buccaneers and ready for our own men to board and get to see again. I had nothing nearer my fancy than to get home to the stockade and boast of my achievements. Possibly I might be blamed a bit for my truantry, but the recapture of the Hispaniola was a elinching answer, and I hoped that even Captain Smollett would confess I had not

lost my time. So thinking, and in famous spirits, I began to set my face homeward for the blockhouse and my companions. I reme that the most easterly of the rivers which drain into Captain Kidd's anchorage ran from the two-peaked hill upon my left; and I bent my course in that direction that I might pass the stream while it was small. The wood was pretty open, and keeping along the lower spurs, I soon turned the corner of that hill, and not long after waded to the mid-calf across the watercourse

This brought me near to where I had encountered Ben Gunn, the maroon; and I waiked more circumspectly, keeping an eye on every side. The dusk had come night mand completely, and, as I opened out the cleft between the two peaks, I became aware of a wavering glow against the sky, where as I judged, the man of the island was cooking his supper before a roaring fire. And yet I wondered, in my heart, that he should show himself so careloss. For if I could see this radiance, might it not reach the eye of Silver himself when he camped upon the shore among the marshes?"

Gradually the night fell blacker; it was all I could do to guide myself even roughly toward my destination; the double hill behind me and the Spy-glass on my right hand loomed faint and fainter; the stars were

loomed faint and fainter; the stars were few and pale; and in the low ground where I wandered I kept tripping among bushes and rolling into sandy pits.

Suddenly a kind of brightness fell about me. I looked up; a pale glimmer of moonbeams had alighted on the summit of the Spy-glass, and soon after I saw something broad and silvery moving low down behind the trees, and knew the moon had risen.

With this to help me, I passed rapidly over what remained to me of my journey; and, sometimes walking, sometimes running, impatiently drew near to the stockade.

over what remained to me of my journey; and, sometimes walking, sometimes running impatiently drew near to the stockade. Yet, as I began to tread the grove that lies before it, I was not so thoughtless but that I disckened my pace and went a trifle warily. It would have been a poor end of my adventures to get shot down by my own party in mistake.

The moon was climbing higher and there in masses through the more open districts of the wood; and right in front of me a glow of a different color appeared among the trees. It was red and hot, and now and again it was a little darkened—as if it were the embers of a bonfire smoldering.

For the life of me, I could not think what it might be.

At last I came right down upon the borders of the clearing. The western end was already steeped in moonshine; the rest, and the block-house twelf, still lay in a black the block-house twelf.

of light. On the other side of the house an immense fire had burned itself into clear ers, and shed a steady, red rever on, contrasting strongly with the mellow aleness of the moon. There was not a cal stirring, nor a cound seside the noises

a supped, with much wonder in my heart, and perhaps a little terror also. It had not been our way to build great fires; we were, indeed, by the captain's orders, somewhat niggarily of firewood; and I began to feat that constitutions. ething had gone wrong while I was

I stole round by the eastern end, keeping close in shadow, and at a convenient place, where the darkness was thickest, crossed

To make assurance surer, I got upon my hands and knees, and crawled, without a nd, toward the corner of the house. As I drew nearer, my heart was suddenly and greatly lightened. It is not a plasant noise in itself, and a lave often complained of it at other times; but just then it was like de to hear my friends snoring together so loud and peaceful in their sleep. The ext ery of the watch, that beautiful "A: s we.i." never fell more reassuringly on my ear.

In the meantime, there was no doubt of ne thing; they kept an infamous bad watch. If it had been Silver and his lads that were now creeping in on them, not a soul would ave seen daybreak. That was what it was, ought 1, to have the captain wounded; and ain I blamed myself sharply for leaving an in that danger with so few to mount

od up. All was dark within, so that I dd distinguish nothing by the eye. As for sounds, there was the steady drone of the snorers, and a small occasional noise, a flickering or pecking that I could in no way

With my arms before me I walked stealthily in. I should lie down in my own place (I thought, with a silent chuckle) and enjoy their faces when they found me in the morning. My foot struck something yielding—it was a sleeper's leg; and he thread and ground, but without awaking. And then, all of a sudden, a shrill voice

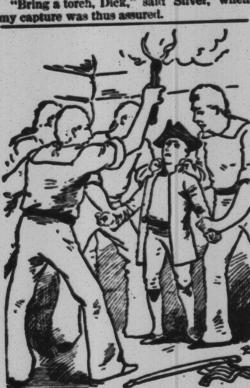
broke forth out of the darkness: "Pieces of eight! pieces of eight! pieces of eight! pieces of eight!" and so forth, without pause or change, like king of a tiny mill.

the clacking of a tiny min.
Silver's green parrot, Captain Flint. It
was she whom I had heard pecking at a
was she whom I had heard pecking at a ece of bark; it was she, keeping better stch than any human being, who thus aned my arrival with her wearisome re-

I had no time left me to recover. At the sharp, elipping tone of the parrot, the slee ers awoke and sprung up; and with a mig ty oath, the voice of Silver cried:

I turned to run, struck violently against one person, recoiled, and ran full into the arms of a second, who, for his part, closed upon and held me tight.

"Bring a torch, Dick," said Silver, when



One of the men left the log-house and pre-sently returned with a lighted brand. And one of them left the log-house, and presently returned with a lighted brand.

IN THE ENEMY'S CAMP.

The red glare of the torch, lighting up the interior of the block-house, showed me the worst of my apprehensions realized. The pirates were in the possession of the house and stores; there was a cask of cognac, there were the pork and bread, as before; what tenfold increased my horror, not a sign of any prisoner. I could only judge that all had perished, and my heart smote me sorely that I had not been there to perish with them.

There were six of the buccaneers, all told; not another man was left alive. Five of them were on their feet, flushed and swol-len, suddenly called out of the first sleep of drunkenness. The sixth had only risen upon his elbow; he was deadly pale, and the d-stained bandage round his head told me that he had recently been wounded, and still more recently dressed. I remembered the man who had been shot and had run back among the woods in the great attack,

and doubted not that this was he. The parrot sat, preening her plumas Long John's shoulder. He himse thought, looked somewhat paler and more stern than I was used to. He still wore his fine broadcloth suit in which he had fulfilled his mission, but it was bitterly the worse for sabed with clay and torn with the

west, danbed with clay and torn where briers of the wood.
"So," said he, "here's Jim Hawkins, shiver my timbers! dropped in, like, eh? Well, come, I take that friendly."
And thereupon he sat down across the large began to fill a pipe.

randy cask, and began to fill a pipe.
"Give me the loan of the link, Dick," said. "Give me the loan of the link, Dick," saak he; and then, when he had a good light, "That'll do, lad," he added, "stick the glim in the wood heap; and you, gentlemen, bring yourself to!—you needn't stand up for Mr. Hawkins; he'll excuse you, you may lay to the first and so lim?—stopping the tobacto that. And so, Jim"—stopping the tobac co—"here you were, and quite a pleasan surprise for poor old John. I see you were rt, when first I set my eyes on you; bu

this here gets away from me clean, it do."
To all this, as may be well supposed, I made no answer. They had set me with my back against the wall; and I stood there, og Silver in the face, pluckily enoug

se took a whist or two of his pipe with composure, and then ran on again. ow, you see, Jim, so be as you are "Now, you see, Jim, so be as you are here," says he, "I'll give you a piece of my mind. I've always liked you, I have, for a lad of spirit, and the pieter of my own self when I was young and handsome. I always wanted you to Jine and take your share, and die a gentleman, and now, my cock, you got to. Cap'n Smollett's a fine seaman, as I'll own up to any day, but stift on discipline. Thooty is dooty, says he, and right he is. Just you keep clear of the cap'n. The doctor himself is gone dead again you—'ungrateful scamp' was what he said; and the short and the long of the story is about here; you can't go back to your own lot, for they won't have you; and, without you start a wifel a like capit and, without you start a wifel a like capit and, without you start a wifel a like capit and, without you start a wifel a like capit and, without you start a wifel a like capit and, without you start a wifel a like capit and, without you start a wifel a like capit and, without you start a wifel a like capit and, without you start a wifel a like capit and, without you start a wifel a like capit and, without you start a wifel a like capit and you like you start and like like you'll have to jike

So far so good. My friends, then, were till alive, and though I partly believed the ruth of Silver's statement, that the cabin arty were incensed at me for my dwas more relieved than distressed

our hands," continued Silver, "though there you are, and you may lay to it. Pm all for gyment; I never seen good come out o' treatening. If you like the service, well, you'll jine; and if you don't Jim, why, you're free to answer no—free and welcome, shipmate; and if fairer can be said by mor-

"Am I to answer, then?" I asked, with a very tremulous voice. Through all this sneering talk, I was made to feel the threat of death that overhung me, and my cheeks burned and my heart beat painfully in my

"Lad," said Silver, "no on's a-pressing of you. Take your bearings. None of us won't hurry you, mate; time goes so pleasant in

"Well, says I, growing a bit bolder, "if I'm to choose, I declare I have a right to know what's what, and why you're here, and where my friends are."
"Wot's wot?" repeated one of the but

eers, in a deep growl. "Ah, he'd be a lucky one as knowed that!"

"You'll, perhaps, batten down your hatches till you're spoke, my friend," cried Silver truculently to this speaker. And then, in his first gracious tones, he replied to me: "Yesterday morning, Mr. Hawkins," said he, "in the dog-watch, down came Dr. Livesey with a flag of truce. Says he, 'Cap'n Silver, you're sold out. Ship's gone.' Well, maybe we'd been taking a glass, and a song to help it round. I won't say no. Leastways, none of us had looked out. We looked out, and, by thunder! the old ship was gone. I never seen a pack o' fools look fishier: and you may lay to that, if I tells you that looked the fishlest. 'Well,' says the doctor, 'let's bargain.' We bargained, him and I, and here we are: stores, brandy, blockhouse, the firewood you was thoug enough to cut, and, in a manner of spea the whole blessed boat, from cross-tre kelson. As for them, they've tramped; I don't know where's they are.

He drew again quietly at his pipe.

"And lest you should take it into that head of yours," he went on. "that you was nelucted in the treaty, here's the last word that he sud: 'How many are you,' says I, to leave!" 'Four,' says he-four, and one of us wonnied. As for that boy, I don't know where he is, confound him,' says he, 'nor I don't much care. We're about sick of him.' These was his words.'

"Is that all?" I asked. "Well, it's all you're to hear, my son," 18-

inrned Silver. "And now I am to choose?"

"And now you are to choose, and you may lay to that," said Silver.
"Well," said I, "I am not such a fool but

I know pretty well what I have to look for. Let the worst come to the worst, it's little I care. I've seen too many die since I fell in with you. But there's a thing or two I have to tell you," I said, and by this time I was quite excited; "and the first is this: here you are, in a bad way; ship lost, treasure lost, men lost; your whole business gone to wreck; and if you want to know who did it -it was I! I was in the apple barrel the night we sighted land, and I heard you, John, and you, Dick Johnson, and Hands, who is now at the bottom of the sea, and told every word before the hour was out. And as for the schooner, it was I who cut her cable, and it was I who killed the men you had aboard of her, and it was I who brought her where you'll never see her more not one of you. The laugh's on my side; I've had the top of this business from the first; I no more fear you than I fear a fly. Kill me, if you please, or spare me. But one thing I'll say, and no more; if you spare me, bygones are bygones, and when you fellows are in court for piracy, I'll save you all I can. It is for you to choo-e. Kill another and do yourselves no good, or spare me and keep a witness to save you from the gal-

I stopped, for, I tell you, I was out of breath, and, to my wonder, not a man of them moved, but all sat staring at me like as many sheep. And while they were still staring I broke out again:

"And now, Mr. Silver," I said, "I believe rou're the best man here, and if things go to the worst, I'll take it kind of you to let the doctor know the way I took it."
"I'll bear it in mind," said Silver, with an

accent so curious, that I could not, for the life of me, decide whether he were laughing at my request or had been favorably af-

"I'll put one to that," cried the old ma-hogany-faced seaman—Morgan by name— whom I had seen in Long John's publichouse upon the quays of Bristol. "It was him that knowed Black Dog." "Well, and see here," added the sea-cook.
"I'll put another again to that, by thunder!
for it was this same boy that faked the chart

from Billy Bones. First and last we've split upon Jim Hawkins!" "Then here goes! said Morgan with an

And he sprung up, drawing his knife as if

he had been twenty.
"Avast, there!" cried Silver. "Who are you, Tom Morgan? Maybe you thought you were captain here, perhaps. By the powers, but I'll teach you better! Cross me and you'll go where many a good man's gone be-fore you, first and last, these thirty year back—some to the yard-arm shiver my sides! and some by the board, and all to feed the fishes. There's never a man looked me between the eyes and seen a good day a'terwards, Tom Morgan, you may lay to

used; but a hoarse murmur rose Morgan paused; but a hou from the others. "Tom's right," said one. "I stood hazing long enough from one," ided another. "I'll be hanged if I'll be

hazed by you, John Silver." "Did any of you gentlemen want to have it out with me?" roared Silver, bending far forward from his position on the keg, with his pipe still glowing in his right hand. "Put a name on what you're at; you ain't dumb, I reckon. Him that wants shall get it. Have I lived this many years, and a son of a rum puncheon cock his hat athwart my of a rum puncheon cock his hat attiwate have at the latter end of it? You know the way; you're all gentlemen o' fortune, by your account. Well, I'm ready. Take a cutiass, him that dares, and I'll see the color of his inside, crutch and all, before that

Not a man stirred; not a man answere "That's your sort, is it!" he added, returning his pipe to his mouth. "Well, you're a gay lot to look at, anyway. Not much worth to fight, you ain't. Pr'aps you can understand King George's English. I'm cap'n here by Tection. I'm cap's here because I'm the best man by a long sea-mile.

cause I'm the best man by a long sea-mile. You won't fight, as gentlemen o' fortune should; then, by thunder, you'll obey, and you may lay to it! I like that boy, now; I never seen a better boy than that. He's more a man than any pair of rats of you in this here house, and what I say is this: let me see him as'll lay a hand on him—that's what I say, and you may lay to it."

There was a long pause after this. I stood straight up against the wall, my heart going like a sledge-hammer, but the ray of hope now chining in my bosom. Silver leant back against the wall, his arms crossed, his pipe in the corner of his mouth, as calm as though he had been in church; yet his eye kept wantering surfively, and he kept the tail of it on his surm. To lowers.

their part, drew gradually together toward the far end of the block-house, and the low hiss of their articles. other they would look up, and the red light of the torch would fall for a second on their nervous faces; but it was not toward me, it was toward Silver that they

"You seem to have a lot to say," remarked

Silver, spitting far into the air. "Pipe up and let me hear it, or lay to."
"Ax your pardon, sir," returned one of the men, "you're pretty free with some of the rules; maybe you'll kindly keep an eye upon the rest. The crew's dissatisfied; this upon the rest. The crew's dissatisfied; this crew don't vally bullying a marlinspike; this crew has its rights like other crews, Pil ake so free as that; and by your own rules, I take it we can talk together. I ax your pardon, sir, acknowledging you for to be capting at this present; but I claim my right, and step outside for a council."

And with an elaborate sea-salute, this fellow, a long, ill-looking, yellow-eyed man of five and thirty, stepped coolly toward the door and disappeared out of the house. One after another, the rest followed his example; each making a salute as he passed; each adding some apology. "According to rules," ding some apology. "According to rules," said one. "Fo'e's'le council," said Morgan. And so with one remark or another, all marched out, and left me and Silver alone with the torch.

The sea-cook instantly removed his pipe. Now, look you here, Jim Hawkins," ne mid, in a steady whisper, that was no more than audible, "you're within half a plank of death, and, what's a long sight worse, of torture. They're going to throw me off. But, you mark, I stand by you through thick and thin. I didn't mean to; no, not till you spoke up. I was about desperate to lose that much blunt, and be hanged into the rgain. But I see you was the right sort, I says to myself: You stand by Hawkins, John, and Hawkins 'll stand by you. You're his last card, and, by the living thunder, John, he's yours! Back to back, says 1. You save your witness, and he'll save your

I began dimly to understand. "You mean all is lost?" I asked.

"Ay, by gum, I do?" he answered. "Ship gone, neck gone—that's the size of it. Once I looked into that bay, Jim Hawkins, and er-well, 1'm tough, but gave seen no schoo out. As for that lot and their council, mark me, they're outright fools and cowards. I'll save your life—if so be as I can—from them. But, see here, Jim-tit for tat-you save Long John from swinging.'

I was bewildered; it seemed a thing so opeless he was asking—he, the old bucca-eer, the ringleader throughout. What I can do, that I'll do," I said.

"It's a bargain!" cried Long John. "You speak up plucky, and, by thunder! I've a He hobbled to the torch, where it stood

ropped among the firewood, and took a fresh light to his pipe. "Understand me, Jim," he said, returning. "I've a head on my shoulders, I have. I'm on squire's side, now. I know you've got that ship safe somewheres. How you done it, I don't know, but safe it is. Hands and O'Brien turned soft. I never much believed in neither of them. Now you mark me. I ask no questions, nor I won't let others. I know when a game's up, I do; and I know a lad that's stanch. Ah, you that's young—you and me might have done a power of good together!"

"Will you taste, messnir" he asked; and when I had refused: "Well, I'll take a drain myself, Jim," said he. "I need a caulker, for there's trouble on hand. And, talking o' trouble, why did that doctor give

He drew some cognac into a tin canikin.

me the chart, Jim?" My face expressed a wonder so unaffected that he saw the needlessness of further "Ah, well, he did, though," said he.

"And there's something, surely, under that, Jim-bad or good." And he took another swallow of the brandy, shaking his creat fair head like a

man who looks forward to the worst. CHAPTER XXIX.

THE BLACK SPOT AGAIN. The council of the buccaneers had lasted some time, when one of them re-entered the house, and with a repetition of the same salute, which had in my eyes an ironical air, begged for a moment's loan of the torch. Silver briefly agreed; and this emissary re-

tired again, leaving us together in the dark. "There's a breeze coming, Jim," said Silver, who had, by this time, adopted quite s friendly and familiar tone.

I turned to the loophole nearest me and looked out. The embers of the great fire had so far burned themselves out, and now glowed so low and duskily, that I under stood why these conspirators desired a torch. About half way down the slope to the stocknde, they were collected in a group; one held the light; another was on his knees in their midst, and I saw the blade of an open knife shine in his hand with varying colors, in the moon and torchlight. The rest were all somewhat stooping, as though watching the maneuvers of this last. 1 could just make out that he had a book as well as a knife in his hand; and was still wondering how anything so incongruous had come in their possession, when the kneeling figure rose once more to his feet, and the whole earty began to move together toward the

"Here they come," said 1; and 1 returned my dignity that they should find me watching them. "Well, let 'em come, lad-let 'em come,"



The door opened, and the five men, st

of their number forward. In any other elecumstances it would have been comical to
see his slow advance, hesitating as he set
down each foot, but holding his closed right
hand in front of him.

"Step up, lad," cried Silver. "I won't eat
you. Hand it over, lubber. I know the
rules, I do; I won't hurt a depytation."

Thus encouraged, the buccaneer stepped
forth more briskly, and having passed something to Silver, from hand to hand, alipped
yet more smartly back again to his companlons.

The sea-cook looked at what had been given him.
"The black spot! I thought so," he observed. "Where you might have got the

er why, hillo! look here, now: in't lucky! You've got and cut this out of What fool's cut a Bible

"Ab, there!" said Morgan-"there! Wot did I say? No good'll come o' that, I said "Well you've about fixed it now, and you," continued Silver. "You'll all swinow, I reckon. What soft-headed lubil

"It was Dick," said one.
"Dick, was it? Then Dick can get to prayers," said Silver. "He's seen his slice of luck, has Dick, and you may lay to that," But here the long man with the yellow yes struck in.

"Belay that talk, John Silver," he said,
"This crew has tipped you the black spot meouncil, as in dooty bound: just you turn it over, as in dooty bound, and see what's wrote there. Then you can talk. "Thanky, George," replied the sea-cook. "You always was brisk for business, and has

the rules by heart, George, as I'm pleased to see. Well, what is it, anyway? Ah! 'De posed'-that's it, is it? Very pretty wrote, to be sure; like print, I swear. Your hand o' write, George? Why, you was gettin' quite a leadin' man in this here crew. You'll be cap'n next, I shouldn't wonder. Just oblige me with that torch again, will you! this pipe don't draw."

"C.me, now," said George, "you don't fool this crew no more. You're a funny man, by your account; but you're over now, and you'll maybe step down off that barrel, and help vote."

"I thought you said you knowed the cales." returned Silver, contemptuously. "Leastways, if you don't, 1 do; and I wait here—and I'm still your cap'n mind-till you outs with your grievances, and 1 reply, in the meantime, your black spot ain't worth a biscuit. After that, we'll see."

"Oh," replied George, "you don't be un-der no kind of apprehension; we're all square, we are. First, you've made a hash of this cruise—you'll be a bold man to say no to that. Second, you let the enemy out o' this here trap for nothing. Why did they ent out! I dunno; but it's pretty plain by wanted it. Third, you wouldn't let us want out! I dun go at them upon the march. Oh, we see through you, John Silver; you want to play booty, that's what's wrong with you. And then, fourth, there's this here boy."
"Is that all?" asked Silver quietly.

"Enough, too," retorted George. all swing and sun-dry for your bungling."
"Well, now, look here, I'll answer these four p'ints; one afte another I'll answer Well, now, you all know what I wanted: and you all know, if that had been done, that we'd 'a' been aboard the Hispaniola this night as ever was, every man of us alive, and fit, and full of good plum-duff, and the treasure in the hold of her, by thunder! Well, who crossed me? Who forced my hand, as was the lawful cap'n? Whe ped me the black spot the day we landed, and began the dance? Ah, it's a fine dance -I'm with you there-and looks mighty like hornpipe in a rope's end at Execution Dock by London town, it does. But who done it? Why, it was Anderson, and Hands, and you, George Merry! And you're the last rd of that same meddling crew; and you have the Davy Jones' insolence to up and stand for cap'n over me-you, that

sank the lot of us! By the powers! but this tops the stiffest yarn to nothing." Silver paused, and I could see by the faces of George and his late comrades that these

words had not been said in vain. "That's for number one," cried the acensed, wiping the sweat from his brow, for he had been talking with a vehemence that shook the house. "Why, I give you my word, I'm sick to speak to you. You've neither sense nor memory, and I leave it to fancy where your mothers was that let you come to sea. Sea! Gentlemen o' fortune!

1 reckon tailors your trade." "Go on, John," said Morgan. "Speak up to the others."

"Ah, the others?" returned John. "They're a nice lot, aint they? You say this cruise is bungled. Ah! by gum, if you could understand how bad it's bungled, you would see! We're that near the gibbet that my neck's stiff with thinking of it. You've seen 'em, maybe, hanged in chains, birds about 'em, seamen p'inting 'em out as they go down with the tide. 'Who's that?' says one. 'That! Why, that's John Silver. 1 knowed him well,' says another. And can hear the chains a-jangle as you go about and reach for the other buoy. Now, that's about where we are, every mother's son of us thanks to him, and Hands, and Anderson, and other ruination fools of you. And it you want to know about number four, and that boy, why shiver my timbers! isn't he a hostage? Are we going to waste a hostage! No, not us; he might be our last chance, and I should't wonder. Kill that boy? not me mates! And number three? Ah, well, there's a deal to say to number three. May be you don't count it nothing to have a real college doctor come to see you every dayyou, John, with your head broke-or you George Merry, that had the ague shakes up on you not six hours agone, and has your eyes the color of lemon peel to this same moment on the clock? And maybe, perhaps you didn't know there was a consort coming. her? But there is; and not so long till then, and we'll see who'll be glad to have \$ hostage when it comes to that. And as for number two, and why I made a bargainwell, you came crawling on your knees to me to make it-on your knees you came, you was that down-hearted-and you'd have

starved, too, if I hadn't-but that's a trifle you look there-that's why!" And he cast down upon the floor a paper that I instantly recognized—none other than the chart on yellow paper, with the three red crosses, that I had found in the oilcloth at the bottom of the captain's chest. Why the doctor had given it to him was more

arran & could fancy. util it were inexplicable to me, the apprance of the chart was incredible to the wiving mutineers. They leaped upon " o de upon a mouse. It went from hand daths and the cries and the childish ter with which they accompanied then amination, you would have thought, no ly they were fingering the very gold, but

ere at sea with it, besides, in safety. ough. J. F., and a score below, with? e hitch to it, so he done ever. "Mighty pretty," said George. "But had are we to get away with it, and us no ship."

Silver suddenly sprang up, and support in himself with a hand against the wall "Now I give you warning, George," he cried.
"One more word of your sauce, and I'll call
rou down and fight you. How? Why, how -you and the rest, that lost me my sch with your interference, burn you mot you, you can't; you hain't got the sention of a cockroach. But civil you peak, and shall, George Merry, you can be that?

"That's fair enow," said the eld "That's fair enow," said the seacook.
"Fair? I reckon so," said the seacook.
"You lost the ship; I found the treasur.
Who's the better man at thin? And now I who's the better man at thin? And now I won's to be your cap'n now; I'm done with it.
"Silver?" they cried. "Barbecue forcap'n?"
"So that's the toon, is it?" cried the cook.
"George, I reckon you'll have to wit stother turn, friend; and lucky for you I'm at other turn, friend; and lucky for you I'm at a revengeful man. But that we a move my a revengeful man. But that we a move my a revengeful man. But that we shall spok way. And now, shipmates, this black spok.

(Continued next week.)

BUK sal to The Was VISITOR. - Mr. who has bee and Sound di r and sprin GONE. -Mr. luth, where TOOK POISON.

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and handsome with the same wit pp, intendin grunately it die ns to have had he strange act CROPS are looki mis- of at al A Vicious B ng to Mr. Jardin fr. R. Petch's an unds abent could likely have ot been seen b ployed about the cated, as a warn comiative disposit

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Miss I. J. M

the past year Ladies College meceeded in nedal for ger extend to the our respectful THE Union tion to Orillia the 28th June This annual ga for with old as never faile ul weather; Miss Allie G on a visit to States, where ater portion WE are uot ich is the ca ts twin thirsty t an epide oken out in ast week. of

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